

# Sheepvention

*Rural Expo* 2025



Hamilton Spectator

**Sunday**  
**3 August**

**Monday**  
**4 August**





Sunday 3  
August 2025  
7pm



SHEEPVENTION  
Rural Expo

After Dark  
DROUGHT RELIEF  
CONCERT

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SUPPORTED BY  
MICHAEL HONAN & BEC MILLY



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SHEEPVENTION RURAL EXPO

SUNDAY 3 - MONDAY 4 AUGUST 2025

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Sheepvention  
Rural Expo  
2025

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# President's message

## Welcome to Sheepvention 2025

Each year, this event brings together the best of our agricultural community—its innovation, resilience, and heart.

This year, we're proud to introduce several exciting new additions that reflect the evolving face of agriculture.

The Women in Agriculture Lunch is a celebration of leadership, creativity, and courage.

It honours the women who are not only breaking barriers but also shaping the future of our industry through cutting-edge innovation and bold ideas.

We're also thrilled to launch the ProWay Shearing Competition, a dynamic new event that will showcase the incredible speed and precision of our shearers—sure to be a crowd favourite.

In response to the ongoing drought and the toll it's taking on our farmers and communities, the committee has created the



Darren Schurmann, President, Hamilton P&A Society

Sheepvention After Dark Drought Relief Concert.

Featuring Shannon Noll and a panel discussion on mental health, this event is more than entertainment - it's a show of solidarity.

The event is proudly supported

by Let's Talk, and all profits will be donated to them to reinvest into local community through Mental Health First Aid training and mental health community education.

Thank you for joining us at Sheepvention 2025.

Your presence helps strengthen the fabric of our community, and we hope you leave feeling uplifted, connected, and inspired.

**DARREN SCHURMANN**  
President, Hamilton P&A Society

## EASY CARE 'NUDIES' *with production*

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# Pro shearing competition

Sheepvention 2025 is set to make history with the launch of its first ever professional shearing competition, proudly presented as the ProWay Shearing Competition and supported by Sport Shear Australia.

This exciting new addition to the program will take place on Sunday August 3 in the Ram Shed at the Hamilton Showgrounds.

For the first time, Sheepvention visitors will have the opportunity to witness the elite skill, speed, and precision of professional shearers in a competitive arena.

The event promises to be a real crowd pleaser, shining a spotlight on one of Australia's most iconic and physically demanding agricultural trades.

With competitors set to demonstrate world-class technique and endurance, the ProWay Shearing Competition will offer an action-packed experience for both seasoned showgoers and newcomers alike.



Further details, including the competition format and line-up, will be announced in the lead-up to Sheepvention via [www.sheepvention.com](http://www.sheepvention.com) and via social media.

Further details, including the competition format and line-up, will be announced in the lead-up to Sheepvention via [www.sheepvention.com](http://www.sheepvention.com) and via social media.

Mark your calendars—Sunday 3 August in the Ram Shed. It's shaping up to be one of the most anticipated highlights of the 2025 program.





Shannon Noll will headline this year's Sheepvention concert on August 3.



The Shannon Noll concert will feature local support acts.

## Rock legend in concert

Aussie rock legend Shannon Noll will play in the south west when he is the headline act for the Sheepvention After Dark - Drought Relief concert.

The Sheepvention Rural Expo has secured Shannon Noll for the event on Sunday August 3, with the concert to be a powerful blend of music, community and mental health awareness.

The concert is proudly supported by the Let's Talk Foundation,

a grassroots charity dedicated to breaking the stigma around mental health in rural Australia.

As part of the evening, attendees will experience a panel discussion featuring lived-experience ambassadors and mental health professionals, sharing stories and strategies for building stronger, more connected communities, Sheepvention president Darren Schurmann said.

"Sheepvention is more than just

an agricultural expo - it's a celebration of rural resilience," he said.

"Partnering with Let's Talk brings a deeper purpose to the night, reminding us that mental health matters just as much as innovation and livestock."

The Let's Talk Foundation and other organisations will offer free resources, support contacts and information about local mental health services.

Their presence aims to empower attendees to start conversations, seek help and support one another.

Tickets for the Sheepvention After Dark Drought Relief concert are on sale now via [www.sheepvention.com](http://www.sheepvention.com).

Doors open at 7pm, with local support acts warming up the stage before Shannon Noll delivers his iconic hits.

## Plenty of fun for children

There will be plenty of great activities for children at Sheepvention this year.

### Here's a taste:

#### Animal Nursery

Step into the heart of the show with a visit to the Animal Nursery - a family favourite where little hands and furry animals come together. Get up close with friendly farm animals, from fluffy lambs and cheeky goats to curious calves and clucking chooks. It's a hands-on experience designed to delight children and adults alike, offering a chance to learn about animal care

or just enjoy a few cuddles!

#### Ag Passport: Explore, Learn and Win!

Pick up your free Ag Passport on entry and take a journey through Sheepvention's agricultural displays. Designed especially for curious minds (young and young-at-heart!), the Ag Passport encourages visitors to explore key exhibits, answer fun questions, and discover the people, animals, and innovations that power our rural industries. Complete your passport and go in the draw to win great prizes—learning has never been this rewarding! Proudly

sponsored by Telstra.

#### Kids Activity Zone and Parents Room

Inside the Hamilton Exhibition and Conference Centre, young visitors can let their imaginations run wild in the Kids Activity Zone - a fun, safe space packed with creative and hands-on experiences to keep little ones entertained throughout the day.

For families needing a quiet moment, a dedicated Parents Room will also be available within the centre, offering a comfortable area for feeding, changing and regrouping

during your Sheepvention visit.

#### Roving Characters

Keep your eyes peeled and your cameras ready - some of your favourite characters will be bringing bursts of colour and laughter to Sheepvention 2025! From cheeky farmyard mascots to whimsical walkabout performers, these lively entertainers will be popping up across the showgrounds to delight visitors of all ages. Whether it's a spontaneous dance, a playful photo op, or a friendly wave, the roving characters add a touch of magic and fun to your Sheepvention experience.



# The gathering we need

### Mayor's Message – A Sheepvention for the Ages

After a tough run, Sheepvention couldn't be arriving at a better time.

In my short time as Mayor, I've seen firsthand how this region has been tested.

Fires, floods, drought, rising costs; you name it, we've faced it.

And through it all, the strength of our people has never wavered.

These things, especially when they hit one after another take a toll.

That's why it feels so special to see Sheepvention on the horizon again.

This year, it's about more than just the sheep (but there will definitely be a lot of sheep), it's a well-earned opportunity for the community to come together, take a breath and remember all the amazing reasons we call this place home.

Sheepvention is always one of the highlights on the Southern Grampians calendar, but this year is a beauty.

We'll have the usual line up of machinery, livestock, and ag innovations but there'll also be community, connection and conversation.

We'll be shining a light on the fascinating face of modern farming and taking a deep dive into the role of women in agriculture.

We'll explore the push for mental health support in the community and look at some of the smart solutions for farming in a changing climate.

But if there's one thing that Sheepvention does best, it's to provide a place to have a really good time and this year is going to be a ripper.

With Shannon Noll kicking things off there's going to be great food, superb attractions and enough activities to keep the kids busy all weekend.

This is an event that started small but with extraordinary hard work and grit from the Sheepvention committee, it has grown into a real asset for the whole region.

That's what this community is all about, endurance, hard work and a good time.

So, let's all get around it this year and support this fantastic occasion and make it the celebration that this region deserves.

See you there.

**MAYOR DENNIS HESLIN**



## White Suffolk is feature breed

Sheepvention 2025 is proud to announce the White Suffolk as this year's Feature Breed, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the Australian White Suffolk Association and the breed's official recognition.

Developed in Australia to meet local conditions, the White Suffolk has grown to become the largest terminal sire breed in the country, renowned for its versatility, fertility, and superior meat-eating quality.

Backed by decades of performance recording and objective selection, White Suffolks are now a cornerstone of prime lamb production systems across a wide range of environments - from arid pastoral zones to high-rainfall mixed farming regions.

This milestone year is a chance to celebrate the breed's contribution to the Australian sheep industry and the producers who have driven its success.

Visitors to Sheepvention will

have the opportunity to view top-quality White Suffolk exhibits, connect with breeders and learn more about the breed's adaptability, market flexibility and ongoing innovation.

With their clean points, early maturity, and high-yielding carcasses, White Suffolks continue to deliver strong returns for producers and premium eating experiences for consumers.

Their story is one of Australian ingenuity, science-backed breeding and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Join us at Sheepvention 2025 as we honour four decades of White Suffolk excellence - and look ahead to the next chapter of this proudly Australian breed.

The Australian White Suffolk is this year's Feature Breed at Sheepvention 2025.





# Lunch for Ag women

Sheepvention 2025 is proudly introducing a powerful new addition to this year's program: the Women in Agriculture Lunch, a celebration of the women shaping the future of the agricultural industry through leadership, innovation and resilience.

To be held on Sunday 3 August at 12pm in the Hamilton Exhibition and Conference Centre at the Showgrounds, this inspiring event will feature a panel of female voices from across the ag sector.

From trailblazing entrepreneurs bringing new products to market, to leaders breaking glass ceilings and redefining what's possible in rural industries, the lunch will spotlight the triumphs and challenges of women forging their own paths in agriculture.

While the full speaker line-up is yet to be announced, attendees can expect a dynamic and thought-provoking discussion.

Speaker announcements will be shared via Sheepvention's social



Women in Agriculture will feature at a lunch during the busy Sheepvention event.

media channels and website, so we encourage everyone to stay tuned.

Guests will enjoy a delicious sit-down meal and a refreshing mocktail on arrival, creating the perfect setting for connection, inspiration, and celebration.

Tickets for the Women in Agriculture Lunch will be available through our website. Be sure to secure yours early, as places are limited.

This new initiative reflects Sheepvention's ongoing commitment to inclusivity and innovation,

and we look forward to welcoming attendees to what promises to be a standout event on the 2025 program.

For more information and updates, visit [www.sheepvention.com](http://www.sheepvention.com) or follow us on social media.

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SEYMOUR

The Boarding House at Seymour College, South Australia, offers a home away from home for rural and regional students in Years 7 to 12.

Visit us at **Site 560** in the Producers Market and Innovations Hub **at Sheepvention** to explore what's possible.

Q

seymour.college

SEYMOUR



COLLEGE





# Support for rural areas

Harwood Andrews is the largest law firm in regional Victoria and is returning to Sheepvention this August.

With strong client and business relationships in the Western District, the team at Harwood Andrews understand the needs of rural communities and provide expert legal advice when it counts.

Principal Lawyer, Amy Jenkinson, said the firm was excited to attend Sheepvention again as a professional services exhibitor.

"Many of our lawyers and staff have family, business and farming connections with the Western District" she said.

"We are genuinely interested in advising primary producers, agribusinesses and their rural communities".

Based in Geelong, the firm supports and works alongside existing regional legal, accounting and other professional advisors when specialist legal knowledge is required or where a matter is sensitive and distance from immediate community is preferred.

Mrs Jenkinson acknowledged the tough conditions primary producers continue to face and said it is understandable some farmers and agribusinesses do not prioritise legal affairs and planning when time poor and busy with day-to-day operations. However, the right advice at the right time can reap significant benefits and avoid unnecessary exposure to liability and cost in the future.

"We are people focussed, and Sheepvention is a great opportunity to catch up and discuss legal matters of concern in the community and local industries more broadly" said Mrs Jenkinson.



Harwood Andrews team.

Harwood Andrews provides expert advice in all areas of the law including structuring and asset protection, estate and succession planning (including family farm and multi-generational business), property transactions, taxation, OH&S and employment law, farming agreements, environment

and planning issues, debt recovery, family and other dispute resolution.

Mrs Jenkinson encouraged people to drop by and meet some of the Harwood Andrews team at Sheepvention.

"It promises to be a fantastic couple of days and we are looking forward to catching up with current

clients and forming new relationships" she said.

Harwood Andrews can be reached through 03 5225 5225 or [info@ha.legal](mailto:info@ha.legal), and are located at 70 Gheringhap Street, Geelong VIC 3220.

[harwoodandrews.com.au](http://harwoodandrews.com.au)



## Legal Advice for Rural Communities

Visit us at Sheepvention in The Innovations Hub & Producers' Market.

Come and talk to us about:

- Structuring and asset protection
- Estate and succession planning (including family farm and multi-generational business succession planning)
- Property transactions
- Taxation
- OH&S and employment law
- Farming agreements
- Family and other disputes
- Water law
- Debt recovery
- Environment and planning issues
- Family Law

We're excited to reconnect and meet new faces!

[harwoodandrews.com.au](http://harwoodandrews.com.au)







Winner of the 2011 Robert F. Stewart Major Award was Huck Shepherd, pictured with Luke Drechsler from Novartis, for his aptly named Shepherd Lamb Saver.

# Prestigious award for inventions competition

Sheepvention 2025 is proud to announce the reinstatement of the Robert F. Stewart Major Award, the highest honour in the event's long-running Inventions Competition.

This year, the award comes with a \$4,000 cash prize for the most outstanding innovation—an exciting incentive for inventors, entrepreneurs, and problem-solvers across the agricultural sector.

The Inventions Competition has been a cornerstone of Sheepvention since its inception in 1979,

celebrating grassroots ingenuity and practical solutions that make a real difference on farms and in rural communities.

Thanks to the generous support of Sinclair Wilson, Western Ag, and South West TAFE, the competition continues to grow as a launchpad for new ideas and emerging talent.

The award presentation will take place in the Ram Shed on Sunday August 3 2025 at Sheepvention.

Over the past decade, the Robert F. Stewart Major Award has

recognised a remarkable range of inventions, including:

- 2008 – Brad Pickford, Breed'n'Betsy
- 2009 – David Short, Handypiece
- 2010 – Greg McArten, Auger Eye
- 2011 – Huck Shepherd, Shepherd Lamb Saver
- 2012 – ProWay, Sheep Bulk Handler
- 2013 – Rod Shepherd, The Fire Fighting Pump
- 2014 – Rod Davidson, Ute Comp Crane

- 2015 – Josh Pumpa, Double Pumpa Sheep Dip Trailer
- 2016 – Harry Green & David Franklin, Native Grass Applicator
- 2017 – Patrick & Margaret Daniher, Daniher Bale Feeder
- 2018 – Rod Davidson, Davo's Fencing Clip
- 2019 – Simon Schinckel, Hay Rake One Series
- 2022 – Shane Bourke, Powermaster Woolpress
- 2023 – Roger & Steven Hein, SheerSpeed

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# New rooms for boarders

Seymour College unveiled its latest Boarding House renovations earlier this year, with Stage One of the bedroom upgrades now complete.

Light-filled, contemporary rooms featuring fresh interiors, new furnishings and improved storage have created a warm and welcoming environment for boarders to call home.

Seymour College is located in the leafy foothills of Adelaide, South Australia, just 5 kilometres southeast of the city centre.

At the heart of Seymour's expansive 25-acre campus, the Boarding House places girls just steps away from world-class facilities, offering a unique balance of independence, connection and convenience - ideal for students from rural and regional areas.

Carolyn Cochrane, the Director of Boarding at Seymour, said the renovations have had a positive impact on student life.

"We're really proud of what we've created for our girls," she



Year 11 boarders, Bridie and Georgia, in their newly renovated bedroom in the Seymour College Boarding House.

said. "The renovations reflect our on-going commitment to evolving what boarding looks and feels like - and this is just the beginning.

"These spaces have been

designed with purpose, to support girls' learning and wellbeing, and we look forward to continuing this work in future stages."

In addition to the new bedrooms, boarders are also benefiting from a recently upgraded

adjoining tutorial space - a quiet, dedicated area designed to support study and academic life alongside the boarding experience.

Year 11 boarder Bridie said the improvements have made a real difference.

"The new rooms feel so bright and welcoming," she said. "It's made boarding feel even more special."

"Having the tutorial space close by makes it easier to stay organised with study too."

Fellow Year 11 boarder Georgia agreed.

"The rooms are so much more modern and comfortable now, and having extra space really helps us relax and focus when we need to," she said.

To find out more about boarding at Seymour or to book a College tour, visit the College's website or contact Sally Penn, Director of Enrolments, on (08) 8303 9000 or [enrolments@seymour.sa.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@seymour.sa.edu.au).

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PHONE: (03) 5570 1288



# Learn to think globally

The Hamilton and Alexandra College nurtures students locally, so that they can excel globally.

At College, students are provided with a breadth of opportunities and are encouraged to step outside their classroom to place themselves in situations that are new, different and sometimes difficult.

Principal Michael Horne explained that the School does this because students derive great benefits from being challenged.

"At College, we are committed to providing opportunities for international and local cultural engagement, so that our graduates arrive into a world they are comfortable in and knowledgeable about," Mr Horne said.

"It is argued that students will need different skills to succeed in the future. It is true that technology is advancing quickly, and this requires us to adapt at a faster speed. However, many of the traits that will differentiate students and set them up for success remain strikingly familiar – the ability to converse, to persuade, to be adaptable and forward thinking, and to discern and use good judgement.

"Traveling, participating in service work and experiencing new cultures helps to form these successful traits to establish their confident futures beyond school," said Dr Horne.

This is not a new approach.

The College has a long history of providing opportunities beyond



Year 12 student, Ciaran Nelson at a school in Sanshui (Foshan Beibo Dehan School) in China.

the classroom for students, whether it be international study tours, co-curricular competitions, city excursions, drama and musical productions, or excursions to local businesses, farms and service providers.

Last year, the 2025/2026 Local and Global Co-Curricular Tours were launched, providing a range of options for students to consider outside of the school camps program.

In 2025, students are participating in cultural and service-learning tours to China, Central Australia and Sri Lanka. In 2026, four trips are being offered, including a

French Language and Art Tour, a Model UN Conference, New Zealand Hockey and Netball Tour and the Year 10 Central Australia Cultural Immersion.

These enrichment opportunities have been designed to expand the students' perspectives.

Year 12 student Ciaran Nelson jumped at the opportunity to participate in the China Language and Cultural Tour in his final year.

"My older brother went on the College trip to China in Year 9 and loved it, so I wanted to have a similar experience," Ciaran said.

"I really enjoyed learning about

the different cultures and trying new foods.

"I haven't studied Chinese, so it was challenging when we needed to converse, but I learnt a lot of sign language and being there with friends and teachers meant that I always felt supported.

"It was an amazing opportunity, and I would recommend travelling abroad to anyone considering it."

**To learn more about the opportunities available at The Hamilton and Alexandra College, come along to the Open Morning on August 14, book in for a personal tour or go to [www.hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au)**

## Light at The End of the Tunnel

At the time of writing, (mid-June) we've just received what is hopefully regarded as drought breaking rain.

Dependent upon location, the last 18 months (and more particularly this year) in Western Victoria has been regarded by most, as the worst drought in people's living memory. This has obviously impacted on rural land prices. Whilst as a generalisation, we have witnessed a decline in land prices from between 20 per cent and 40 per cent since the lofty times of the Spring of 2021 and the Autumn of 2022. Moreover, since last Spring the rate

of transactions have declined appreciably and days on market have significantly lengthened. However, there has been pockets of isolated examples of strong sales, which has been generally underpinned by strong local competition, particularly from neighbours.

Whilst the drought has affected the Rural land market from a presentation perspective, and from a buyer's confidence and financial capacity, the big positive is commodity prices. As many who have witnessed a severe drought previously generally speaking, were at the mercy of

the markets due to oversupply and unloading of livestock, this drought has proved the opposite with record lamb and mutton prices received over the Winter period, and beef remains at strong levels throughout the drought. Opening milk prices are either side of \$9 kg/milk solids and grain prices remain strong and fodder due to the drought is at record levels and almost unprocurable. Furthermore, the forecast is for interest rates to decline further, and a favourable Australian dollar appears to be assisting our exports.

It is generally anticipated that

due to the above-mentioned reasons, and particularly low sheep, beef and dairy cattle numbers, that the Agricultural sector will bounce back quite quickly in the Spring given a normal season.

How long these positive above-mentioned factors will take to stimulate the rural property market is unknown, but we are "a resilient bunch" in the agricultural sector and "there is certainly light at the end of the tunnel."

**Charles Stewart**  
Rural Real Estate Market Report



# Selection drives quality

The past two years have seen validation for those merino operations that have added eye muscle and fat attributes to drive weaning rates alongside the long term priority of producing fleeces that both look good and measure well.

Gringegalgona Merinos has been no different, with increased percentages at the maiden level along with the quality of lambs from these animals giving confidence in a rebound to take advantage of the sheep shortage and the soon to be evident market shortage of fine wool.

This is underpinned by the selection of sheep based on phenotype as in a commercial scenario (firstly on make and shape, secondly on wool).

However the differentiation between a sheep that remains in the stud or sent to the flock will finally be determined by its data set within the Merino Select platform and its ability to contribute to the



Gringegalgona Sire 230372 standing in front of 2024 drop sale rams.

core breeding drivers.

The core breeding drivers at Gringegalgona are growth, welfare, wool production, and reproduction.

After progeny have passed these and a visual appraisal, the results will be assigned to each of the parents so that only the best mature animals are retained for stud use alongside the next drop

being progeny tested.

This rigorous decision making process has placed Gringegalgona Merinos in a strong position to rebound from dry times.

They are excited to lamb down and see the marking and weaning results of their 2,000 maiden commercial ewes which were joined for 4 weeks scanning out at 93 per

cent in lamb.

Gringegalgona Merinos will have 20 non mulesed poll rams available for sale as part of the Glenelg Regional Merino Field Day on Monday August 11.

Included in these will be stud sire 230372 who has over 80 progeny for this year already recorded in Merino Select.



**48th ANNUAL**  
• **ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE** •  
Wednesday 24th September 2025

120 Fine/Medium and Medium May/June 2024 drop  
unhoused horn and poll Merino rams

OPEN DAY • FRIDAY 19th SEPTEMBER, 10am-4pm



**35th ANNUAL**  
• **ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE** •  
Friday 10th October 2025

90 Superfine, Fine and Fine/Medium August/September 2024 drop  
unhoused horn and poll Merino rams

OPEN DAY • FRIDAY 3rd OCTOBER, 10am-4pm

**FLOCK RAM SALES COMMENCE MID OCTOBER, BY APPOINTMENT • SEMEN AVAILABLE**

**VISIT OUR HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION DISPLAY TEAM • SITE 314**

C.T. MERRIMAN & SON LITTLE RANGE, BOOROWA NSW 2586 | JONO 0427 272 238 | CHARLIE 0467 853 396 | OFFICE 0427 289 018  
www.koonwarrastud.com.au | merino@koonwarrastud.com.au | www.merrignee.com.au | merriman@merrignee.com.au



# High performing sheep

Melrose sheep are proven to perform in the paddock, on breeding data and have visual appeal winning many sheep show champions and champions fleeces over the decades.

Melrose sheep were outstandingly successful in the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show in 2024, exhibiting Grand Champion Fine Wool Ewe, Victorian Ewe of the Year, Reserve Grand Champion Ewe of the Show.

Last October the Melrose on property auction of 60 rams achieved an excellent result, selling to a top price of \$3500 for lot 4, 23RP3978 purchased by Ashley, Katrina and Emily McErvale, weighing 101 kg, 17.5 mic the highest ranked ram of the sale by Roseville Park 171133, 182 FP+ index.

The on property sale rams in



Ashley McErvale, Warren Russell, Katrina, Emily McErvale and Elliot Lindley on property top price ram 2024.

2024 sold for an average of \$1504 with 58 out of 60 selling at auction.

This year Melrose are offering

a line up of 60 rams on property, Wednesday, October 8.

Breeding sheep at Melrose that

revolves around utilizing all tools available; independent opinion and advice from renowned sheep classer Chris Bowman, using ASBV's and indexing in a considered approach to aid in classing ewes and selecting sires for breeding.

All Melrose rams are sold with Merinoselect ASBV's as well as raw data, so clients can buy without having to guess how the animal and its progeny will perform.

The Melrose breeding philosophy is a balance of technology and tried and true methods of breeding sheep.

This balanced approach achieves measured improvements with animals that will breed predictably, profitably, and true to type, every time.

## Investing in top quality products

Zoetis is proud to play an important role in supporting a healthy livestock sector in Australia, helping Australian producers remain productive and profitable.

We have made significant investments in local manufacturing in Australia to ensure our high-quality sheep products (such as GlanEry, Glanvac, Scabigard, and Q-drench) and cattle vaccines (including Ultravac 7in1, Pestigard, and Vibrovax) are readily available and Australian-made.

WIN with GlanEry and Gudair this lamb marking and weaning season during June-July-August.

Simply purchase your GlanEry and Gudair – Take a photo – and enter the competition to WIN an INSTANT PRIZE and go into the draw for a WEEKLY Weber Q2800N+ BBQ.

The BEST PHOTO each month will WIN a Weber SmokeFire EX6 Pellet BBQ. T&Cs apply.

Visit [www.tfaforms.com/5181665](http://www.tfaforms.com/5181665) to enter.

Zoetis Lamb Marking Products.





**20 rams**  
selling at the  
**Glenelg Regional Merino Field Day**  
Monday August 11  
See us at  
**Hamilton Sheepvention**  
Site 317/318  
August 3 & 4

For more details:  
[www.gringegalgona.com.au](http://www.gringegalgona.com.au)  
[merinos@gringegalgona.com.au](mailto:merinos@gringegalgona.com.au)  
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# Is genetics the answer?

Mount Monmot Perendales have the solution!

One of the greatest threats facing the Australian sheep industry today isn't market fluctuation or weather – it's something far more insidious and urgent: drench resistance.

Described by leading experts as “one of the biggest challenges in our industry's history,” the resistance of parasitic worms to conventional anthelmintics is pushing many sheep producers toward an alarming wall where no drench will work to combat worms in their sheep due to the over-use of anthelmintics – this is a major concern.

Years of reliance on drenches have brought us to this point.

With entire flocks now failing to respond to treatments that once kept worm burdens at bay, the stark reality is setting in—there is no chemical solution left.

The industry is at a crossroads, and unless we act swiftly, the consequences for animal welfare, productivity, and profitability could be dire.

But amid the urgency, there is hope—and it comes from innovation, foresight, and a powerful partnership between Australia and New Zealand.

In the vast plains of Skipton, Victoria, Mount Monmot Perendales may well be holding the key to the future of sustainable sheep farming.

For over a decade, this pioneering stud has worked to embed “nil-drench” genetics into its Perendale bloodlines - sourced directly from the highly respected Newhaven Perendale Stud in New Zealand.



Mount Monmot Perendales.

Remarkably, Newhaven has not drenched its lambs or ewes in over 40 years, thanks to its bold genetic programme that prioritised natural resilience over chemical dependence.

“We offer a very unique opportunity for Australian sheep farmers to source low-drench genetics infused with 50 years of New Zealand genetic gains,” said Tony Boyer of Mount Monmot.

“The fact that we now only drench our lambs once in their lifetime is pretty exciting and we're proud to pass this on to our clients.”

The Perendale isn't just about worm resilience.

With unmatched structural

soundness, adaptability to harsh and variable feed conditions, and consistent production even under worm pressure, these sheep offer a triple-threat advantage.

They're more than just a stop-gap—they're a proven, long-term solution.

Trudy Boyer, co-principal of the stud, reflects on the journey.

“Little did we know just how crucial having the ability to run sheep that weren't reliant on worm drenches would be when we started sourcing genetics from New Zealand,” she said.

“This is a critical crossroads for our sheep industry, there is no way out of drench resistance unless you have worm resilience genes.”

The demand for Mount Monmot's self-replacing Perendale rams speaks volumes.

Australian producers are waking up to the reality that worm resistance cannot be ignored - and they're acting fast.

If you're serious about securing the future of your flock, now is the time to act.

Register your interest in this season's rams by contacting [mountmonmot@gmail.com](mailto:mountmonmot@gmail.com) or reaching out directly to Trudy Boyer on 0419 565 450.

The future of your operation may well depend on the genetic choices you make today.

## KALENEA SALE DAY



127 North Gums Rd, Penshurst

Ben Mibus  
[benmibus@hotmail.com](mailto:benmibus@hotmail.com)  
0400 694 567

Tim Dennis  
Stud Classifier  
0437 937 464

**Elders**

# 60 Rams

**On Property at 1pm**  
Wednesday 5th November  
Inspections from 10.30am

ENQUIRIES WELCOME





## STUD PARK SOUTH MERINOS AND POLL MERINOS

### On-Property Ram Sale

Tuesday, 21 October 2025

@ Edgarley Woolshed, 724 Delacombe Way, Willaura, Vic.

## 60 RAMS | 2024 Drop | March Shorn

Inspections from 10am. Sale at 1pm

Visit us during the Southern Victorian Merino Field Days  
9am-5pm | Friday, 17 October 2025



**Principal:**  
Pat Millear 0428 541 462

**Stud Classifier:**  
Rob Russell 0427 506 291

OJD Vaccinated – Brucellosis Accredited

**COME & SEE OUR DISPLAY AT SITE 329**

**Stud Consultant:**  
Chris Guthrie 0437 005 805  
Email: [millearaps@bigpond.com](mailto:millearaps@bigpond.com)

Horn Flock No. 5051 Poll Flock No. 1462 Pic no. 3ARTR032



# 2024 top drops on show

Stud Park South Merino and Poll Merino Stud (SPS) welcomes everyone to inspect their rams at Sheepvention.

We will have on display the tops of our 2024 drop including rams to be auctioned at the Glenelg Ram Sale at Balmoral on Monday August 11.

Our young rams are well grown pushing out a white crimped wool on a productive skin. A balanced breeding objective maintaining correct constitution and white wools with staple length are becoming a feature of these sheep.

Structure and doing ability are two main traits we visually select for.

Bred on some of the best bloodlines from Wallaloo Park, Langdene, Kamballie (WA), Charinga and Banavie, we feel we have a



SPS stud sire 2216.

type that is unique to the industry - Sons and grandsons continue to drive Stud Park South forward.

We have also purchased a significant run of ewes from Barton Hill Poll Merino Stud in South Australia (dispersal sale), which has given us a huge injection of pure Poll blood into our stud.

The Stud Park South commercial sheep on Edgarley at Willaura reflect our breeding objectives with wool cuts generally averaging around 6.5kgs and preg scanning rates pushing 170 per cent in our mixed age ewes.

However this year the drought conditions have significantly impacted these numbers.

Over 700 bales of wool were produced in the 2024/25 year.

The continued dry conditions have meant sacrifice paddocks and containment areas have been crucial to looking after pastures for spring lambing ewes.

However minimal rainfall and frosts have impacted any pasture growth.

Pregnant ewes will be split into twins and singles in small mobs to hopefully achieve the best results given the challenging conditions.

We look forward to welcoming visitors to our Field Day on Friday October 17.

Quality Poll and Horn rams will be offered at our annual On-property Ram Sale on Tuesday October 21 at Edgarley woolshed, 724 Delacombe Way, Willaura Vic 3379.

## The target sheep repro program

With rising prices and tightening supply, demand for quality lambs is set to be strong heading into spring 2025. This underscores the critical need to optimize ewe fertility and lamb survival.

Virbac's Target Sheep Repro Program offers a dual-action approach using Ovastim and Multimin for Sheep to significantly boost productivity, fertility, and fecundity.

### The program leverages two key products:

- Ovastim: This reproductive vaccine increases the number of eggs released per cycle, leading to an average 23% increase in lambing rates.

- Multimin for Sheep: A trace mineral injection featuring copper, selenium, zinc, and manganese, Multimin improves embryo survival and enhances ewe and lamb health. A recent Victorian study highlighted its impact, showing a 9% average increase in marking percentages and an average 2.3-kilogram rise in weaning weights. This translated to an additional \$23 in value per ewe, yielding an impressive 6:1 return on investment.

### Proven Results and Expert Opinion

The Target Sheep Repro Program is rapidly gaining traction in 2025.

Dr Graham Lean of Agrivet Business Consulting estimates that "Using Ovastim in a typical prime lamb flock may result in a profit of about \$18 per ewe in today's market. Using Multimin and Ovastim represents a sensational profit-booster."

Dr Tim Gole, a sheep veterinarian with For Flocks Sake, also reports "very strong and consistent results" in NSW.

Producers are already seeing significant benefits. Chris Bruty from Beaufort, VIC, reported a 16% improvement in marking percentages and lambs averaging 5.3 kg heavier after using Multimin Plus Copper Injection for

Sheep. Similarly, Will Osmond from Dunkeld, VIC, saw a 16% increase in marking rates for his Merino ewes.

Dr Paula Gonzalez-Rivas, a nutritionist and technical services veterinarian at Virbac, explains the synergy: "While Ovastim increases the number of eggs... Multimin can improve the antioxidant status and the immune system, helping to protect those embryos, ensuring they make it to term and result in the birth of healthy lambs from healthy ewes."

This program provides a powerful solution for progressive producers aiming to maximize their sheep enterprise's potential.

## MOUNT MONMOT PERENDALES



Pure Perendale Performance - Elite New Zealand Bloodlines  
We are offering pure Perendale Rams for inspection and private sale from October 1st



**Enquiries:**  
Trudy 0419 565 450 and Tony Boyer 0429 402 127  
E: [mountmonmot@gmail.com](mailto:mountmonmot@gmail.com)  
W: [www.mountmonmot.com](http://www.mountmonmot.com)

FLOCK NO 144 | BRUCellosis ACCN NO: 3669 | OJD VACCINATED PIC: 3PYS022



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Peg Merriman, Charlie Merriman, Koonwarra, purchaser of the top priced Poll Merino ram Emma Webb, Bowning, NSW, Victor Coble, Jono Merriman, Koonwarra, JJ Venter of Clear Creek Partnership, Milvale, NSW, who purchased the top priced Merino ram, and auctioneer Matt Campion, Nutrien.

# Merriman leads the way

Last Spring saw pleasing on-property ram and flock paddock sales for C.T. Merriman & Son's Merino and Poll Merino Studs, Merrignee and Koonwarra.

Koonwarra's 47th annual sale in late September 2024 offered 120 May/June 2023 drop rams. 112 rams sold, averaging \$2418 with a top price of \$6500.

In early October, Merrignee's 34th annual sale offered 85 August/September 2023 rams alongside five 2024 drop rams previously used in the stud mating program. 86 rams sold, averaging \$2255 with a sale topper of \$9000.

2025 started with satisfying show results in February at Bathurst's Great Southern Supreme Merino, including Merrignee's March shorn superfine ewe being sashed Grand Champion Poll Ewe.

At the Boorowa Show, Merrignee and Koonwarra claimed three broad ribbons – Supreme August Shorn



Peg Merriman, Charlie Merriman, Koonwarra, purchaser of the top priced Poll Merino ram Emma Webb, Bowning, NSW, Victor Coble, Jono Merriman, Koonwarra, JJ Venter of Clear Creek Partnership, Milvale, NSW, who purchased the top priced Merino ram, and auctioneer Matt Campion, Nutrien.

Exhibit, Supreme Poll Ewe and Supreme Merino Ewe.

Moving to the Sydney Royal Easter Show, C.T. Merriman & Son walked away with seven broad ribbons, including Reserve Grand Champion's for Merrignee's superfine Poll Merino ram and ewe,

alongside Koonwarra being awarded Grand Champion Fine/Medium August Ram.

In the second half of 2025, C.T. Merriman & Son is heading to the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo, on 18–20 July with five Merrignee and six Koonwarra

show sheep. At Sheepvention, site 314, Merrignee will be displaying five Merrignee August/September 2024 drop horn and Poll rams retained and used within the stud, alongside a selection of five rams from Koonwarra.

On Wednesday 24 September 2025, Koonwarra's 48th annual on-property ram sale will be offering 120 May/June 2024 drop rams. An open day on Friday September 19 will display the sale rams alongside Merino and Poll Merino stud sire progeny.

Merrignee's 35th annual on-property ram sale is on Friday October 10. 90 August/September 2024 drop rams will be offered, including progeny from MGN "Brocky" 21087, the 2024 Great Southern Supreme Merino Supreme Exhibit. Inspections are welcome at the Friday October 3 open day.

## Summit Park ENTERPRISES

Leading the way - Breeding for performance and quality

### White Suffolk Texel & Maternal RAMS



**Chris & Tania Parker**  
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[www.summitpark.com.au](http://www.summitpark.com.au)

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Brucellosis  
accredited  
PIC 3GMPG101





## GLENLEA PARK POLL MERINOS



**0433 011 238**



**[glenleapark@outlook.com](mailto:glenleapark@outlook.com)**



**[www.glenleaparkmerinos.com.au](http://www.glenleaparkmerinos.com.au)**





Chrome Sheep Studs' reserve rams.

# Balanced breeding tips

Visitors to Sheepvention will have the chance to view how two decades of dedicated breeding has shaped one of Western Victoria's most progressive sheep studs.

Chrome Sheep Studs, based just outside Hamilton and run by Matt and Tanya Tonissen, has become well-regarded for its balanced, data-backed approach to breeding composite maternal and terminal lines.

With a focus on combining visual selection with performance recording, Chrome has steadily built several composite breeds that perform across a wide range of environments. Regular use of AI and Embryo Transfer being central to Chrome's program, with the goal of delivering faster genetic gains to increase productivity and profitability for their clients.

"Our clients consistently rank in the top percentiles of benchmarking groups and routinely achieve scanning rates between 160 and 190%," says Matt. "We hear time and again about the evenness and easy-doing nature of the ewes, and the strong

sale results for their lambs."

## Efficient maternals

With many parts of Victoria facing another challenging season, Chrome's maternals – including the core maternal line, the Chromedale – are proving their value in real-world conditions. Bred for resilience and adaptability, they perform across diverse environments in Western Victoria, South-East South Australia, and Tasmania.

Maintaining moderate ewe size remains a key breeding objective, helping ensure stock can make the most of limited seasonal feed.

"In tough years like this, it's critical that ewes can lay down fat and muscle when feed is available to carry them through leaner months," Matt explains. "At Chrome, we're focused on breeding balanced, efficient ewes that can handle seasonal extremes without sacrificing growth or finishing ability."

## Chrome - shedding the workload

The Chrome Shedder program is showing early promise, and some ram lambs will be on display at

Sheepvention. The objective is to develop a Chromedale-type ewe that eliminates the need for shearing – offering ease of management while retaining strong maternal performance. The current drought conditions are placing pressure on the young ewes, but early observations are encouraging, with the sheep holding

condition and coping well despite the tough season.

## Terminal options that work

Complementing the maternal program is Chrome's ICON terminal range – featuring the ICON Southie, ICON Poll Dorset, and ICON 25.

In a season where feed is tight and flexibility matters, terminal sires offer a practical advantage. Their fast-growing, early finishing lambs can be marketed early – making them ideal for producers looking to maintain cash flow and reduce pressure on feed resources. Alternatively, Chrome lambs have performed extremely well in feedlot situations where they can easily be grown out to 28-30 kg carcase weights.

The ICON Southie has proven extremely popular for its early maturity and vigour.

"They hit the ground running," Matt says. "They're easy lambing and finish well off grass or grain – ideal for ewe lambs, maidens, and Merinos."

The ICON 25 (A composite terminal) adds hybrid vigour and muscle. The lambs, often described as "kegs on legs," are compact, powerful, and consistently deliver strong sale results.

Chrome Sheep Studs will be in the Sheep Tech Marquee. Visitors can meet Matt, chat about their breeding goals, and view a selection of our rams from across the maternal, shedder, and terminal programs.

Chrome's next open day will be held on September 29, with their annual Spring Ram Sale on October 2. Private inspections are also welcome by appointment.

For more details, visit [www.chromesheepstuds.com.au](http://www.chromesheepstuds.com.au)

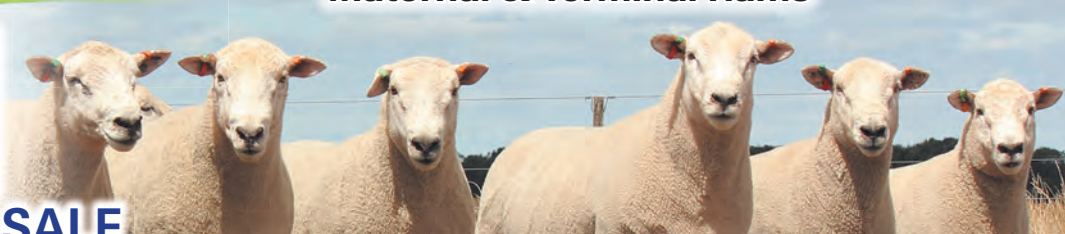


**CHROME SHEEP STUDS**

**SPRING RAM SALE**  
**2nd Oct 2025**

QUALITY RAMS AT  
AFFORDABLE PRICES

## Maternal & Terminal Rams





SEE US AT  
**SHEEP TECH SITE 13-14**

**SAVE THE DATE**

- Ewe Sale - early Dec 2025
- Summer Ram Sale - 5th Jan 2026










[www.chromesheepstuds.com.au](http://www.chromesheepstuds.com.au)



# Breeding the very best

2025 sees the Jackson Farming Team, committed to producing top quality Border Leicester and Poll Dorset sires, that perform in a wide range of environments.

The first cross ewe is a mainstay of the sheep industry, as demonstrated with the top hybrid vigour produced, between the Merino ewe and the Border leicester ram.

The nurturing skill of this first cross ewe, and her ability to rear superior second cross lambs, within the prime lamb industry, speaks for itself.

The main objective of the Jackson Farming team is to produce versatile sheep, that are robust and fertile, structurally sound and perform well in all commercial conditions.

The Jackson team continue to breed rams which will sire progeny, to be turned off to match the producers' market, whether they be prime lambs or breeding stock.

The Jackson family of David and Carol, and Ross and Lydia, and their children Lane, Lily and Ned, have been breeding sheep for more than 40 years on their mixed farming operation in the foothills of the Grampians. The Jackson family continue to benchmark their sheep within the stud sheep industry, showing and striving, to improve their figures and data performance, within the Lambplan and the \$uperBorder\$ group. The Jackson Farming ram Sale will be held on the 16th of October 2025, on property at Moyston.



# JACKSON FARMING

Worth Every Buck!

*Celebrating our*  
**26<sup>TH</sup> ON-PROPERTY SALE**  
**THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025 AT 1PM**

**David & Carol Jackson**  
ph: (03) 5354 2578  
m: 0438 542 578

**Ross & Lydia Jackson**  
m: 0408 030 092

**10 'TOP OF THE DROP' 2023 BORDER LEICESTER EWES**  
**90 BORDER LEICESTER RAMS INCLUDING**  
**5 SELECTED BORDER LEICESTER RAMS**  
**40 POLL DORSET RAMS**

**THE COMMERCIAL REALITY**

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A close-up photograph of several sheep heads, showing their faces and ears. The sheep are white and appear to be of different breeds.



# From vision to reality

Producing genetics that not only perform but also thrive in tough conditions is imperative at Summit Park.

The animals are commercially focused, and structure and resilience have played a major role in how well our sheep have handled the past 2 extreme seasons.

The genetics are filtering out into other stud operations with impressive results.

The breeds being focused on are White Suffolks and Texel as well as always experimenting with a small flock of maternal composites.

The Texel is still the ultimate carcase breed, with its meaty loin and hefty hindquarter making them the ideal butcher lamb.

The White Suffolk is fast becoming a multipurpose breed.

Selecting for low birth weights makes them durable for use with merinos or ewe lambs, their high growth rates, allows them to be



2024 Supreme Champion Texel with Austin and Chris Parker.

turn off large lambs or retain females as future breeders.  
The Maternals are hardy, mod-

erate frame ewes.  
Summit Park aims to improve the efficiency whilst trying to keep

wool and skins as valuable as possible.

All this while building on internal parasite resistance and mothering abilities.

Summit Park uses physical measurement and visual selection alongside keeping to maintain or improve financial traits like birth weight and ease, growth, neutral Fat levels and pushing levels of muscle to improve yield and carcase returns, while maintaining pressure on reducing reliance on drench and improving eating qualities.

Animal and soil health also runs hand in hand, maintaining soils is just as important to the sheep.

Soils grow grass, grass grows sheep, and sheep is the product of the enterprise. Summit Park is proud of what has developed from this vision into reality.

At Summit Park, Rams will be available from late September for private sale.

## 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY SALE

### FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025

Horn & Poll Rams for Auction  
Rams penned 10.00am - Sale 1.00pm  
Inspections welcome prior to sale by appointment  
Private selection from 1st November  
Stud Advisor - Stephen Chalmers

Flock No - HORN 4654 - POLL 1436  
Brucellosis Accredited Free ~ OJD Vaccinated  
5% rebate to outside agents  
and sheep classes attending  
on sale day

See us at

Australian Sheep and Wool Show - 18th - 20th July

Hamilton Sheepvention - 3rd - 4th August

Glenelg Field Day - 11th August

Victorian State Merino Field Day, Marnoo - 20th August

Enquiries of Rams, Semen and Grade Rams:  
Rod & Sue Miller 0428 539 227 Will Miller 0458 660 439 Harry Miller 0458 318 200  
733 Victoria Valley Road Brimpaen VIC 3401 E: glenpaen@gmail.com





# Focus on easy care sheep

The Cashmore Oaklea team have a united focus on producing an easy-care sheep that will provide them and their clients with the best returns for the least inputs.

The major focus on increased fertility, milk production, growth rate, carcase attributes and resistance to internal parasites continues to remain at the fore-front for Cashmore Oaklea. Their whole aim is to produce sheep that will perform well and stand up to challenging conditions.

After years of careful selection and detailed performance recording, the stud has grown to be one of the largest suppliers of maternal genetics in Australia.

Don Pegler started the Oaklea stud at Kongorong, SA, in 1982 while John and Brigitta Keiller established the Cashmore Park stud at Cashmore, in south-west Victoria, in 1990.

After many years of working closely together, sharing both genetics and the marketing of

their sheep, the Pegler and Keiller families decided to join forces, founding the Cashmore Oaklea maternal composite stud.

This year Cashmore Oaklea's annual ram sale will be held on Friday October 3, exclusively via Auctions Plus.

Cashmore Oaklea will be offering over 500 elite maternal composite rams and up to 300 nudie rams across 3x sales.

Cashmore Oaklea will again be holding 2x Ewe Sales on Thursday November 6 and Thursday December 4, via Auctions Plus.

This is a multi-vendor multi-agent sale, with Cashmore Oaklea ewes available from a range of ages from ewe lambs up to 5YO +. Purchasing Cashmore Oaklea ewes can be a great way for clients that are looking to run composite sheep, or current clients that are wishing to expand their flock.



Cashmore Oaklea ewe and lamb.



## Melrose

### Fine Wool Merinos

FLOCK No. 1704 P1238  
112 Russells Road, Nurrabiel, Vic 3401

Semen available from stud sires  
Private Sales throughout year  
Inspections always welcome

**Warren Russell:**  
0427 881 204  
**John Russell:**  
0427 340 844  
melrosemerinostud@gmail.com

OJD Vaccinated 19 years  
Brucellosis Acc. Free





**Glenelg**  
**5 Rams**  
**11th August**  
**60 Rams On Property**  
**8th October**  
**See more Melrose**  
**Rams at Sheepvention**  
**Site No. 328**

## GLENELG RAM SALE

| LOT | TAG           | MIC  | SD  | CV%  | CF%  | AGE     |
|-----|---------------|------|-----|------|------|---------|
| 14  | POLL 23LD4963 | 19.7 | 3.3 | 16.7 | 99.3 | 27 MTHS |
| 15  | POLL 23BN8985 | 16.5 | 2.6 | 16.0 | 99.8 | 27 MTHS |
| 16  | HORN 23Y18057 | 16.6 | 2.6 | 16.0 | 99.7 | 27 MTHS |
| 17  | HORN 23TRF834 | 15.5 | 2.4 | 15.2 | 99.9 | 27 MTHS |
| 18  | HORN 23TRF823 | 17.4 | 2.9 | 16.9 | 99.9 | 27 MTHS |

PIC 19BN8975

## SELF REPLACING PERFORMANCE MATERNALS

### FERTILITY - GROWTH - RESILIENCE



## RAM SALE

Friday 3rd Oct @ 11am AEDT

Offering **500** Maternal Rams  
and **300** Nudie Rams

**INDEX - TOP 7%**

- Our sale rams deliver \$28.00 per ewe mated above industry breed average
- Our Stud and Commercial Ewes scanned 185%, under high & challenging stocking rates
- Many Stud Sires are now 90% below breed average for worm egg count

### Ram Inspections

Oaklea - the week of 22nd Sept via appointment, Kongorong SA  
Cashmore Park - Mon 29th Sept, Cashmore Park VIC  
OAKLEA PIC SA120651 CASHMORE PIC3GLYH185



Contact: John Keiller 0409 804 638  
cashmoreram@gmail.com  
Don Pegler 0417 851 466 | office@oakleafarms.com.au



# Why Nudies make sense

After two of the toughest years in recent memory—marked by back-to-back short Springs, late breaks, prolonged supplementary feeding and challenging market conditions—many farmers across southwest Victoria are feeling the strain.

“Last year, I wrote about the importance of controlling the controllables—simplifying your lamb production system to help ride out unpredictable markets and seasons,” said Matt Kelly of Low Footprint Lamb.

“A year on, and we’re still doing it tough. The physical, mental and financial toll is real.

“When people ask how I’m going, I say I’m well—my family are healthy and happy, and my stock are in good shape and always glad to see me.

“But the business? It’s copping a beating. It’s been a tough time for a lot of us, but I think it’s important we separate our personal wellbeing from our business performance.”

For Matt, what’s helped is a low-input, high-performance system that continues to deliver—even in difficult seasons.

“Simplify what you can, to reduce the stress. Build a system that works, even when other things seems to be working against you,”



he said.

Based east of Hamilton, Matt runs Low Footprint Lamb Nudies - shedding sheep bred specifically for southern conditions.

These sheep don’t require shearing or crutching. There’s no footbathing, no jetting, minimal drenching, and they require 15 per

cent less feed to maintain condition, significantly reducing labour, costs, and stress.

The Low Footprint Lamb flock is fully pedigreed, Lambplan recorded and benchmarked against all maternal breeds.

“Over the past five years, we’ve increased production by \$6 per

mating per year on the Maternal Composite Plus Index,” Matt said. “Our 2024 generation sits at 143, with top animals in the 170s. I’ve worked hard on growth and structure in recent matings, and I’m really excited about the results.”

Come by for a chat with Matt and check out his Nudies at Site Sheep Tech 631.

## Created by a farmer for farmers

The need for a portable shearing/clipping machine that one could use on stock in the yards, prompted David Short from NZ to use his previous car building skills to invent the Handypiece in 2008.

The Handypiece is the Rolls-Royce version of portable shearing and tail trimming equipment, and is still available at a reasonable price.

Main benefit of the Handypiece is that you can work anywhere at any time with NO MAINS POWER required.

Farmers of all abilities are able to keep on top of those dirty jobs resulting in better animal health and all round farming efficiency.

Lifestyle shearers can have a customised cable to enable greater reach down the long blow and between the sheep legs.

The Handypiece Pro has the

added feature of variable speed from 2600 – 3500rpm.

Dagging, crutching and trimming cows tails operate well at a mid-speed of 2800 rpm, while anyone wanting to get a nice cut while shearing can wind it all of the way up to 3500rpm.

Now alpaca shearers can use a traditional handpiece that is slim to hold but now with the speed that they can reduce to the same as a clipper.

The brushless motor means the battery lasts even longer as it is possible to crutch up to 300-400 sheep from one charge.

Handypiece has a comprehensive website at [www.handypiece.co.nz](http://www.handypiece.co.nz) or contact Hamilton Farm Supplies in Victoria.

Contact Hamilton Farm Supplies for all Handypiece repairs and servicing needs.



Samantha Rust shearing in New Zealand.



# An innovative future

Since its establishment in 1992, RIST (Rural Industries Skill Training) Agricultural College has proudly stood as a leader in agricultural education, deeply rooted in regional Victoria.

For over three decades, RIST has nurtured a strong purpose: to equip the current and next generation of agricultural professionals with the skills, mindset, and hands-on experience needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving industry.

At the heart of RIST's philosophy is a commitment to purpose-led education, empowering students to grow not only their technical capabilities but their confidence and contribution to the future of agriculture. Whether they're taking their first step into the industry or upskilling to take on leadership roles, our students are supported by expert trainers, real-world farm experiences, and cutting-edge tools that prepare them for success.

Innovation continues to shape



Immersive 360-degree learning Igloo, offering students the opportunity to step into virtual farm environments.

the RIST learning experience. In June 2025, we proudly unveiled our immersive 360-degree learning Igloo, offering students the op-

portunity to step into virtual farm environments. With the addition of smart headsets, learners can refine practical skills in a safe,

engaging space before applying them on-farm.

These tools complement our long-standing focus on practical field-based education, where students gain insight, resilience and adaptability directly from the paddock.

"Our purpose is to create thriving graduates who are job-ready, passionate, and proud to contribute to agriculture," says RIST CEO, Bill Hamill.

"Everything we do is about supporting the future of our industry."

If you're ready to grow your future in agriculture, there's never been a better time to connect. Catch up with us at Sheepvention in the Producers Market & Innovations Hub, Sites 527 - 528. Alternatively you can join us at our August Information Sessions to discover what RIST can offer you in 2026 and beyond. Visit [rist.edu.au](http://rist.edu.au) to register and take your first step into a rewarding, purpose-led agricultural career.

Thinking about a career in Agriculture?

Grow your passion, knowledge & skills with us.

RIST

Study Agriculture in 2026

RIST was founded over three decades ago by a group of farmers and individuals dedicated to strengthening the Australian Wool and Agricultural Industries through providing excellence in training and education.

Today, RIST is recognised as one of Australia's leading independent Agricultural Colleges providing vocational education and training in accredited and non-accredited pathways.

Our comprehensive courses and programs are designed to help you grow and succeed at every stage of your career.

Join us in August - Information Sessions

Explore our 2026 programs. Tour our facilities. Meet our friendly staff & expert trainers. Discover how you can balance school, or work, and study with RIST. Register for an Information Session today at [rist.edu.au](http://rist.edu.au).

Visit us at Sheepvention In the Producers Market & Innovation Hub, sites 527 - 528.

Learn more or register Hamilton. Terang. Online. visit [www.rist.edu.au](http://www.rist.edu.au) or call 1800 883 343

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MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2025

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# Groves – your first stop

Real estate continues to be one of strongest industries in Australia and remains a key talking point for investing towards the future.

Hamilton and the Southern Grampians area has continually shown stability across the residential property market, and is showing plenty of positive signs trending forward.

With recent interest rate reductions and indications of more to come, property owners and purchasers can look forward to reduced mortgage stress and some increased borrowing capacity.

Groves Real Estate pride themselves on their thorough knowledge of the property markets in Hamilton and surrounding area and their team of local agents, Darren Groves, Sam Groves, Sonia Gillingham, Torie Coomber and Zeb Lewis, have a combined 50 years of experience of selling in the local area.

The team are committed to fulfilling their role with integrity and in turn achieving the best outcome



for their vendors.

If you've been contemplating selling, or you're curious to see

what your home is worth in today's market, contact Groves Real Estate for a free sales appraisal today.

Maddi Shelley and Ksenija Gilchrist in residential Property Management, along with Torie Coomber in Commercial Property Management, have had a busy year, with a consistent rental market and an expansion into the Casterton area resulting in plenty of activity for them too.

Having recently welcomed Jorja Stone to the business, the rentals team pride themselves on their diligent approach, exceptional communication and understanding of rental requirements.

Groves Real Estate's property management team are always looking to add to their rental roll and encourage prospective investors, or rental providers looking to outsource the management of their property to get in touch.

So, if you're considering selling or investing in property, and you want a genuine team who will take the time to get you the best result, make Groves Real Estate your first choice.

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# Quality materials only

Belfast Lime is located approximately 8.5km west of Port Fairy and supply quality AG LIME to all corners of the state and beyond, at competitive rates.

The pit is located in a convenient location on the highway between Port Fairy and Yambuk, accommodating trucks of all sizes.

Belfast Lime is operated by Kavanagh Excavation & Plumbing Pty Ltd, who are experienced quarry operators and are not only suppliers of lime but also crushed rock and scoria products.

All operation locations deliver a diversity of resources, with quality-controlled services and products, which meet the highest safety and quality standards.

Kavanagh Excavation & Plumbing has been in operation for over 40 years and pride themselves on supplying quality material.

Lime can be purchased and collected, or delivery can also be arranged.

Quarry operating hours are



BELFAST LIME: To arrange a copy of Lime Analysis information or further details, please phone the office on (03) 5565 1811. More information can also be found at: [belfastlime.com](http://belfastlime.com).

Monday to Friday 7.30am to 4.30pm. Belfast Lime is open for business 12 months of the year.

During the off season the pit is open by appointment - please contact our office for access during

the winter months and we are only too happy to accommodate your every need.



## Southern Victoria Merino Field Days

**FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2025**

### Participating Studs & Sale Dates

- **Stud Park South** - **Tues 21st Oct** - Willaura
- **Boorana** - **Wed 22nd Oct** - Glenthompson
- **Wurrook** - **Thurs 23rd Oct** - Rokewood
- **Coryule** - **Tues 28th Oct** - Willowvale
- **Ioness Poll** - Lake Bolac
- **Rams Available on Field Day**
- **Gelton** - Willaura
- **Private Sales by Appointment**
- **Mt Challicum** - Ballyrogan - **Sale from 3pm**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
**PRESIDENT - PAT MILLEAR 0428 541 462**  
**SECRETARY - KIM HARTWICH 0427 544 218**



## Field day plans

The Southern Victorian Merino Group's Field Day and Sales Week held in October 2024 attracted strong attendance from across the region.

Clearances were quite good despite the dry season coupled with lower wool and sheep prices.

With the continued challenging seasonal conditions all sheep producers are working hard to maintain their flocks so they can take advantage of the higher prices that will be on offer when this extended dry period ends.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to confirm that our annual Group

Field Day will take place on Friday October 17, 2025, with on-property sales to follow in the week after.

We remain hopeful that this coming spring will bring the rainfall needed to mark the beginning of a more favourable run of seasons for all.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, Boehringer Ingelheim, Gorst Rural, Stock & Land and Ace Radio for their continued support

**PAT MILLEAR**  
**President, Southern Victorian Merino Breeders Association**





# The Telstra team returns

The local Telstra team are thrilled to be back at Sheepvention.

We get to show up, listen to our customers and our communities and reconnect with familiar faces like we have each year for the last twenty years to help and provide advice.

Our local team aspire to build and support digitally empowered regional communities and we advocate for individuals and businesses across South West Victoria to keep people connected.

We do this through our dedicated local Telstra Regional Australia team that have a deep understanding of our customers and communities.

We offer local advice on getting the best connectivity for your home or business and we can assist you get the best value from



your Telstra services.

Our local Telstra team know the importance of what connectivity means at home or for your business.

We always strive to understand the importance of our customer's individual connectivity needs and challenges. Our team look to

improve our customers experience in the home or in their business to drive productivity and efficiencies and we always enjoy a face-to-face chat to better understand our customers needs and offer advice.

That is why we are again at Sheepvention with a team of experts including our local management team, dedicated mobile



network engineers to understand your specific mobile connectivity challenges and our business customer specialists from the regional Telstra Business Technology Centre alongside our partners at the Hamilton Phone Shop.

We look forward to catching up and seeing how we can help.

## Message from Dan Tehan, MP

I'm proud to once again support Sheepvention — one of Australia's premier rural events that, for over 40 years, has showcased the strength and innovation of the agricultural sector in Wannon.

Our farmers have long been the backbone of this region, driving its prosperity and resilience. As their federal representative, I remain deeply committed to advocating for our sheep and wool industries — particularly now, as they confront a crippling drought and mounting financial pressures that require strong, practical responses.

The major concern facing our drought-stricken farmers is that the traditional financial assistance



offered by the Albanese and Allan Labor Governments doesn't reflect the urgent situation on the ground. Immediate additional support in the form of interest-free or low-interest

loans is essential — without it, many farmers will be left with no choice but to sell off their breeding stock, as they simply can't afford to feed or, in some cases, even water them.

Losing high-quality breeding stock would cause long-term damage to our agricultural sector while interest-free loans would allow farmers to refinance and survive through to Spring.

This support must be delivered without delay.

Farmers are also deeply concerned about the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy.

The Allan Labor State Government's decision to pause the

planned increase for one year is a short-term reprieve, not a solution.

Unless the levy hike is scrapped permanently, farmers will face even steeper costs next year as the government will almost certainly attempt to claw back lost revenue. This ongoing uncertainty will further strain their mental health and deny them the stability they need to rebuild.

I will continue working with state politicians, local councils and the community to fight for the permanent removal of the levy increase. In a time of drought and financial strain, our farmers need lasting relief — not political delays.



**DAN TEHAN**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR **WANNON**

*Proudly supporting  
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Authorised by Dan Tehan MP, Liberal, 190 Gray Street, Hamilton VIC 3300.

12776362-V29-25



# This change is exciting

Big news for the Hamilton community! The Telstra Shop you've known has officially transitioned into the Hamilton Phone Shop, and we're thrilled to announce we're now 100% locally owned and operated.

This is a significant and exciting step, deepening our commitment to serving our communities across Southwest Victoria.

While ownership has changed, our ability to seamlessly connect you with Telstra for all your mobile, NBN, and Satellite internet needs hasn't.

You will still find the familiar, friendly faces. We also own the Portland Phone Shop and our team boasts an impressive average of six years of service, and we're dedicated to building that same deep local knowledge and trust right here in Hamilton.

This continuity means we deeply understand Southwest Victoria's unique needs and communication challenges.



Hamilton Phone Shop.

Plus, we now offer an even larger range of products on the Telstra Network, giving you more choice

and flexibility than ever before.

At the Hamilton Phone Shop, we know how critical technology is for

rural Australia.

For our farming community, staying connected is vital for safety, business, and daily life. That's why we're proud to offer tailored solutions designed for even the most remote locations. Our solutions cover everything from your tractor to your boat.

We are still part of the Telstra family and we are thrilled to be at Sheepvention. Be sure to drop by the stand and spin our prize wheel for your chance to earn Telstra Plus points, redeemable for fantastic prizes that'll have you feeling like a kid in a candy shop!

You can redeem your points right there at the event or simply pop into our Hamilton store afterwards.

Discover how our local expertise and cutting-edge connectivity solutions can keep you connected, no matter where your paddocks lie.

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References available upon request.

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## Lampard's - here to help

Have you ever considered a contracting service for your lamb marking?

Our objective is to streamline your operations through our convenient marking service.

We manage all administrative responsibilities, ensure appropriate insurance coverage, recruit trustworthy personnel, and complete all essential tasks involved in

marking.

Our teams are reliable, efficient, and enthusiastic individuals dedicated to providing a top-notch service.

We understand the rigorous demands of farming and the extensive list of tasks it involves, by choosing Lampard's Lamb Marking you can expect a stress-free service.



With years of experience behind them, Lampard's offer on-farm help when you need it most.



# Nutrition that stacks up

CopRice have been manufacturing high quality extruded and pelleted animal feeds for over 50 years.

We utilise high quality rice and rice bran along with an extensive range of ingredients to manufacture feeds for a wide range of animals.

CopRice has extensive expertise in formulating and producing rice based feeds and our research into the advantages of rice based diets for animals has made us market leaders in Australia.

Visit our site at Sheepvention and talk to our friendly, experienced staff about:

**Sheep Feed**

Maximising the productivity of your sheep is a matter of satisfaction, pride and profit. Even the best pastures can't provide all the nutrients your sheep need for optimal health, fertility and performance.

So whether you're dealing with specific nutritional deficiencies or seasonal shortfalls in pasture



quality or quantity, there are times when supplementary feeding (with the right feeds) makes good economic sense.

CopRice has a full range of feeds to cover all your requirements from young stock to adult sheep and rams.

**Dog Food**

Nourishing the waggiest, happiest,

hardest-working critters on four legs.

Joy bringers, affection givers, best greeters and hands down the most enthusiastic workers in the paddock (day in, day out)... nothing beats dogs.

At each age and stage, your dog's nutrient needs vary, so they need to be correctly provided for in the diet. That's why CopRice dog



food range has been so intentionally crafted, with each ingredient selected for its usefulness, quality and nutritional value.

CopRice is sponsoring the Yard Dog Trial and Sheepvention so be sure to go and check out the action and maybe catch up with some of our CopRice Ambassadors who feed our products to their hardest workers on farm!



# Keep them working at their peak for longer.

**Keep them working at their peak for longer.**  
It's been a long, hard day in the heat and dust. But their stamina and mental focus haven't wavered. That's the power of CopRice Working Dog food.  
High in quality protein and fat, along with carbohydrates including 100% Australian-grown rice, they provide the fuel your dogs need to work at their peak for longer.



CopRice.com.au



# Catch Out & About

## ADVERTORIAL

Out & About Clothing is excited to be returning to Sheepvention once again!

A proud regular at the event for over 10 years, Out & About brings their vibrant and uniquely Australian range of country rugbys to the heart of the action.

Based in the South Australian town of Keith, Out & About Clothing has been creating their signature women's and kids' rugby tops since 2001.

Each piece is proudly Australian-made, offering a huge range of colours, patterns, and personality.

Their iconic rugby jumpers feature bold contrasting collars and are available in sizes from — XS right through to 6XL — with custom tailoring available to ensure the perfect fit for every customer.

With over 450 different designs to choose from, you're bound to find something you love!

Founder and designer Christine Rosenzweig has transformed her passion for sewing into a thriving clothing label. She loves connecting with customers at Sheepvention and other events across the country, where visitors can explore one of the largest colour ranges of women's rugby tops in Australia.

"We'll have hundreds of rugby tops on display—the hardest part is choosing just one!" says Christine.

Out & About Clothing offer both relaxed and semi-fitted rugby. Cozy up this winter season with one of Out & About's popular fleecy rugbys. Available in 12 different colours or select a versatile mid weight rugby available in both plains and stripes all with the 'Out & About' signature spot, stripe, floral or gingham collars.



Out & About's lovely children's clothing.

Whether you're after something soft and warm or a lighter layer for in-between days, they've got you covered. A selection of Children's

rugby jumpers will also be available and an adorable range of farm-themed baby bibs.

**Come and say hello at Sheepven-**

**tion! You'll find Out & About in the Marketplace Shed — or browse the full range anytime at [www.outandaboutclothing.com.au](http://www.outandaboutclothing.com.au).**



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# Sheepvention

## Sheepvention After Dark: Drought Relief Concert

### SHANNON NOLL

Sunday, August 3

Hamilton Exhibition and Conference Centre

Sheepvention Rural Expo is bringing the energy this August with its After Dark: Drought Relief Concert featuring Aussie rock icon Shannon Noll. Held on Sunday, August 3, the evening will blend music, community spirit, and mental health awareness. In partnership with the Let's Talk Foundation, the night includes a panel discussion with mental health professionals and lived-experience ambassadors. Enjoy great music, vital conversations, and free resources to support mental wellbeing in rural communities. Doors open at 7pm. Live and silent auction on the night. If you would like to donate please contact us on (03) 5572 2563

**Tickets are available now at [www.sheepvention.com](http://www.sheepvention.com)**



## 2025 Inventions Competition

Be inspired by innovation at the 2025 Inventions Competition, a highlight of Sheepvention that brings together creative minds from across the country. This year marks the reinstatement of the Robert F. Stewart Major Award, the highest honour in the event's long-running Inventions Competition. The award comes with a \$4,000 cash prize for the most outstanding innovation.

This unique event showcases groundbreaking ideas and clever modifications across all levels—from primary school inventors to multinational companies and young entrepreneurs. The award presentation will take place in the Ram Shed on Sunday, 3 August 2025 at Sheepvention.

Come and explore the future of ag-tech and beyond at this one-of-a-kind showcase of ingenuity!



**Skip the queue and get your  
tickets for Sheepvention today!**



# on Key Events



**CopRice Victorian Farm  
Dog Championships**



**Kids Activities &  
New Kids Ag Passport**



**Women in Agriculture Lunch  
Proudly brought to you by AgVic**

Sheepvention 2025 is set to host its first-ever Women in Agriculture Lunch on Sunday, August 3 at 12pm, celebrating female leaders driving change in the ag industry. Held at the Hamilton Exhibition and Conference Centre, the event will feature an inspiring keynote speaker. Guests will enjoy a sit-down meal and a welcome mocktail, with plenty of opportunity for connection and inspiration.

**Tickets are limited and available via  
[www.sheepvention.com](http://www.sheepvention.com).**



**ProWay Shearing Competition**

Get ready for some fast-paced action at Sheepvention 2025 with the debut of the ProWay Shearing Competition—the event's first-ever professional shearing showdown! Taking place on Sunday, August 3 in the Ram Shed, this thrilling competition will showcase the skill, speed, and stamina of Australia's top shearers in a high-energy arena. Proudly supported by Sport Shear Australia, the event is set to be a major crowd favourite.

**Visit [www.sheepvention.com](http://www.sheepvention.com) and social media  
for updates on competitors and format.**





# Community Insurance Solutions

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## Understanding the unique needs of rural Australians

Community Insurance Solutions (CIS) is a proudly regional insurance brokerage dedicated to protecting the livelihoods of individuals, families, farms, and businesses across Victoria—with a strong and growing presence in Hamilton and the greater Southwest region. Headquartered in Bendigo, our team understands the unique needs of rural Australians and delivers tailored insurance solutions with a personal touch.

As an Authorised Representative of the Community Broker Network and a member of the Steadfast Group, CIS provides access to over 150 insurance markets, including specialist underwriters across agriculture, machinery, infrastructure, livestock, and related supply chains. This wide market reach enables us to deliver tailored, competitive cover that aligns with each client's specific risk profile.

In Hamilton and throughout Southwest Victoria, our local team delivers hands-on support across key regional needs—from farms and businesses to vehicles and equipment. We are more than brokers — we're embedded in the communities we protect.

Our ongoing support of Sheepvention in Hamilton highlights our deep connection to the local agricultural industry. We also actively engage in other regional field days and community initiatives, reflecting our long-standing commitment to regional Australia.

At CIS, we do more than insurance—we build trust and support the growth of our local communities. Visit us at the Innovations Hub and Producers' Market for your chance to win a \$250 Hamilton Hamper!

Contact us on 1300 132 983, [broker.assist@cisbroker.com.au](mailto:broker.assist@cisbroker.com.au), or visit 56 Gray Street, Hamilton.

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# Talk to Emma Kealy MP

AS we look forward to Sheepvention 2025, I encourage everyone to mark this important event on their calendars and join in celebrating and supporting our incredible agricultural industry.

Sheepvention is a wonderful opportunity for anyone in the industry and the wider community to share knowledge, explore new advancements in the field, and – perhaps most importantly – talk with others and share experiences.

Sheepvention is one of the biggest events on the state's agricultural calendar, and is an invaluable opportunity for businesses and investors to engage with the rural sector.

It also serves as a marketplace for agribusinesses, fostering partnerships, and driving economic growth.

The event gives small businesses a platform to showcase their products and services, connecting them with potential customers and buyers.

It also enables visitors to witness first-hand the remarkable efforts made by our farmers to improve productivity, sustainability, and animal welfare.

Sheepvention's strong focus on education and involvement from young people across our region ensures that future generations are inspired to carry forward the torch of rural excellence.

The event also offers a unique chance for people from outside rural and regional communities to gain more knowledge and a deeper appreciation for the agricultural sector, fostering a stronger bond between urban and rural communities.

Connection is a hallmark of



Emma Kealy MP, The Nationals Member for Lowan.

Sheepvention, and this year that will be more important than ever.

We know our hard-working farmers are battling some of the most difficult conditions in a long time, and this year's event will provide a vital opportunity to come together as a community, check

in on our friends and neighbours, share experiences, and support each other.

I sincerely congratulate the Hamilton Pastoral and Agricultural Society, the organising committee, staff and all the fabulous volunteers for making Sheepvention

such a wonderful annual event for Hamilton and the broader Lowan electorate.

Sheepvention is a testament to the passion, vision and dedication of local people over generations, and I am proud to continue to support this incredible event.



## Emma KEALY MP

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR LOWAN

**Congratulations to everyone involved in this year's Sheepvention Rural Expo for their dedication and unwavering commitment to making this wonderful event a fantastic success every year.**

 5382 0097

 [emma.kealy@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:emma.kealy@parliament.vic.gov.au)

 34 Firebrace St, Horsham

12776347-J029-25

2025 | SHEEPVENTION RURAL EXPO 35



# New studs add depth

The Glenelg Regional Merino Field Day Group conducted a very successful Field Day and ram sale in 2024.

Glenelg group welcomed two new studs in 2024 Glenpaen and Rockbank, the addition of these local studs to the group has added to the depth and quality to the Group as well as an injection of youth and enthusiasm that will hold the group in good stead into the future.

This year, 2025, we welcome Orrie Cowie to the Glenelg Field Day Group.

The Glenelg Field Day Group will also hold a display at Hamilton Sheepvention site 317 and 318, promoting some of the groups top auction rams that will be on offer at the Balmoral Recreation Reserve 11th August 2025.

This will be a terrific shop

window promoting the main event.

2024 Ram Sale saw 70 Registered buyers purchase 93 out of 104 rams for an 89 per cent clearance and an average \$1655 to a top price of \$4400.

The top price ram went to Gleneden for lot 33.

2024 also began the awarding of the Fitzgerald perpetual Shield for the best group of sale rams, which was won by Kevlyn selected by the champion sale ram judge Alan Harris.

Champion long wool sale ram was won by Glenpaen and Champion Short wool sale ram was awarded to Mount Yulong.

Nicholas Farley, Nutrien auctioneer, top price ram lot 33 Gleneden \$4400, Campbell Penny, Greg Penny.

A large photograph of a green John Deere tractor and a yellow Deere skid steer loader working in a field. The tractor is in the foreground, and the skid steer is behind it. They are both working on a patch of brown earth. The background shows a green field and some trees under a cloudy sky.

## VISIT THE BRANDT TEAM AT SHEEPVENTION 2025.

**SITE**  
**Nº.1**

See you at **SITE 1** for impressive machine displays, and toys and merchandise for all ages.

Brandt Hamilton 03 5572 3522 | 94 Portland Rd.





A straight board is cost-effective and having the wool room on the ground level allows it to be for storage throughout the year.



A roof over yards provides good working conditions year-round and flexible working hours, increasing productivity and labour efficiency.

# Leading the way in sheds

New shearing shed builds and upgrades have continued in recent years, despite subdued wool prices.

This trend reflects the industry's commitment to raising the standard of working conditions, improving efficiencies and increasing productivity, all of which will contribute to the sustainable future of the wool industry.

Bell Group's lane delivery shearing shed - another successful collaboration between Action Steel and ProWay Livestock Equipment - is an excellent example of this and is a testament to their leadership in the industry.

A single gable shearing shed with covered yards; the facility has capacity for around 2000 sheep in the covered yards and 800 sheep on the grating.

The single gable configuration

is the most cost-effective way to build a shearing shed complex, simply because a dual gable set-up is often more time-consuming to manufacture and install. A single gable layout also means that no box gutters are required.

The covered yards are a smart inclusion being much more cost-effective than having sheep on grating - and more versatile too. Covered yards provide comfortable working conditions, year-round not just at shearing time.

The innovative lane catch and delivery system by ProWay ensures catching pens are easily maintained and filled, meaning that shearers don't need to drag as much. As a result, the shearing teams are not as worn out by the end of the day.

It is important to have your fit-out company and shed company

collaborating and on the same page as it is often the small details that make a big difference!

For example, Action Steel worked closely with ProWay to ensure that sliding door placement was functional and clearance heights were correct. ProWay also incorporated inspection doors into this Action Steel shed design.

While the best shearing shed board design will always be up for debate, the 7-stand raised straight board works well in this facility.

A straight board is typically the most cost-effective option and having the wool room on the ground level allows it to be used as a storage area throughout the year. The building consultants at Action Steel usually recommend upsizing the wool room to create a versatile shed and help you get the best value for your money.

The board design allows rousies to work above chest height when removing stained wool and picking up fleeces. This helps reduce repetitive strain injuries and fatigue and is also more time efficient.

For the shearers the board configuration provides good vision of the board and wool room and an individual work area and allows them to move around the board easily.

Bell Group's lane delivery shearing shed is increasing efficiency and productivity and looking after their staff - a winning combination for success and sustainability.

If you are looking to upgrade your shearing shed, cover your yards or increase your on-farm storage, be sure to catch up with the Action team at Sheepvention! Visit Site 279-280 to chat about your farm shed project.

WWW.SOUTHEASTSHEARING.COM.AU

We understand the importance of flexibility and reliability in agricultural services, and we are dedicated to delivering results that exceed your expectations.



South East Shearing offers professional shearing and crutching services tailored to meet the unique needs of each farming operation. With experienced crews and a commitment to animal welfare and efficiency, we deliver high-quality results across South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales.



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Phone: +61 429 679 640

SHEARING



With decades of combined experience in the shearing industry, we have assembled a team of dedicated, hardworking, and enthusiastic staff who are ready to travel for work and ensure tasks are completed efficiently.

MOBILE CRUTCHING



With four available crutching trailers, including both 3-stand and 4-stand options, we are equipped to assist you regardless of your operational setup.

HEALTH & SAFETY



The health and safety of our staff and your animals is our top priority. All our employees receive comprehensive training in safe work place practices and updated stock-handling techniques.





'SheerSpeed Owner Steven Hein, with his daughter Laura Barrie, won Ag Business Innovation of the Year 2024 at Wimmera Machinery Field Days for the Wireless Control Handpiece and Counter.'

# SheerSpeed is a leader

Safety, efficiency and productivity is the name of the game in the shearing shed with award-winning innovative products from SheerSpeed Shearing Products.

Now in their third-year marketing a line-up of ground-breaking innovations with incentive pricing.

One is Magnetic Grinding Papers for sharpening combs and cutters, along with bonus Safety

Washers. Glue is no longer required, and they adhere to not only normal steel grinding discs, but also Aluminium discs which have an innovative galvanised steel face built into the

disc. Galvanised Steel Faces are also available separately as a bonus retrofit for existing standard aluminium discs. These are glued on in a similar way to glue-on pa-

pers with instructions provided.

Other products include U-beat Oil Cans, BeerSaver Sweeps and the Woolmaster Wireless Control Handpiece which 'talks' to a touch-screen electronic counter.

The handpiece boasts unmatched safety, especially when shearing and greater efficiency while crutching.

The Counter gives an accurate

digital readout automatically of sheep shorn. Still waiting for safety certification approval.

SheerSpeed aim to underscore the transformative impact of shearing technology, and with the new exciting innovations on the way, underpin their passion and commitment to an overdue improvement in the sheep and wool industry.

**SheerSpeed®**  
Shearing Products



See us at 113-114,  
Sheep Walk Lane!

See videos on our website  
Phone: 0428 682 120  
Email: [info@sheerspeed.com.au](mailto:info@sheerspeed.com.au)  
[www.sheerspeed.com.au](http://www.sheerspeed.com.au)  
 

### Magnetic Grinding Papers

- No more gluing
- No more wasted time
- Bonus Retrofit Galvanised Steel Faces for Aluminum Grinding Discs!
- Aluminum Discs with Steel Faces now available
- Steel Discs (available at Field Days only)
- Purchase online or at Field Days

### Wireless Control Handpieces and Counters

- Put more control, safety and efficiency in your hands
- Based on the superb Heiniger Icon Handpiece (Available when certified) (still waiting)

# NEW



Founder & Director: Steven Hein  
12776298-MS29-25





Meeting industry reps in China.

# A global perspective

A recent visit to China’s wool mills provided local Techwool Trading wool buyers Jordan Murphy (Hamilton) and Mark Gibbs (Kingston SE), along with trading manager Evan Croake, with a rare and valuable insight into the global wool supply chain.

The trip reinforced the significance and strong reputation of Australian wool on the world stage, offering the team a first-hand look at the extensive processing journey that begins once the wool leaves the farm.

The experience gave the team a deeper appreciation for the complexity and scale of the wool industry beyond Australia.

It highlighted the many stages involved in transforming raw fleece into finished garments and revealed



The Techwool reps on the ground in China.

how heavily Chinese processors rely on and value Australian wool.

Across the board, Australian wool was regarded as the best in the world.

Jordan and Mark were particularly impressed by the vast scale of the mills and the impeccable cleanliness and organisation maintained throughout the facilities.

Of all the mills visited, they agreed that the use of robotics to transport wool tops stood out as an impressive example of technological innovation in modern wool processing.

Their clear take-home message for Australian wool growers is this: your hard work is making a global impact. The care you put into preparing your wool clip is not only noticed — it’s highly valued by international processors.

Despite current challenges in the Chinese market and broader trade uncertainties, the significant investment and genuine passion witnessed in Chinese mills signal a strong and promising future for wool. Take pride in what you produce — because the world is watching, and it matters.

## Wool Buyers - Wool Brokers - Wool Exporters



Come visit us in the Ram Shed- right in the heart of Sheepvention!

Jordan Murphy- Hamilton  
0499 201 932

Khaten Hay - Mortlake  
0467 558 870

Mark Gibbs - Kingston SE  
0428 894 072

Techwool Trading



# Improve your woolpress

We understand the frustration of slow pressing times, noisy operation, power supply issues, breakdowns, and operators not warming up the press before use.

Introducing our latest upgrade enhancement available to suit your woolpress - Give your press a new lease of life with a new "WAM" kit.

**1. Reduce pressing time** - Our advanced "WAM" kit will run the press at the maximum speed possible with the power available in your shed. If you have poor power in your shed, the press will operate perfectly fine, just slower than if you had a good power supply.

**2. Whisper-quiet operation** - When your press is idle between cycles, the WAM will slow the motor down so it is barely heard, or stop it altogether (depends on press brands, whether the motor stops, or just slows down). When pressing wool, the motor and pump are much quieter than many other presses.

**3. No warm-up time waster** - Our WAM controls will automatically adjust the motor speed to suit the conditions. The motor will be made to run slower with cold oil, and speed up as the oil warms up, until it runs at full speed.

**4. Enhanced Performance with unstable electricity.** Do you struggle with inconsistent power supply (changing voltage), or poor power (low voltage). Our WAM kit is equipped to handle less-than-perfect electricity conditions with ease. Designed to perform reliably even with a poor electrical supply, the WAM kit ensures consistent results regardless of power fluctuations.

**5. Reliability** - Keep your press operating when you need it most. No clutches to burn out or slip. No capacitors to fail. No motor burn outs.

**6. Streamlined design** - Our design reduces the number of components, minimizing maintenance, and ensuring a more reliable performance. Our WAM upgrade is built for efficiency and simplicity.

The WAM kit comes with a new high performance hydraulic pump

and motor.

The new motor runs without capacitors, which often fail without a good power supply.

A WAM kit resolves issues like noise, operator neglect, motor/clutch failure, and slow cycles, while improving power.

Save money by self-installing with provided instructions, and special plug/socket for motor and lead.

The kit includes a high-performance motor, high-flow hydraulic pump, state-of-the-art electronic

controls, and an inductive neutral sensor.

Safety features ensure the motor only starts in neutral and adjusts speed for warm-up, then slows at cycle end to reduce wear.

WAM is compliant with Australian Standards, offering speed, quiet operation, reliability, and less maintenance.

**Order now at**  
[www.woolpressaustalia.com](http://www.woolpressaustalia.com) or  
call 03 5572 4722 for enhanced woolpress efficiency.





## Upgrade Your Woolpress

Woolpress Accelerator Module – from Woolpress Australia

- **Faster pressing** – maximises speed based on power
- **Whisper quiet** – low-noise motor between cycles
- **Reliable** – no burnt-out clutches or failed capacitors
- **Handles poor power** – performs even with low voltage
- **No warm-up needed** – auto-adjusts for oil temp

**\*Sheepvention Special**  
**\$3660 +GST**  
**usually \$3850+**

\*SV Special available till August 31st

**DIY install option with full instructions included.**

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# Transport options aplenty

No matter what time you’re planning to kick off your day and arrive at Sheepvention, there’s plenty of transportation options for you.

With gates opening at 8am on

both days and closing at 5pm on Sunday and 4pm on Monday, you can plan your attendance to suit your schedule.

For those ready to rock as part

of the Sheepvention After Dark Drought Relief Concert, there will be pick up points at the carparks of Coles and Woolworths at the beginning of the evening with a

return option at the end of the evening.

**Use the handy timetable below to tailor your visit to Sheepvention:**

| 101 Henty Hwy (Hamilton Livestock Exchange) |         | 93 French St (Bus stop) |         | 110 Brown St (Bus Zone Hamilton PAC) |         | 26 Horner St (Hamilton Showgrounds) |         |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| #1                                          | 7.30am  | #1                      | 7.35am  | #1                                   | 7.40am  | #1                                  | 7.50am  |
| #2                                          | 8.00am  | #2                      | 8.05am  | #2                                   | 8.10am  | #2                                  | 8.20am  |
| #3                                          | 8.30am  | #3                      | 8.35am  | #3                                   | 8.40am  | #3                                  | 8.50am  |
| #4                                          | 9.00am  | #4                      | 9.05am  | #4                                   | 9.10am  | #4                                  | 9.20am  |
| #5                                          | 9.30am  | #5                      | 9.35am  | #5                                   | 9.40am  | #5                                  | 9.50am  |
| #6                                          | 10.00am | #6                      | 10.05am | #6                                   | 10.10am | #6                                  | 10.20am |
| #7                                          | 10.30am | #7                      | 10.35am | #7                                   | 10.40am | #7                                  | 10.50am |
| #8                                          | 11.00am | #8                      | 11.05am | #8                                   | 11.10am | #8                                  | 11.20am |
| #9                                          | 11.30am | #9                      | 11.35am | #9                                   | 11.40am | #9                                  | 11.50am |
| #10                                         | 12.00pm | #10                     | 12.05pm | #10                                  | 12.10pm | #10                                 | 12.20pm |
| #11                                         | 12.30pm | #11                     | 12.35pm | #11                                  | 12.40pm | #11                                 | 12.50pm |
| #12                                         | 1.00pm  | #12                     | 1.05pm  | #12                                  | 1.10pm  | #12                                 | 1.20pm  |
| #13                                         | 1.30pm  | #13                     | 1.35pm  | #13                                  | 1.40pm  | #13                                 | 1.50pm  |
| #14                                         | 2.00pm  | #14                     | 2.05pm  | #14                                  | 2.10pm  | #14                                 | 2.20pm  |
| #15                                         | 2.30pm  | #15                     | 2.35pm  | #15                                  | 2.40pm  | #15                                 | 2.50pm  |
| #16                                         | 3.00pm  | #16                     | 3.05pm  | #16                                  | 3.10pm  | #16                                 | 3.20pm  |
| #17                                         | 3.30pm  | #17                     | 3.35pm  | #17                                  | 3.40pm  | #17                                 | 3.50pm  |
| #18                                         | 4.00pm  | #18                     | 4.05pm  | #18                                  | 4.10pm  | #18                                 | 4.20pm  |
| #19                                         | 4.30pm  | #19                     | 4.35pm  | #19                                  | 4.40pm  | #19                                 | 4.50pm  |



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# Dual-purpose machine

McIntosh combi pro makes feeding over the fence easy.

Already well-known for its silage wagons, tip trailers, and extensive range of bale feeders, McIntosh Farm Machinery has expanded its product offering with its first dual-purpose machine — the Combi Pro.

Designed to handle clamped silage, fodder beet, and both round and square bales, the Combi Pro is available in four models, with capacities of 14.8, 17.5, 18, and 21.3m3.

Developed using a modular construction technique, these capacities are achieved by using either a 2100mm or 2480mm wide body, with the option of a standard or extended 1200mm longer body.

A smooth floor design minimises the risk of product leakage or jamming caused by stones.

Material is drawn forward onto a 1500mm-wide cross conveyor,

featuring 3-inch, 12,000lb-rated, zinc-plated roller chains. From there, it is passed to the vertical discharge conveyor, which sits beneath the cross conveyor.

At the discharge point, a cleverly engineered, angled extension ensures the material is ‘thrown’ away from the side of the wagon, making it easy to deliver feed into troughs or onto feed pads.

A key advantage of this system is its ability to deliver feed over fence boundaries or hot wires.

The conveyor extension is particularly useful in wet conditions, as the machine can feed without having to drive over muddy or pugged ground. It also eliminates the need to manoeuvre a tractor and feeder through gateways or a surrounding mob of stock.

Additionally, a mechanically adjustable linkage controls the angle of the optional conveyor tip, allowing users to fine-tune the feed delivery to suit their conditions.



A key advantage of this system is its ability to deliver feed over fence boundaries or hot wires.

As with all McIntosh products, strength is a key priority. To find out more about the new

McIntosh combi feeder, contact your nearest Swayn & McCabe dealer today.

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TOP BRANDS  
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Come and see the team about upgrading your machinery.





# Farmers plugging in

BY FIONA GOWERS

In September, hundreds of Australian producers will “shut the farm gate” and head to the nation’s capital. No, not to protest, but to lead.

The Farming Forever National Summit will unite more than 300 attendees in Canberra, including farmers, innovators and policy influencers to partner, share insights and shape the future of farming using a nature-positive lens.

Farmers for Climate Action (FCA) will host the event.

FCA CEO Natalie Collard, and former Food and Fibre Great South executive officer, said farmers were already adopting clean tech, slashing inputs and stacking new income streams — all from the same piece of land.

“Farmers are driving the move toward nature-friendly farming — 71 per cent are self-funding climate action such as clean energy to future-proof their farms,” said Ms Collard.

“Australian farmers have always been clean and green and now we’re extending that to be as friendly to nature as possible.

“This summit puts that leadership on the national stage and gives producers the tools to adapt — on their terms.”

Held at Hotel Realm, Canberra on 1 – 2 September, the summit marks 10 years of FCA’s farmer-led movement.

Designed to deliver action — not just conversation — it will equip producers with practical tools, build relationships across the supply chain and send a strong message to decision-makers in an



Professor David Lindenmayer is one of Australia’s foremost biodiversity and nature-friendly farming experts. (Supplied)



Farmers for Climate Action CEO Natalie Collard.

election year.

**Attendees will hear directly from farmers who are:**

- Turning biodiversity into passive income
- Electrifying machinery to cut diesel costs
- Embracing agtech to boost profits
- Hosting wind and solar while grazing livestock

“Hosting modern clean energy helps our farmers continue their traditions,” Ms Collard said.

“They’re still grazing sheep under solar panels and raising cattle around turbines — but now with an income stream that keeps families on the land.”

The potential returns are significant. Recent analysis shows farmers could earn up to \$40,000 per year for every

wind turbine hosted on their property — while still using 98

percent of their land for food production.

**Farmer Conversations Driving Real-World Change**

“Australia has some of the toughest farming conditions in the world — but that’s made us leaders in climate-smart agriculture” said SA pastoralist Ellen Litchfield who is looking forward to networking with farmers from across the country.

“Great stuff happens when farmers come together. Whether it’s after a panel session or over drinks — it’s those everyday conversations that spark powerful change.”

**Who’s Speaking: Climate, Clean Energy, and Innovation Leaders in Ag**

Panels and workshops will showcase leading voices in climate science, biodiversity, innovation and real-world production, offering practical strategies for farming smarter in a changing landscape.

**Headline speakers include:**

- Brent Finlay – Cattle farmer, former NFF president and MD of Finlay Agricultural Industries
- Mike Casey – Cherry grower and CEO of Rewiring Aotearoa, who has electrified every machine on his New

**Zealand orchard**

- David DJ Jochinke - National Farmers’ Federation president
- Tim Jarvis AM – Environmental scientist, author and explorer
- Professor David Lindenmayer AO – One of Australia’s foremost biodiversity and nature-friendly farming experts
- Professor Mark Howden – IPCC vice chair and director, ANU Climate, Energy and Disaster Institute.

**For more information please visit: [www.farmersforclimateaction.org.au/farmingforevernational-summit25](http://www.farmersforclimateaction.org.au/farmingforevernational-summit25).**

## HOLD ON A MULTIMINUTE

AUSTRALIAN FIELD TRIALS SHOWED THAT MULTIMIN INJECTION FOR SHEEP\*:

BOOSTED THE NUMBER OF LAMBS MARKED BY AN AVERAGE OF



INCREASED WEANING WEIGHTS BY AN AVERAGE OF



BASED ON THESE RESULTS, A PRODUCER COULD EXPECT AN ADDITIONAL \$23 PER EWE (6.1 RETURN ON INVESTMENT)\*

Give your sheep the pre-joining and pre-lambing boost they need to be at their best.



\*Multimin Plus Copper Injection for Sheep was used in this trial (APVMA n 83674). \*Calculation based on 100 ewes producing 9 extra lambs sold at \$175 each and producing 128 lambs with 2.3 extra kg at weaning. Gonzalez-Rivas PA, Lean GR, Chambers M, Liu J. (2023) A Trace Mineral Injection before Joining and Lambing, Increases Marking Percentages and Lamb Weights on Diverse Farms in Victoria, Australia. Animals.13(1):178. The benefits outlined in the above scientific study may not necessarily be registered label claims. Multimin® is a registered trademark of Virbac.

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WHEN IT MATTERS





One of Commander Ag’s recent permanent cattle yard installations in Kalangadoo, South Australia. (Supplied)

# Quality, Aussie made

Third-generation family business Commander Agriculture has been supplying farmers with quality Australian-made grain and livestock handling equipment for almost 30 years.

Founded in 1989 by Bruce Jackson, Commander Ag began with the manufacture of a mobile grain auger and has evolved over the years to comprise an extensive range of quality, Australian-made

agricultural equipment.

“Having a farming background, at that time I thought there was a lack of quality equipment available for farmers in the Australian market,” Mr Jackson said.

“Our family business has always aimed to provide equipment that is easy to work and safe to use.

“We want our products to be something farmers can rely on.”

There are four main product lines under the Commander Agriculture banner now, including Grain Commander, Sheep Commander, Cattle Commander and Feed Commander.

The Grain Commander range has grown to include self-propelled grain augers, pencil augers, mini augers, silos, field bins and feed-out bins.

The livestock handling equipment includes an extensive range of cattle and sheep yard systems, both permanent and portable, as well as sheep and cattle feeders and more.

All products are manufactured in Australia, using premium steel and quality components.

**Phone 1800 655 033 or visit [commanderag.au](http://commanderag.au)**

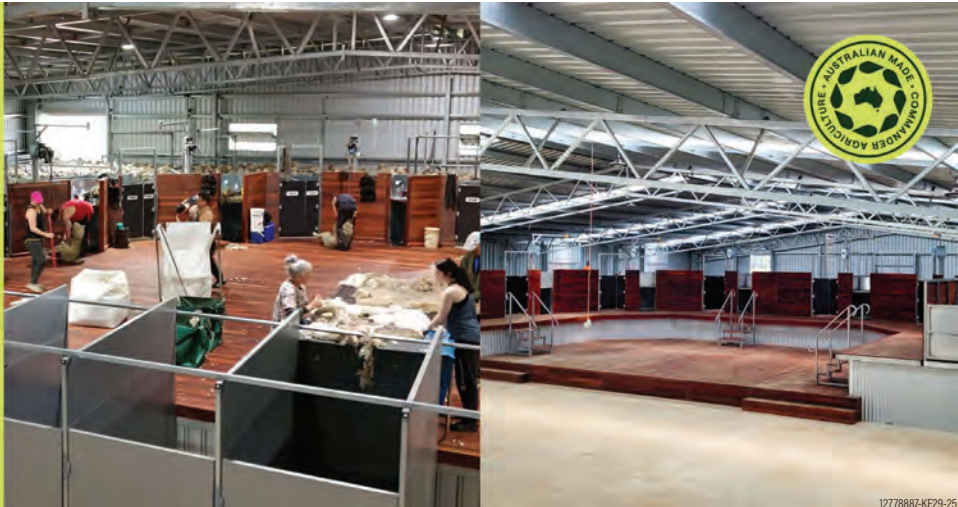
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Conditions apply, see [www.tfaforms.com/5181665](http://www.tfaforms.com/5181665). Open to AU res 18+ who are Australian sheep &/or goat farmers. Final entries close: 11:59pm AEST on 30/09/25. Retain receipt. Limit 1 entry p/farm address. Photos and winners may be shown on social media and/or Zoetis media outlets. Images may not match the exact item delivered. Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd. Level 6, 5 Rider Boulevard, Rhodes NSW 2138. © 2025 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved. May 2025. ZL2136



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# A lovely second home

Boarding at The Geelong College isn't just a place to sleep – it's a second home.

A place full of quirks, camaraderie, and the kind of banter that builds lifelong friendships.

According to Boarding Captains Ruby Darcy and Charlie Bowker, those first friendly moments – a welcoming message, a casual kick of the footy – can make all the difference.

"Someone messaged me before I arrived," said Ruby. "It meant a lot."

For Charlie, it was being invited into a game on day one.

"That stuck with me – I felt welcome straight away," he said.

Helping new students settle in is second nature – whether it's a knock on the door, shared laughter over dinner, or birthday cakes that appear from nowhere, the culture is built around connection.

"Even if you're not close with someone, you make sure they're

okay," Ruby said.

Traditions add to the sense of belonging, in the girls' house, kindness is celebrated with "Mory Ari" acknowledgements, while in the boys' house, chaos reigns at Wednesday night indoor soccer.

Each house has its quirks – signature smells, TikToks on every surface, and the occasional frozen pizza dinner.

But respect underpins it all.

"When you feel safe and respected, you can be yourself," said Head of Boys' Boarding Gareth Gilby.

And that's the point, boarding at Geelong College is about becoming independent – with others beside you every step of the way.

Boarders also benefit from everything a Geelong College education offers – academic support, broad co-curricular options, and a focus on character and leadership.

It's an education that prepares students not just for university,



Charlie Bowker, Gareth Gilby, Leigh Knight and Ruby Darcy.

but for life.

Come and meet us at Sheepvention in the Producers

Market! Explore the community, spirit and opportunities boarding can offer your family.



## Boutique Boarding at The Geelong College

Discover how your child will thrive in our friendly and supportive boarding community. **Register for an Open Day now!**

Visit us in the Producers' Market at Sheepvention!



Scan Here to find out more or phone (03) 5226 3156



THE GEELONG COLLEGE  
sic itur ad astra

1277854-1V29-25

## Glimmer of hope

There is a glimmer of light at the end of the gloomy tunnel of carbon footprint reduction on the farm.

With the threat of ever-intensifying compliance pressures and the associated risk of price penalties or disbarment from overseas markets, farmers need a bit of good news.

Some has recently come to light from a French scientist leading a team of researchers at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, England.

Dr Myriam Charpentier leads a team that has been working on Medicago truncatula, the humble Barrel Medic, an annual clover-like legume used widely in mixed farming regimes in Australia.

Like all legumes, Barrel Medic "fixes" atmospheric nitrogen through a symbiotic (mutual back-scratching) relationship with a host of microorganisms called rhizobia and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF), which have their home in nodules on the medic's roots.

Team Charpentier found that a gene mutation in the medic could, when it occurred in wheat, enhance colonisation of the wheat's roots by AMF. This is a significant breakthrough in what has been a long quest to use symbiotic partnerships as a natural alternative to inorganic fertilisers in major cash crops, includ-

ing cereals and oilseeds, as well as legumes and pulses.

### Inorganic fertilisers

Inorganic fertilisers are essential to farming, but they come with some serious greenhouse gas-baggage.

It has been estimated that nitrogenous fertilisers are responsible for feeding 40 to 50 per cent of the world's population.

Their manufacture is almost universally dependent on the Haber-Bosch process, which was invented by Fritz Haber (Germany) in 1909 and industrialised by Carl Bosch (Germany) in 1913. Both were awarded separate Nobel prizes in 1918 and 1931, respectively.

### An agronomist's opinion

Andrew Speirs, Meridian Agriculture director, is a well-known agronomist active across the Lower South-East and the Green Triangle.

He said that he had advised a number of farmers on emissions reductions but stressed how difficult it can be.

Regarding the research announcement, he said: "This is a great project. It started as blue-sky which, by its very nature, means you don't know what you are going to get at the outset, or you wouldn't do it. It could make a huge difference."



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Stewart will be at Sheepvention 2025 to assist with any Real Estate enquiry.

With over 30 years experience in Hamilton, specialising in Broadacre, Rural and Residential Real Estate, Stewart Otton can assist with any real estate enquiry.



# Competition win proves a boost

BY CIARAN THOW

Sherri Symons is a former winner of Sheepvention’s innovation competition and runs WoolGrow Australia.

She believes that winning has been a great selling point for her business.

“I was always going to build the business on and grow it further, but it certainly gave me encouragement that what I was doing was appreciated by sheep farmers and the wider community,” she said.

“In 2023 I won the James Nagorcka Encouragement Award, and last year I won \$2000 from the innovation competition, both at Sheepvention, winning the competition last year has certainly been a really good selling point, it has given me the opportunity to put WoolGrow Australia on display at big shows like the Flower and Garden Show in Melbourne, especially as the first female to win the overall award,” Ms Symons said.

Ms Symons is a fifth generation farmer, wool classer, and former agriculture teacher.

She was also named as a finalist for the 2025 AgriFutures Rural Women’s Award, recognising her leadership, innovation, and



Sherri Symons won the James Nagorcka Encouragement Award in 2023 and the innovation competition at last year’s Sheepvention.

contribution to rural industries and communities.

Over her time as a wool classer,

Ms Symons has seen a decrease in the value of broad crossbred wool, so she began to research what

could be done, and discovered that it was being used as wool pellets, harnessing the natural properties the wool has.

“Crossbred wool value is still low, and won’t dramatically increase,” she said.

So she bought a pellet mill, began her entrepreneurial journey at the then-named Aussie Wool Pellets (now WoolGrow Australia), and began producing in early 2023.

“The wool pellets are a soil amendment, they harness the natural properties of wool, like the slow release nitrogen, they hold three times their weight in water, they break down in six to 12 months into 50 per cent carbon, and can be used on top of soil as slug and snail repellent.”

“Using crossbred wool gives the wool new life potential but it gets people talking about the properties of wool, as many do not understand how good Australian wool is,” Ms Symons continued.

“I encourage people to buy local, and support local business, especially with drought and in the current economy. It is really integral to keep local businesses going.”



# New home, same quality

What a busy few months we have had.

It was a big move from Healesville up to Katunga (35 mins north of Shepparton) just before Christmas.

Although we do not have a shop front – once we get sorted (yes still trying to sort the new Oringi space) we will be happy to welcome visitors – by appointment.

Yes, our phone number and email address are still the same.

We are enjoying our regional move with farms surrounding us and exploring the lovely areas of Numurkah, Cobram, Shepparton and Echuca and of course the mighty Murray River only a stones throw away.

For Winter and EOFY we have our usual bargains on woollen jumpers, beanies and gloves and for the dairy people a FREE set of 8161 sleeves with every purchase of an 8132 apron.

Don't forget we stock a great range of work gloves and of course

the flannel shirts and our fantastic fine wool and work socks.

Yes, ladies we have some pink and purple ones for you too.

We have some changes happening with our sock range as our supplier is unable to source some of the wool we will have to find alternatives to fill the gaps.

The Lilydale and Nullabor ranges will slowly be faded out.

We are working with our supplier to find the best fit to replace these and are sure they will be just as good.

There are still some bargains to be had with the lady's possum/merino wear.

So, keep warm and dry this winter – we hope the regions in drought get the rain they need for a successful season ahead and don't forget to watch our website or Facebook page for further specials and updates.

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# Home away from home

Sacha Laidlaw's family connection with Geelong Grammar School (GGS) is a rich tapestry. Her parents and grandparents attended the School as students, and her great-grandmother was a much-loved staff member in one of the boarding houses, to the level where there is a plaque placed in her honour in the garden she "loved and tended".

Sacha, from Balmoral in Victoria's Western District, joined GGS on a boarding scholarship in Year 9. Living in a boarding house filled with more people than the population of her hometown was an adjustment, but something she has taken a lot from. "Boarding with girls who have grown up in different environments and cultures opened my eyes to other people's worlds, increasing tolerance, understanding and enjoyment of other's interests and perspectives," Sacha said. "It's a great life lesson for all of us, to be able to live with people whose priorities and values don't always align with our own."



Sacha and Spencer at Geelong Grammar.

"It is truly amazing being a part of a community that is so inclusive and all-encompassing," said Spencer Siebel, from Albury in the NSW Riverina, of the shared experience that GGS offers.

Like Sacha, Spencer joined the School at Timbertop in Year 9. For Spencer, living and learning with

some of his closest friends is what sets a boarding school like GGS apart.

"Being able to walk down the hallway to a friend's room and work on an assignment together, I still find quite amazing," he said.

Spencer will lead GGS in 2025

as one of the School Captains. In a rare quirk, he will follow in the footsteps of his older brother, Hudson, who was elected captain in 2024.

While Sacha still relishes her time at home on the farm, she feels that her integration into busy boarding school life was a seamless one.

"Regional kids like me really thrive at GGS due to the amazing range of academic opportunities, as well as the camaraderie of Saturday morning sport and the companionship that comes with living and working with many other boarders."

Being able to have a touch of home, in the form of her horse, is another perk of boarding at GGS. "The amazing Equestrian Centre has been a wonderful opportunity for me to keep my horse at school and keeps me in touch with home."

**To learn more about Geelong Grammar School, Australia's largest co-educational boarding school, please visit: [www.ggs.vic.edu.au](http://www.ggs.vic.edu.au).**



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# Resilience amidst change

The latest Sheep Producers Intentions Survey (SPIS), conducted by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), reveals a significant shift in producer sentiment and flock management strategies across the nation.

This shift is being driven by volatile market conditions, extreme weather events, and regulatory changes, most notably the planned phase-out of live sheep exports.

The survey, which gathered responses from 2,374 producers across Australia in May 2025, shows a net sentiment score of +52 for the sheepmeat industry, up 48 points from the same time last year.

This marks the first time since October 2022 that all states, including Western Australia, have reported positive or neutral sentiment.

Western Australia, which had a net sentiment of -64 in May 2024, has now reached neutral ground at 0 net sentiment. Other states' levels include:

- New South Wales: +60
- Victoria: +58
- South Australia: +56
- Tasmania: +55
- Queensland: +53
- Western Australia = 0

MLA's Senior Market Information Analyst Erin Lukey said the strong sentiment among sheepmeat producers was closely tied to improved prices across the country.

"Prices have risen significantly, particularly for finished lambs, which has buoyed confidence even as producers face tough seasonal



The latest Sheep Producers Intentions Survey (SPIS), conducted by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), reveals a significant shift in producer sentiment and flock management strategies across the nation.

and regulatory conditions," Ms Lukey said.

"This is especially the case in Western Australia, where the rebound in sentiment has been most pronounced."

Despite the optimism, producers continue to navigate a range of challenges.

"Drought in the south and flooding in the north are making it more difficult and expensive to maintain large flocks," Ms Lukey said.

"Weather remains the most

cited factor influencing on-farm decisions, with significant drought in South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales reducing pasture availability and increasing feed costs."

The survey forecasts a 9 per cent reduction in the national breeding ewe flock, from 48.88 million in 2025 to 44.34 million in 2026, and an 11 per cent decline in the wether flock, from 7.67 million to 6.85 million.

These reductions are being

driven by strategic downsizing and environmental pressures.

"In Western Australia alone, the breeding ewe flock is forecast to fall by 19 per cent, with 58 per cent of producers in the state planning to reduce numbers," Ms Lukey said.

"Many producers are taking a more conservative approach. Nationally, 41 per cent of surveyed producers said they will reduce their breeding ewe flock, and 26 per cent plan to reduce their wether numbers."

The survey also explored the broader factors influencing on-farm decisions.

"Input costs, labour availability, and regulatory pressures, particularly the live sheep export phase-out, are weighing heavily on producers' minds," Ms Lukey said.

"While producers in Western Australia are wary of investing in flock growth amid uncertainty about future market access, others are adjusting breeding strategies or retaining more replacement ewes to adapt to changing conditions."

Despite these challenges, the resilience of the industry remains evident.

"Producers are adapting. Whether it's retaining more replacement ewes, adjusting breeding strategies, or responding to market demand, the sector continues to evolve," Ms Lukey said.

The SPIS is a critical tool for industry planning, providing valuable insights for producers, processors, and policymakers alike.

"This data helps us understand where the industry is heading and how we can support producers through change."

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For more than 35 years, CoggerGurry Chartered Accountants has stood alongside farming families, rural enterprises, and agribusinesses across Western Victoria and beyond.

Based in Hamilton, at the heart of the Southern Grampians, CoggerGurry has become a trusted partner to those working on the land, combining deep regional roots with the professional expertise needed to navigate the complexities of modern agriculture.

Founded by Laurie Cogger and Tony Gurry, the firm has grown into a progressive, innovative practice recognised nationally through its Brentnalls affiliation, which places it among the top 100 accounting firms in Australia.

Today, CoggerGurry is led by a dynamic team of Directors—Andrew Heazlewood, Lachlan Wark, Toni Wright, Stacey Shelden, and Hamish McDonald and is supported by a skilled team who share a genuine passion for rural communities.



From small family farms to large agribusinesses, CoggerGurry provides tailored support across the full spectrum of professional services. These include accounting and taxation, business structuring, succession planning, cashflow and



financial forecasting, self-managed superannuation, and cloud-based bookkeeping and payroll.

As Xero Platinum Partners, the team helps clients embrace digital tools without losing the personalised service they're known for.

What sets CoggerGurry apart is their grassroots understanding of farming. Living and working in a regional environment gives them first-hand knowledge of the challenges and opportunities facing

producers, rural suppliers, livestock agents, and contractors. Whether it's navigating seasonal volatility, planning for intergenerational transfer of the family farm, or managing compliance in an evolving regulatory landscape, CoggerGurry offers practical, grounded advice built on long-term relationships.

As proud locals, the team at CoggerGurry understands that strong farms mean strong communities. Their commitment to personalised service, integrity, and innovation ensures that their clients aren't just meeting the demands of today but that they're positioned to thrive well into the future.

If you're in agriculture or agribusiness and looking for a partner who speaks your language and understands your world, CoggerGurry is here to help you grow.

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# *The latest in machinery*

As Sheepvention returns to Hamilton in 2025, Greg Allan Farm Machinery (GAFM) is proud to once again be part of one of Australia's most important events on the farming calendar.

Sheepvention isn't just a trade show — it's where real farmers come to see real gear that gets the job done.

From livestock handling to the latest in machinery, it's all about

helping producers stay ahead - and at GAFM, that's what we do best.

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Our team will be there for walkarounds, pricing, and advice — no fluff, just honest conversations.

Sheepvention is also a great time to catch up, swap stories, and check out what's new.

It's the spirit of farming — community, innovation, and pride in the land.

So if you're heading to Sheepvention, swing by the GAFM site.

Whether you're upgrading machinery or just having a look, we'd love to see you.

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# More boarding at Wesley

Wesley College's boarding program builds on over 100 years of residential learning, offering a contemporary, holistic experience for today's students.

From next year, it will expand to include Years 7 to 12, welcoming more students from across Australia and around the world.

Located within the Glen Waverley Campus, Wesley's purpose-built boarding residences offer a safe, supportive environment with easy access to classes, teachers and cocurricular programs. The boarding program fosters student wellbeing and empowers boarders to thrive academically, socially and personally.

Tom Giles, Head of Boarding at Wesley College, says, 'Our goal is to support the wellbeing of our students across all stages and areas of their development. This includes high staff to student ratios and dedicated full-time live-in mentors in each residence from 3pm to 7am.

'We tailor our support for our

younger boarders, running daily homework support tutorials, giving them an earlier tech hand-in and lights out time and on Sunday evenings, they have evening preparation time with staff to plan for the week ahead,' he says.

Year 12 student Lara, from Gatum, says that when she started boarding in Middle School, the academic support created an outstanding foundation.

She developed a better routine and valued the close access to her class teachers and the study tutorials with her boarding Mentor. 'Wesley has been amazing at supporting me,' she says.

This year she has taken on a leadership role as a school Prefect.

'As a Prefect, I've developed confidence in advocating for meaningful change, collaborating with others and organising initiatives that reflect real purpose,' she says.

She has taken on many of the opportunities during her time at Wesley and will graduate with her



Tom Giles Head of Boarding with two Wesley boarders.



Year 12 student Lara has loved boarding.



Boarding Mentors provide crucial support to students at Wesley.

International Baccalaureate Diploma at the end of this year.

'I highly recommend boarding,' she says, 'You will have so many life experiences that you might not

ever get anywhere else.'

**Find out more about boarding at Wesley College at Sheepvention or visit [www.wesleycollege.edu.au/boarding](http://www.wesleycollege.edu.au/boarding)**



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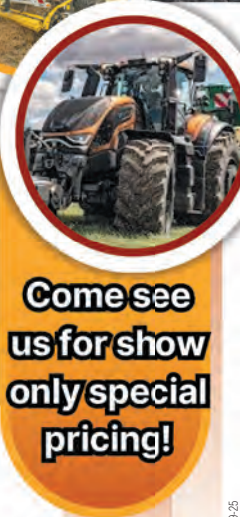
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A happy winner.



The excitement of the annual Sheepvention Ram sale.

# A look back at 2007

As we celebrate the 2025 Sheepvention, we take a look back through the colourful history of this important event, with this page from 2007.



Fashion designs on show.



The ram sale



A top breeder.



Checking out the inventions at the 2007 Sheepvention.



# Building a strong future

Established in 2017, Ultrabuild Construction Group is a family-owned business based in Hamilton, Victoria. We specialise in building architectural homes, renovations, extensions, and commercial and industrial projects.

Since the commencement of business in 2017, we have successfully grown into a well-known company also branching out our services into cabinet making and our new steel fabrication divisions.

Our team drives our success, as they are skilled in many facets of the construction industry and continue to deliver high-quality outcomes and solutions for our clients.

We have a variety of employees to fulfil the projects we create, from qualified carpenters, apprentice carpenters, skilled labourers and machinery operators to more recently cabinet makers and steel fabricators.

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# Trip down memory lane

As we prepare to celebrate Sheepvention this year, what are some of your favourite memories of Hamilton's favourite event?





# Making our farms safer

Promoting farm safety, animal welfare and biosecurity across Victoria is the aim of two Victorian Farmers Federation projects.

The Making Our Farms Safer (MOFS) and Stock Sense project teams are set to be at Sheepvention this August, on-hand to answer all your farm safety and livestock questions.

Stock Sense, which is funded by the Cattle and Sheep and Goats Compensation Funds, helps Victorian livestock producers and small landholders maintain and improve their animal health and welfare and farm biosecurity.

They do this through free online resources like webinars and factsheets, as well as facilitating educational workshops across the state.

Similarly, the MOFS team regularly hit the road, travelling across the state to conduct free farm safety visits and community meetings, while also putting out a monthly newsletter and a toolkit of handbooks and resources to assist and educate farmers on implementing and maintaining safety.

VFF president Brett Hosking spoke highly of the two projects and the benefits they provide for Victorian farmers of all types.

“Both the Making Our Farms Safer and Stock Sense projects are great ways of engaging everyday farmers with information and facts that will actually help them in their businesses, their families and their communities to work towards better farming outcomes,” Mr Hosking said.

“We’re looking forward to both programs continuing to engage



The Stock Sense and Making Our Farms Safer teams will be at Sheepvention to chat all things biosecurity, animal welfare and farm safety.

and support our farmers in real and practical ways.”  
If you are interested in learning

more about the VFF projects, visit the VFF Making Our Farms Safer Facebook page or website

at [makingourfarmssafer.org.au](http://makingourfarmssafer.org.au), or the Stock Sense Facebook page or website at [vff.org.au/stocksense](http://vff.org.au/stocksense).



COME MEET THE TEAMS AT SHEEPVENTION!

### Healthy Livestock +

VFF’s Stock Sense & Making Our Farms Safer offer free tools, tips and advice for Victorian farmers and livestock owners. Learn more at Sheepvention or head to their websites.



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## A snapshot of history

As we celebrate the 2025 Sheepvention, we take a look back through the colourful history of this important event.



Zara Bergmark, 10, Bentley Sutherland, 8, Hannah Carrol, 9, Henry Brook, 8 at the 2022 Sheepvention.

The fashion parade, Sheepvention 2008.



The fashion parade, Sheepvention 2008.



Winners of the meat sheep junior judging Airlie Bowes, 15 (winner), Holly McLeod, 17 (second), and Alyssa Hocking, 15 (third) at the 2019 Sheepvention.

Junior handlers competition entrants at the 2024 Sheepvention with 2024 president David Botterill.



ALEX Tonissen, 14, throws the fleece at the 2024 Sheepvention competition.



Brad Pickford, Byaduk, with his Breed n Betsy invention at the 2008 Sheepvention.



SCOTT Mitchell, Rene Stud, Culcairn, Poll Dorset Supreme Exhibit at the 2003 Sheepvention.



Happy winners.





Winners of the meat sheep junior judging Airlie Bowes, 15 (winner), Holly McLeod, 17 (second), and Alyssa Hocking, 15 (third) at the 2019 Sheepvention.vt



SCOTT Mitchell, Rene Stud, Culcairn, Poll Dorset Supreme Exhibit at the 2003 Sheepvention.



Junior handlers competition entrants at the 2024 Sheepvention with 2024 president David Botterill.



ALEX Tonissen, 14, throws the fleece at the 2024 Sheepvention competition.

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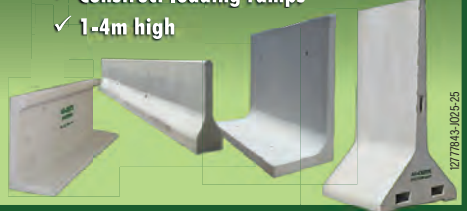
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SHEEPVENTION 2025



A snapshot in time at Sheepvention.



Fashions were a large part of the Sheepvention appeal.



Friends and family meet at Sheepvention.

A look back in time



The Valais black nose was a feature at last year's Sheepvention.



Sheepvention 2002 was a real fiesta.



Alpaca love.



Auction time at the annual ram sale.



Lyle Walter getting his life membership from P&A Society secretary Barbara Burgin at the 2002 Sheepvention. Barbara was the P&A Society secretary for 20 years and was a well-known personality at the event.



Working dog winners at the 2010 Sheepvention.



Local ladies at Sheepvention 2002 with the friendly ram mascot.



Characters from yesteryear.

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# Creative sustainability

In the heart of the Southern Grampians Shire, a quiet revolution is taking shape – one that could re-define how we think about fashion, sustainability and the untapped potential in our own backyard.

Hamilton local and visionary entrepreneur, Bec Malseed, is leading the charge with her new brand, Ziake, which champions the use of locally sourced crossbred wool in accessories and outerwear garments.

For decades, crossbred wool has mainly been destined for carpets, home textiles and insulation, and rarely seen as a contender in the fashion world.

After listening to local farmers express their frustration at the lack of value-added opportunities for their wool, Bec began to ask, “Why not more? Why not coats, laptop bags, fitness mats, or even handbags?”

Eighteen months of research, including a trip to New Zealand to explore global innovations in wool, led to the birth of Ziake. Support from Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) has assisted in developing the supply chain to send Australian crossbred wool overseas for



Hamilton’s Bec Malseed is showcasing what’s possible when creativity meets sustainability with her new company.

prototype development, paving the way for full-scale production later this year.

What makes this development so compelling is not just the innovation, but the challenge it poses to synthetic-dominated retail. Crossbred wool is a natural,

biodegradable fibre – offering a sustainable alternative that breaks down at the end of its life, unlike the plastics that fill our wardrobes and landfill.

Ziake isn’t just a brand; it’s a call to action.

A reminder that local fibres

can be beautiful, functional, and environmentally responsible.

And this August, you will have a chance to see it all first hand at Sheepvention’s Ram Shed in Hamilton, where Bec will showcase what’s possible when creativity meets sustainability.

# Warm up, reconnect at Food Hub

This year’s Sheepvention is set to warm both hearts and hands with the debut of a new Food Hub—a family-friendly space designed for gathering, grazing, and soaking up the best of local hospitality.

Nestled near the entrance of the expo, the Food Hub will feature a cosy fire pit, a sheltered

seating area, and a curated collection of delicious eats—ranging from hearty fare to artisan bites.

Visitors can expect a relaxed, communal atmosphere perfect for catching up with mates or taking a breather between events. And for those chilly winter moments, there may even be a cup of locally

mulled gin to help take the edge off.

“Sheepvention has always been more than just an agricultural event—it’s about community,” said Darren Schurmann, Sheepvention President.

“The Food Hub creates a

new focal point where people can share a meal, warm up, and reconnect.”

With the hub showcasing regional producers and seasonal flavours, it’s also a great opportunity to celebrate the rich culinary landscape of south-west Victoria.



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# Support in tough times

Amid challenging times for farmers and regional communities, this year's Sheepvention Rural Expo is putting mental health and wellbeing front and centre with a powerful new initiative designed to reduce stigma, promote support-seeking and bring services closer to those who need them.

In addition to bringing together agri-innovation, education and enterprise, Sheepvention 2025 will host a collective of mental health organisations offering vital

resources and guidance.

Organisations attending include the Let's Talk Foundation, the National Centre for Farmer Health, Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria, and others—all committed to walking alongside our rural communities through stress, change, and uncertainty and providing tools to support ourselves and each other.

This is part of a broader, ongoing effort to normalise conversations around mental health in the

agricultural sector.

Exhibitors across the Sheepvention grounds are joining the cause by voluntarily displaying mental health information and support resources at their sites—creating hundreds of visible, approachable touch points throughout the expo.

"Sheepvention has always been about connection," said Darren Schurmann, Sheepvention President.

"This year, we're taking that a

step further by encouraging open dialogue and making it easier for people to reach out - not just during the event, but when they return home too."

The initiative reflects a growing recognition across the ag industry that wellbeing is as essential as innovation to the future of rural Australia.

**For more information or to get involved, please contact [web@sheepvention.com](mailto:web@sheepvention.com) or call 0409 039 086.**

## Time for the judge's comments





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