

# Etiwanderings Winter 2014

## *Farm & Family*



It's been a while between newsletters – I have been tossing ideas around in my head for some time and finally sat today and got them down in print, my apologies for the gap between updates.

All is well at Etiwanda; we are having an average season weatherwise. We have finished joining the ewes and have got the sheep back into one mob. We now have a lot of country shut up resting and recovering from being grazed. Another rain and a bit of warmer weather will see the country jump away. We have unloaded a fair amount of stock in the recent weeks. We sold lambs to Forbes; rangeland ready lambs topped at \$130 (grass finished) & averaged well over \$100 – work out the profit margin on these lambs. We trucked the steer portion of some trade cattle we purchased to Orange to grow out and finish these will also be grass finished under PCAS (pasture certification) accreditation. We also transported 300 PTIL ewes to a new client starting up and we have sold good numbers of commercial rams that are heading out to work hard for our clients.

The family were all together at Etiwanda for 3 ½ weeks over the school holidays, which was just great. We had a long list of jobs to do and we got through most of them! We lamb marked and moved sheep to new feed and started walking the cattle back to Etiwanda for weaning. We checked and replaced the EID's (electronic eartags) in all the stud sheep and did 4 ½kms of fencing. This fencing was the final part of the Etiwanda boundary that needed a new hingejoint fence. Some 50kms of hingejoint later we are finished the entire boundary – it is a nice achievement to have under our belt!!

Early in the holidays we travelled to Dubbo to The Red Angus National Show and Sale and purchased Tullatoola Redman H121 to join to the Etiwanda heifers. Redman is from a long line of easy calving genetics, he is superbly quiet and well-muscled young bull. He has a wonderful set of balanced figures – moderate growth, well above average muscle, positive fat & easy calving – just the ticket for our rangeland production system and pasture finishing. Andrew is toying with the idea of selling Rangeland Ready bulls, as we see a need for that type of breeding bull out in Western NSW. If you think you might be interested in Rangeland Ready bulls we would be keen to hear about your requirements.



**We paid \$9000.00 for Tullatoola Redman H121 at the Red Angus National.**

We are also busy planning more development of Etiwanda, which involves raking and cultivating new country to encourage the return of native perennial grasses. We are also designing more internal fencing to control total grazing pressure. If we could just arrange a 30hr day, we might just get it all done!

Since our last newsletter Andrew has been voted onto the Western Local Land Services board by the local ratepayers and he is knee deep in that new position and all it involves.



## ***Etiwanda White Dorpers rams & ewes are off to China!***

We are at the pointy end of exporting White Dorpers to China as part of a combined export order being co-ordinated by Elders. 100 rams and 200 ewes have been selected at Etiwanda, shorn and bloodtested. The shearing is (unfortunately!) a required part of the export process. As you are no doubt well aware we have made it a policy to breed White Dorpers that never need shearing, and a day and a bit on the board with the shearer shearing these export sheep reminded me how much we don't miss shearing!!

# *Etiwanda White Dorpers Spring Sale!*

- **September 25<sup>th</sup> On Property at Etiwanda**
- **80 Rangeland Ready White Dorper Rams**
- **Performance Recorded**
- **Independently Classed**
- **Never Hoof trimmed, Grain fed or Shorn**
- **Rangeland Ready to go!**



***Buy your rams from someone who breeds them like they ought to!***



## Keeping the focus.....for nearly two decades,

Etiwanda White Dorpers has been beating the same old Rangeland Ready Drum. From the very inception of our stud we have been clear about our direction and we have never changed our focus. Our focus has always been to help farmers put profitability back into their business. Agriculture that is not profitable will never be sustainable!

While the status quo White Dorper seed stock producers have been focused on show rings, increasing weaning weights and other production traits, Etiwanda White Dorpers has remained focused on what is best for commercial clients. We were the first stud in Australia to create a Rangeland Ready approach in the White Dorper Industry and are proud of our determination to go against the grain. Other studs may claim to be “grass-fed” or “paddock raised” – but do they have the thought process, environment, record keeping and Lambplan data to back up their claims?? We very much doubt it!

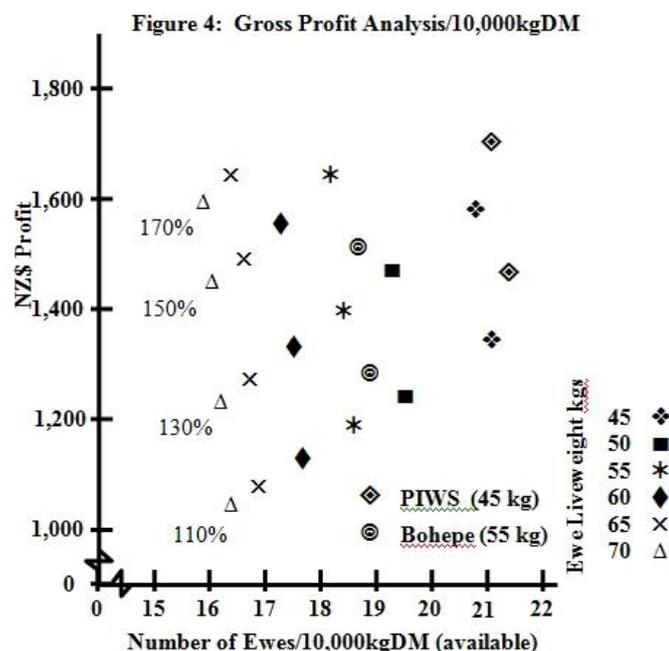
A condensed version of the thoughts behind the Etiwanda White Dorper Rangeland Ready breeding philosophies are below. These philosophies are designed to ensure that our clients operations are highly profitable. You will have read this before on our website or in our newsletters- but it is exactly what we believe and exactly what needs to be said – so here it is in print again.

### The Philosophies behind Etiwanda Rangeland Ready Animals,

1. We use Lambplan to provide practical information on the genetic potential of our animals & monitor our breeding program - objectively.
2. We will manage the natural resources placed under our control in a regenerative manner.
3. Sheep are run in a real-world environment, as tough as or tougher than the environment most commercial ewes are run in.
4. We let the environment sort out the profitable ones; we show no sympathy for empty or dry ewes.
5. A ewe must produce and wean at least one lamb every year to remain in the flock.
6. By running the animals extensively we apply sufficient pressure on the ewe flock to force out the unadapted and infertile animals.
7. In addition to growth and performance, we select for other vital economic traits like fertility, lambing ease, moderate ewe size, muscling ability, structural correctness, disposition and longevity.
8. Replacement ewes are developed on a low-cost, rangeland based diet with minimum supplements. We only want the most efficient and most adapted ewes to make it into the breeding flock.
9. A ram lamb must be born unassisted to make it into one of our ram sales.
10. Our honesty & integrity will not be compromised.

**Optimum** production is always much more profitable than maximum production. Bigger is **not** always better. Optimum production is the point at which net profits are maximized. Profit is what we really want to maximize. We need to focus on profit per ha not per animal - two very different things! With nearly a decade of benchmarking data under our belt we have been able to increase our Gross Margin/Ha/100mm by 2.5 times - not a bad result for tough country out west. There was a very interesting article in the July 2013 edition of the Acres magazine by John King looking at the profit from different sheep production systems in New Zealand. They looked at the profit of different sized ewes from 45 kg – 70 kg at different reproductive rates 110 % -170%. The interesting point was that the highest profit came from 45 kg ewes at 130% lambing out performing 70 kg ewes at 170% lambing. We will touch on this more in the future.

**Animals Fit Their Environment.** To achieve optimum production farmers must produce animals that fit their environment, instead of feeding harvested and purchased feed to keep stock that don't fit their environment in production. This very quickly takes most of the profit out of farming. **Etiwanda White Dorpers** breed animal's that can make the most efficient use of available resources with minimal inputs. **The animals ought to be supporting the business, instead of the business supporting the animals!**



## ***Etiwanda Outback E5195 – semen being collected.... again!***

Outback is an appealing, big capacity ram, with an excellent clean shedding coat type. This ram was selected as a Type 5 sire by Daan Bosman. He is superb on his feet and legs; he has never been hoof trimmed and stands up square and straight. Correct feet and leg structure is something desperately needed in the White Dorpers worldwide and this ram has the goods! Outback is tested Dermatosparaxis negative and is performance recorded on Lambplan. Link to Lambplan ASBV info - [Click here](#)

\$27.50/dose – semen being collected.



If you would like semen from this ram please let us know as he is heading to the AI centre soon.

## ***Client testimonial***

*“It was great to visit Etiwanda and see Outback working in the bush with his large group of ewes. At 5yr. old his feet and legs look very good. Gossamer Downs 110422 also looked very good in feet and legs and impressive PEMD.”*

**Boyd & Ane Young**

**Ratapiko Dorpers**

**NEW ZEALAND**

<http://ratapikodorpers.co.nz/>

## ***What a Photo!*** Megan & our good

friend Kerrilie were out driving around late one afternoon and came across a little group of lambs playing on the road, as they do just as the sun sets – what a cracker of a shot Kerrilie snapped!! We are a bit concerned that there may be a bit of Springbok in this lamb!! Obviously feeling pretty fit and nimble! Can't wait to catch that one at lambmarking!



Well that's about all we can think of for now, we hope you have enjoyed the catch up. We would love to see you at our sale as a visitor or a purchaser – either way we would love to have you at Etiwanda!

*With best wishes Andrew, Megan, Emily & Jess Mosely*

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