

A large flock of sheep, likely Merinos, is gathered in a dry, open field. The sheep are densely packed, filling most of the frame. They have thick, greyish-brown wool. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky. The overall scene is a pastoral landscape.

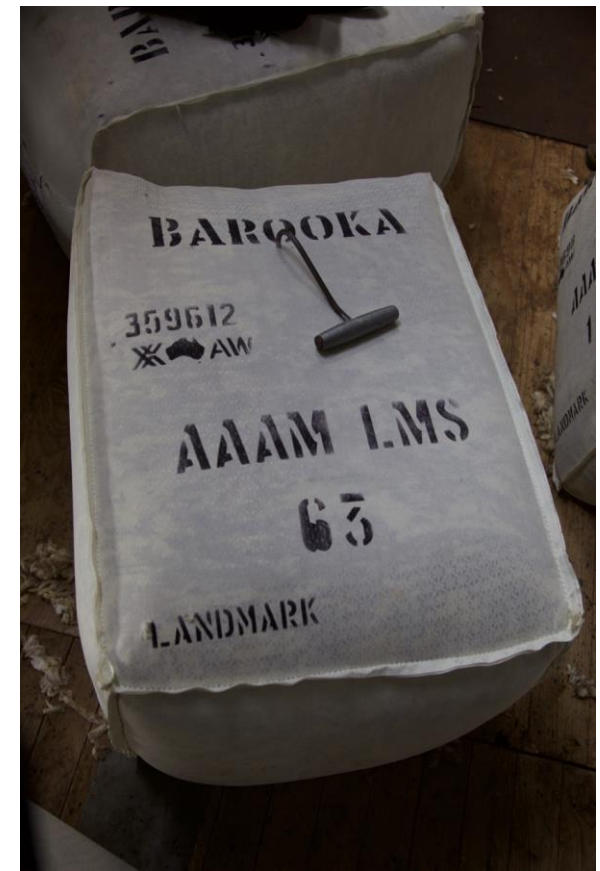
The Goode Sheep

Merinos for the future

Henry Goode

Property - *Barooka*

- Approx 2800 hectares
- Mt Benson region
- Dad & Myself work on farm, brother Tom occasional
- 5600 breeding ewes
- 2000 mated ewe lambs
- 350 shorthorn cow herd
- 210ha centre pivot irrigation
 - Lucerne for grazing
 - 40ha Leased to potato grower



Sheep overview

- Recently moved from 50% merino 50% first cross prime lambs
- To 100% self-replacing merino operation
- Glendemar MPM (Multi-Purpose Merinos) genetics for 15 years
 - Very plain bodied easy-care sheep
 - Adult sheep average 18-20 micron
 - Ewe size 60kg at CS3

Sheep overview

- Found a progressive stud with aims that suit us
- Buy rams each year
- Breed own rams from small nucleus flock as not economical to buy all ram replacements
- Hogget's classed off-shears in November bare shorn
- Currently averaging 100% lambing to ewes mated
- Through fine-tuned nutrition and management, plan to increase to 120% and beyond

Genetics – ASBV's

- Fat (YFAT)
 - **Ewe fertility, lamb survival**, ability to cope with **tough times**
- Eye Muscle Depth (PEMD)
 - Improved **carcase shape, dressing %, ewe reproduction**
- Growth (PWT)
 - **Fast lamb turnoff** and ability to **mate ewe lambs**
- Staple Length (YSL), Clean Fleece Weight (CFW)
 - **Free growing, bold crimping, white wool**

14 month old ewe hogget



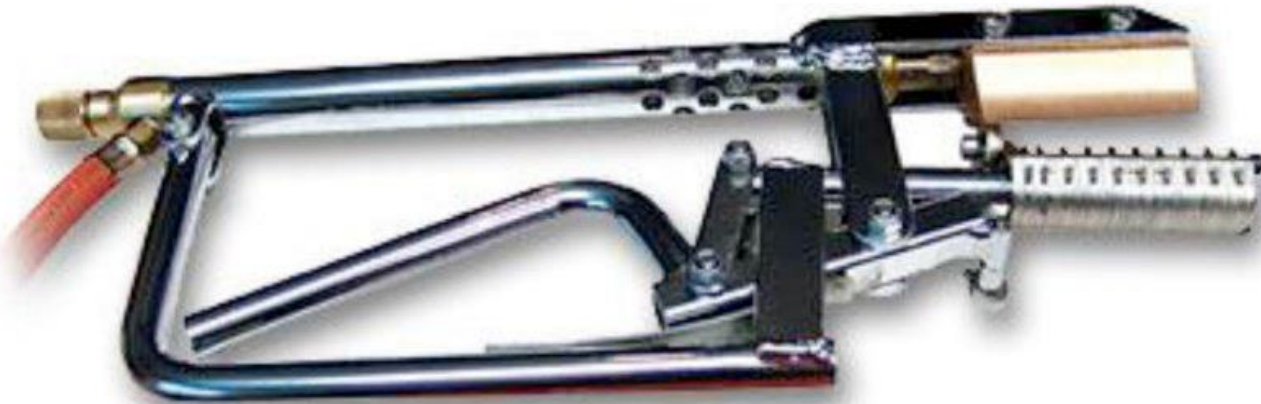
No mulesing

- No mulesing for 10 years
- Result of classing for thin skins, no wrinkle, clean points and bare breech
- Free growing, soft, white wool followed because of this



No mulesing

- Te pari docking iron used for 10 years
- Rotating anvil stretches wool during docking
- End of tail heals with bare skin rather than wool
- Prevents dags forming on end of tail
 - Reduce tail strike



Modern merinos

- Since beginning with Glendemar genetics
 - Reduced ewe frame, weight by 10kg
 - Easier handling and shearing ewes
 - Reduced micron by 5 micron
 - Increased wool length by 20%
 - Faster growing, robust lambs with carcass that would rival some XB's
 - Near non-existent body and tail strike
 - Less chemicals and labour
 - No mulesing or jetting
 - Sacrificed wool cut by 10%

Joining ewes

- Ewes managed using LTEM principles
- Join in mostly large mobs 1000+
- Lupin/Lucerne flushing
- Teasers for 2 weeks to induce ram effect
- 5 week joining



Labour saving and accurate feeding



Lambing

- Preg-scan for twins/singles at day 90
- Main lambing 15th June
- Pushed out 2 weeks later this year
- Twin ewes
 - **preferentially feed** to increase birthweights and CS
 - Lamb down in **mobs 150 or less**
 - Allocate **best paddocks** for feed on offer (FOO) and shelter
 - Ideally 1500-2000kgDM/ha

Lambing

- Single ewes
 - Maintain **CS 3** until lambing
 - Lamb down in mobs **no more than 250**
 - 800+kgDM/ha
- Wet and dry ewes at marking
 - **Drys sold** after shearing



Weaning



- Lambs are weaned at **8-12 weeks** old
 - Usually average approx. **25kg liveweight**
 - Run in large mobs on irrigated and dryland lucerne, cocksfoot, phalaris mixes
- Wether lambs turned off from 6 to 10 months old, 21kg/cw sold into the trade

2017 Ewe lambs

- Ewe lambs run on dry-land
Lucerne all summer
- Were weighed at 8 months old
 - 15% drafted off (lambs below 45Kg)
 - The main mob averaged **54kg lw**
 - Estimated 15kg heavier than at same time than previous years



2017 Ewe lambs

- Teased for 2 weeks
- Lambs joined at 8 months old
- Rams in at 5% for 5 week joining still running on Lucerne



6 month shearing

- Began 6 month shearing in 2015
- Were being discounted for overgrown wool, around 120mm+
- Now shear May, November



Benefits 6 month shearing

- Tensile strength increased from 25 Newtons to around 60 Newtons
 - Eliminated tender wool
- Cutting 60-70mm each shearing
 - Ewes cut approx 3kg 6 monthly
 - Better meeting market for length specifications
- Increased amount of fleece wool by 10%
- Less skirtings



Benefits 6 month shearing



- Now crutch on average 10% of flock pre-shearing
- Spend same amount of time in shed because of minimal crutching
- Sheep 'do better' and are easier to manage
- Hope ewes find better shelter to lamb in
- 3 processors trying to source our un-mulesed wool

Future goals

- Wean 120% lambs from ewes mated
- Cut 4kg wool every 6 months
- Cut 90mm of wool every 6 months in 10 years time
- Turn off all wether lambs by 9 months at 24kg/cw
- Implement RFID tags throughout flock
- Receive individual carcass feedback from abattoirs including individual grading
- Continue to produce ethically treated and sustainable products for the consumers







Thank you