



# The Smart Choice

## Dohne Merino Matters

**A newsletter publication of the Australian Dohne Breeders' Association**

**June 2025**

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the ADBA will be conducted Friday, July 18 in Bendigo to coincide with the Australian Sheep and Wool Show. Members are invited and encouraged to attend. This year the AGM will be held in the Dohne Merino Marquee commencing at 4:30pm.

### Australian Sheep and Wool Show

The Show and Education Committee would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank our sponsors that have come onboard this year; Elders, Shearwell, Sapient Technology, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Riverina Wool Testers, Quality Wool, Australian Merino Exports, Australian Community Media, Fox & Lillie Rural, Ethical Outback Wool and the Hotel Shamrock. The Dohne Merino Marquee program this year will comprise of the following; Friday, Education Program – Longerenong College will be taking part in this program. This program is designed to educate our younger generation, with hands on experience, allowing students to be guided by sheep and wool agents on the day. Saturday, Showing Program – Classes will include individual young and older rams and ewes, groups, pairs and also Natural Bare Breech classes. Also, at lunchtime Ethical Outback Wool will showcase their Dohne Merino garments with a Fashion Parade.

**To view the full event program**  
– [Click Here](#)



**Volume 103**



### Dates for Diary

Australian Sheep and

Wool Show

18-20 July 2025

Bendigo VIC

Annual General

Meeting

4:30pm 18 July 2025

Bendigo VIC

Dohne Dinner

7pm 19 July 2025

Hotel Shamrock

Bendigo VIC

### Next Edition

Annual General

Meeting Report

Australian Sheep and

Wool Show Report

Upcoming Ram

Sales

# Australian Sheep and Wool Show (continued)

We are delighted to inform you that our judges this year will be; Nutrien Ag Solutions Agent and ADBA Approved Classer Stephen Chalmers, Glenaroua Dohne Stud Alistair Greenshields and former Victorian ADBA President Murray Rogerson.

Our Dohne Merino exhibitors this year are;

NSW: Calga, DD, Kardinia, Macquarie, Spring Valley and Uardry

South Australia: Uloloo

Victoria: Gunyado

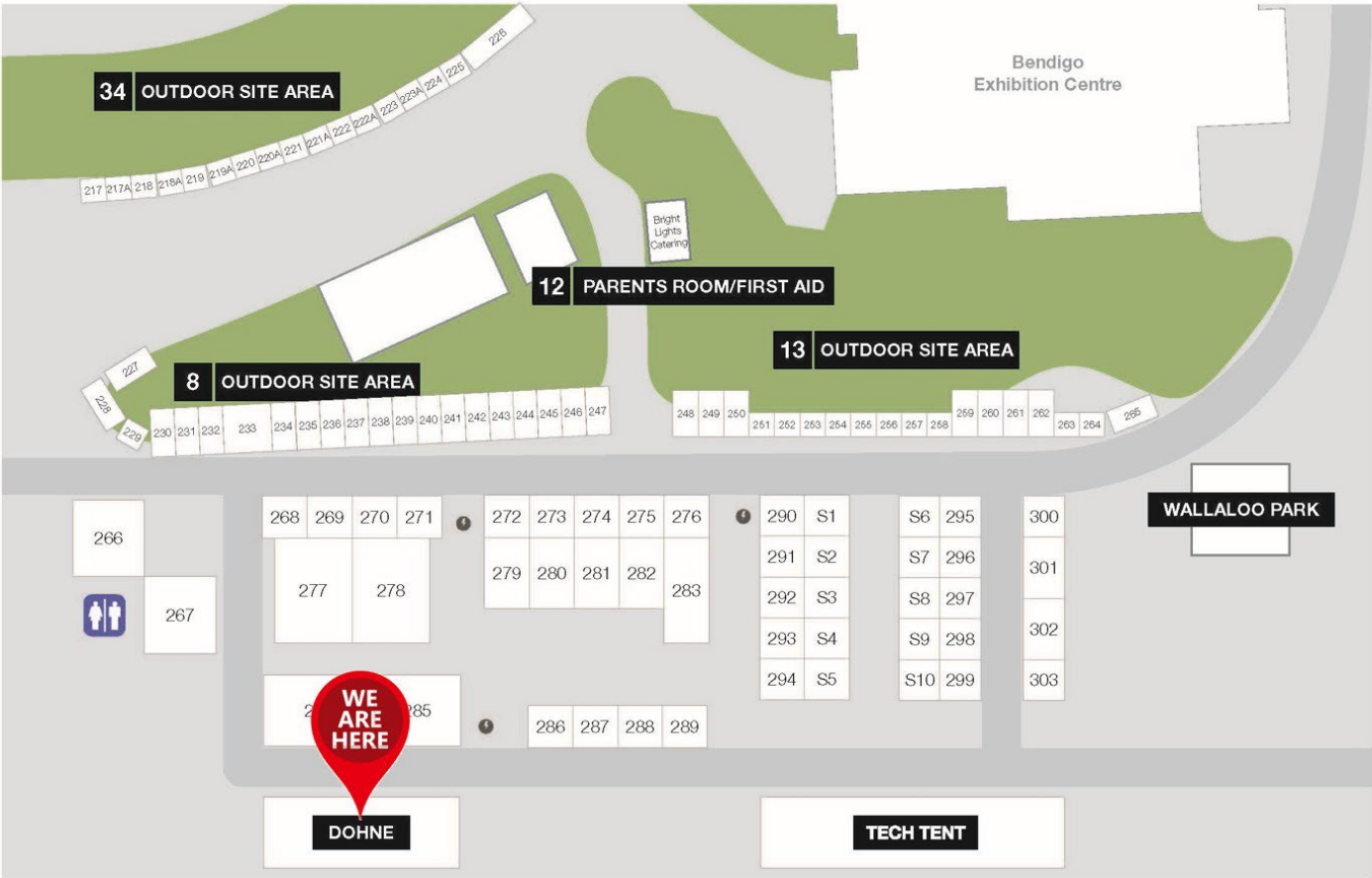
Due to the packed showing program on the Saturday, the ADBA will be providing lunch on the day in the marquee for exhibitors, judges, stewards, members, sponsors and helpers.

An informal dinner for members and sponsors will be held on the Saturday night 19 July at the Hotel Shamrock. If you plan on attending this event, please RSVP

to [secretary@dohne.com.au](mailto:secretary@dohne.com.au).

**This year the Dohne Merino Marquee has moved, you will now find us here, see map below.**

## SHOWMAN'S AREA





Australian Sheep and Wool Show (continued)



The Dohne Merino Calendar is out now! - [Click Here](#)

Thank you to all members who have supported this publication. Extra copies will be available at Australian Sheep and Wool Show.



**AMSEA Sire Evaluation**  
Quantifies the Dohne Dual Purpose Advantage

**Dohne-Cross Lambs SHATTER**  
Records at Bendigo Sales  
– Unstoppable Surge!

**Profitable Dohne Genetics:**  
Enhancing Wool Yield in Composite Ewe Flocks



**Australian Sheep and Wool Show Preview is out now! - [Click Here](#)**

## **Move to Dohne pays off - Quality carcass traits lift returns**

The dual-purpose traits of the Dohne breed have significantly boosted the productivity of the Argent-Smith family's sheep flock in New South Wales, improving fertility as well as the early growth and carcass quality of their lambs.

**CARCASS BONUS** - "We sent 214 of our second line of lambs to Gundagai Meat Processors in February 2025, and they averaged a dressed weight of 29.84kg and returned \$243 per head.

"What we were very pleased with was that 71 per cent of the draft received the Gundagai Lamb Quality 5+ score bonus which is worth 80 cents/kg, equating to a price of \$8.36c/kg.

"We also received \$8.50/hd for the skins, bringing the total return to \$251/hd."

The Dohne lambs had also been shorn with the return from their wool averaging \$25/hd.

"For us the results have confirmed that we're producing the right type of Dohne lamb that fits the bill for the Gundagai Lamb brand.

**HITTING THE SPECS** - According to Gundagai Meat Processors supply chain manager Dr Michelle Henry, Dohne and Dohne-cross lambs have been performing well through the Gundagai Lamb grid.

"We process a reasonable number of Dohne and Dohne-cross lambs through the Gundagai Lamb brand each year," Dr Henry said.

"The Dohne lambs that are performing well have higher average intramuscular fat that ensures they are receiving a higher GLQ score, combined with a lean meat yield that hits the middle of the grid."

Dr Henry said the lambs achieving a higher GLQ5+ percentage also tend to have a higher average hot standard carcass weight, ranging between 26-28kg.

"This emphasises the importance of Dohne and Dohne-cross lambs coming to us well-finished with good levels of subcutaneous fat cover."

*Article courtesy of ACM (Kylie Nicholls) Stock & Land*

**Read full story – [Click Here](#)**



*Sally and Richard Argent-Smith, Yaccabri Pastoral Company, Rankin Springs, NSW, made the change to a pure Dohne flock about five years ago and continue to be pleased with their performance. Pictures supplied*

# Move to Dohne pays off

Quality carcass traits lift returns

AUSTRALIAN DOHNE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

BY KYLIE NICHOLLS

ADVERTISER CONTENT

**T**HE dual-purpose traits of the Dohne breed have significantly boosted the productivity of the Argent-Smith family's sheep flock in New South Wales, improving fertility as well as the early growth and carcass quality of their lambs.

Based at Rankin Springs in the state's northern Riverina, Richard and Sally Argent-Smith and their family, along with Sally's parents Bruce and Penny Black, currently run 1800 pure Dohne ewes in the mixed farming operation, Yaccabri Pastoral Company, alongside a 2500-hectare cropping program, comprising wheat, barley, canola, vetch and lupins.

Traditional Merino breeders, the family experimented with a Dohne-Merino cross before making the decision to transition to a pure Dohne flock about five years ago.

"Although we were getting about \$10 less for the Dohne wool compared with Merino wool at that time, we were receiving at least \$50 more for the lambs and I based my decision on those returns," Mr Argent-Smith said.

"The Dohne is the perfect dual purpose sheep. It's an easy-care, robust breed that fits in well with our cropping operation, handles our harsh



Sally and Richard Argent-Smith, Yaccabri Pastoral Company, Rankin Springs, NSW, made the change to a pure Dohne flock about five years ago and continue to be pleased with their performance. Pictures supplied



The family sent a line of Dohne lambs to Gundagai Meat Processors, with 71 per cent achieving the GLQ5+ bonus.

environment and the lambs do very well when finished on barley in a feedlot."

With assistance from sheep classifier Angus Munro, Mr Argent-Smith has been sourcing his rams from the Macquarie Dohne stud. Their mature Dohne ewes currently average 20 micron with a wool cut per head of between 6-7 kilograms.

#### CONSISTENT PERFORMERS

Value-adding to their

sheep enterprise, Mr Argent-Smith has established an on-farm feedlot. The family joins their ewes in November to start lambing in April, with shearing at the end of July.

Lambs are weaned in early September, shorn after harvest in early December, and then enter the feedlot from January onwards at around 45kg live weight.

They are fed a ration of barley and lupins, all sourced on-farm, with

barley straw supplied for roughage.

"We are targeting a heavy export lamb averaging 28-32kg dressed weight," Mr Argent-Smith said.

"The first draft of lambs is usually ready after five weeks, while the lighter lambs might stay in the feedlot for up to two months."

"We want to have the feedlot emptied by the end of March ahead of the cropping program."

Mr Argent-Smith introduced eID tags with the 2024 drop lambs, allowing him to more closely monitor individual performance and track their weight gains through the feedlot.

"We are definitely achieving better weight gains with the Dohnes, averaging about 2kg of live weight gain per week," he said.

"But the biggest thing we have noticed is the consistency of the lambs, we don't have the tail that we used to get with the Merinos."

Dohne lamb that fits the bill for the Gundagai Lamb brand.

"We'll definitely try to send some more next year."

#### HITTING THE SPECS

According to Gundagai Meat Processors supply chain manager Dr Michelle Henry, Dohne and Dohne-cross lambs have been performing well through the Gundagai Lamb grid.

"We process a reasonable number of Dohne and Dohne-cross lambs through the Gundagai Lamb brand each year," Dr Henry said.

"They are good meat Merinos that have a cleaner body which is good for processing, and we enjoy seeing them come through the brand."

Dr Henry said as with any breed, the company has seen both high-quality and lower-quality lambs

processed, as producers and livestock agents continue to learn more about what is required to meet the Gundagai Lamb grid specifications.

"This does result in variability in the percentage that achieve the GLQ5+ score, which measures intramuscular fat and lean meat yield," she said.

"The Dohne and Dohne-cross lambs that are performing well have higher average intramuscular fat that ensures they are receiving a higher GLQ score, combined with a lean meat yield percentage that hits the middle of the grid."

Dr Henry said the lambs achieving a higher GLQ5+ percentage also tend to have a higher average hot standard and carcass weight, ranging between 26-28kg.

"This emphasises the importance of Dohne and Dohne-cross lambs coming to us well-finished with good levels of subcutaneous fat cover."

#### CARCASS BONUS

Mr Argent-Smith has generally sold his lambs through the Griffith Livestock Marketing Centre, NSW, but this year he decided to trial sending a line direct to Gundagai Meat Processors, keen to receive detailed carcass feedback.

"We sent 214 of our second line of lambs to Gundagai and they averaged a dressed weight of 29.94kg and returned \$243 per head."

"What we were very pleased with was that 71 per cent of the draft received the Gundagai Lamb Quality 5+ score bonus which is worth 80 cents/kg, equating to a price of \$8.36c/kg."

"We also received \$8.50/lb for the skins, bringing the total return to \$251/head."

The Dohne lambs had also been shorn with the return from their wool averaging \$25/head.

"For us the results have confirmed that we're producing the right type of

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#### AUSTRALIAN SHEEP & WOOL SHOW

##### DOHNE MERINO MARQUEE EVENT PROGRAM

##### FRIDAY 18TH OF JULY

9am - 10am - Marquee Fleeces Judging  
10:30am - 2:30pm - Education Program (Longweaving College)  
4:30pm - ADBA AGM

##### SATURDAY 19TH OF JULY

9am - 3:30pm - Sheep Judging  
1pm - Fashion Parade - Ethical Outback Wool  
3:30pm - Signs - Champions & Supreme Dohne Exhibit

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## World Dohne Merino Conference, South Africa - UPDATED DATE

The Dohne Merino Society of SA is excited to host the World Dohne Merino Conference in 2026. This event will be in collaboration with the 60<sup>th</sup> year of existence of the Dohne Merino Society of South Africa.

### NEW EVENT DATE:

The Dohne Merino World Conference, to be held from **18 - 24 October 2026**, at the Arabella Hotel, in Hermanus, South Africa. This prestigious event promises to bring together Dohne Merino breeders, industry experts, and enthusiasts from across the globe, fostering collaboration, innovation, and excellence in our shared passion.

The week after the conference (**26 to 31 October 2026**), we are planning a post-conference tour to the central and eastern parts of South Africa.

If you would be interested in attending this great event, please let us know at [admin@dohne.com.au](mailto:admin@dohne.com.au).

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