



## 2017 NEWSLETTER

### *Welcome*

Welcome to the 2017 Taljar newsletter. It has been an interesting 12 months to say the least for the stud. With current prices over the past 12 months it has been ideal to make the most of the dual purpose attributes that the Polwarth offers. We hope that the season has also been on the improvement for our clients as it sounds like it has been fairly wide spread dry start.

After being spoilt with last year's wet winter and spring 2017's Autumn and early winter period brought us back to earth with a thud. I think June was one of the driest I have experienced on KI since we moved here in 1955. Rain has finally got the season started so we hope it will continue for the foreseeable future.

Sheep feeding commenced Feb 2017 and lasted until June with the

sheep keeping condition better than many recent periods. Lambing is now finished and the work begins to raise and finish them. The sheep still managed 95% including maidens which given the season a good result we feel. The lambs have hit the ground running and look well even on short feed. They look very promising this year. The use of Stock Scan eye muscle measurement (measuring eye muscle depth, width and fat) the last 5 years has seen a rapid improvement in the type of lamb grown and faster growth rates.



### ***Sale Season***

The sale season was a prosperous one in 2016-17 & saw us finish the sale wether lambs on oaten stubble in January for Tops @ \$149.50c/ head with the 2nds sold \$122.50/ head a fortnight later.

Mixed age ewes sold locally again averaging \$135.00/ head, proving Polwarths are a popular sheep on KI for other graziers. Wool is selling well and our AAAM brought in 1063c per kg. Last year's good season meant that the ewes averaged 6kg fleece plus oddments.

It is one of the best times to be farming that I have seen in my 40 years.

### ***Showing Success***

This year we made our annual trip over to the Australian Sheep and Wool Show @ Bendigo. We always thoroughly enjoy this event as it is social as well as always a good learning curve for ways we can improve our sheep. In saying this the commercial aspect of the sheep is our number one focus, and will never forgo this for one persons opinion on the day. We were fortunate enough to come home with Reserve Junior Champion Ram with a Grandson of Tiny Tim and

Reserve Champion Ewe which was a three year old with a magnificent June drop lamb at foot.

Again there was drama on the way home whilst leaving Bendigo at 4pm in the afternoon to drive through the night to get to Cape Jervis and the ferry. It was looking like the ferry was not going to run due to inclement weather but we got on the 6am ferry which was the only one that ran for two days. The sheep were very pleased to be back in their paddock I can assure you!

Come and see us at the Royal Adelaide Show from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. We are very pleased with our show team which are 100% paddock reared so feel free to come and say Gday.





### ***Open Day***

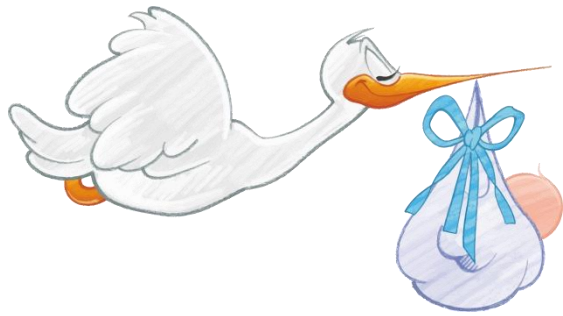
This year our annual open day will be held on Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup> with 50 Rams on offer; through an agent of your choice

Young rams at the time of writing (late July) look a picture. The season has not always been kind but they are still carrying beautiful, white crimped 20-23 micron wool with very competitive fleece measurements. New blood has been introduced to Taljar over the past eight years with the introduction of ewes from firstly Mount Alma, Bel-antha, Coree & Mnt Crawford studs. These bloodlines are being blended with our older families and so far results are looking very good and we are starting to use rams from these infusions. Meat scans carried out by stockscan in early March have excellent readings so there are some of the best dual purpose sheep we have raised in recent years with huge commercial flock improvement potential. These rams

have been put through their paces with 2x micron tests, wool weights, growth rate assessed and muscle scanned with only the best of the best offered for sale. They are a very even line up of rams with carcasses in all the right places. If you haven't seen the sheep before and would like to see if they have a fit for your enterprise please feel free to come along.

### ***8 MONTH SHEARING***

Talisa and Jocks commercial enterprise which is now running a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Polwarth flock with the property starting off with merino ewes then putting Polwarth rams over these. They are now majority F1 and F2 cross Polwarth sheep. They have been trialling shearing every 8 months in April, December & August and having great success with it. The ewes are cutting between 4-4.5 kg with considerably less pieces, with wool length between 75- 85mm and tensile strength between 42-55 Newtons. The ewes also maintain their condition score much better and are really doing well. Talisa's pure Polwarth Stud is now starting this trial as well.



### ***Newest Addition***

With Jared and Cherrie's Benjamin being 18 months old he finally has some cousinly companionship. Talisa and Jock welcomed Toby Vincent Kerr back on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. Both boys are yet to receive their stud tag ( I haven't yet found a tag to last the distance!!) Toby has already been very helpful throughout lamb marking and shearing so we are hopeful to have another sheep breeder in the making.

### ***Client Success***

We have fantastic feedback from clients in regards to having success with Polwarth sheep.

One client has mentioned that over the past two years since changing to the Polwarth he has had the most even and best ewe hoggets he has ever run.

One client has mentioned that this year his Polwarth x merino ewes lambed down at 153%. Every one that I have spoken to has had 100% and over lambing with their ewes put over Polwarth Rams.

One client received \$140 for their Polwarth lambs on hooks last December.

Another client received the most for their wool that they have ever before with the current exceptional prices. Their 20 micron wool went over 1100c.

It's these results that show that the Polwarth has a great place as a dual purpose sheep commercially to make you money from both wool and meat

