



DECEMBER 2006 ISSUE

From the President



P.J. MATUS

As I write this report a number of exciting developments for the Texel breed are taking place including discussions with a national company interested in becoming a major sponsor of our Association. More details will appear following the next Council meeting to be held in Melbourne in February.

The venue for this meeting was changed to Melbourne for convenience of travel arrangements for councillors.

Texels continue to dominate carcass competitions. Merribindinyah for the 4th time in 5 years have won the champion carcass at the RAS of NSW Illabo Show Lamb Competition.

ATSBA – DECEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

The Quirindi (NSW) Prime Stock Show a pen of Texels prepared by Umina High School (Gosford NSW) was awarded champion pen of carcasses. I believe that next year there will be more schools looking for Texels to enter this competition.

Congratulations to Peter and Liz Russell on winning the Coprice Victorian Texel Ram of the Year. This award is determined by the ram gaining the highest number of points from a selected number of shows. The previous and inaugural winners were Doug and Jacquie Bottcher in 2005.

In this newsletter are details of a new class to be added to the 2007 Texel section of the ASBA at Bendigo. This will provide the opportunity to show the features of commercial Texel cross lambs as well as add interest to the Texel display.

Texel ram sales have been satisfactory in many areas.

Congratulations to Rob and Maria Wood of Te Rakau for achieving the highest average sale price at the Moora multi breed sale.

The extremely difficult season in most areas has led to large numbers of commercial ewes being sold; this will impact on future ram sales. This makes for an ideal opportunity to cull those ewes that are not going to take our flocks forward.

The stories of substantial rain in the December/January period are increasing as are preparations for it. Stories of dam walls being increased in height, increased sales of tractors indicate the optimism that many farmers operate under. Much better than doom and gloom.

I wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, one filled with rain and smiling people.

- PETER MATUS



2007 NZ Conference

The South Conference Committee warmly invites all Australian Texel breeders to the 2007 Texel Conference to be based in Oamaru and visiting Timaru, South Island, NZ, from May 8 – 11.

An interesting and varied programme has been arranged.

**Contact Shirley Hayes,
Hilderthorpe, 4 H RD,
Oamaru, NZ.
Phone: 0064 3 431 – 3773
Website:
www.nzsheep.co.nz/texels**

Next Texel Review

The current run of prime lamb competition successes looks set to provide the Prime Lamb Review with enough material for the next edition.

Members are asked to save photos wherever possible. The photos should be of the lambs and carcasses rather than the breeder.

The Review will be a good forum to print short anecdotes about Texel commercial successes along these

lines:-

"A client of Rob and Maria Wood of 'Te Rakau' consigned his lambs separately according to sire breed. The Texel sired lambs were so far in front he has changed his entire program to Texel sires"

"A client of Tanya Hill of 'Tanalan' out of a flock of over 500 Texel suckers turned all but 20 off in the first draft"

These are true stories. Further stories are emerging with surprising regularity that Texels sired lambs have made anywhere between \$5 and \$9 more per head over the hook than the other commonly used sires off the same property with identical feeding and husbandry.

We need to collect these stories, and ask permission to use their names from our clients. This is in their favour as they acquire a reputation for producing quality stock.

New Class For ASBA Show Bendigo

This is a preliminary note to give members an opportunity to keep back/prepare stock for a new class for the National Show at Bendigo, held in conjunction with the Australian Sheep and Wool Show.

The Association is organising a prime lamb hoof class for pens of two Texel sired lambs suitable for export.

Minimum weight 45kg. Judging criteria will be decided at the Council meeting in February. Previous prime lamb competition entrants have been notified and we have enough numbers to make this a viable class. After judging we hope to move the top five ranked pens to the commercial display marquees for greater exposure.

EBV's Point To Size, Yield Increase

Selection for muscling and growth estimated breeding values (EBV's) in terminal sires is an excellent way to increase carcase size and lean meat yield of lambs, according to work done by researchers as part of a Sheep CRC Muscle Biology program and Meat and Livestock Australia project.

It also can be done without robbing consumers of juicy chops and tasty roasts.

Addressing the recent WAMMCO International information day at Gibson, Murdoch University researcher Graham Gardner outlined the results of the work.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Dr. Gardner said the results had shown that increasing the muscling EBV not only increased the proportion of muscle in the carcass, but was also a powerful modulator of fatness, especially in lambs on high nutrition where it decreased total carcass fat by as much as 10 per cent.

This is seen as a boon for producers, bringing what the researchers described as a “considerable economic return” to those paid for their product on the basis of lean meat yield.

The study aimed to investigate the impact of carcass EBV’s on carcass size and lean meat yield in lambs, and whether nutrition altered the responses.

According to the results, selection for high growth EBV’s increased carcass size by as much as 4kg in lambs on high nutrition, but it was not good enough to simply select EBV’s for increased production – attention also needed to be given to nutrition.

“On low nutrition, this effect was reduced by 60 per cent, highlighting the importance of nutrition for realising the potential of this trait”, Dr. Gardner said.

Selection for muscling EBV’s reduced total carcass fatness by 3 per cent in lambs on low

nutrition, and 10 per cent on lambs on high nutrition, leading to an overall increase in lean meat yield and improved return for sale based on lean meat yield grid.

Selecting for low fat EBV’s reduced total carcass fatness by 4 per cent, and this effect was the same whether the lambs were maintained on high or low nutrition.

Concern was expressed by researchers about the impact selection for muscling could have on the palatability of the meat produced, and that there was some suggestion that selection for muscling might increase meat toughness. But it was felt that by selecting for growth EBV’s (with more fat than the muscling EBV) as well, and ensuring intramuscular fat levels did not fall below 4 per cent, and myoglobin was monitored to ensure meat colour and iron and zinc levels were adequate, the meat would remain attractive to consumers.

“Others aspects of meat quality may be influenced by using sires selected for muscling”, Dr. Gardner said.

Meat tenderness may be reduced due to greater connective tissue content, but it is likely that this can be controlled by concurrent selection for growth.

Juiciness and flavour may be reduced due to less intramuscular fat, however

this can be attenuated by nutritional practices and in the longer term potentially by alleviating the negative selection for fatness.

“Selection for a combination of muscling and growth EBV’s in terminal sires is an excellent way to increase both carcass size and lean meat yield of lambs providing greater returns for producers”.

In a paper resulting from the work of Murdoch University, NSW Department of Primary Industries and CSIRO Livestock Industries researchers, Dr. Gardner said that the Australian sheep industry was uniquely placed internationally given its access to the sire genetic evaluation system, Lambplan.

“The ability to accurately predict the EBV of a sire based on the performance of its progeny means that we currently have a tool to drive rapid genetic change within the Australian sheep flock, and effectively design animals for specific markets – domestic or international”, he said.

Dr. Gardner said factors like growth path and maturity were important determinants of carcass composition, and the interaction of the nutritional environment would have a large impact on growth rate and lean meat yield of sheep.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

These interactions can be strategically altered with the use of carcass EBV's for growth, leanness and muscle.

Given this potential for genetic change, it is imperative that regular monitoring of the productive performance of Australian sheep is carried out, particularly in sires at the genetic extremes of the contemporary EBV range.

“This monitoring will enable us to quantify our potential to impact on lamb growth rates and carcass yield without compromising other aspects of productivity, such as eating quality and visual appeal, maternal reproductive performance and feed efficiency”.

(Acknowledgement to Dorothy Henderson, The Countryman)

Campaspe Prime Lamb Carcass Competition

Another very successful Lamb Carcass Competition was held by the Campaspe Prime Lamb Group at this year's Elmore Field Days, Vic.

Numbers were up on the previous year from 19 to 24 teams and came from far and wide including Deniliquin, Nullawil, Stawell and Elmore.

Some modifications to the inaugural event saw seven lambs instead of five being entered, with five being sent straight for slaughter and the remaining two on display during the Field Days.

One of the slaughtered lambs was then randomly selected, boned out and the various cuts weighed. This was then measured as the Lean Meat Yield, which determined the results.

The object of the event was to help producers evaluate their breeding system and see how their lambs performed against others in the competition.

Overall, the results were very satisfactory, with most of the teams meeting the weight range requirements and those with the top results having very good carcasses with very little fat.

Texel awards were:

Class 1 (trade) : 18-22 kg cwt
Liz White, Excel, Deniliquin, NSW, finished second with her entry of Texel x 1st cross ewe with a 95.5% carcass wholesale yield (not including waste) from a 8.9 kg half carcass, with a carcass wholesale value of 611c/kg.

Class 2 (export) : 22.1-29.9 kg cwt
Keith Holland, Narioka, Picola, Vic., was equal first with an entry Texel x 1st cross ewe, with 93.7 carcass wholesale yield from a 11.68 kg half carcass, with a carcass

wholesale value of 598.2 c/kg.

Illabo Win

Entrants in the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW hoof and hook competition, run in conjunction with the Illabo Show, NSW, had to enter 10 lambs.

The competition attracted almost fifty entries, 460 lambs, from local producers.

Texels did not win the champion pen on the hoof however an entry from Maple Brown Investments, Merrimbindinyah, Bethungra, scored an outstanding success in the hook section with Texel/Merino lamb which scored 99 points out of a possible 100 to win the champion pen.

The lambs weighed 46.2 kg liveweight, and after being killed and dressed, were described as high yielding and with even fat cover and good eye muscle.

Maple Brown Investments also exhibited the reserve champion pen on the hook and was most successful exhibitor.

Please remember to issue transfer certificates within 60 days from the date of sale.

**Royal Melbourne
Show**

There were only two exhibitors representing the Texel breed at the 2006 Royal Melbourne Show on September 22 where the Judge was Mr. Owen Badcock, Whitmore House, Whitmore, Tas.

South West Genetics, S. & C. Parker, Mortlake, Vic., exhibited four sheep and Tattykeel Pty. Ltd., Oberon, NSW, one sheep.

Detailed awards were:

Class 2004 – Ram, under 1 ½ years old, shorn, showing milk teeth only
South West Genetics.

Class 2005 – Ram, under 1 ½ years old, in the wool, showing milk teeth only
Tattykeel Pty Ltd., 1;
South West Genetics, 2.

Class 2011 – Ewe, under 1 ½ years old, shorn, showing milk teeth only
South West Genetics.

Class 2012 – Ewe, under 1 ½ years old, in the wool, showing milk teeth only
South West Genetics.

Most Successful Exhibitor
South West Genetics.

Champion Ram, any age
Tattykeel Pty. Ltd.

Reserve Champion Ram, any age
South West Genetics.

Champion Ewe, any age
South West Genetics.

Reserve Champion Ewe, any age
South West Genetics.



Champion Texel ewe at the Royal Melbourne Show for Steve and Chris Parker, Longford, Mortlake, Vic. – (Photo – Wayne Jenkins)

Champion Texel ram Tattykeel 580/05 at the Royal Melbourne Show – (Photo – Wayne Jenkins)



Horsham Show

Judge Liz White

Detailed awards:

Ram, 1 ½ years old and over, shorn

Glenarbian, 1; Tullamore Park, 2; Mertex, 3; Clarks Park, 4.

Ram, under 1 ½ years old, shorn

Tullamore Park, 1 & 2; Mertex, 3; Glenarbian, 4.

Ram, under 1 ½ years old, woolly

Tullamore Park, 1; Mertex, 2; Glenarbian, 3 and 4.

Pair of rams, under 1 ½ years old, shorn

Tullamore Park, 1; Glenarbian, 2.

Ram lamb, born after the 1st April, unshorn and untrimmed

Mertex, 1, 2, and 3; Clarks Park, 4.

Champion ram

Tullamore Park

Reserve champion ram

Glenarbian

Ewe, over 1 ½ years old, shorn

Mertex, 1 and 2; Tullamore Park, 3.

Ewe, any age, with lambs at foot

Mertex, 1; Tullamore Park, 2.

Ewe, under 1 ½ years old, shorn

Tullamore Park, 1 and 3; Glenarbian, 2 and 4; Mertex, 5 and 6.

Ewe, under 1 ½ years old, woolly

Mertex, 1 and 5; Tullamore Park, 2; Glenarbian 3 and 4.

Pair of ewes, under 1 ½ years old, shorn

Tullamore Park, 1; Glenarbian, 2; Mertex, 3.

Ewe lamb, born after the 1st April, unshorn and untrimmed.

Mertex, 1, 2, and 3.

Champion ewe

Tullamore Park

Reserve Champion ewe

Mertex

Group – 2 ewes and 1 ram

Tullamore Park, 1; Glenarbian, 2; Mertex, 3.

Meatiest Texel

Mertex

Supreme Champion Texel

Tullamore Park

Most Successful Exhibitor

Tullamore Park

Perth Royal

Four exhibitors paraded 49 entries at the 2006 Perth Royal Show before the judge Grant Bingham, Iveston, Williams, WA.

The Jimjan champion ewe and later supreme Texel, was exhibited by Jim and Jan Glover, Boyup Brook.

Ram, under 1 ½ years

J. & J. Glover, 1; T. M. Hill, 2; R. & M. Wood, 3.

Ram under 1 ½ years, to be judged both objective and subjectively

J. & J. Glover, 1 and reserve champion ram; T. M. Hill, 2 & 3.

Ram Lamb, born after March:

J. & J. Glover, 1, 2 and 3.

Novice Ram Lamb – shorn, under 1 ½ years

R J Lange

Ram over 1 ½ years

T. M. Hill, 1; J. & J. Glover, 2 & 3.

Pair of rams under 1 ½ years

T. M. Hill, 1 and champion ram; R. & M. Wood, 2; J. & J. Glover, 3.

Ewe, under 1 ½ years

J. & J. Glover, 1 and champion ewe and 3; R.J. Lange, 2.

Ewe lamb, born after March

J. & J. Glover, 1, 2 and 3.

Novice ewe lamb – shorn, under 1 ½ years

R J Lange

Ewe over 1 ½ years

R. & M. Wood, 1 and reserve champion ewe, J. & J. Glover, 2 & 3.

Breeders Group of one ram & two ewes

J. & J. Glover, 1; T. M. Hill, 2; R. & M. Wood, 3.

Group of any three rams under 1 ½ years

T. M. Hill, 1; J. & J. Glover, 2; R. & M. Wood, 3.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Champion Ram

T M Hill

Reserve Champion Ram

J & J Glover

Champion Ewe

J & J Glover

Reserve Champion Ewe

R & M Wood

Supreme Champion (with ewe)

J & J Glover



Tanya Hill with her Tanalan champion ram

Jimjan champion ewe and supreme Texel held with Kristy (left), Jan and Jim Glover, and Judge Grant Bingham, Williams.



Ram under 1 ½ years class

**Perth Royal Prime
Lamb Competition**

Six exhibitors with 19 entries put on an outstanding quality display in the prime lamb competition at the Perth Royal Show, under judges John Wirth and Jim Marshall.

Texel awards were:

Hoof Section

**Pen of 3 lambs 34-41 kg
(lightweight)**

Jimjan (Texel x
Corriedale/Merino), 1;

**Pen of 3 lambs 41.1-48 kg
(Heavyweight)**

Tanalan (Texel x
Texel/Merino), 1;
Jimjan (Texel x
Corriedale/Merino), 3.

Hook Section

Champion Lamb Carcase

Jimjan (Texel x
Texel/Merino) yield 54%.

**Pen of three lambs 16.1 kg
minimum (Lightweight)**

Jimjan (Texel x
Corriedale/Merino) 1 and 2
yields 56.5% and 53.1%;
Tanalan (Texel x
Texel/Merino) 3 with
51.2%.

**Pen of three lambs 20-24
kg (Heavyweight)**

Tanalan (Texel x
Texel/Merino) 1 with
53.3% yield;
Jimjan (Texel x
Corriedale/Merino) with
54.4% yield.

**Pen of three Lambs, dam
a Merino ewe 16.1 kg
minimum**

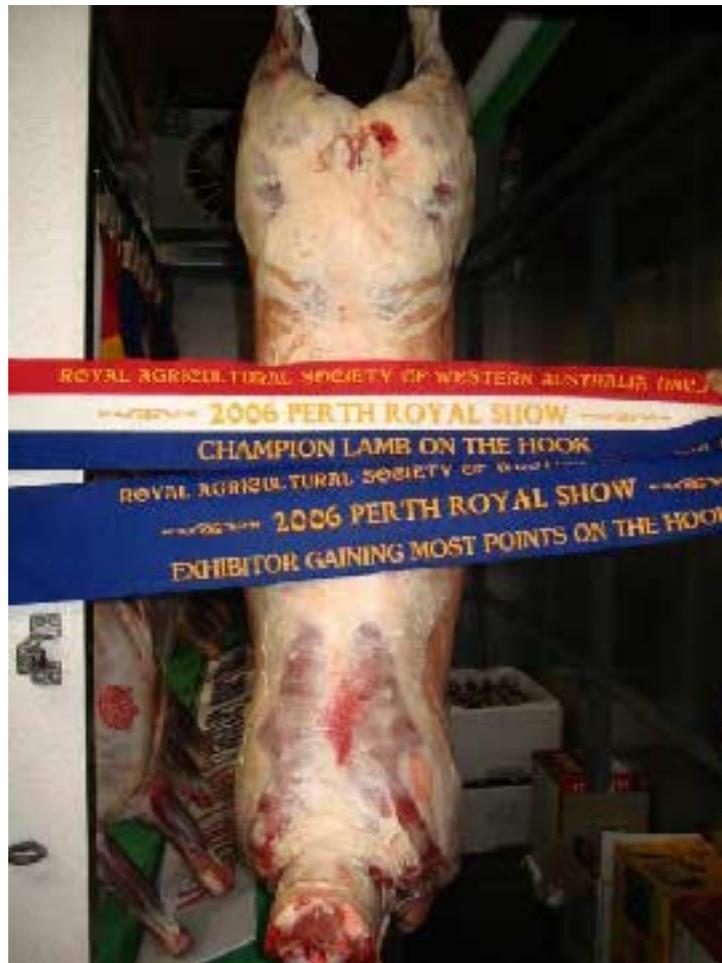
Jimjan, 3 with 51.6% yield.

Most Successful Exhibitor
Jimjan.

The Jimjan champion carcase of Jim and Jan Glover, Boyup Brook, had a liveweight of 43.7 kg, dressed weight of 23.6 kg, dressing percentage of 54 pc, while it had 13 mm for fat.

*Head Office will be
partly closed for annual
holidays from December
23rd to January 19th.*

*Please leave a brief
message on the
answering machine or
send a fax/email.*



The Jimjan stud of Jim and Jan Glover, exhibited Champion lamb on the hook and was most successful exhibitor on the hook.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Tanya Hill, Tanalan, Esperance, with her winning pen of three Texel x Texel/Merino cross lambs which won the heavyweight section on the hoof.



Jim Glover, Jimjan stud and Tanya Hill, Tanalan stud, all smiles after their dominating wins in the lightweight and heavyweight classes on the hook.

South West Genetics

Longford Texels Flock 81

STUD RAMS,
EWES &
FLOCK RAMS
AVAILABLE



Partners in Production

ABC
SCORE 7

Steve Parker
03 5599 2476
0429 992 476



'Longford'
533 North Road
Mortlake, Vic. 3272



Chris Parker
03 5599 2477
0429 992 477

Geelong Show

Judge was John Gubbins, Coolana, Willaura, Vic. Champion ram at the Geelong Show was exhibited by Peter and Liz Russell, Tullamore Park, Donald, Vic., who capped a great show when their ram won the Coprice Victorian Texel Ram of the Year.

Tullamore Park also exhibited the champion and reserve champion ewes; and had the supreme champion Texel.

Reserve champion ram was exhibited by Doug and Jacquie Bottcher, Baroa, Euroa, Vic.

Detailed awards were:

Class G95: Ram- over 1 ½ years shorn not more than 2cm of wool:

PA & EA Russell 1; AJ & HJ Buckland 2; Leigh Partnership 3.

Class G96: Ram- under 1 ½ years:

PA & EA Russell 1; Leigh Partnership 2; DCJ & JM Bottcher 3.

Class G97: Ram- under 1 ½ years shorn not more than 2cm of wool:

DCJ & JM Bottcher 1; PA & EA Russell 2; Leigh Partnership 3.

Class G98: Ram Lamb-unshorn- born after April 1:

Leigh Partnership 1; AH & HJ Buckland 2; S & C Parker 3.



Hannah, Peter and Liz Russell, Tullamore Park, Donald, Vic. with the CopRice Victorian Texel Ram of the Year, Tullamore Park 149/05, at the Geelong Show in October – (Photo – Stock and Land)

Class G99: Pair of Rams- under 1 ½ years:

PA & EA Russell 1; Leigh Partnership 2; AJ & AH Buckland 3.

Class G100: Ewe- over 1 ½ years, shorn not more than 2cm of wool:

PA & EA Russell 1; Leigh Partnership 2.

Class G101: Ewe- under 1 ½ years:

PA & EA Russell 1; AJ & AH Buckland 2.

Class G102: Ewe- under 1 ½ years, shorn not more than 2cm wool:

DCJ & JM Bottcher 1; PA & EA Russell 2 & 3.

Class G103: Ewe Lamb-unshorn born April 1:

Leigh Partnership 1; PA & EA Russell 2; S & C Parker 3.

Class G104: Ewe- any age with lamb at foot both to be judged:

PA & EA Russell 1; S & C Parker 2; Ashley Smith 3.

Class G105: Group- 1 Ram and 2 Ewes- under 1 ½ years,

DCJ Bottcher 1; PA & EA Russell 2.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

**CopRice Victorian
Ram of the Year**

Steve Parker reports the 2nd CopRice Victorian Ram of the Year was again very successful with only four points separating the first four rams

Results were:

- 1st = Tullamore Park 149/05
- 2nd = Tullamore Park 118/05
- 3rd = Tullamore Park 8/05
- 4th = Baroa 10/05

CopRice wish to hold a presentation dinner next year on the evening of judging at the Geelong Show.

**Esperance Prime
Lamb Sire Sale**

There was plenty of buying strength left when it came to to the offering of 28 Texel rams from the Tanalan stud, of Tanya Hill, Esperance, WA, on September 21.

Prices were consistent throughout this category, ranging between \$500 and the second top price of the sale of \$1250 paid by Wallbrook Farms John Wallace, who by sales end had purchased thirteen rams from three breeds to use in his operation that has 3,500 ewes mated to terminal sires and a 2000



The Baroa reserve champion ram at the Geelong Show for Doug and Jacquie Bottcher. This ram finished a close fourth in the CopRice Victorian Ram of the Year.

head self-replacing Merino flock.

The \$1250 ram, which was a twin, had a carcass plus index of 161.53, and on Lambplan measured -1.79pfat and 1.07 pemd,

J.G. & P.D. Halford purchased five Texel rams

at an average of \$790 and a top of \$1000 while the Della Vedova account paid between \$500 and \$950 for five rams.

Talanan averaged \$807 for 28 rams, the second top average for the multi-breed sale.



Tanya Hill with her top priced ram at the Esperance Prime Lamb Sale.

Jimjan

The Jimjan stud of Jim and Jan Glover, Boyup Brook, WA., attended the Darkan breeders ram sale in October where they sold nine rams to \$1700 and averaged \$1117, the best average of the six sheep breeds.

Their top ram at \$1700 went to H.W. & P.R. Murdock, Wagin.

Jimjan was invited to be a guest vendor at the Ida Vale multi breed sale and sold 7 rams to \$1200 to average \$914.

Moora Prime Lamb Sale

Loyal supporters of Moora's 21st annual prime lamb sire sale turned out in force to push prices to \$2550 and a healthy average of \$777 for well-bred upstanding meat sires. An offering of 149 rams from six sheep breeds sold to a healthy 80% clearance. And while the dry season resulted in some conservative buying there was still strong support from a wide range of buyers.

Taking top honours for the day was Robert and Maria Wood's Te Rakau Texel stud, Bindi Bindi, which realised the top price of

\$2550 for a well put together ram featuring figures of 4.77wwt, 5.79pwwt, -1.32fat, 1.2emd with a Carcase Plus index of 156.25. Both his sire and sire of dam exhibit the double Myomax gene.

With three interested parties in on the action the hammer was stalled until Ivan Clune bidding on behalf of Robert Temby of Morrongo, Dumbleyung had the last hand up. The well-bred ram includes a Wagin Woolorama breed champion and a three times Perth Royal Show breed champion in his pedigree.

Te Rakau continued its top performance selling 29 of its 30 rams for an average of \$803.

Newbold Sale

The Newbold multi-breed annual sale of W.J. & A.J. Close, Gawler River, SA, saw three Texel (T1) flock rams sold to a top of \$1050 and average of \$800.

Head Office contact details:

**Australian Texel Stud
Breeders Association Inc.
G.P.O. Box 75
MELBOURNE VIC 3001.**

Phone: (03) 9817 5511

Fax: (03) 9817 6125

Email: secretary@texel.org.au

Web : www.texel.org.au



This Te Rakau ram sold for \$2550, the top price of the Moora 21st annual prime lamb sire sale, to A.R. Temby and M.A. Clune, Morrongo, Dumbleyung, WA.