

**The Yanko** is a 13,000 ha property situated 25km north of Jerilderie in the Riverina. Owned and managed by Hugh, Heather and their son Ian, together with daughters Georgina and Elizabeth. The Yanko normally runs a Merino and Poll Merino Stud of 1000 ewes and 5500 commercial ewes along with 300 Angus cows. In 2019 dry ewes were sold due to drought conditions and we are currently rebuilding our numbers.

Our breeding objectives continue for producing heavy cutting, stylish and high yielding wool on plainer body framed ewes with good constitution. The success of our objectives at The Yanko has been proven with a current five year flock average of 20.3 micron which we happily maintain with stud ewes cutting over 9kg average fleece weight at March 2020 general shearing.

## 2019 ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE RESULTS

In 2019 there was an increase from 72 to 80 horned and poll rams up for auction. An average of \$2,076 was achieved with full clearance. \$4,750 top price was paid firstly for a poll ram sired by The Yanko 15.706, which went back to Collinsville 13242 and sold to Bungeeltap Pty Ltd, Glenhope Victoria, and secondly for a horned ram sired by The Yanko 16.529, grandson of The Yanko Enfield, an impact sire and a major "family" in the Stud, that sold to the Robertson's from Gledfield, Rossbridge, Victoria. Mr Robertson selected this ram for his wool's crimpiness, size and structure.



*The top priced rams with Peter Godbolt, Landmark, Heath Evans, Manager, Bungeeltap, Glenhope, Victoria, Jason Rothe, Australian Wool Network, Ian Cameron, The Yanko, Neil and Grace Robertson, Gledfield, Rossbridge, Victoria, Craig Potter and Nick Gray, Elders*

## THE YEAR SO FAR

The first half of 2020 has brought consistent rainfall, a welcome relief from the big dry of 2019. We received a perfect Autumn break of regular rain through late March and April and by May we were surrounded by paddocks of fresh green growth. Pastures responded quickly given our lower stocking rates. Summer grasses along with native clover have provided a high quality feed source for ewes in late stage pregnancy and shelter for young lambs. In February, with the prospect of another dry start, all ewes were pregnancy scanned and the result was an average 92.5% pregnant to ewes joined. This led to great

lambling results of 126.1% to ewes SIL and 113% to ewes joined. These are some of our best results achieved to date! Dry ewes were carried through until early July and sold on AuctionsPlus in two lots, 2-3 y/o selling for \$262 and 4-5 y/o making \$221. While Covid-19 is having an affect on markets, restockers are providing a floor for quality product. Our goal to breed a balanced merino of fibre, frame and fertility has again provided multiple avenues for income in a fluid market.

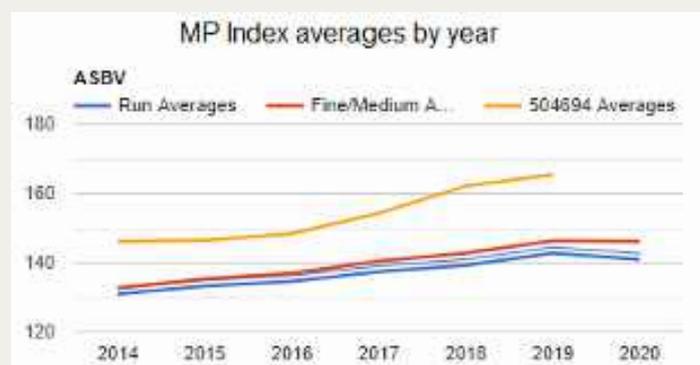
## THE YANKO MERINO – GENETICS THAT WORK

### Genetic trends - Merino select

Our involvement in the MerinoLink DNA Stimulation Project is ongoing and with this Pedigree and Genomic information, we are able to benchmark The Yanko's performance against the national Flock. Looking at the MP+ index which best suits our breeding objectives, the graph below shows The Yanko 22.7 points ahead of the National Merino Average. With Michael Elmes' assistance in selecting productive, well balanced sheep and introducing high performing external sires we are confident we will continue to see high genetic gains

### Sheep Genetics. MP+ Index averages by year.

Analysis dated: 7-Jul-20. \* Yellow line represents The Yanko



## AWI YOUNG MERINO BREEDERS WORKSHOP

Stuart Hodgson and Wendy Ridgley from AWI conducted a Young Merino Breeders Workshop at The Yanko on Tuesday, 7 July. An enthusiastic group of 18 sheep breeders from the Jerilderie district who are now back on family farms or working on Stud/sheep breeding enterprises attended. Stuart ran through the history of the Merino and the breeds and traits that we see in the Merino today in Australia. Various tools of classing were covered leading into visual selection and the group then split into teams to class some of The Yanko 2019 drop ewes for a commercial operation.



# THE YANKO MERINO

2020 On-Property Ram Sale

## 80 Merino and Poll Merino Rams

Thursday, 24 September, 2020

Inspection 10.00am - Sale Commencing 12.30pm

### Pre-Sale Inspection Open Day

To be held at The Yanko  
on Wednesday, 2 September, 2020  
from 10am to 4pm.

All Ram Sale lots will be penned with figures.

Inspections will take place at the woolshed yards.

Social distancing restrictions will be in place with the event dependent on  
and subject to Covid-19 protocols.

**Hugh, Heather and Ian Cameron**  
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**Classer:** Michael Elmes - 0429 847 552

**For the latest updates visit:** [www.theyanko.com](http://www.theyanko.com)

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## THE YANKO

Merino