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PUBLISHING DATES - CLOSING DATES





August Issue



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members

back cover	\$660.00
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centre spread	\$990.00

Advertising in the AWSA Newsletter is available to all members with content to have a White Suffolk focus. Corporate rates for sheep industry related groups are available on request to the AWSA.

DISCLAIMER

Members are advised that advertisements, information and opinions printed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the association or its members.



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from the president

2021 was another difficult year and followed a similar trend to 2020 with members adapting to last minute changes to shows and sales, and continuing to use online platforms for sales and meetings. I am sure that the online way will be here to stay, but I know many are wanting to get back to some normality soon.

On top of Covid there has been a range of different conditions across the country. The heavy rainfall experienced in the eastern states has been a blessing for some but has also had a devastating impact on others. There have also been states that have experienced bushfires and other natural disasters. I know there are some members who have been affected by this - I applaud your resilience and our thoughts are with you.

In 2021, White Suffolk demand and sales continued to remain steady with AuctionsPlus reporting it's highest annual number of listings of 1st x White Suffolks in the past six years. Clearance rates and prices also remained strong which is very pleasing for our breed as we move into 2022.

Our member survey included some feedback on the consistency and quality of White Suffolks. I would like to encourage members to consider our breed aims and conformation to ensure you are producing a quality and consistent White Suffolk product.

The Promotions and Marketing team continued building on its promotion of White Suffolks as a maternal sire option throughout the year, and I thank them for their hard work towards our 2021 campaign.

A major focus was the AWSA Satellite Flock project for eating quality traits that was managed by Richmond Hill Agribusiness (Debbie and Steve Milne). The final project report was recently completed and has been sent to all members. I am pleased to report that the project met all three objectives and recorded an increase in accuracy of carcase and eating quality traits for the selected sires and their progeny. The selected sires have been used in a minimum combined total of 158 flocks with at least 7555 progeny, this is a large number of lambs that will be able to obtain genomic tests that are much more accurate for eating quality traits. A considerable amount of work went into coordinating and running the project, and I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those were involved, including:

- Meat & Livestock Australia for co-funding the project;
- **Shearwell Australia** for their in-kind support in donating the VID and EID eartags;
- Anthony Hurst, Seriston, for his property and resources;
- **Debbie & Steve Milne** for their role as project managers; and
- The studs that generously donated semen of the sires selected;
- Those that assisted with labour during AI including Lachie McCrae, Brayden Gilmore and Reece Haggerty;

The outlook for a return to our face-to-face National Conference and AGM was promising, but we decided to cancel the event in January because of the uncertainties around borders opening and the hesitancy from members to travel and attend. It was not an easy decision to make but I thank the Federal Council and all members for their support and participation in our AGM on Zoom again. Let's hope this is the last time and next year we will be meeting face to face again.

Our 2022 AGM saw the retirement of two Federal Councillors – Andrew Krieg and Peter Button. I thank Andrew and Peter for serving on our Council and their valuable contribution to our breed over their time.

We have now welcomed two new members in Lachlan McCrae and Andrew Frick, and I look forward to working alongside them and the rest of the Council throughout the coming year.

I would like to thank Nikki and all Federal Council members for their hard work throughout the year, and members for their support of the Association and the White Suffolk breed. I look forward to what 2022 will bring, and I hope to see you around the shows and sales throughout the year.



Andrew Heinrich

President

from the secretary

Don't let the new social take away from the old

A lot can be said for the good old White Suffolk days. The conversations. The laughs. The friendships. The banter.



If you've ever been to a White Suffolk conference, you'd no doubt be able to recall the year and where it was held, and there would be many stories that would follow.

I recently had the pleasure of reminiscing over conference stories and it reminded me of what we have been missing out on the past two years and how valuable that social interaction is for our Association.

Our Association has forged many lifelong friendships and memories off the back of White Suffolk shows, field days, sales and events. And we've conquered many issues through deliberation at meetings and working together with a common goal.

That level of social interaction has an extremely important role to play in for our breed and in our Association today, but the challenges Covid has thrown at us has taken away many opportunities.





Whether we have liked it or not, social media was always going to change the way we think and work, and it has proven it is a contributor to marketing and sale successes for many.

But, if you're anything like me it has become a little tiring, and I really feel it is having an impact on how we work together.

It's made it easy to sit behind a screen and feel like we know what everyone is up to by seeing or reading just a small snippet of what's going on. And we know it can be left open to so much interpretation also.

From a White Suffolk perspective, there has been nowhere near the number of phone calls and emails, discussions about what's happening, hearing good news stories, and sharing achievements that we can all be proud of.

All round, the motivation and enthusiasm that once had a strong presence in our breed and Association has seen a steady decline off the back of these new social ways, and I think we need to put some effort into returning to the old way of being social before it's too late.

At the White Suffolk Federal Council in March, there seemed to be this new enthusiasm in the room around new marketing initiatives and R&D project possibilities – ways that we can work to increase the White Suffolk breed profile and authority in the industry – awesome!

But that enthusiasm did not translate to our AGM where only three members outside our Federal Council joined in on Zoom. We had a total of 12 members out of 338 members – we only just made a quorum.

This was a little disheartening as a lot of work and effort goes into planning and promoting the breed and our Association and working to support our members.



The AGM provides a forum for us to hear and seek your approval over what we are doing within the breed and the greater sheep industry.

We have always had every right to be proud of the comradery amongst our breed and members and how it has inspired the growth and success of our Association in the past, and I know we all see benefit in this continuing well into the future.

So as the country opens back up, I ask that you don't keep remaining silent.

Get out to shows, field days, sales and events and enjoy the impact that face-to-face social interaction has on us all and the support that it offers.

Take value in the fact that there is a wealth of knowledge out there amongst our own members, and we need to share and collaborate again in person so we can all continue to grow and take our breed into the future. Don't underestimate a simple phone conversation or catch up with a member in your area, an old stud breeder or mentor, a friend.

Be present within your state group and at our Association AGM to show your support.

Send in your ideas and constructive criticisms so our Federal Council can consider what might need to change.

And finally, let's not forget our National Conference in February. Make it an annual trip on your calendar.

The Conference is an educational and informative twoday event that can ignite some spark into your breeding goals and is a wonderful opportunity to meet and network with other like-minded members.

It gives you the opportunity and avenue to be involved in our Association and support our great breed – as after all that's one of the reasons I hope you are here for.

In return I can promise that you will learn new things and walk away with new friends and memories that will last a lifetime. And there'll be a time that you'll sit around the table and reminisce about the stories and achievements like others do now!



Nikki Ward

Secretariat

AWSA Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00am – 4:00pm

new members

Flock Name

070	
979	L & L Sheather
980	PD Radcliff
981	B Bingham
982	J & J Jakupec
983	J Smith
984	WL Lockhart
985	AD McCrae
986	FRG Gilbert

SINCE NOVEMBER 2021

State

Welcome to the following new members of the AWSA:

NSW
TAS
VIC
TAS
TAS
VIC
NSW
WA

Lynleigh
Monterey
Whitewater
Barrington Park
Pine Lodge
Allambie
Cadem Valley
Valhallas Gate

Stud Prefix

Federal Council Matters

April 2022

Federal Council Election and Movements

The AGM saw some changes to the AWSA Federal Council as a result of the election process. A total of five positions were available in 2022, with five nominations submitted. A ballot was not required due to the correct number of nominations for positions available. We thank all members that were interested in nominating, and encourage you all to continue to consider your involvement at Federal Council level in the years to come.

Peter Button and **Andrew Krieg** retired after indicating they both would not be re-standing due to the dispersement of the Ramsay Park and Aylesbury Farm studs respectively.

Peter joined Federal Council in 2011, amounting to 11 years' service at his retirement. He has served as President where he led the introduction of mandatory Ovine Brucellosis accreditation, been heavily involved in Promotions & Marketing aspects and has been an allround advocate for the breed through his affiliation with a number of committees within the greater sheep industry.

Andrew was elected in 2018 and took on the Sponsorship portfolio during his four years' service. In his time we have secured new sponsors in Rural Bank and Shearwell, and grown our relationship with Zoetis.

We thank Peter and Andrew for their service and commitment to the Association and breed and wish them all the best with their new endeavours.

Congratulations to **Andrew Frick** and **Lachie McCrae** who were successful in their nomination and elected for a two-year term alongside re-standing Councillors Brenton Addis, Ian Gilmore and Paul Routley.

Both Andrew and Lachie have previously served terms on Federal Council, and we welcome them back and look forward to their involvement in the Association.

AGM Attendance

The 2022 AGM saw a record low attendance by members which is likely attributable to the lack of a National Conference.

Attendance at the AGM is a great way to show your support of the Association, White Suffolk breed and provides an avenue for you to raise any matters for Federal Council discussion.

It is important to remind members that attendance at our AGM is greatly encouraged and welcomed.

Member Survey Response

Thank you to the 38 members that completed the member feedback survey that was circulated over December and January. The feedback received is analysed by Federal Council and contributes to planning the year ahead. The member feedback survey will be coordinated every two years to provide members with the opportunity to submit their thoughts and help the Association ensure it is on the right track.

Annual Returns

Annual Returns have now been distributed to all members. This occurred by email for those with an email address, with paperwork posted to those without an email registered in the database.

Please contact the Secretary if you are not able to find your email so that it can be resent to you.

Members are reminded of the following:

- Brucellosis Accreditation details are required to be updated if your accreditation has expired. Please ensure to upload a copy of your certificate, or forward a copy by text or email to the Secretary.
- If a ram or semen is missing from your rams used list due to a transfer not having yet been completed, then you are able to finalise your Annual Return without it provided you either text or email the Secretary the details of the ram that should be included.
- Annual Return information is vetted, members have an obligation to ensure the information they are submitting in their return is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge.

Annual Returns are due by 30th April. Your prompt completion is appreciated.

Registrations & Transfers

Members are reminded of their obligations to ensure all registrations and transfers are completed as soon as possible after sale. This is important as it can have an impact on the ability to complete and finalise rams used on Annual Returns if a transfer has not be processed.

If you require assistance please contact the Secretary.

Stud Sale Date Calendar

Members have the opportunity to include their stud sale date under their Stud Details in their Annual Return. We take these dates and add them to our Sale Data calendar on the AWSA website, so please ensure you list your 2022 sale date so it can be updated.

AWSA Satellite Flock Project completion

The AWSA Satellite Flock Project was completed in March, and the Federal Council were presented with the final report at its recent meeting. The entire report has been distributed to members on email, and a summary included in this newsletter. If you have not received a copy then please get in touch with the Secretary.

As previously mentioned, the AWSA will seek member interest in conducting a webinar for members to hear about the project results and provide the opportunity to ask questions. Please keep an eye out for more information from the Secretary.

Removal of National Judging Panel List

At the recent Federal Council meeting it was decided that the National Judge Panel List published in the AWSA Flock Book be removed. It was felt that the list is outdated and that it was not referenced by members when nominating judges. Instead, members are encouraged to consider breeders actively involved in the sheep industry when putting forward nominations.

Could you be missing out?



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Promotions & Marketina Courtesy of Peter Angus

April 2022

Online Stud Advertising

Individual studs were proactive in utilising social media and online marketing platforms to counter the impact COVID-19 had on the cancellation of shows, field days and other activities where White Suffolk sheep are normally displayed and promoted during 2021. Unfortunately, some major shows were cancelled at the last minute which was disappointing for exhibitors and organisers.

While some shows and combined vendor sales were able to proceed in 2021, either in person or online, here's hoping that 2022 will see things returning back to normal with the opportunity to attend interstate shows, sales and field days.

The opportunity to catch up with fellow breeders in person, and to view and select live animals, has been long overdue, so many will be looking forward to this happening again.

Australian Community Media - Print Advertising in major Rural Papers

The Association's print advertising campaign through Australian Community Media (ACM) commenced in August 2021, occurring in the prime lamb feature issues during late winter and spring when a number of onproperty and combined vendor sales were held.

Three different advert designs were rotated through the print schedules in each state like the campaign in 2020.

These ads complimented the TV campaign and promotional material on social media, the AWSA website and through the eNews.

A recurring theme once again focussed on the use of White Suffolk sires as a 'perfect match' for Merino ewes to produce maternal first cross ewes, as highlighted by members as a breeding option to promote.

Julia Wythes was engaged by the AWSA to specifically write stories for the breed. Julia wrote a number of commercial producer stories circulated to rural press for inclusion in rural papers, online and on the AWSA Facebook page. Thank-you to our members who liked and shared posts on Facebook.

Thanks once again to those members who have taken the time and made the effort to contribute contact details for commercial producers and provide photographs during 2021. It is appreciated when we receive story leads and information to promote the breed and why commercial producers are encouraged to select White Suffolks as their preferred prime lamb sires.



www.whitesuffolk.com.au

Digital Advertising - Rural Press websites, AuctionsPlus and Sheep Central

Our digital advertising campaign for 2021 followed a similar format to 2020 with the advantage of being able to make improvements to increase our breed's exposure and target particular areas more effectively.

The revolving digital advert was featured on ACM websites (The Land, Stock & Land and Stock Journal) in July, and ran through a local targeted display in WA, Tasmania and Northern NSW. Additionally, the AWSA had a digital presence on the AuctionsPlus website over a period of five weeks during the ram selling season, as well as on the Sheep Central website and in their email alerts.

The overall reach through digital media was on par with last year, the Promotions subcommittee will use this data as it works on its 2022 promotions campaign strategy.



TV Advertising

Our AWSA TV Ad was shown on WIN TV throughout the ram selling season from September until November 2021. Members can view the TV advert on the AWSA website homepage or Facebook page.

Social Media

Social media was used as a tool to continue sharing information and news with our 1,754 followers. We ran two paid campaigns throughout the year – the Win A Ram Competition, and the Commercial Producer Survey with Nutrien. These achieved good exposure.

The continual challenge has been to create and source good content that is appealing to our followers.

Win A Ram Competition - 2021 Winners Announced

The 2021 Win A Ram Competition was drawn live on the AWSA Facebook page on 20 October. The draw has been saved to our Facebook page for viewing.

Once again, we had two \$1500 vouchers and advertised the competition on our TV advert, in some print advertising and on social media.

A total of 476 eligible entries from all over Australia were received which was more than double last year's entries. Thank you to all members who promoted the competition at their sales and to their clients.

Congratulations to **Heather Dixon from WA** and **Jemma Wirth from QLD** who each won a \$1500 voucher to use towards the purchase of a White Suffolk ram from a registered AWSA stud.

Thank you to all members that promoted the competition through their networks.

Advertising Plan for 2022

Based on feedback from the recent AWSA member survey, and discussions held during the March Federal Council Meeting, the decision was made to increase the Promotions and Marketing Budget in 2022.

An amount of \$50,000 was added to the 2022 budget for the implementation of a new promotions strategy and marketing initiatives to ensure the White Suffolk breed is at the forefront of commercials producers' minds when choosing rams for prime lambs.



eNews

The AWSA eNews is distributed bi-monthly to 385 stud readers and 575 commercial readers. On average, our eNews editions perform well above the industry average for open rate and click rate.

Thank you to Debbie and Steve Milne for their work in sourcing informative and relevant stories for each eNews edition and congratulations on the achievement of producing the 50th edition in March 2022.

Sponsorship

The AWSA was pleased to continue its sponsorship relationship with Zoetis and Rural Bank through 2021 and we look forward to continuing our relationship with them into 2022.

Shearwell also continued their support of the AWSA Satellite Flock Project through the donation of EID and VID eartags. We thank all three sponsors for their support of our Association.











25th Annual on Property Sale Wednesday Sept 28th, 2022 at 12.30pm

Some of our 2021 rams to keep an eye out for:									
VID	SIRE	BWT	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	ТСР	LEQ	
210144	190002	0.29	11.4	18.3	-0.6	2.8	155.6	147.6	
210303	ASH 170986	0.45	11.8	18.9	-0.3	3.2	162.3	164.9	
210330	S 190158	0.52	12.6	20.0	0.2	3.7	161.4	146.6	
210364	ASH 170986	0.36	10.7	18.3	0.2	3.4	157.6	156.0	
210430	G 170470	0.36	11.0	17.0	0.2	2.6	148.3	146.1	
210448	170142	0.45	13.7	21.7	-0.5	2.1	151.7	140.1	
210523	S 190158	0.51	11.3	17.7	0.3	3.3	156.3	149.4	
210627	G 170470	0.42	11.6	17.5	-0.1	1.9	144.1	140.0	



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White Suffolk sheep breaking price & listing records

Courtesy of Teeah Bungey, AuctionsPlus

2021 was a fruitful year with numerous records broken across the sheep sector with both online listing and price records smashed. The White Suffolk breed was no exception to record breaking - registering the largest yearly throughput on record with a total of 523,292 head listed online. Year-on-year listings were up 16% from 2020, and 64% from 2016.



Figure 1: AuctionsPlus Yearling White Suffolk Listings (2016-2022)

Reviewing listings for the period of October 2021 through to February 2022, the strength of the 2021 season was cemented by the Oct-Dec period, where monthly listings significantly surpassed the previous years' corresponding monthly listings. November registered the strongest increase year-on-year with 104,153 head listed - an increase of 15% on 2020, indicative of the successful lambing season as new season lambs took the market by storm. Rolling into 2022, numbers for the first two months of the year have continued on an upward trajectory to surpass corresponding 2021 monthly listings. Strong numbers and ongoing demand for the start of 2022 indicate the continued robust market for White Suffolks setting the breed up strongly for yet another record year.



Figure 2: AuctionsPlus Monthly White Suffolk Listings (Oct 2020 - Feb 2022)

Clearance rates from October through to February averaged 79% in 2021, equal to the 79% average recorded over the past five years. The peak came in December, where tightened supply resulted in a very strong clearance of 93%. The start of 2022 has continued this trajectory, with strong demand for the increased listings in January, recording an 80% clearance, while February dropped slightly to sit at 75%.

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Figure 3: Quarterly White Suffolk Listings vs Clearance (2016-2022)

White Suffolk prices have recorded a significant rise on a \$/head basis from 2016 to 2022, particularly following the drought breaking rain in 2020, as restockers sought after livestock to re-ignite their sheep enterprises. The large fluctuations across the White Suffolk ewe categories throughout the year indicates the seasonal demand for breeding stock, in line with other breeders, with SIL White Suffolk ewes recording the largest price increase since 2016 - up 50%. While White Suffolk mixed sex store lambs have followed the overall upward price trajectory, the category has experienced less volatility since 2016 due to consistent demand aligning with supply across years of contrasting seasonal conditions. From Q1 2016, White Suffolk ewe lambs have increased 43%, White Suffolk mixed sex lambs increased 41% and White Suffolk station mated ewes increased 38%.



Figure 4: White Suffolk Quarterly Price Average (2016-2022)

MARKET OUTLOOK

Australian Wool Market Insights - March 2022

Courtesy of Rural Bank





Overview

- February delivered strong wool testing numbers with the weight of wool tested 7.3 per cent higher than February 2021.
- Australian wool remains in demand with prices holding up well considering consecutive weeks of over 50,000 bales on the roster.
- The Eastern Market Indicator has fallen from its peak at the start of February but remains higher than a year ago.

Wool test volumes rebounded in February with 33,863 tonnes greasy tested, a 55 per cent increase on January. February wool testing numbers were also strong in comparison to a year ago with the weight of wool tested 7.3 per cent higher than February 2021. Season to date, the Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) have tested 216.5 million kilograms compared to only 195.8 million kilograms in the equivalent period last season. Increased sheep numbers and fleece weights are contributing to greater volumes tested. The La Nina system has produced those characteristic wetter-than-usual conditions resulting in flooding on the east coast which affected shearing and getting wool to market. The silver lining is this rainfall will benefit upcoming winter cropping and feed availability on farm.

As of the start of March, the Eastern Market Indicator (EMI) had fallen from its peak of 1,449 c/kg but remained 97 cents above values seen a year ago. Fine microns have been performing well with prices around decile 9. As of the start of March, 17 microns were pricing 548 c/kg higher than the same time a year prior. Medium microns were also slightly higher than 2021 but broad microns were around 150 c/kg lower than last year.

The rising Australian dollar has made Australian wool exports less competitive. A pull back from buyers has resulted in higher pass in rates as prices have not met grower expectations. At time of writing, four consecutive weeks of over 50,000 bales on offer was also weighing on the market. Abundant supply is a result of producers keen to clear out sheds ahead of shearing and winter crop seeding.

The Western Australian border reopened on March 3rd which could ease shearer shortages as workers can travel more freely between states. The outbreak of Omicron in Western Australia may have a short-term impact on labour as people who contract Covid-19 are required to isolate. As seen on the east coast, disruptions due to Covid-19 are temporary but can delay shearing times.

The Australian wool market has held up well considering the volatility seen in commodity markets in recent weeks. The conflict in Ukraine is unlikely to have a direct impact on Australian wool exports as Ukraine and Russia are not major competitors for wool exports. The greater impact will be from currency changes and rising oil prices. Bulk and container freight rates are rising which will impact Australian agricultural exports. Limited container availability is likely to hamper wool exports in coming months. The major risk factor for Australian wool exports is if trade with China is disrupted. China remains Australia's largest wool buyer with 76 per cent of exports in January. European buyers make up around 15-20% of Australian wool exports. This exposes Australia to downside if consumer confidence in Europe wanes.

The outlook is uncertain for many commodities as markets react to the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Wool prices are expected to remain steady but could face pressure if supply chain disruptions delay wool exports. International demand is supporting prices right now, but values may ease if demand softens.

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ANIMAL HANDLING & TECHNOLOGY An Update from Sheep Genetics

Courtesy of Gabby Sherring, LAMBPLAN Development Officer



Annually Sheep Genetics implements enhancements to the LAMBPLAN evaluation to provide breeders with the latest tools to make genetic gain. This year the Sheep Genetics analysis will undergo significant enhancements that breeders can expect to see results from in early May. The enhancements that impact the Terminal LAMBPLAN analysis include:

- the redevelopment of our Sheep Genetics database systems
- improved accuracy calculation logic
- refinement and rollout of the Data Quality Score (DQS) and Ramping Up Genetic Gain Reports
- Terminal Index update to include Lambing Ease
- Enhancements to the Sheep Genetics website including reporting of results

The redevelopment of the Sheep Genetics database system

The database redevelopment will involve consolidating the LAMBPLAN, MERINOSELECT and Research databases into a single data warehouse. As many of us know, there have been significant advances to technology since LAMBPLAN was created more than 30 years ago, and the volume of LAMBPLAN records, especially since the inclusion of genomic information have become available, has grown extensively. From early May LAMBPLAN runs will be created from the new Sheep Genetics database. This will also put us in a good place to integrate the Sheep Genetics data with data from other parts of the sheep supply chain, such as NLIS and processors, when it becomes available.

What you can expect to see: Breeders can expect to see some movement in their breeding values as a result of enhanced ways of exporting the data to the analysis.

Improved accuracy calculation

The growing number of genotypes in our LAMBPLAN and MERINOSELECT evaluations pose issues with computational time for our runs. There has been extensive development work to improve the logic in the evaluation to make sure we can still provide you with breeding value results within 10 days of a run cut off. One of these developments that is being implemented this year is the improved accuracy calculation logic. This is the way in with we calculate the accuracy that is published along with all ASBVs and indexes.

What you can expect to see: Breeders can expect to see small movements in the accuracy published alongside their breeding values.

Rollout of Data Quality Score

We have been road testing the Data Quality Score at multiple Regional Forums and breeder events, gathering your feedback on what you love and would like to improve on. We have developed the Data Quality Score to be included in the Ramping Up Genetic Gain reports, which will be ready for Sheep Genetics clients to access on the search site in early May. If you'd like help to interpret your DQS, please reach out to Sheep Genetics.

What you can expect to see: Breeders and their service providers can routinely access the Data Quality Score and Ramping Up Genetic Gain report via the results section of the Sheep Genetics website. These reports will be refreshed every run.

Inclusion of Lambing Ease in all Terminal Indexes

Sheep Genetics undertook an index review, where we surveyed a range of people from the sheep industry about our indexes in each of the analyses. This review highlighted the industry's desire to emphasise the importance of improving weaning rates and reducing lambing losses at birth. To incorporate this feedback into our indexes, we have included the Lambing Ease (LE) ASBV into all Terminal indexes (TCP, EQ and LEQ). Having LE included will allow reduced mortalities of lambs, less labour required for lambing assistance and increased weaning rates.

What you can expect to see: Breeders can expect to see some movements in the TCP, EQ and LEQ indexes as a result of the inclusion of the LE ASBV in the index. These changes are small and generally impact those animals with an unfavourable LE breeding value.

Enhancements to the Sheep Genetics website

"Pepperton

Members of Sheep Genetics will access their results reports via the Sheep Genetics search site. When you submit data to Sheep Genetics via email as normal, you will receive an email notification back to notify you that results are ready to view. On the search site, you will be able to view all the results reports you see currently, with the added bonuses of customising traits, exporting to pdf, and additional data break downs. There are also additional new features that are being added to the search site. These include more reportable traits, ways to assign service provider permissions and more.

What can you expect to see: An email when results from a LAMBPLAN run is complete that will direct you to login into the search site to access your results. Here you will find customisable reports to access your results.

For all of these enhancements, Sheep Genetics will be hosting online webinars over the coming weeks and will also have fact sheets available. To ensure that you are prepared for the changes please ensure you register for a Sheep Genetics webinar and upcoming Regional Forum to hear more about the changes. To sign up for Sheep Genetics communications please head to sheepgenetics.org.au/news/





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White Suffolks





SHEEP HEALTH & NUTRITION

Supplementary feeding for lamb survival: what's the best way?

Courtesy of Victoria Nugent, FarmOnline

A national project hopes to find out the best supplementary feeding strategies for ewes to ensure lamb survival.

A new research project led by Murdoch University will delve into whether supplementary feeding using self-feeders or trail feeding has better results for lamb survival.

The research will also involve more intensive work later in the project, which may investigate impacts of the time and frequency of feeding or explore alternative methods like broadcasting lupins.

The project is co-funded by Meat & Livestock Australia Donor Company, Australian Wool Innovation, Murdoch University and Charles Sturt University, and also involves collaborators from Nutrien Ag Solutions and Dynamic Ag Consultancy.

Murdoch University researchers Amy Lockwood and Serina Hancock are co-managing the project, which aims to collect data from over 35 on-farm research sites across across Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and NSW

Dr Lockwood said they were currently in the recruiting phase, searching for producers willing to get involved.

"We're really keen to get some good outcomes from the project to provide guidelines to producers for supplementary feeding to help them improve their lamb survival rate," she said.

"This project was sparked out of the lambing density project we ran a few years ago... we had a lot of producers asking how they should go about supplementary feeding their lambing ewes to optimise lamb survival, for example what time of day to feed at, how frequently they should feed and whether using selffeeders or trail feeding provided better outcomes.

"That's how we came about putting a proposal together and getting the work funded."

Trial sites for the first experiment comparing the impacts of feeding with self-feeders or trail feeding on lamb survival will need a minimum of 300 single-bearing and 160 twin-bearing ewes.

Ewes will be allocated into a treatment at approximately 140 days from the start of joining, designating whether ewes are fed with self-feeders or via trail feeding.

The project commenced last year and will continue over the next two years, with researchers collecting a range of data, including some gathered by remote technology to investigate impacts of supplementary feeding on ewe behaviour.

Dr Lockwood said there were currently differing opinions within the agricultural community as to what method of supplementary feeding was best.

"Some producers like self-feeders because the ewes come and go as they please, but you hear from some producers that, particularly with twins, the ewes will come up to the feeder and one or both of the twins will lay down and as the ewe leaves they don't follow," she said.

"Other producers believe that trail feeding is worse because when you drive into a paddock with a feeder the ewes come flocking towards you and this can cause mismothering especially if the ewe has recently lambed.

"Improving lamb survival is a big focus for the industry and this project aims to equip producers with an extra strategy to improve their marking rates."



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22 MARCH 2022 - FIGURES								
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DNA parentage and the role it plays in ASBVs

Courtesy of Dan Roe, Neogen



Accurate parentage information is one of the most important factors in accelerating the rate of genetic gain in a flock, so it makes sense that DNA testing is fastbecoming standard practice in the seedstock industry.

DNA testing for parentage provides crucial information that enhances the accuracy of your stud's breeding values, and NEOGEN's solutions can quickly and accurately provide a full pedigree, saving breeders time and labour.

The benefits of DNA testing for parentage are two-fold. As well as providing more accurate pedigree information than traditional parentage methods, it also improves the overall accuracy of the breed's Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs).

In the absence of accurate parentage, information on individual animal breeding values can only be based off the animal's performance records as measured by the breeder during its lifetime.

The reliability of this information in predicting breeding performance is enhanced significantly when combined with data from relatives, including parents, siblings and progeny and allows breeders to make superior ram and ewe selections. The power of knowing an animal's sire allows paternal half siblings to also be used in the individual animal's breeding value evaluation, while correct identification of an animal's dam is essential for measuring traits around weaning time and accounting for the animal's preweaning environment.

Using the most accurate form of parentage assignment of DNA testing increases accuracy of selection with the flowon benefits of increasing genetic gain across the flock by 1-2% and an increase in ASBV accuracy of up to 35% in Terminal sheep breeds.

Along with accurate parentage assignment, DNA parentage testing can also relieve some management constraints from multi-sire lambing paddocks.

NEOGEN is Australia's largest and leading animal genomics laboratory, and its sheep DNA testing solutions were developed as part of its long-term research and development partnership with the former Sheep CRC.

NEOGEN's sheep DNA parentage testing is available as a stand-alone product or part of NEOGEN's Sheep Genomic test.

Visit sheepdna.com.au or contact your NEOGEN Territory Manager to start testing today.



Australian White Suffolk Association | 21





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Courtesy of Richmond Park

SHEEP HEALTH & NUTRITION

Vaccination - is your flock protected?

MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia

Vaccines are an important part of a herd or flock health plan.

When used correctly as part of a property health plan, vaccines can help prevent common endemic livestock diseases, leading to improved animal health, welfare and productivity. Producers should be aware of the endemic diseases in their region that can be prevented by vaccination and assess the risk based on previous local district and property history.

Endemic diseases of livestock in Australia that vaccines can help prevent include:

- Clostridial diseases (including botulism)
- Cheesy gland
- Johne's disease
- Leptospirosis
- Pestivirus
- Pinkeye
- Three day sickness
- Vibriosis

Vaccines are used at different times in the production cycle, depending on the disease and the vaccine. Producers should follow the instructions on the vaccine label and seek veterinary advice when required. Vaccines may also be used as part of industry biosecurity programs, to limit the spread of or help eradicate emergency animal diseases.

Important considerations when using vaccines

- Seek veterinary advice when required.
- Read the label thoroughly before use and follow all label directions or restrictions, including directions for dose rates, route of administration, safety precautions, personal protective equipment, and disposal of empty containers and unused product.

- Record the appropriate information and include on the LPA NVD/Waybill if the livestock are sold.
- Ensure withholding periods (WHPs) and export slaughter intervals (ESIs) are adhered to.
- Store and handle vaccines appropriately, as indicated on the vaccine label, to ensure effectiveness of the vaccine is maintained.
- Maintain good hygiene.
- Use well maintained, sterilised injection equipment appropriate to the vaccine being used and change needles frequently.

If you would like to gain a better understanding of vaccines and their use to prevent common diseases in sheep, MLA offer a free training module through on "Vaccination in Sheep Flocks" through their eLearning resources.

You can access the training module on their website:

- 1. Visit www.elearning.mla.com.au
- 2. Click on eLearning Library



3. Under Animal Health & Welfare, click on "Vaccination in sheep flocks".

Animal Health & Welfare



Total training packages: 4

Introduction

- Vaccination in sheep flocks
- Vaccination for southern cattle
- Pain relief use in southern cattle
- Pain relief use in sheep

SheepTRAX - A new website where you can check your local sheep drench resistance status



Courtesy of Zoetis

Dr Matthew Playford from Dawbuts, Australia's leading veterinary parasitology laboratory in Camden NSW, has been involved in developing the groundbreaking website, **SheepTRAX (sheeptrax.com.au)** in conjunction with Zoetis.

As well as conducting research for industry bodies and pharmaceutical companies, the Dawbuts laboratory conducts monitoring and drench resistance studies for over 2,000 livestock farmers across Australia.

Dr. Playford said "Being able to present the results of hundreds of drench tests in a publicly-accessible database gives us a great sense of achievement. We have received strong signals from groups such as livestock veterinarians, WormBoss users and rural retail stores that this resource is badly needed. Now it is finally being delivered."

Using an effective sheep drench to control your worms is key to a productive sheep flock. However, research shows that most sheep properties in Australia have resistant worms to one or more sheep drenches- 96% to white (BZ) drenches, 96% to clear (LEV) drenches and 87% to Ivermectin (ML) drenches1.

This means that resistance to many of the active ingredients in sheep drenches in Australia is very common. Resistance is classified as efficacy less than 95% (% reduction in worms). Drench resistance is a genetic trait of the worms themselves and is either created on your own farm or introduced when purchasing sheep (ewes, weaner lambs or rams). Even stray sheep may be the source of drench resistant worms.

When choosing a drench to use on your farm, WormBoss recommends 3 principles2:

- Use the most effective drench for your property
- Use an effective combination of two or more drench groups
- Use short-acting treatments and restrict the use of persistent products for specific purposes and high worm-risk times of year



What is SheepTRAX?

SheepTRAX is designed to assist Australian sheep producers by showing the prevalence and geographical distribution of drench resistance. The data within SheepTRAX has been gathered from hundreds of on-farm drench resistance tests, also known as faecal egg count resistance tests (FECRT), across all sheep producing areas in Australia. Sheep producers can use this data and website to:

- Improve knowledge of drench resistance
- Assist in making an informed decision of what drenches to use
- Assist in understanding the likelihood of resistance worms in purchased sheep.

SheepTRAX aims to help put evidence behind your drench selection, and therefore help maximise your return from your drench investment.

SheepTRAX shows the efficacy (from FECRTs) of over 25 drenches in easy to view comparative graphs, with up to 5 drenches selected at any one time. The graphs show the 'overall' efficacy for the drenches selected as well as the results for the key gastrointestinal worm species;

- Barber's pole worm (Haemonchus contortus)
- Black scour worm (Trichostrongylus spp.)
- Brown stomach worm (Teladorsagia circumcincta)
- All other species

The farmer or rural store is able to view the FECRT data at a national, state or regional level. FECRT data sets with a higher number of samples e.g. 100, have a higher reliability than smaller numbers e.g. 5.







Resistance status of farms varies, even between neighbouring properties. SheepTRAX does not predict the drench resistance found on your property or within a specific mob of sheep. It is designed to provide awareness of the severity of sheep drench resistance in every sheep region across Australia.

It is recommended that every farm undertakes their own FECRT every 2-5 years to monitor the drench resistance status, or at least perform regular Drench Checks. This can be achieved easily by taking samples (direct from the sheep, or fresh samples off the ground) 14 days after a drench has been given. When this is then compared with the worm egg count on the day of drenching, vital information about how well the drench has worked can be calculated. Dung samples should be submitted to a ParaBoss FEC QA- accredited parasitology lab, or analysed by a FECPAKG2 machine, which is in use in many stores and veterinary clinics across Australia.

Just a reminder as producers are stocking their farms after the drought, that all new sheep should be given a Quarantine drench to avoid bringing in resistant worms. A Quarantine drench contains 4 actives, with one of the actives being from a new drench class, which is given before or upon arrival on-farm e.g. Startect followed immediately by a Levamisole and BZ combination3. After drenching, keep all animals in a confined area with good access to feed (hay) and water for 24 hours prior to entering the paddock. It is recommended that the confinement area be fully tilled or spelled for at least 6 months before reuse.

To check out the new **SheepTRAX** website and review the local drench resistance in your area, visit **sheeptrax.com.au** on the Livestock Solutions website.

- Wormboss (2020) SheepCRC, Armidale. http://www.wormboss.com.au/ sheep-goats/news/articles/drench-resistance/national-drench-resistanceshould-you-be-concerned.php
- Wormboss (2020) SheepCRC, Armidale. http://www.wormboss.com.au/ sheep-goats/tests-tools/management-tools/drenches/drench-rotation-versuscombinations-to-combat-drench-resistance.php
- Wormboss (2020) SheepCRC, Armidale. http://www.wormboss.com.au/ sheep-goats/news/articles/drenches/quarantine-drenching-getting-it-right. php

Producers pivot to sell lamb direct

Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia

Key points:

- The autumn flush of lambs continues to deliver large volumes of lambs to market.
- Producers are preferring to market and sell lambs via direct channels rather than through the saleyards.
- The gap between lambs sold at the saleyard and lambs processed has reached its widest point since late January.

With saleyard lamb prices across the board operating in softer territory than what they were 12 months ago, many producers have chosen to sell their lambs direct through over-the-hooks selling avenues.

In the second week of March, the National Livestock Reporting Service (NLRS) yarded 157,419 lambs, while the slaughter report showed that 365,390 lambs were processed. The discrepancy between lambs yarded and lambs processed is significant.

Admittedly, not all lambs sold through the saleyards will enter processing facilities. However, this trend has been observed over the past four weeks from the week ending Friday 18 February and has gradually widened since then.

Data delivers two key takeaways

There are two key takeaways from this data.

Firstly, this data shows that the autumn flush of lambs has well and truly entered processing facilities.

As producers sell lambs, the slaughter figures yearon-year – as well as compared to 2020 – demonstrate a significant uptick in lamb volumes over the past four weeks.

This improvement is cognisant of a larger lamb cohort and the autumn flush coming online, after lambs had been retained over the last two months of 2021 and early 2022 due to COVID-19, transport and weather challenges.

The second phenomenon this data illustrates is a national discrepancy between lambs sold at the saleyard and lambs processed, which demonstrates producers are choosing to market their lambs via direct over-the-hooks avenues rather than sell through the saleyards.

This is understandably so, with saleyard lamb prices tracking lower than what they were 12 months ago and producers subscribing to favourable forward contracts that were offered late in 2021.



Lamb yardings to slaughter volumes in 2022



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RAMS











Farrer White Suffolk 2021 drop ewes in the current AI Program

Backup sires for 2022

ID	Sire	BWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	PFAT	PWEC	LMY	IMF	SF5	LEQ
Farrer 210024	Farrer 190111	0.36	13.17	21.24	2.66	0.54	-50	3.09	0.28	-2.62	172.05
Farrer 210162	Farrer 190111	0.40	12.67	21.01	4.18	1.37	-67	3.38	0.31	-0.53	173.82
Farrer 210167	Farrer 190111	0.13	12.98	21.50	2.97	0.03	-58	3.84	0.13	-1.59	172.06
Farrer 200099	Langley Heights 170497	0.21	11.10	17.39	3.70	0.07	-63	3.68	0.07	-3.44	173.36
	Team Average	0.28	12.5	20.3	3.4	0.50	-59	3.50	0.19	-2.04	172.8

LambPlan Run: 1/3/2022

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Left: Dugald McIndoe pictured with the Grand Champion Pen of lambs at the Guyra Show & Sale

COMMERCIAL STORIES

Strong maternal instincts are turning heads

Courtesy of Julia Wythes

A ewe that mothers and protects her lamb is worth her weight in gold.

And Dugald and Bec McIndoe simply cannot fault their White Suffolk ewes' strong maternal instincts.

The McIndoe family, Smithston stud, Glencoe, run a pure White Suffolk flock, and it's not only their ewes' maternal instincts that are turning heads - their White Suffolk lambs have just claimed grand champion pen at the Guyra Show and Sale.

The 34 White Suffolk wether and ewe lambs averaged 64 kilograms and sold for \$280 a head.

But when it comes to breeding stud animals that can produce an impressive carcase, the McIndoe family knows its stuff.

The family first bred Hereford cattle and Blue-faced Leicester stud sheep in south-west Scotland before moving to Australia in 1989.

They settled at the foot of the Ben Lomond ranges at their property Strathmore the following year.

"We first learned the ropes over here," Mr McIndoe said.

As well as breeding stud Hereford cattle, the family ran Border Leicesters.

"We wanted to breed a meat sheep," he said.

White Suffolks caught their eye, and they bought some stud ewes from Allendale stud, Bordertown, South Australia. And that was that.

"They are an easy care sheep," he said. "They have great mothering ability, they are suited to our steeper country, and they produce good results with prime lambs."

They started their Smithston stud in 2000, and haven't looked back.

The McIndoe family are very particular about what they breed.

"I want to breed true-to-type White Suffolks, with the correct structure and good carcase," he said.

Mr McIndoe said their maternal traits were incredible.

"It's important to have a strong female base. I reckon White Suffolks are one of the most underrated breeds for maternal traits," he said. "They are one of the best."

Today Mr and Mrs McIndoe join around 650 White Suffolk ewes, as well as 300 ewe lambs, which are joined to lamb at 12 to 14 months old in the spring.

Lambs are weaned in late November, with the best of the ewe portion kept as stud breeders, while the rest are sold through Guyra saleyards.

Lambs are shorn and then scanned for performance recording in late December.

Smithston stud held its first online sale through AuctionsPlus this year, selling 160 White Suffolk ram lambs.

Their young daughters Kirsty, Isla and Skye have also started their own Kis White Suffolk stud.

"You want to have a product that is hitting the mark," Mr McIndoe said.

And the McIndoe family's win at Guyra isn't the first time they have tasted success.

There is a long line of wins in hook competitions by both the family and their clients. The most recent was in 2020 when the McIndoe family claimed champion pen of lambs at Guyra, as well as at Glen Innes show.

Luke Heagney, Armitage and Buckley, who sold the champion pen on the day to Fletchers International, said the McIndoe family's lambs were exceptional.

"As always, Dugald's sheep were of an excellent standard, and he spends money on good genetics," he said.

"White Suffolks as a breed are high yielding, cleanedpointed sheep. They are easy to finish, even as a first cross, and I think the White Suffolk-Merino first-cross ewe is one of the better first-cross ewes." Judge Brian Wellings, Guyra, who is a retired buyer for Fletchers in Dubbo, was impressed with the pen.

"They were beautiful meatworks lambs," he said.

"They were full of muscle with not much fat. They were beautifully presented with a half-inch shorn skin. They were perfect export lambs."

The McIndoe family was awarded \$2000 for the win, as well as 30 bags of lamb finisher donated by Mort and Co.

The winners of the champion trade pen and export pen were awarded \$1500, and the reserves \$1000, all donated by the New England Livestock Agents.

General Interest Where are they now: Kevin & Merle Moore

Ian & Julie Pfeiffer (formerly Burwood stud) recently travelled to Tasmania and had the pleasure of catching up with Kevin and Merle Moore.

The Moore family dispersed their Penrise White Suffolk Stud (Foundation Flock No. 14) in 2020. Kevin is an AWSA Life Member, and their son Dale is a Distinguished Service Award recipient. They were both heavily involved in the White Suffolk breed and Association during their years of membership. Kevin loves hearing from White Suffolk members and friends. We're publishing their new contact details for any members that would like to get in touch for a chat:

Kevin & Merle Moore

Phone: (03) 6260 2036 Address: 29 Wellington Street, Richmond TAS 7025



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ANIMAL HANDLING & TECHNOLOGY AWSA Satellite Flock Project Report Summary

Members are advised that the final report of the AWSA Satellite Flock Project has now been released on email to all members. We sincerely thank Debbie Milne for the comprehensive final report that she has put together outlining the project aims, objectives and results.

If you have not yet seen a copy, please contact the Secretary and it will be resent to you.

A summary of the report is provided below.

Abstract

Eating quality of lamb can now be measured at chain speed and a premium is being paid to lamb producers for better eating quality. Eating quality traits such as Intramuscular Fat (IMF) and Shear Force (SF5) can only be measured in lambs after they have been slaughtered. These tests are expensive and require specialist equipment and meat scientists to conduct the testing and as such are considered "hard to measure" traits.

All lambs produced in the MLA Resource Flock were measured for all traits, including carcase and eating quality traits post slaughter. The allied genomic testing of those lambs means the genomic predictions for closely related animals are more accurate.



Team of volunteers assisting with AI

The Satellite flock project attempted to broaden the footprint of sires used widely in the White Suffolk breed that have had lambs slaughtered and measured for eating quality traits. This will increase these sires' accuracy for eating quality traits and allow breeders with animals related to these sires to use genomic tests to receive more accurate ASBVs for eating quality.

The project selected 1 link sire (already used in the MLA Resource Flock) and 14 sires that have been used widely in the White Suffolk breed but had the least relationships to the sires in the MLA Resource Flock. These sires were joined to commercial Merino ewes and the progeny measured, slaughtered and tested for eating quality traits.

The results showed a large increase in accuracy on average for these sires of 18.6% for IMF and 16.1% for SF5. In February 2022, the sires in the project have been used in 158 White Suffolk flocks and have 7555 progeny recorded in Lambplan. This project will allow White Suffolk breeders who have animals related to the 15 sires in the project to receive much more accurate ASBVs for eating quality through genomic testing. This will then allow stud breeders to make better selection decisions and faster genetic gain.



Lamb marking

Project Objective 1

Increase the number of White Suffolk sires represented in the Resource and Satellite Flocks. This will broaden the footprint of lambs born across the breed that are closely related to animals that have been measured for eating quality traits.

The project selected 14 sires (and a link sire) that were widely used in the White Suffolk breed, not in the Resource Flock and had the least relationship to sires already in the Resource flock. They have now been used in a minimum combined total of 158 flocks with at least 7555 progeny (these figures are flocks and progeny recorded in Lambplan and do not include the non Lambplan flocks and progeny). These figures also do not include the sires' own siblings, their progeny and any other related animals.

Project Objective 2

Join the selected sires to an even line of commercial ewes. Measure and record these lambs for sire, sex, birth type, weights, fat and muscle depth. Slaughter all lambs and measure the carcases for carcase and eating quality traits. Enter lambs and data into the Sheep Genetics database.

The project successfully completed an AI program, measured and recorded all lambs for all desired traits both live animal and carcase and entered the data into Lambplan.

Project Objective 3

Increase the accuracy of carcase and eating quality traits of these sires and therefore all lambs that are related to them.

The accuracy of carcase and eating quality traits has been significantly increased for these sires and therefore for their progeny. This means genomic tests on animals related to these sires will be significantly more accurate and allow breeders to make faster genetic gain for these traits.



Weight, Fat and Muscle scanning





We are greatly appreciative of our generous sponsors and supporters of the AWSA Satellite Flock Project.

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) for co-funding the project.

Shearwell Data for donating EID and Visual Tags for ewes and lambs.

Richmond Hill Agribusiness P/L – Steve and Debbie Milne for their work as project managers and donated time / labour.

Anthony Hurst, Seriston, for hosting the satellite flock.

Brayden Gilmore, Reece Haggerty and Lachie McCrae for assistance with Al.

White Suffolk studs that donated semen for the selected sires:

- Aylesbury Farm
- Baringa
- Booloola
- Bundara Downs
- Gemini
- Ida Vale
- Kattata Well
- Kurralea
- Langley Heights
- Maroola
- Mertex
- Somerset
- Wakeleigh
- Yonga Downs



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ASBV MN2V TO Enter via email or direct message our







3RD BARINGA SUPERIOR SELECT SALE

26TH SEPTEMBER 2022

www.baringasheepstuds.com.au

COMPETITION TIME!







Match the sire list below with the photos of their sons.

First to get all 6 correct will receive a \$1,000 credit to the 3rd Baringa Superior Select Sale.

Baringa "Ultra" 19W031 Baringa "Not Negotiable" 19W043

Baringa "Lockdown" 20W048 ET

Days 190108

Langley Heights 190199

Farrer 190114

Winner & Answers will be announced via our Facebook page on 1st May 2022.

ENTRIES CLOSE 29/04/22