

UARDRY

August 2005

Riverina Ram of the Year: A Great Team Effort

The Sims Uardry stud won the prestigious Riverina Ram of the Year award at the 2004 Riverina Merino Field Days. This is the 5th time the award has been won by Uardry – a record which has not been equalled.



In a strong field of sixteen rams, judge Richard House from WA chose the Sims Uardry sire for his 'size, structure and outlook; and his bright soft medium wool'.

Uardry manager, Chris Bowman, thanked Elders for their continued support of the award, and also thanked Ian Lilburne, the Uardry classer, for his input and involvement in the establishment of the Sims Uardry stud.

However the greatest credit must go to the Uardry staff, whose collective effort and commitment on a daily basis contribute to the on-going success of Uardry.

Left: Uardry Directors, Nerissa Guest and Graeme Black, with Chris Bowman and Ian Lilburne, with the Riverina Ram of the Year, Sims Uardry 3.148.

Young Guns for Dubbo Ram Sale

Charles Mills (Uardry) Pty Ltd will offer the two top rams from the Uardry and Sims Uardry 2004 drop at the Dubbo National Ram Sale on Thursday, August 25. This is the first time Uardry has offered one year old reserve rams at Dubbo.

Chris Bowman explains "The innovative step of moving away from selling two year old, full wool sires and offering one year old, short wool sires has been taken after listening to our clients who have expressed a preference for purchasing rams as two-tooths."

Uardry 4.30

Champion Medium Wool Ram

Micron: 21.3, SD: 3.1, CV: 14.6, CF: 99.4

The two young rams from the Uardry and Sims Uardry studs to be offered at the Dubbo Sale were both awarded March Shorn championships at the 2005 Australian Sheep & Wool Show held at Bendigo in July. If you require further information please contact us.

Sims Uardry 4.372

Reserve Champion Strong Wool Ram

Micron: 21.3, SD: 2.9, CV: 13.6, CF: 99.4



The Black Family Continues its Long-standing Pastoral Involvement at Uardry

It was with mixed emotions that the Black family sold Yanga, having owned it since 1919. Much has been written in the regional press about the sale to National Parks. Unfortunately much of it is misinformed, but bad news always sells better than good news.

The good news is the Black family continues its long-standing pastoral involvement with the development and improvement of Charles Mills (Uardry) Pty Ltd. It is a credit to Uardry's team, in particular Chris Bowman as Manager of livestock, that Uardry now comprises 3 studs: Uardry, Sims Uardry and Uardry Dohnes.

When Chris joined the property in 1989, Uardry had only the Uardry stud. The Dohne stud is particularly interesting in that in 2000 it only consisted of 500 embryos from South

Africa. Thanks to the team's efforts, this investment has paid off many times since then.

We also offer further choice with the Sims Uardry and the Uardry Dohne. As Professor William Starbuck (ITT Professor of Creative Management Stern School, NY University) said, "In order to understand something, one should purposefully try to change it." I am proud of the proactive changes we have made at Uardry over the years but we still can offer the same rams and service if that is what our clients require.

Brett Thomas, the Irrigation Manager, has significantly improved crop production and the quality of our soil. We are now growing crops we had not even heard of 5 years ago. We are particularly indebted to Chris for

renovating the irrigation in the early 90s when the bottom fell out of the wool market.

Some may say there are risks involved in irrigation, but only last year we renovated the original contour paddocks that Charles Mills set up in 1890, which were showing no signs of salinity build-up. We have every confidence the soil will be in similarly good condition in another 115 years.

One thing that hasn't changed at Uardry is our continued commitment to improve the product, diversity where appropriate and always focus on the future without forgetting our heritage.

~ Graeme Black
Managing Director
Charles Mills (Uardry) Pty Ltd

Riverina Ram of the Year Sells for \$15,000: Strong Demand at Uardry Sale

Size and frame were the criteria buyers were looking for at the 2004 Uardry Stud Foundation Sale where Uardry and Sims Uardry rams sold to a top of \$15,000 and 118 rams averaged \$1,304.

The top price of \$15,000 was paid for the 2004 Riverina Ram of the Year. The ram, Sims Uardry 3.148, was purchased by a syndicate including Russell and Fay Matthews of the recently formed Salony Merino Stud, of Streatham, Victoria and Peter and Terry L'Estrange of the Belswick Stud, Condobolin, NSW.

Mr Matthews and stud classer, James Lilburne, said they returned to Uardry after being particularly impressed by the outstanding progeny from the two rams purchased at the previous year's sale. This time they were looking for a well-balanced sire to complement Mr Matthew's fine/medium wool stud breeding objectives of conformation, wool weight and fertility.

Purchases by long-standing clients included Brett Woods from Parkes who purchased one ram for \$6,000.

Barcaldine Downs, Queensland purchased two rams for \$3,800 and \$3,000. Bob Orr, Parkes purchased two rams for \$4,000 and \$2,400. Angus Dye, Deniliquin purchased two rams for an average of \$2,500. Bruce Stewart, Ardlethan purchased one ram for \$2,800. First time buyers included Andy Sullivan, from Larras Lee who purchased nine rams for an average of \$1,012. Keith



Above: Sims Uardry 3.148 held by Spike Orr, Uardry stud groom, pictured with Chris Bowman, and buyers: Russell Matthews, Salony stud; Peter and Andrew L'Estrange, Belswick stud, and Uardry directors Nerissa Guest and Graeme Black.

Maitland, Barmedman who purchased three rams for an average of \$1,167. Stewart Taylor, Monteagle who purchased nine rams for an average of \$689.

Volume buyers included Tubbo Livestock, Darlington Point, who purchased 13 rams for an average of \$1,000. Britt and Wally Barker, Grenfell, purchased nine rams for an average of \$934. Ben Cruickshank, Ganmain, purchased six rams for an average of \$1,267. Andrew Henderson, Hay, purchased six rams for an average of \$750. Dan Dowling, Hay, purchased five rams for an average of \$1,140.

UARDRY STUD FOUNDATION SALE on Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Rain: The Best News of All

Recent widespread rain in the eastern states has given sheep breeders the much needed boost they were looking for. At the June sale in Hay, breeders sold young ewes to a top price of \$105. We foresee a strong demand for all description of ewes into the Spring. This demand will come from both merino and prime lamb restockers, and meat processors.

The sustained strong demand for merino ewes is underpinned by the fact that due to the prolonged drought merino lambings will be down throughout eastern Australia. Another contributing factor is that, according to industry reports, over half the merino ewe population of approximately 42 million in Australia has been joined to meat or terminal sires.

If you did some calculations on, say, 21 million ewes joined to merinos, with old ewes being slaughtered and less than 80% average lambing (half of which are wethers), the population is barely self-replacing. Supply and demand means that as ewe numbers

remain scarce they will become dearer.

We have seen many changes in the direction of merino breeding in the past 15 years. There have been five changes that I can think of, as producers interpret market signals and rush to breed the right sheep. No wonder there is confusion and disillusion in the merino industry as breeders scramble for the next fad.

However at Uardry we identified and have concentrated on the attributes which contribute to the most profitable merino today and for the future. That is: a sheep that rears 100% of lambs, possesses good carcass shape and barrel, is quick maturing and plain-bodied (to minimise shearing and mulesing problems) and cuts a lot of quality medium wool (7 kgs or more).

As part of this breeding strategy Uardry decided in 1998 to establish the Sims Uardry stud. In conjunction with our classer, Ian Lilburne, we have concentrated our efforts on selecting sires and the type of sheep we believe will be sought after in the future.

The Uardry stud continues to produce sheep which have excellent wool quality, conformation, wool-cutting ability and a reliable prepotent type.

In 2000 we established the Uardry Dohne stud. This was to give our clients a meat option: a new breed to join Dohne (merino wool and meat) over their cast-for-age merino ewes instead of a Border Leicester or Dorset. This gave producers the opportunity of a self-replacing meat-producing flock, merino wool (with no black fibre contamination) and high fertility.

At Uardry we have endeavoured to provide choice with three distinct types of stable genetics. We consider it important that our clients produce a self-replacing flock for many reasons: they will ensure the continuity and predictability of breeding; they will eliminate the risk of introducing disease from purchased sheep; they will avoid the need to purchase expensive replacement ewes and they will be able to sell classed-out breeders. All of this contributes to cash flow and profitability.

~ Chris Bowman

Fond Farewell to Justin

Congratulations to Justin Campbell who has been appointed Manager of Burrabogie at Hay. Justin has been a valued member of the Uardry staff since 1992, progressing from Jackaroo, Stud Groom, Overseer to Assistant Manager.

Chris Bowman paid tribute to Justin commenting, "He will be missed at Uardry for his obvious love of the sheep and commitment to the property. He has been passionate about all things Uardry, has an amazing capacity for work and has been tremendously loyal to me – qualities which I have valued immensely and thank him for."

There have been many jackaroos over the years that have benefited from Justin's knowledge of blade shearing, sheep husbandry, junior judging, work ethic and fondness for rugby. He is the quintessential Aussie larrikin and you may have seen him appearing recently in the ABC's "Outback House" where his blade shearing expertise was called upon!

We wish Justin, Sandra and Angus every happiness and success in their new undertaking at Burrabogie.



The 2005 Uardry Team pictured at Justin's Farewell Dinner

Back: Dan Slennett, Angus Munro, Justin Campbell, Chris Bowman, James Armstrong, John Ryan. Front: Bill Alston, Hugh Westcott, Lachie Lamont.

Clients please note: You are invited to a Farewell for Justin at the conclusion of the Uardry Stud Foundation Sale on Tuesday, September 27. All welcome.

Offering 120 selected rams • May shorn • May/June 2004 drop • Single pens
Inspection from 9am • Sale commences at 1pm • Catalogues will be available one week prior to the sale
Phone 02 6993 5101 for a fax copy or download from www.uardry.com



Clients Excel at Hay Sheep Show

Congratulations to our clients who supported the Hay Sheep Show in June. It was a great effort as most of them were still in the grips of drought. Successful exhibitors on the day were:

Spike Orr of "Wilga" Parkes (pictured left) took out the Champion Pen of Ewes, Champion Flock Ewe and won Pen of Five Ewes.

Bill and Caroline Simpson of "Red Hill" Hay won Champion Ewe Hogget, and placed second in Pen of Five Medium Wool Ewes and Best Two Ewes. The Simpsons (pictured middle) with their flock classer, Ed Lilburne, and Chris Bowman, receiving the Geoff Norman Memorial Trophy from Pam Norman.

Trevor Childs of "Yerrinbool" Maude won the Les Milliken Award for Best Two Ewes and the Champion Pen of Ewe Hoggets. Trevor (pictured right) with his classer, Ade Flint.

Uardry and Sims Uardry also did well at the Hay Sheep Show winning first and second in both the short wool Pen of Three Ram Weaners and Pen of Three Ewe Weaners and was awarded Reserve Champion Ewe.

Important Uardry Events for your Diary:

Dubbo National Ram Sale
on Thursday, August 25 offering
2 two-tooth special stud sires

Riverina Merino Ram Preview
on Friday, September 9 at
Narrandera previewing
two-tooth sale rams

Uardry Stud Foundation Sale
on Tuesday, September 27
at Uardry offering 120 selected
top two-tooth rams

Flock ram selections
commence in October with 1,000
Uardry & 500 Sims Uardry rams
to select from

Riverina Dohne Sale
on Thursday, October 13
at Uardry offering 80 two-tooth
Uardry Dohne rams

Staff Promotion

We congratulate Angus Munro who has been appointed to the position of Overseer at Uardry. Angus is in his third year at Uardry and would be well known to many of our clients, particularly in his most recent position of Stud Groom.

"Getaway" at Uardry



Ben Dark from the Nine Network's popular travel show "Getaway" was filming in the Hay area recently and called in to do a piece on jackaroos at Uardry. Ben and his crew (pictured) were also fascinated by the history of Uardry and the homestead.

Congratulations to Uardry Jackaroos !

- James Armstrong and Angus Munro were placed first and third in the Junior Judging at the 2005 Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo.
- John Ryan took out third place in the Junior Judging at the Hay Sheep Show, just pipped at the post by Kate Munro and Spike Orr.
- Angus Munro was runner up at the NSW State Junior Judging Final at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.
- Angus Munro, James Armstrong and Bill Alston won first, second and third places at the Deniliquin Show.
- Spike Orr, Angus Munro and Toby Anderson graduated with their Certificates in Agriculture in 2004.

We are taking enrolments for the Jackaroo Training Programme for 2006 and 2007, so please contact Chris Bowman or the Uardry office.

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Representative Jason Southwell 0429 039 521 **Qld Representative** Boyd Webb 0408 587 012

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