



# NOVEMBER 2010

## NEWSLETTER

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### *From the President*



MARIA WOOD

I am delighted to inform members that Roger Mason has accepted an invitation to become joint patron of the Australian Texel Stud Breeders Association. The motion to invite Roger was presented at the recent AGM and passed unanimously. The invitation is not only in recognition of Roger's role in bringing Texels into Australia but also for his ongoing involvement and support in the establishment of the breed here.

Fellow members in the Association have been encouraged by his continued involvement and have expressed great respect for his commercial

approach and business experience. We will be sorry to lose Roger as a Texel breeder when he finally disperses but we hope that he will continue to have an influential role and a valued presence in the Association.

The recent offer of cheaper myostatin and iScan testing by Lincoln University in New Zealand presented a great opportunity to make dramatic improvements to the consistency of Texel breeding here. Myostatin is our greatest asset. The reduced rate for testing was only available until the end of September, however the offer may be repeated next year.

Any test results produced by Lincoln University cannot be described with the 'Myomax' or 'iScan' brands as these are a trademark of Pfizer. Only testing produced by Pfizer can use the brand names.

The iScan test has now been upgraded following the identification of the specific causative gene by German researchers.

Henceforth tests will be returned either carrier or clear with no more 'at risk' results.

New Zealand researchers have recently launched a saliva based test, 'CarLA' for sheep. The simple test collects a saliva sample using a cotton swab and determines how effectively a sheep naturally neutralises internal parasites.

Those with internet access will be aware of the high quality of the UK Texel Breeders website. The website has an automatic mailing option. At this time of the year with so many shows and sales the messages arrive in your mailbox thick and fast but it's generally quiet the rest of the year.

The show results make entertaining reading. Go to <http://www.texel.co.uk/> home page to subscribe to the mailing list. The statistics of UK Texel breeding are to be envied. The largest ram sale in the UK takes place about this

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time of the year at Kelso over two days. Last year's sale grossed UK£2,153,400.00 for 3671 rams of all breeds, including 1293 Texel rams. The UK society sells over 12,000 rams annually through their 2200 members

*From  
Maria Wood*

***Hood's Texels  
dominate  
RNA carcass  
competition***

Queensland bred Texel genetics have dominated the championship prizes at the 2010 Royal Queensland Show prime lamb carcass competition.

Peter and Pene Hood's Plainview Texel stud submitted just four pens of three lambs into the competition but won the bulk of prizes, including first places in the heavy trade lamb and restaurant lamb sections and the awards for champion pen of lambs and reserve champion pen of lambs.

The champion pen was made up of three sucker lambs aged three months that Mr. Hood had initially expected to compete in the under 19kg light trade class. That was until they yielded (56pc) and dressed 20.2 kg, 21.2kg and 19.8kg each, pushing them up into

higher class for heavy trade lambs, which they won.

"It has got to be the Texel breed," Mr. Hood said when asked for the secret to the success. "The breed is known for yielding like that; they're renowned for their carcass and high yield and muscle development."

Another Texel-cross pen from Plainview averaged 21.2kg. It finished second in the heavy trade class and went on to claim the reserve championship.

Mr. Hood, who runs a Texel stud and commercial lamb producing operation, has exhibited in the RNA lamb carcass competition since 1978 and has been the most successful exhibitor more times than any other competitor since that time.

The Plainview lambs have been raised with their mothers on oats since birth. "You have got to look after mum," Mr. Hood said.

"You can't starve a sucker, it won't grow. Give mum strawberries and cream and the lambs will take care of themselves."

The competition was judged by Pat McMahon, McMahon Brothers Wholesale Meats, who said the 30 pens entered in this year's competition presented very well. He said producers and exhibitors displayed good knowledge of what was required for each market and end user.

"The carcass conformation of the placegetters in all classes was very good," Mr. McMahon said.

"The champion and reserve champion are perfect exhibits of what is required for local domestic trade lambs, and the winner of class three (Peter Hood's Texel cross) was a perfect example of restaurant or export market lamb.

*(Story by James Nason –  
Queensland Country Life)*

***Organic  
Texel  
Lamb Packs***

Members Mark and Helen Chambers, Lyndale Park, Marong, Vic., added some new, smaller organic Texel lamb pack options back in July to their website:

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

They claim it is great to enjoy in curries, casseroles, roasts and slow bakes.

***Garth and Deni Lisle***

Associate member Garth Lisle and his wife Deni, have gone back into real estate with other family members in San Remo, Vic.

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*(Continued from page 2)*

Their new business Garth Lisle Property Consultants opened prior to Easter last April and with over 40 years experience in the industry offer the listing and selling of broad acre holdings and smaller lifestyle properties, to the residential and commercial market.

Their Killarney Texel flock at Bennison, Vic. was dispersed in 2008.

**WFI, proud alliance partner of the Texel Stud Breeders Association**

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### **ASBA Show Bendigo**

There were 70 entries from 11 exhibitors.

A young ram from Rob and Maria Wood, Te Rakau, Bindi Bindi, WA, followed on from his Wagin Woolorama award earlier in the year and was crowned the champion Texel ram and supreme Texel exhibit at the ASBA.

Judge James Corcoran Snr, Gooram, Galong, NSW, described the champion as an outstanding meaty ram with excellent growth rates.

**Major awards were:**

**Champion ram**  
R. & M. Wood, Te Rakau

**Reserve champion ram**  
I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, Glenarbian

**Champion ewe**  
P. & L. Russell, Tullamore Park

**Reserve champion ewe**  
R. & M. Wood, Te Rakau

**Most Successful Exhibitor Grand Aggregate Award**  
P. & L. Russell, Tullamore Park

**Supreme Champion Texel (Ram or Ewe)**  
R. & M. Wood, Te Rakau



*Pictured above from (l to r): Robert Wood, James Corcoran, and Maria Wood with the supreme champion Texel ram*

*Detailed results were:*

**Class TE1 – Ram, showing 4 or more teeth, shorn**  
P. & L. Russell, 1; C. Kelly & C. Shine, 2; B.A., H.A. & T.A. Jorgensen, 3.

**Class TE2 – Ram, showing 2 teeth only, shorn**  
R. & M. Wood, 1

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**Class TE3 – Ram, showing 2 teeth only, in the wool**

B.A., H.A. & T.A.  
Jorgensen, 1 ; P. & L. Russell, 2.

**Class TE4 – Pair of rams, not showing more than 2 teeth, shorn**

P. & L. Russell, 1; C. Kelly & C. Shine, 2.

**Class TE5 – Ram, shorn, showing milk teeth only**

R. & M. Wood, 1 and champion; I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 2 and reserve; P. & L. Russell, 3.

**Class TE6 – Ram, in the wool, showing milk teeth only**

B.A. & H.A. & T.A.  
Jorgensen, 1 ; I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 2; P. & L. Russell, 3.

**Class TE7 – Tullamore Park Ram Performance Trophy**

I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 1; P. & L. Russell, 2; R. & M. Wood, 3.

**Class TE8 – Ewe, showing 4 or more teeth, shorn**

No entry

**Class TE9 – Ewe, showing 2 teeth only, shorn**

B.A., H.A. & T.A.  
Jorgensen, 1.

**Class TE10 – Ewe, showing 2 teeth only, in the wool**

B.A., H.A. & T.A.  
Jorgensen, 1

**Class TE11 - Pair of ewes, showing not more than 2 teeth, shorn**

P. & L. Russell, 1; R. & M. Wood, 2; C. Kelly & C. Shine, 3.

**Class TE12 – Ewe, shorn, showing milk teeth only**

P. & L. Russell, 1 and champion & 3; R. & M. Wood, 2 and reserve champion.

**Class TE13- Ewe, in the wool, showing milk teeth only**

B.A., H.A. & T.A.  
Jorgensen, 1 and 2; I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 3.

**Class TE14 – Tullamore Park Ewe Performance Trophy**

P. & L. Russell, 1; R. & M. Wood, 2; I.R. & B.E. Nitschke 3.

**Class TE15 – Ewe, any age and any wool length, suckling her own progeny at foot. Both ewe and progeny to be judged**

B.A., HA & T.A.  
Jorgensen, 1.

**Class TE16 – Group of 1 ram and 2 ewes, under 1 ½ years old, and not more than 2 teeth, bred by the exhibitor – (Baroa Pastoral Company prize)**

P. & L. Russell, 1; R. & M. Wood, 2; I.R. & B.E. Nitschke, 3.

**Class TE17 – Sire's Progeny Group of three sheep, any age, any sex, and any wool length – (Stock and Land prize)**

P. & L. Russell, 1; Ashley Smith, 2; B.A., H.A. & T.A. Jorgensen, 3.

**Best Strike Rate**

R. & M. Wood

**ASBA Bendigo Sales**

The Te Rakau stud from Western Australia took five sheep to the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo, Vic. in July and sold four privately after the completion of judging.

Two young ewes, one of whom was the ASBA reserve champion, and the other which was reserve champion at the 2010 Wagin Woolorama were sold to Craig Kelly and Cheryl Shine, Doublecee stud, Longwarry, Vic. for \$1200 each.

Andy Roberts, Jindalee, Cootamundra, NSW paid \$3000 for the ram placed first in the class for shorn rams showing four or more teeth.

Three Victorian breeders finally decided to buy the Te Rakau supreme champion for \$5000 only five minutes before the ram was due to be loaded onto the truck for home.

Buyers were Basil, Heather and Tim Jorgensen, Mertex stud; Peter and Liz Russell, Tullamore Park stud; and Ashley and Louise Smith, Cypress Park stud.

## **Hamilton Sheepvention**

The Texel judge at the 2010 Hamilton Sheepvention on August 2 was Don Muir, Penryn, Mortlake, Vic. There were six exhibitors.

The South West Region presented a Perpetual Shield for the most successful exhibitor, in memory of the late Geoff Baker.

This was won by the Tullamore Park stud of Peter and Liz Russell.

Nancy Baker was at the show and presented the Shield.

A presentation night and dinner was held at the "Wool Bales" and was once again enjoyed by all.

Judith and Howard Caldow were guests of the Region, instead of usually providing their home to members and exhibitors.

*Major awards were:*

**Champion ram**  
Tullamore Park

**Reserve champion ram**  
Mertex

**Champion ewe**  
Tullamore Park

**Reserve champion ewe**  
Mertex

**Most successful exhibitor**  
Tullamore Park

*Detailed awards are on the website – [www.texel.org.au](http://www.texel.org.au)*

## **Royal Adelaide Show**

Four exhibitors with 39 Texel entries attended the Royal Adelaide Show in early September.

The judge was Terry Connell, Valley View, Cressy, Tas.

Ian and Barbara Nitschke, Glenarbian, Millicent, SA, exhibited the champion and reserve champion rams, reserve champion ewe, and were most successful.

The judge described the champion ram as very good on his feet, really well-muscled, had a lovely topline and handled really well. It weighed 92.5 kg and had a fat score of 7.5 and eye muscle depth of 44mm.

Bill and Karen Agnew, Willaren, Millicent, SA, exhibited the champion ewe which had heaps of meat on her, a wonderful EMD at 46mm, and was structurally very good.

*(From a Stock & Land report)*

## **Glenarbian**

Ian and Barbara Nitschke, Glenarbian, Millicent, SA had an excellent clearance at their two breed sale in October.

Ten Texel rams were offered with seven selling at auction to \$800 and averaging \$770.

## **Darkan Sale (WA)**

The Darkan and Districts Association prime lamb sire sale was held in early October.

The Glover family's Jimjan stud, Boyup Brook, WA attracted solid support and easily cleared their eight Texel and Texel-cross rams to average \$1144, a marked \$362 bump-up on last year's average

*(From a Farm Weekly report)*

## **Horsham Show**

Texel judge at the 2010 Horsham Show, Vic., on September 29, was Douglas Bottcher, Baroa, Creightons Creek, Vic.

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Four exhibitors presented 46 sheep and there were 11 entries in both the shorn ram and ewe classes under 1 ½ years.

*Major awards were:*

***Champion ram***

Mertex

***Reserve champion ram***

Tullamore Park

***Champion ewe***

Tullamore Park

***Reserve champion ewe***

Mertex

***Most successful exhibitor***

Mertex



*Pictured above (from l to r): Basil Jorgensen, Mertex stud, with his Texel champion ram; judge Doug Bottcher, and Peter Russell, Tullamore Park stud with his Texel champion ewe, 2010 Horsham Show.*

*Detailed awards are on the website [www.texel.org.au](http://www.texel.org.au)*

***Moora Prime Lamb  
Sire Ram Sale***

The Texel breed enjoyed strong support at the Moora Prime Lamb Sire Ram Sale, WA, in early October with easily the top price of \$1250 and best breed average of \$913.

Rob and Maria Wood, Te Rakau, Bindi Bindi, WA, were the only Texel vendor and offered and sold 18 rams.

New breeders Wayne and Tara Pittard, Reef stud, Borden, bought the \$1250 ram and another at \$1025.

They were looking for sires with solid frames, good back-ends and great conformation.

Equal second top priced rams at \$1150 went to Br. George Thornton, Catholic Agricultural College, Bindon, and G.J. & E.M. Warren, Williams. Br. George said he liked the ram because he was from a renowned UK sire, had a fantastic rump, a top EMA figure, and will be used over 20 stud ewes at the college.

*(From a Farm Weekly Report)*



*With the \$1250 top-priced Texel ram at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Moora prime lamb ram sale (from l to r) pictured above are Landmark Wongan Hills manager Grant Lupton, buyers Tara and Wayne Pittard, Bremer Bay, and Te Rakau stud principals Maria and Robert Wood, Bindi Bindi, WA – (photo – Farm Weekly)*

## *Perth Royal Show*

There were four exhibitors with 43 entries at the 2010 Perth Royal Show where the Texel judge was Lewis Shepherd, Leween, Narrogin, WA.

*Major awards were:*

### ***Champion ram***

Jimjan

### ***Reserve champion ram***

Mirovi

### ***Champion ewe***

Te Rakau

### ***Reserve champion ewe***

Mirovi

### ***Supreme Texel***

Te Rakau (ewe)

### ***Breeders Group***

Jimjan

### ***Group of 3 rams***

Mirovi

When sashing the supreme Texel, Mr. Shepherd said the ewe was outstanding with plenty of length, and a great example of the breed.

There was not much between her and the champion ram which was better through the shoulders.

The supreme ewe was by the UK genetics introduced a few years at Te Rakau and was part of the team at the 2010 ASBA Show Bendigo in July.

The Jimjan champion ram had been reserve champion at the 2010 Wagin Woolorama and won the ram lamb class at the 2009 Perth Royal Show.



*Pictured above: Jan (left), Kristy and Jim Glover (far right) with judge Lewis Shepherd and the Jimjan champion ram at the 2010 Perth Royal Show – (photo – Farm Weekly)*



*Pictured above: Robert Wood (left) and Maria Wood (far right) with judge Lewis Shepherd, with the Te Rakau supreme exhibit and champion Texel ewe – (photo – Farm Weekly)*

## **2010 Perth Royal Show Carcase Win**

A change of format and increased entries didn't stop the Texel breed from taking home the champion lamb carcase ribbon for the sixth consecutive year in the Prime Lamb competition at this year's Perth Royal show.

The champion lamb carcase from the open classes this year was exhibited by Rob and Maria Wood, Te Rakau stud, Bindi Bindi, WA and came from the lightweight open class.

The lamb had a liveweight of 38.5kg and a carcase weight of 21.4kg giving a dressing percentage of 55.6%, while its GR depth was 10mm.

The 15 week old lamb was sired by a Te Rakau Texel ram, commercial progeny of the UK genetics, and out of a Texel-Merino cross ewe and straight off its mother.

## **Royal Geelong Show**

Peter and Liz Russell, Donald, Vic., exhibited the champion ram Tullamore Park 48/09 at the Royal Geelong Show in October and were the most successful exhibitor.



*Maria and Rob Wood, Te Rakau, Bindi Bindi, WA, pictured left at the 2010 Perth Royal Show where they exhibited the champion lamb carcase.*

## **Royal Geelong Show continued**

Tullamore Park also exhibited the reserve champion ewe and winning group.

Judge was Heather Buckland from the Tourello stud at Lysterfield, Vic. and there were about 30-40 sheep paraded.

Basil, Heather and Tim Jorgensen, Mertex, Antwerp, Vic., exhibited the champion ewe and reserve champion ram.

Texels dominated the prime lamb competition with the Jorgensen family winning the most successful exhibitor award,

most number of points awarded, champion pen of prime lambs on the hoof, pens of 3 trade lambs on the hoof 20-23.9 kgdw and 24-29.9 kgdw.

SA Texel breeders Bill and Karen Agnew, Millicent, finished up with the champion prime lamb carcase of the show and the best pen of 3 trade lambs (24 – 29.9 kgdw) on the hook.



*Pictured at the 2010 Royal Geelong Show were (from left) Alex, Liz Russell holding champion ram; judge Heather Buckland; Basil Jorgensen with champion ewe*

### **Warrnambool Show**

Texels were the feature breed at the Warrnambool Show, Vic, on October 29.

The Jorgensen family, Mertex, Antwerp, Vic., had excellent results.

In the Texel section they had champion ram and champion ewe, first ram lamb and first ewe lamb.

Then in the interbreed competition they scored champion short wool ram and champion short wool group.

### **REMINDER**

*Newsletter posting dates*

*March Issue: March 1*

*July Issue: July 1*

*September Issue :  
September 1*

### **\$48/kg boost for Royal's lamb auction**

Shoppers in Yangebup and surrounds were feasting on some of WA's top lamb product last week but they weren't paying anywhere near the \$1200 per carcass or \$48 per kilogram the bodies commanded.

Career butcher Marco Panizza, Marco's Fussy Meats and Kitchen, Yangebup and Applecross, and his business partner Chris Faulds bid the day's top of \$3600 for three outstanding lamb carcasses at the inaugural Smoke Free Perth Royal Show lamb carcass auction.

The lambs, all out of Border Leicester-Merino cross ewes and sired by Texel rams, were bred by Jim and Jan Glover, Jimjan Texel stud, Boyup Brook.

Fastidious about quality, Mr. Panizza said he selected the three carcasses for their saddle, good amount of blood content in the bone, optimum fat content, meat colour and sharp crutch bone.

"I learnt from an old timer years ago that young healthy lambs always have a sharper crutch bone and plenty of blood in their bones, if the bones are all white then it's an older lamb," he said.

"The fat content was ideal as we don't want wastage from having to cut fat off.

"We used to get paid for tallow and bone, now we have to pay someone to take it away so there is no value in an excess of either."

To that end, Mr. Panizza said he also looked for carcasses with a well-rounded butt and shorter legs saying long legs only added to the waste pile.

On the issue of breed type he said he had no particular preference, although when he started in the industry at 15 years of age Southdown were touted as best.

Mr. Panizza, who bought 39 lamb carcasses at the sale at an average of \$170n per carcass, said he had been very happy to support the auction and WA producers and it was an added bonus that some of the money would be going to charity (The Royal Flying Doctor Service).

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“I went there with \$10,000 in my pocket and came home with some change so I have to be happy,” Mr. Panizza said.

“The cherry industry has its annual Charity Cherry Auction in December (to raise money for Princess Margaret Hospital) so why shouldn't the lamb industry have something similar.”

Regulars in the ribbon haul in lamb carcass competitions, Jim and Jan Glover were delighted to receive the overall top price at the inaugural auction.

Their top pen of three lambs weighed 46kg, 46kg and 46.5kg respectively on the hoof for carcass weights of 26kg, 24.4kg and 24.6kg to dress out at 54.2 per cent.

The sale saw a total of 141 lamb carcasses auctioned for an average of \$110 per carcass.

*(From a Farm Weekly Report)*

### **Lincoln University Testing**

This is the first year that Lincoln University has provided gene tests for myostatin (T+ muscling) and microphthalmia. These have predominantly been used by Texel sheep breeders. The initial idea for providing this service came about after comments

from many New Zealand breeders that they firstly, needed a cheaper gene test and secondly, for microphthalmia did not want the confusion of a % rating in their results.

The tests offered are simple and we have been able to meet the requirement of providing cheaper tests that give clearer or definitive answers of whether animals are carriers or non-carriers.

This year we offered both tests for a combined price of \$30 plus GST over the winter months (up to 15<sup>th</sup> October). Through our peak trading time the price will be \$33 plus GST per test\*. In addition to offering cheaper testing we do not charge for our blood collection cards and we give priority testing when needed at no additional cost.

*\*Note that in New Zealand GST increased to 15% as of the 1st October 2010. Any account sent out after 1<sup>st</sup> October will accrue GST at the higher rate.*

### **Turn-around time**

This year we attempted to turn all sample around within 3 weeks from time of receipt. Overall we have achieved this for both New Zealand and Australia, although we may have slightly exceeded this when the laboratory was shut down for 10 days due to the major earthquake we experienced and which had an epicentre less than 20km from Lincoln. Some farmers requested priority

turn-around times because they wanted to enter stock in ram fairs. We did generally meet these deadlines. For all farmers the more warning you give us for urgency in testing, the easier it is for us to meet your requirements.

### **Results**

To date we have done 900 microphthalmia tests (with 80% of samples coming from New Zealand). The frequency of the microphthalmia gene mutation in the animals we have tested is approximately 3%. This is low and shows that many breeders are well on the way to removing this gene mutation from their flocks.

For the T+ muscling gene we have done 400 samples (60% of tests were from New Zealand and the balance from Australia). The frequency of the beneficial form of the T+ muscling gene was over 90%, which shows a very high frequency of this beneficial form in the tested population. This does bring into question at least in some situations the benefits of continuing to use this gene test except for stud sires, especially when growth rate/meat yield information is being collected and used.

### **Samples**

We were very happy with the quality of the blood samples presented to us. Thanks to everyone who has made our job so much easier.

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 10)*

All blood samples that we have received from you are owned by you, so in the future if you require the samples sent to another laboratory or wish the sample returned to you, we are happy to do this. Equally if you need us to do further gene tests on the samples, we can also do this.

All your results are confidential to you and will not be used by us without your expressed consent, but from time to time we will publish anonymous summary information for the industry.

#### **Future pricing**

We will again look to provide some discount over the winter months of 2011, although the exact amount will depend on the outcome of discussions with the New Zealand Texel Breed Society.

#### **Catching up**

We will be meeting with the New Zealand Texel Breed Society before winter to present our pricing plans for next winter and there are plans to travel to Australia to catch up with the Texel breeders there.

*“We have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Texel sheep breeders in both Australia and New Zealand and talk to many of you directly. We aim to continue to develop the relationship in future and thank you for your support.”*

*Jon Hickford  
Director  
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(Associate Professor of  
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