



# Nerstane Merino News

January 2006

The latest information on Nerstane Merino Stud's Proven Results and Performance



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**“Outstanding results in Sydney, Dubbo, South Australia and Armidale... but the most important results to Nerstane are the ones our clients see in their own paddocks”**

... said Nerstane principal John McLaren when recently discussing the outstanding year of success that Nerstane Merino Stud experienced during 2005, with Supreme Merino at Sydney's

Royal Easter Show (above), winning the Elders National Fleece Competition, outstanding sales results at the Armidale Housed Sale, and Dubbo National Show and Sale 2005. More importantly, however, Nerstane

sires have been leading the field in many traits in Central Test Sire Evaluations.

*(continued next page)*

***Pictured Above: JOHN McLAREN HOLDING THE 2005 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW SUPREME MERINO EXHIBIT N0301039***

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Nerstane's success at the 2005 Sydney Royal Easter Show was heightened by the fact no two-tooth ewe had ever won before in the Show's history.

N031039 was the ewe who was a daughter of Nerstane's leading sire, N43, and was judged Supreme Merino of the Walcha Show just three weeks before Sydney.

This ewe was described as "faultless" by one of the Sydney judges. Her magnificent outlook and size along with her extraordinary staple length means that she will be a definite candidate for Nerstane's Embryo Transfer (ET) program in future years.



Above: (FROM LEFT) JOHN McLAREN, ELDERS MERINO SPECIALIST BILL MILLDREN, BUYER CRAIG TRICKEY AND STUD OVERSEER SHANE RULE HOLDING N808 THE RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION SALE RAM AT DUBBO WHICH SOLD FOR \$12000

## "We didn't even go to Dubbo looking to buy a Nerstane ram"

... but they went home with Nerstane's Reserve Grand Champion ram, selling for \$12,000!

Nerstane again found itself in an outstanding industry position at the 2005 Dubbo National Show and Sale, selling three rams for an average of \$5500.

Leading the team was N808, who won Reserve Grand Champion sale ram of the show. Purchaser Craig Trickey, of Willowvale, Victoria commented that "we didn't even go to Dubbo looking to buy a Nerstane ram. As a commercial breeder, we need a sheep first, before we go looking at figures.

This ram was exactly that, being the second heaviest in the whole shed (138 kgs). In saying that, if I wanted to write some figures down for a sire, Nerstane 808's couldn't have been better." (18.4 micron, 2.7 SD, 99.9% CF)

**"Bywell has used Nerstane semen and sale rams for the past 5 years as part of our breeding program. The genetics we have used have proven to be a successful cross for superfine ewes. We have found with Nerstane that what you see in the ram, you get in the progeny... good frames, excellent conformation and structure with bright stylish wool."**

**Tim & Ted Fenwicke  
Bywell, Walcha NSW**

\* **Brian Bowman, Shingle Hut, Dunedoo, NSW, comments about the results of using Nerstane sires.**

\* "We have had a policy over the past 15 years of not jetting our sheep and so when we changed to Nerstane approx. six years ago, we found a stud who had been selecting sheep for fly resistance and therefore no fleece rot. It had also been a policy on Shingle Hut for 10-12 years to minimise and eventually eradicate drenching sheep over 12 months of age unless they really needed it, and Nerstane once again fitted the bill with sheep that had been monitored for worm resistance."



Above: (FROM LEFT) BUYERS ANDREW AND CATE WHITE, HAVILAH NORTH MERINO STUD, MUDGEE, WITH JOHN McLAREN AND JOCK McLAREN HOLDING N863 WHICH SOLD FOR \$3,500 AT DUBBO

N808 will be used over 40 specially selected ewes and progeny tested before going into a huge AI program. "We also breed our own first-cross ewes and we need sheep with size and doing ability."



# Commercial credibility of Nerstane wool demonstrated in Elders fleece competition

**Pictured right: JOCK McLAREN (ON RIGHT) IS PRESENTED WITH SUPREME CHAMPION TROPHIES BY TOM HENRY, ELDERS PREMIER**

Nerstane Merino stud took out the Supreme Champion crown in the prestigious Elders National Fleece Competition 2005, held in South Australia during March.

The fleece was shorn from one of Nerstane's leading sires, N949, who was Grand Champion fine wool ram at Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2002.

Test results confirmed his show successes with a skirted fleece weight of 8.6 kg, 17.4 micron, 2.6 SD, and 99.9%CF while having a staple length of 135mm.

Hundreds of entries were received from every state in

Australia for the 2005 competition, which again was held with the purpose of awarding businesses who maintain a strong sense of commercial reality throughout their breeding and stock programs. The focus of the competition is on providing real wool for real markets.



***"Our wool has become finer and softer and we have maintained our body weight and cut per head when shearing.***

***I am very satisfied that Nerstane has been a positive influence on my sheep breeding program."***

**Brian Bowman**  
Shingle Hut, Dunedoo NSW

## Nerstane genetics are hard at work improving flocks around the country

Len Matthews, Borambil Merino Stud, Balldale, NSW, comments about the results of using Nerstane sires.

*"After shearing and classing in 1996, I felt our stud needed to soften the wool and skin also our sheep were lacking heart room. Whilst these factors were in our mind I was following Central Test Sire Evaluation results and noticed the Nerstane Merino Stud performing outstandingly.*

*In 1998 we purchased four Nerstane stud rams to join to our Roseville Park blood ewes. The results from this cross have been very pleasing to say the least. The wool cut has increased by half a kilo and the micron has stabilised at 19.5 to 20, depending on the*

*season. We now average 7.5 kg from our ewes and weaners while the shape and doing ability is very good.*

*Reports we are getting back from clients are that lambing percentages have increased by 10-15%. We have also found this in our sheep as well.*

*On property ram sales at Borambil over the last four years have been improving each year with 2005 being our most successful. In September we offered 102 rams 16 months old, and had a total averaging \$1112.*

*We are looking forward to 2006 when lambs by our recent Nerstane sires that we purchased are on the ground. Two of these sires are by Nerstane 43, one of which was Champion Fine Wool ram at Armidale sale and was bought for \$12,000." (right).*



**Above: PURCHASER LEN MATTHEWS, BORAMBIL MERINO STUD, BALDDALE WITH JOHN McLAREN, HOLDING N412 WHO WAS CHAMPION FINE WOOL RAM AT ARMIDALE SALE AND SOLD FOR \$12,000**



# Another reason why you should visit Nerstane's On-Property Sale this year...

As you may be aware, Sheep Genetics Australia (SGA) have launched their MERINOSELECT database with the introduction of Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs).

Nerstane won't change anything this year, except we will put another pen card (with ASBVs) above each ram so that clients can compare the different figures. The Nerstane team is excited about MERINOSELECT as hopefully it will provide the merino industry with one common language and tool in identifying elite animals.

In general terms, ASBVs are very similar to the EPVs that Nerstane have been using for many years. ASBVs are also designed to estimate the genetic potential of individual animals. There will be workshops held around the country and Nerstane hopes to hold one of these before the next ram selling season. We will keep you informed.

The ASBVs are published with accuracies. The higher the percentage, the closer the ASBV is to the true breeding value of the animal.

Nerstane has some of the most accurate ASBVs in the database (of over 900,000 animals) with many sires being over 90% accurate!

This means for you, our ram client, that you have another risk management tool in place as the higher the accuracy, the less risk of that animal breeding something untoward.

Still to this day, the two main profit drivers in the wool market are fleece weight and micron. You can see in the two graphs below that Nerstane is in a superior position in comparison to the rest of the merino industry.



**John and Jane McLaren**  
Nerstane Merino Stud  
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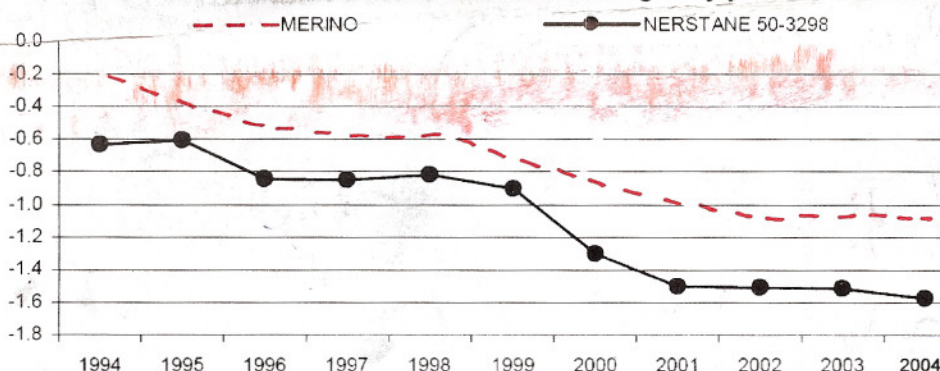
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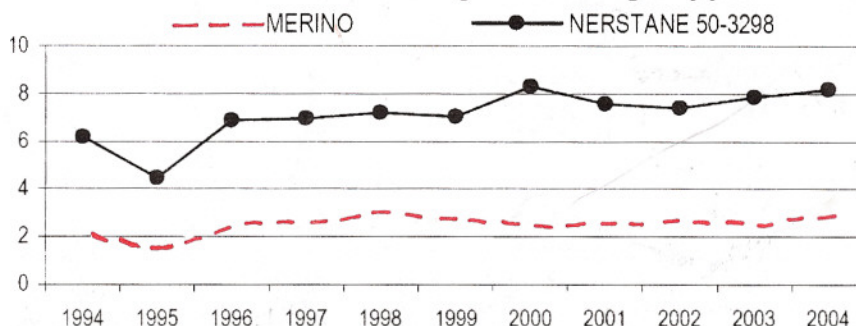
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