Hannaton Merinos

Celebrating our Centenary in 2019

Jonno & Edwina and Peter & Sally invite you to attend

Hannaton's 35th Annual On Property Ram Sale

Monday 9th September 2019

Offering 100 Poll Merino and 30 Merino Rams

Inspection 10:30 am - Sale 1:00 pm

For catalogue & sale details visit our website

www.hannaton.com.au

Online catalogue including MerinoSelect ASBVs available on the 19th of August

Johnes Disease Monitored Neg3 (MN3) & Gudair Vacc - SA Entry Eligible

Private selection rams available after the sale day by appointment.

Elders

Selling Agents: Elders
5% rebate for outside agents

Ross Milne	0408 057 558	*Stud Stock Victoria*
Andrew Combe	0428 258 182	*Wool Account Manager*
Andrew Adamson	0427 794 369	*Agent Horsham*
Nick Rogers	0409 690 734	*District Wool Manager*

39 Kaniva-Edenhope Rd, Kaniva VIC

Jonno Hicks | **Phone:** 0428 922 366 | **Email:** jonno@hannaton.com.au

What's New at Hannaton Merinos?

Greetings and welcome to our 2019 newsletter.

Its been an exciting 12 months here at Hannaton with a couple of new additions to the team. On Boxing Day last year Jonno and Edwina welcomed a beautiful baby girl Jemima. She has already been feeding and droving sheep, and Jonno thinks she has already taken a liking to them, although she slept through most of it.

In February this year we were able to purchase a grazing block 18 km south of us at Lemon Springs. We are very excited about its potential and expanding our commercial Merino flock in what has been such a positive year for sheep and wool. With record lamb and mutton prices set across Australia, and a strong forecast for the off shears selling season ahead, it's an exciting time.

Hannaton genetics have once again had a fantastic 12 months. Ourselves, and our clients, have topped Auctions Plus and off shear sales, again won wether trials, topped wool sales and had great prices over the hooks for wether lambs. Such great results commercially for both wool and meat show the real value of a balanced breeding approach which is focussed on the bottom line. We take great pride in these results and it continues to drive us to improve our genetics every year.

2018 On Property Ram Sale

With strong demand and interest in Hannaton genetics we increased our offering by 20 rams to our largest ever sale team of 130 rams. The evenness of the sale was reflected in the strong bidding from start to finish with 44 registered buyers from 3 states competing and taking home 116 rams at auction.

The top price was $5,750 which was achieved twice for two Poll Merino rams.

The sale average of $2,288 saw strong bidding from ram breeders at the top end of the market and great value for flock buyers as well. One third of the rams sold on the day were at $1,500 or below showing good commercial value for buyers.

The great 2018 on property sale was then followed by our strongest private selection season ever. We were delighted with the 2018 result and thank all our loyal clients for their continued support.

Hamilton Sheepventon 2019

Hannaton's 2019 Sheepvention Sale Team

We were very proud of this years Hamilton Sheepvention sale team and the excellent feedback we received from clients and others inspecting the rams.

All 5 rams had that renowned Hannaton quality wool and excellent figures to back them up as well. All 5 rams were ASBV trait leaders for fleece weight with long stapled white wools. The stand out from the team was our first ram, Lot 171, which measured in the top 1% of all sheep in Merino Select for wool cut and was also in the top 5% for yearling weight. A super productive ram which topped our sale at $5,500.

We sold all 5 rams offered to a great average of $3,800. We would like to thank all our buyers and under bidders for their continued support.

2019 Victorian State Merino Field Day

On Friday the 23rd of August we will be displaying rams at the Victorian State Merino Field day in Marnoo. Running from 10:00 am till 4:00 pm at the Marnoo showgrounds with trade displays and $4,000 in gate prizes to be won, it should be a great day.

We will have a team of young sires on display and some of the most exciting genetics we have ever produced, with great visual attributes and fantastic figures as well. The ASBV's for three of our top young sires are listed below. Call in for a look at the next generation of Hannaton rams.

VICTORIAN STATE MERINO FIELD DAY

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	ACFW	YFD	YSL	POLL	FP	MP	DP
180045	5.7	4.0	-0.1	-0.7	37.3	31.8	-0.6	9.4	PP	148	167	142
ACCURACY	73%	65%	66%	61%	62%	62%	76%	67%		35%	32%	27%
180132	10.6	10.6	0.6	0.8	24.7	21.9	-0.4	12.2	PH	140	161	158
ACCURACY	73%	65%	67%	62%	61%	60%	73%	64%		33%	31%	27%
180386	8.0	6.6	0.3	0.1	36.7	31.7	-0.6	12.4	PP	142	167	150
ACCURACY	70%	62%	64%	59%	59%	58%	73%	65%		32%	30%	26%

Top	20%	10%	5%	1%

Celebrating 100 Years

This year we celebrate our 100th year as a registered stud, and we were honoured to be recognised in the Victorian Stud Merino Breeders Annual Magazine with the following article.

Hannaton Merinos in Kaniva celebrates its centenary this year. Established in 1919 by John Hicks with the purchase of Barunah Plains ewes and a Bundemar ram. John's son Dick took over the stud in 1925. Dick was a renowned judge of sheep and horses and officiated in this capacity in all major Australasian shows and judged at Sydney Royal regularly. The stud remained a significant Bundemar daughter stud until Dick's death in 1970, when the management was taken over by his nephew, Peter Hicks. After completing his professional wool classers ticket in 1968 he took over management of the stud full time at the age of 20. Peter has been the driving force behind the stud for the past 50 years.

Hannaton was an original exhibitor in the Victorian Merino field days from 1980 and is the longest continual vendor at Hamilton Sheepvention. The stud has held an annual on property ram sale on the second Monday in September since 1984.

Peter and Sally's son Jonno developed a passion for Merinos at a very young age. After completing his studies at Marcus Oldham in 2009, Jonno returned home and has played a leading role in the progress of the stud. Jonno is now the stud master at Hannaton.

Peter holding and Jonno "helping out" with the rams in 1988

Hannaton Poll Merino Stud was established in 1981 with the purchase of a rams from Ashrose and Greenfields studs. The poll stud has developed over time and is now the major part of the business contributing to 80% of ram sales.

Hannaton Merinos has always been willing to adopt the most modern tools available to enhance their genetic progress. Hannaton has continually sourced top genetics using Laparoscope AI since 1983. The stud first used a projection microscope to measure fibre diameter distribution in 1980 and has since progressed to OFDA testing. All rams bred for sale have had fibre diameter measured since 1984. In 2013 they started using Electronic ID (EID) tags in all stud lambs and in 2015 the move was made to more in depth performance recording and has since offered all sale rams with Merino Select ASBV's.

# of Hannaton Merinos

All stud lambs are run in one management group for ewes and rams from weaning until 12 months of age to identify top animals based on their production rather than their management. With the use of EID all stud lambs are now measured for growth rate from weaning to yearling, eye muscle and fat depth, as well as individual fleece weight, fleece value and staple length. All stud sires have been Genomics DNA tested since 2013 and top stud ewes and sale rams are also being tested to improve ASBV accuracy and identify double copy poll sires for the stud. Stud lambs are mothered up electronically using Pedigree Matchmaker panels in the paddock to identify top performing ewes to use in their Embryo Transfer programs.

Jonno believes running a Merino stud is very challenging but also very rewarding. "Seeing the genetic progress in our sheep and our client's sheep gives us the greatest satisfaction. Our rams have been preforming well in industry trials and our clients have been winning wether trials and topping wool and off shear sales. We have a strong commercial focus so we really value these results."

The stud has very direct breeding objectives to increase lambing percentages, fleece weights and early growth rates while maintaining micron.

Peter & Sally at the sale in 2010

While they do value ASBV's as a useful classing tool they place a lot of emphasis on visual appraisal and structural assessment. The stud is completely commercially focussed with all sheep, including sale rams, paddock run up until the day of the sale. Their commercial focus is proving a success with the stud's on property ram sale steadily increasing over the past 20 years, last year offering their biggest number of 130 rams on the day.

The family also run a commercial flock with both self-replacing Merinos and prime lambs, as well as broad acre cropping with canola, wheat, beans, barley and vetch for hay production.

Peter, Sally, Jonno & Edwina (pictured as finalists in The Weekly Times Farmer of the Year, 2015)

2019 AWI Young Woolgrowers Tour

In February this year Jonno was fortunate to spend 2 weeks in China with Australian Wool Innovations on their young woolgrower tour. It was a fantastic opportunity to see wool processing first hand and learn more about AWI's investment in China. The tour began in Sydney meeting with people from the different sections of AWI marketing, education and R&D as well as talking with AWI CEO Stuart McCullough. It was great to learn more about where our woolgrower levy is going and how it is being invested.

The majority of our tour was spent in Shanghai. Highlights included touring the major textile university, where AWI helps to teach students and research new products, and visited the largest wool processing facilities in China. As producers, often the last we see of our wool is being loaded onto the truck on farm or on the auction floor. This trip was a fantastic opportunity to see wool processing and all the stages from raw wool to finished garments, with some plants that were vertically integrated with raw wool going in one end and finished high end suits coming out the other. The level of investment and technology in the wool processing was incredible. The assumption is with the massive work force that China wouldn't have the level of automation and modern equipment. Some of the processing plants visited used state of the art machinery that used the latest technology to produce high quality and consistent products.

This level of investment is exciting for the future of Australian wool, especially with Chinese producers viewing Australian merino wool as a premium product. The demand for Australian wool products is ever-increasing in China's growing middle class. It was great to see at AWI offices in Shanghai and Hong Kong the work done to partner with both designers and fashion labels to educate consumers and promote wool and its versatility. Wool is no longer just pigeonholed as bulky knits. Active wear, outerwear, next to skin apparel and many machine washable products are now driving demand.

Seeing China's processors and consumers' recognition of our top quality product made Jonno even more proud to be an Australian Merino wool grower. The level of investment and the scale of Chinese processing capacity gave us even greater confidence in the sustainability of the Australian wool industry and optimism for our future.

View from AWI Resource Centre in Hong Kong

Hannaton Genetics Dominate Again in Mundulla, South Australia

Hannaton clients Kraig & Caroline Johnson with their daughter and son in law Simonne and Tom Reynolds, after winning both the fleece of the day and best team of fleeces

Hannaton genetics have once again shown their commercial value in what may be the last ever Mundulla Hoggett Competition. The Johnson family, Hannaton clients for 12 years, took out both the highest value fleece and highest value team of fleeces in a fantastic result. Their 18 micron winning fleece was valued at an incredible $149. This is the first time Johnson family have won the wool section of the competition with their recent focus on lifting wool cut paying off. They have previously won the meat value twice in their 7 years entering the competition and this year were runners up, showing the great dual purpose strength of their flock. Four of the top 5 teams in the competition had Hannaton genetics and really stood out in the fleece value. The five Hannaton blood teams had an average team fleece value $43.4 better than the rest of the competition! Congratulations to Kraig, Caroline, Simonne and Tom on their brilliant win.

Genomics DNA Testing at Hannaton

One of the exciting tools we are using more and more in the stud is DNA testing. All Hannaton sires have been Genomics DNA Tested since 2013 and now top sale rams and elite ewes are being tested. The Genomic Test, developed by Sheep CRC, is the standard test used by industry to genotype animals and to guarantee parentage. The test predicts genomic breeding values based on DNA markers for 20 different traits in Merinos including growth rate, fleece weight, micron, staple length, worm egg count and Horn/Poll status. These Genomic Test results are combined with data in Sheep Genetics, using Single Step analysis, to increase the accuracy of ASBVs and help us and our clients make more informed breeding decisions.

Hannaton Clients Top Bordertown Off Shear Sale

There has been a huge amount of interest in Hannaton blood ewes and last years selling results were no exception. Long time Hannaton client Gary Lock topped the Bordertown sale with his young ewes selling at $274. An excellent line of ewes that were a real credit to the Lock family. Top price for older ewes in the sale also went to Hannaton clients, Mundabah Partners, with their 4.5 year old ewes making $160. Congratulations to both clients on their fantastic results.

Elders Bordertown livestock agent Wade Broadstock with Hannaton clients Gary & Micaela Lock and Elders Bordertown Brenton Henriks pictured with the sale topping pen.

Hannaton White Suffolks

That's right, White Suffolks.

In 2018 the opportunity came up to purchase 60 cast for age stud ewes from Duenclin White Suffolk Stud. A well renowned stud that had been selling locally until 2015 when they relocated to Karoonda in SA. These ewes were then joined to three top Detpa Grove sires through AI in 2018 along with the purchase of a Detpa Grove stud sire.

In September 2018 young ewes were purchased from leading indexing studs Anden and Detpa Grove. We also purchased the sire Anden 170185, which was part of Anden's runner up White Suffolk & Interbreed Lamb Production Class in Export at the 2018 Royal Adelaide Show.

Jonno, Edwina and Jemima Hicks with David and Michelle Pipkorn from Detpa Grove with the ewes purchased at auction

This year we have again expanded the flock purchasing 13 high indexing ewes from the Detpa Grove biannual mated ewe sale.

The White Suffolk stud has simple breeding objectives, aiming to produce ideal rams to join over Merino ewes.

High Growth Rates – Selecting for high weaning and post weaning weights

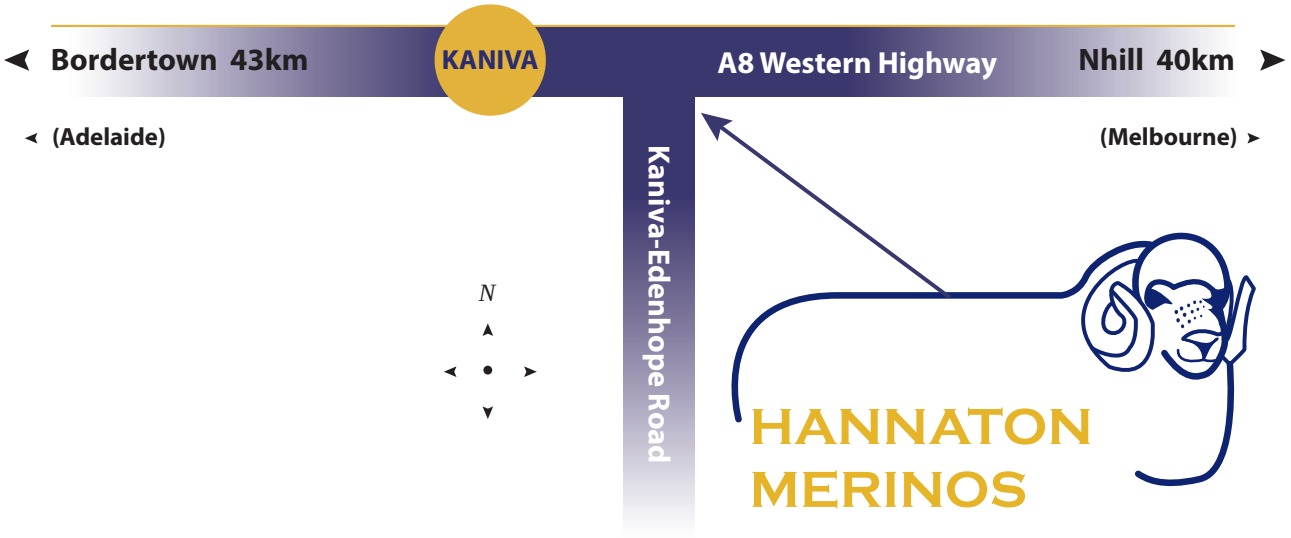
High Carcass Yield – Targeting high eye muscle depth

High Lambing Percentage – Selecting for twins and higher fat cover to improve lamb survival

Bare Heads and Points – Producing easy care lambs and ideal rams to join to merino ewes.

Sound Structure and Constitution - Giving longevity to rams

White Suffolk rams will be available at Hannaton's 2020 sale.



39 Kaniva-Edenhope Rd, Kaniva VIC

Jonno Hicks | **Phone:** 0428 922 366 | **Email:** jonno@hannaton.com.au