



willera merinos

willera.com.au

Willera Merinos, PO Box 27, Serpentine, Victoria 3517

WHATS HAPPENING WITHIN THE STUD IN 2023

After a terrific 2022 Ram selling season in all 3 facets of ram sales, auction rams, private selection rams and of course Classing Classic/ Stud rams we are confident that the rams we are producing are ticking the boxes for you the clients and for us within our commercial flocks. This year's sale rams display all the characteristics we pride ourselves on but with more consistency, stronger pedigree, and higher-ranking data. We internally have great confidence in the direction of our breeding, and we see it flow through our entire merino flock. With confidence in our breeding direction and consistency in our rams we have again increased our auction number to 183.

Most of you may know that we have been increasing early growth but setting a cap on adult weight, this years catalogue has seen a jump in weaning weight and post weaning weight whilst yearling and adult increments have not moved, the exact growth curve we are aiming for.

The challenge when increasing growth is to maintain our wool traits, which we have also achieved, wool cut, length and micron have not

been affected by the lift in growth, often heavy carcass, fast growing animals can increase micron and decrease wool cut but its something we are very conscious of.

After a record wet year across the eastern seaboard last year, people would be lying if they didn't see added pressure on feet, structure, wool colour, so post flood we decided to be really critical on the fundamentals of sheep breeding and fine tune and identify areas where we can improve, all in all our stock came through with flying colours, toenail structure, pasterns, shoulders and wool colour were all very good, in saying that though we have made a conscious decision to adopt and use some of the new breeding values such as Footrot resistance, Fleece rot and wool colour which you will see pop up in the 2023 drop.

Plenty of research is being carried out into the foot structure of merinos and therefore resistance to Footrot, unfortunately we were unable to participate last year but hope to this year, but you will see those numbers start to come through our system through linkage with outside rams we purchased last year.

Willera 210043 sold for \$24,000 at the Classings Classic ram sale in September 2022



Simon & Arishika Coutts

M: 0498 724 850

E: simoncoutts@live.com.au

Will & Kia Hooke

M: 0428 228 444

E: will.hooke1@gmail.com

Karl & Kate Hooke

M: 0412 006 736

E: karlhooke@gmail.com



Wallaloo Park
211075 purchased
for \$18,000 in
September 2022

2023 Events Calendar

JULY 14-16
Displaying at the
Australian Sheep &
Wool Show, Bendigo

JULY 28
Displaying at the
Victorian State
Merino Field Day,
Marnoo

AUGUST 6-7
Displaying at
Hamilton
Sheepvention

AUGUST 18
Willera Ram
Inspection Day
at "Wadalla"

SEPTEMBER 4
Classings Classic
Invitational
Ram Auction,
Murray Bridge, SA



2023 DROP STUDS

Lamb marking has recently finished with a pleasing 128% in the adult stud ewes, and as of mid July our stud ewe lambs will be in full swing lambing.

In the spring ram selling season we purchased 3 stud sires, 2 from Mumblebone and 1 from Wallaloo Park, all 3 rams from the same sire, Anderson 160729, who is renowned for his early growth, white well marked wools and nicknamed "the structure king".

These 3 rams along with our own stud sires were all mated to ewes with specific traits, 95% of our match making this year was to breed consistency and of course always have 5% there to try and breed some "bar raising" animals within industry.

Key breeding traits for our 2023 drop lambs

- Lower Micron (FD)
- Higher Weaning and Post Weaning Weights
- Capping Adult Weight
- Balancing Wool Cut with growth, culling or correcting very high growth animals who produce below average Wool cut
- Lifting Wool Cut and balancing breech traits and staple length
- Maintaining our carcass traits whilst lowering FD
- Selecting for WEC through linkage
- Using pedigree to fully eliminate scur and horns (wastage)
- Using Reproduction ASBV's such as conception and ewe rearability
- Fine tuning the fundamentals, feet, shoulders, hocks, wool colour, lock structure



AUGUST 2023 OPEN DAY AND AUCTION

We have moved the open day and ram auction to "Wadalla" 1072 Old Boort Rd, Bears Lagoon this year. We have all our 183 Auction Rams tethered for inspection on the 18th of August at 10am and Auction Day is the 25th, 10am Inspection for a 1 pm sale start.

Regards, Team Willera



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5th On-Property Sale



Willera 211112 sold for \$16,500 to the Ramsgate Stud

Friday, 25th August 2023

OFFERING 183 NON-MULESED, GENOMICS TESTED, POLL MERINO RAMS

Inspection from 10.00am - Auction 1.00pm

“Wadalla” 1072 Old Boort Road, Bears Lagoon, Victoria

Simon Coutts 0498 724 850 Will Hooke 0428 228 444 Karl Hooke 0412 006 736

Ram Inspection Day • Friday, 18th August • 10.00am-3.00pm

