



# Nerstane Merino News

December 2008

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

## True evenness of the Nerstane bloodline comes through



HAMISH MCLAREN, JOCK MCLAREN, JOHN NEWSOME (ELDERS STUDSTOCK SPECIALIST), JOHN MCLAREN AND SHANE RULE HOLDING THE WINNING STONEHAVEN CUP TEAM OF THE SYDNEY ROYAL 2008

After years of watching and admiring John Williams from Koonwarra take out the coveted award many times over, Nerstane was finally and unanimously awarded The Stonehaven Cup at The Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2008. The award for the best pen of five

## 2008 Sydney Show success only half the picture for Nerstane

This year was an extremely successful one for Nerstane Merino Stud at the Sydney Royal Easter Show with Nerstane winning 12 broad ribbons in total, including the Stonehaven Cup (pictured above), Best Ewe of Show, the Inaugural Pair of the Year (best ram and ewe) and Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram. Nerstane also won the production class with N57, who cut 15.8kg of 17.7microns in front of the crowd.

Although these awards are very satisfying for the Nerstane team, we are

always conscious of the fact that our animals need to look good AND produce commercial benefits for businesses. With the state of current wool industry prices and economic conditions in general, real results from Nerstane animals are required now more than ever.

The success has been due to a mixture of genetics, a strong history of performance recording, improvements over time, plenty of hard work..... and the support of those who choose to use Nerstane genetics in their enterprises.

merino sheep (3 rams and 2 ewes) is the ribbon that has eluded the Nerstane team in the past, so winning it this time made it all the more special.

The Cup is so desirable to win because, as everyone in the industry knows, it is extremely difficult to breed five animals that are all the same in terms of confirmation, wool type and evenness... let alone to make sure that each of these traits rates well at the same time!

The Nerstane team are so pleased because winning the award means we're a long way towards achieving confirmation, consistency and evenness throughout the Nerstane bloodline: qualities that our clients' animals will also benefit from.

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Friday 30 January 2009

## Winning ram for sale in Armidale NSW

Nerstane is going to offer N57 at the Armidale housed sale in February 2009. This is the ram that Nerstane won the production class in Sydney with, cutting 15.8kgs of 17.7microns. He was also a member of Nerstane's Stonehaven Cup team. N57 is a full brother to our successful semen sire N222.

Nerstane will be retaining 100% semen rights in this potential sire as Nerstane will be entering him in a Central Test Sire Evaluation.

## Merinos still excellent potential money makers for your business

So much of the feedback recently is that many people are getting out of merino sheep and turning to cattle or cropping. We're not going to bury our heads in the sand - this is the reality, and it's a trend that we won't ignore. Nevertheless.... we don't think it's the right thing to be doing!

We also think that the very near future is going to be a difficult period for everyone.

However there are some very encouraging points on why merinos are going to be a positive influence on your business in the future:

1. The lack of number of merinos is, and already has, had an effect on quality wool supply. When demand does pick up (and it will), the lack of supply could have a significant effect. *(Continued on Page 3)...*

## Demand for Nerstane rams at Dubbo remains strong

Nerstane had another very successful sale at the Dubbo National Sale selling two stud rams for an average of \$10,500.

Ian and Kathy Ross from near Balmoral in south west VIC bought a full brother to N10 for \$5000. Ian and Kathy are looking to increase staple length and brighten their wool by using Nerstane genetics.

Rodger and Kim Mathews from the Borambil Merino Stud at Balldale, eastern Riverina, NSW, purchased N34 for \$14,000. Rodger and Kim are long-term buyers of Nerstane genetics, and they recently averaged \$1,100 for 110 rams at their 2008 spring sale.

N 34 was by N409 and out of Nerstane's first Sydney Supreme ewe N888. He was massive and weighed in at 144 kg.



JOCK MCLAREN HOLDING N34 WHO WAS PURCHASED BY RODGER AND KIM MATHEWS OF BORAMBIL MERINO STUD FOR \$14,000 AT DUBBO NATIONAL 2008

## Nerstane still leads 51 teams in Craig Wilson commercial wether trial

The emphasis that Nerstane places on our animals looking good AND performing in the paddock is certainly evident in the results of our participation in the commercial wether trial held at Peak Hill in Western NSW.

In the trial, the sheep receive the same access to feed, treatment and vet medicines. They run as a flock in the same climatic conditions and all sheep are valued on the basis of wool cut and carcass.

There is now two years worth of data from the trial, and, on a combination of the two years of results, Nerstane still leads the 51 teams.

A new trial at Taralga, NSW, has also recently begun. The results of this new trial will be particularly valuable because it only includes clients' sheep. No studs are allowed to be included. This will mean that the ability of a stud to produce consistent results for their clients will really be put to the test.

Nerstane will be represented in the 2009 trial by Kerawah Pastoral Co., Coolah, NSW. Kerawah have been buying above average rams at Nerstane since 2000, with the most recent years' purchases at the Nerstane on-property sale.

The first shearing in the Taralga trial is in March 09, and the results will be available soon after.

Nerstane will keep you posted.

(Continued from Page 2)...

2. Merinos grow wool all year round therefore supplying some income unlike a failed crop or a dry cow.
3. The merino ewe is still the backbone to any crossbreeding enterprise
4. There is definitely a trend towards natural products in general and this will continue into the future. 2009 is the year of the natural fibre.

SHANE RULE HOLDING N10 WHO WAS JUDGED GRAND CHAMPION FINE WOOL RAM AT THE SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2008. N10 WAS ALSO CHAMPION SHORT WOOL RAM AT DUBBO IN 2007, THE LEAD RAM IN NERSTANE'S WINNING STONEHAVEN CUP TEAM AND NERSTANE'S RAM IN THE INAGURAL PAIR OF THE YEAR



## Nerstane rams perform outstandingly in Central Test trials around Australia

The latest figures from Central Test sites are yet more proof that Nerstane animals can 'put their money where their mouth is' in terms of performance and results.

These trials are valuable because they demonstrate how the progeny of different rams perform in different environments. All trial progeny are born and run together under the same conditions all their life.

The result is that growers can see how Nerstane genetics perform in a range of areas (varying climates and rainfall), and this will assist in making the best business decision when it comes to choosing suitable animals.

In the WA Yardstick trial, N409 topped the graph for indexes and nearly topped the graph for tops to culls ratio.

In the NSW New England trial, N933 performed extremely well. While not having the fleeceweights of his highly

proven father, N43, (who was link sire in the same trial) N933's progeny were as good on index because of his high bodyweights, low FEC, and very low CV.

In the Tasmanian trial, N4636 was the youngest ram to start to show his true colours. N4636 was the ram that cut 16.1 kg of 18.7 microns in the production class at Dubbo last year. His progeny were by far the heaviest for GFW, the second heaviest for body weight, and also excellent performers in tops to culls ratio.

## ... and we can't forget the girls' achievements

Included in our very successful 2008 Sydney show team was Nerstane's two fine/medium ewes, which are pictured on the back page receiving Champion and Reserve champion ribbons from Judge Peter Hughes from the Gullendah stud.

The ewes then went on to be Grand Champion and Reserve Grand

## Nerstane blood ewe breaks world record

At the Severn Park merino stud ewe dispersal sale, a ewe sired by Nerstane 78 broke the all time price record for a merino ewe... making an extraordinary figure of \$8,600. The sale was an enormous success, with the whole sale averaging \$432 for each ewe. The 16 N78 daughters offered averaged \$2,212 each.

*View the results of the Central Test trials for yourself here:*

[www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au](http://www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au)

Champion. N984 (held by Jock in the photo on the back page), was also best junior sheep of the show and then went on to be unanimously judged the best ewe of the show.

N984 is a full sister to current sire N4636.

*(See photo on back page)*

# A few thoughts on the coming year...

No one can dispute that it's difficult to always stay optimistic and future-focussed at the moment. World markets are doing just about as well as the wool market and, put simply, things are tough.

However, maybe now is the time to view a ram investment the same way we'd view a stock market investment: quality stocks can be going cheap so it's a sensible time to get bargains that will perform for you in the long term.

The Nerstane team has again completed an extensive ET program in 2007, which has been very successful in making rapid

flock gains for clients. Although it's an expensive exercise, we are sure it is worth it. It means that we are always confident that we can supply our clients with superior genetics.

The rams for the 2009 sale will be catalogued in early January and so far they look exceptional.

We will endeavour to put a few more numbers up on the day, but only if they meet our standards. The Nerstane team looks forward to seeing you at the sale. This could be the year to replace your older rams with quality younger stock.



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(Continued from Page 3) JOCK MCLAREN HOLDS N984 WHO WAS JUDGED BEST EWE OF THE SHOW AND HAMISH MCLAREN HOLDS RESERVE CHAMPION AT SYDNEY ROYAL 2008

WE WISH YOU ALL  
THE BEST FOR A  
SUCCESSFUL 2009  
- FROM THE  
MCLAREN FAMILY

## Why Nerstane genetics will make a difference to your business

Nerstane is one of the only studs that endeavours to benchmark ourselves against the rest of the industry in every possible way. We enter our genetics in Central Test Sire Evaluations, the show ring, wether trials and fleece competitions. We do this so that you, our clients, can buy Nerstane genetics with confidence and know that you have maximised the profitability for your breeding enterprise. Rest assured that we want to see you make money and do well in 2009 just as much as you do!

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