



# THE HAMPHY

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HAMPSHIRE DOWN BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# Presidents Column

**Barry Evans**  
Hello members

The 2013 season is underway. Having had a dry spring and summer we've been looking for rain. In the last week it's arrived with good drenching rains in most parts of the State. Let's hope we get follow-up rain to carry us into winter.

The Hampshire Down feature breed at Royal Hobart last year was a great success. We had 60 sheep exhibits and did our best to make sure most of these went home with a prize. Thank you to the stud sheep breeders and agri-businesses who donated the trophies. I'm sure our sheep met the expectations of our guest judge, Helen Raven (Jurambula Hampshires), who said she enjoyed the Show and would like to return to Royal Hobart as an exhibitor this year.

And while the competitiveness of our stud sheep was evident in the interbreed line-ups last year, our trade lambs also put up an excellent showing. Jeff Johnson (Johno's Hampshire Downs) took his crossbred lambs to Royal Geelong where his lambs won 1<sup>st</sup> on the hoof and 3<sup>rd</sup> on the hook in the 20-24kg heavy trade class of 22 pens, and 2<sup>nd</sup> on the hook in the 24-30kg export trade class of 17 pens. There were 60 pens of trade lambs at the Huonville Show where Hampshire crossbreds won the light and heavyweight

classes. And at Royal Hobart, in a line-up of 40 pens of trade lambs, Hampshire crossbreds won 1<sup>st</sup> in the lightweight class and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the heavyweight. Success like this promotes the profile of our rams by showing that they're doing the job they're bred for.

I hope all goes well in your lambing folds this year.

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In the early 70's, proponents of a school of environmental thought believed the

world was living beyond its means and that the resources needed to drive the world's economic growth and development would reach their limits. There's nothing new in the idea of environmental alarmism. More than 200 years earlier, Malthus had already predicted we were doomed because of our inability to produce enough food to feed a growing population. But in the 70's it was not a one-man doomsayer. Rather a group of scientists, business people, philosophers and academics (known as the Club of Rome) who believed that in order to save the world we would have to "...force people to have fewer children and cut back on our consumption (in order to) stabilise society at a level that would be significantly poorer..." (AFR 17/8/12, 9).

Nor did Malthus have the scientific method to support his argument. The Club of Rome did a whole lot of computer modelling, published in the book *The Limits to Growth*, showing that the impact of population growth and pollution on the world's finite natural resources and



arable land would produce agricultural and industrial stagnation and rapid decline in population. However, as Bjorn Lomborg says, “The world is not running out of resources, not running out of food, and not gagging on pollution, and the world’s population and industrial output are rising sustainably.” (AFR 17/8/12, 10).

Although the prediction in *The Limits of Growth*, like those of Malthus, were wrong-headed, they still have currency today. While we haven’t accepted the proposition that in order to save the world our life-styles will have to be “poorer”, we believe that we have a moral responsibility to vouchsafe the environment. For example, recycling is treated “...less as an economic question and more as a matter of personal and civic virtue.” (AFR 17/8/12, 10). We’re told that by recycling paper we’re “saving trees” which implies that trees for paper are a *natural* resource. In fact, paper is made with *plantation* timber. And as these plantations are continuously replanted, the production of paper does not have an impact on natural resources such as rainforest. “By spending countless hours sorting, storing and collecting used paper...”(AFR 17/8/12, 10) we merely render these plantations unprofitable, affecting the livelihoods of those engaged in their production for the sake of a natural resource which in any case is not at risk.

One of the pernicious political legacies of *The Limits of Growth* is the way the environment movement has appointed (or anointed) itself protector of the world’s natural resources. Accordingly, environmentalists like the Australian Greens will always find themselves a “natural victim” to promote their environmental causes. Referring to the Gunns paper mill, for instance, commentator Nick Cater says, “In the absence of the discovery of

a nest of pandas sheltering in the Tamar Valley, the Gunns pulp mill protesters sought out the nearest available trophy victim, which happened to be a whale.” (The Australian 24/10/12, 12). Gunns went to extraordinary lengths to ensure that there would be no risk to the mammal. They agreed to employ certified marine mammal officers during construction so that if they spotted a whale construction would stop while the creature passed by. Similarly the company would protect “...fur seals, wedge-tailed eagles...the burrowing crayfish (and) bubble curtains were to be erected to protect the cucumber mullet...”(The Australian 24/10/12, 12). Yet, no matter the safeguards, “big wilderness” could not be satisfied and Gunns has now abandoned its pulp mill project, lost the investment the company made in it and gone into liquidation.

In his speech to Rural Press Club of Victoria in Bendigo last year (19/4/12), Barnaby Joyce reflects on the Greens’ use of victim politics. The Greens are not interested in a balanced outcome between the environment and economic growth. In the face of development, environmentalists find a critter to protect thereby dispensing a large dose of what Joyce calls “communal guilt” to the public and, in turn, exploit this guilt to stop the project.

The Nathan Dam near Rockhampton in Queensland has been a designated dam since 1928. It remained unbuilt until 2002 when local cotton growers got approval to build the dam. The approval was overturned by the Court which accepted the Greens’ argument that the indirect impact of a project should be taken into account, in this case run-off of chemicals used in cotton production which may affect the Great Barrier Reef. Local coal miners have now made a fresh application to build the Nathan. In 2007 the approval



process was stopped by 850 Boggomoss snails which environmentalists found in the area. Two years later when 18,000 of these snails were found outside the area the approval process continued. Joyce says there hasn't been a major dam built in Australia for twenty years. While dams haven't been banned, their approval is effectively subject to an environmental veto.

Joyce is also tired of government rhetoric which is not backed up with policy. To meet the "...great opportunities...for producers..." which will flow from "...a growing population and economy in Asia", federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Joe Ludwig, promised that his government would "...work to boost productivity... (by helping to ...drive the development of Australia's regional and remote areas, especially in Northern Australia." (Stock & Land 8/11/12, 13). But the federal government's recent National Food Plan dismisses the expansion of food production in northern Australia on the findings of the 2009 report by the Northern Australian Land & Water Taskforce (NALWT). When the Howard government set up the NALWT, the goal of the taskforce was to explore the policy options for agricultural expansion in the north. But when the Rudd government was installed in 2007, new members for the NALWT were chosen from World Wildlife Fund, the Australian Conservation Foundation and Planet Ark and the taskforce became a vehicle for anti-development ideology. As John Shipp, Director of the *North Australia Project* at the Institute of Public Affairs says, "Rather than an investigation of how to increase agricultural output in northern Australia, the final report sought to lock northern Australia into a low-development future, effectively making it one big nature reserve." (The Weekly Times 22/8/12).

Shipp is particularly scathing of the NALWT for refusing to investigate the water storage possibilities in the north, thereby effectively devaluing the underutilized northern water resources. The territory affected by the report ran from Western Australia through the Northern Territory to Queensland. At the time these states had a "no dams" policy. The CSIRO, which did the science for the report, was told "it wasn't necessary to investigate...the feasibility of new dams". Effectively therefore, the members of the NALWT used this "no dams" policy to inform their report. The failure to consider water storage capabilities in northern Australia by the NALWT calls into question the legitimacy of its findings. To take advantage of the growing Asian demand for Australian agricultural commodities, Shipp proposes that "...the anti-development ideology that has locked up large tracts of northern Australia must end so that we can overcome our irrational aversion to building new dams." (The Weekly Times 22/8/12).

Greens media assumes that "Australians" welcome Gunns' failure. I doubt this sentiment is shared by Gunns' immediate workforce nor by many of us in regional Australia where farmers and communities will lose income from forestry agreements and forestry contract work. But the environmental movement is not interested in the human victims of its causes who merely fall within the paradigm promoted by *The Limits of Growth* that we should be prepared to be "poorer" for the sake of the environment. They rationalize the economic impact of their environmental causes on people by supporting welfare measures. For instance, Senator Penny Wright has been visiting regional Tasmania as part of her Australia-wide assessment of regional and rural mental health services: "I really wanted



to get a comprehensive picture of the unique challenges faced by people living in regional, rural and remote areas when it comes to accessing mental health services," the Senator said (Tasmanian Country 5/10/12, 3). This is token concern at best, at worst, hypocrisy, from the Greens Senator who supports the movement which caused the Gunns fallout and then rubs salt in the wound by turning up to help pick up the pieces.

Cater suggests that saving the Franklin is the last "noble battle" to protect the environment. Since then, to justify its existence, the wilderness industry has had to find new causes beyond large untouched spaces. It has found that wherever there is development there are opportunities for the self-elected protector of the environment. Cater calls them the "ambulance chasers of the biosphere" (The Australian 24/10/12, 10). But without new causes, the wilderness industry wouldn't survive. Groups like Animals Australia, the Wilderness Society, the Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace, the World Wildlife Fund and the Conservation Council have multi-million dollar budgets. Responding to Animals Australia's latest campaign against sow stalls, Victoria Farmers Federation animal welfare committee chair Chris Nixon observes, "...it all comes down to money...They have double the funding of all the state and national (farming) organisations combined. They fight on just one issue and we have a plethora of demands from our members to deal with." (The Weekly Times 7/11/12, 18).

While the Franklin may be a case of legitimate veto over development, the Greens have now assumed the right of veto over all development. Isn't it time to reject the demonization of economic growth – of progress, productivity and prosperity? Isn't it

time to reject the environmental alarmism which the Greens peddle to garner support for their causes? As Cater says, "...it is surely time to recognise that the environmental movement now effectively controls Australia's future. Unelected and unelectable (it) sets the rules that governments and industrialists must follow." (The Australian 24/10/12, 10).

The ANZ Bank's recent report on how agriculture could expand into Asian markets says the government needs to "...translate the aspiration into practical reality (by focussing) on practical ways to make this happen." (The Weekly Times 31/10/12, 7). Contrary to the ideology of the Group of Rome and the disciples of "big wilderness", if we're going to get a market share in Asia then we need, as Lomberg puts it, "more development, not less."

Cheers, Barry.



**STOP PRESS** A new batch of our Hampy Badges has arrived and are available for \$15.00. ea To purchase some please contact me. Cheers, Barry.



# Upcoming Shows

## New South Wales 2013?

## South Australia 2013

### September

6-14<sup>th</sup> Royal Adelaide  
Feature Breeds: Cheviot, Dorset Horn, Hampshire Down, Romney, Ryeland, Southdown, Texel. Good Prizes. Check out  
<http://www.theshow.com.au/showground/royal-adelaide-show/show-entries-results/schedules.jsp> Entries close Fri 19<sup>th</sup> July

## Tasmania 2012

### May/June

31<sup>st</sup> May-1<sup>st</sup> June Campbell Town

### October.

10-12<sup>th</sup> Royal Launceston

19<sup>th</sup> **Reminder, AGM** Longford

23-26<sup>th</sup> Royal Hobart

### November

9-10<sup>th</sup> Brighton

23<sup>rd</sup> Deloraine

29-30<sup>th</sup> Devonport

## Victoria 2012

### July

19-21<sup>st</sup> Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Bendigo  
<http://www.sheepshow.com/>

### August

6-7<sup>th</sup> Sheepvention  
Hamilton. 6<sup>th</sup> August

### September

21<sup>st</sup> (11days) Royal Melbourne

## Where's my show??

If you would like a show added for 2013 or, you would like to promote a show, please get in contact with me. Ed



Adelaide Show



# Show Results

Wynyard TAS 16/3/2013

By Helen Bird.

Ram under 1 yrs

1<sup>st</sup> B & S Evans + **Champion Ram**

2<sup>nd</sup> PR & KA Harman + **Res Champion**

3<sup>rd</sup> PR & KA Harman



Ewe 1-2 yrs

1<sup>st</sup> PR & KA Harman + **Champion Ewe  
& Inter Breed Champ**

2<sup>nd</sup> J Parr

3<sup>rd</sup> J Parr



Ewe under 1 yr

1<sup>st</sup> B & S Evans + **Res Champion Ewe**

2<sup>nd</sup> B & S Evans

3<sup>rd</sup> B & S Evans

Ewe 2 yrs and over

1<sup>st</sup> J Parr



Group 1 Ram & 2 Ewe under 1yr

1<sup>st</sup> B & S Evans + **Inter Breed Champion**



# Jordon River School Farm &..

## The Big Woolly Day Out

The Big Woolly Day Out had its big day on April 13<sup>th</sup>. It was organised by the Jordan River School Farm. The day was set to showcase the wool and sheep meat industries in Tasmania. But first, a bit more about the school.

The Jordan River School Farm (formerly the Bridgewater school farm) is situated in the heart of Brighton, Tasmania, is a highly utilised and valuable resource primarily for educational purposes essentially for disadvantaged and disengaged youth. The farm operates using agriculture as a catalyst for educational, social and recreational activities. The farm is inclusive of students excluded from mainstream education and students with disabilities as well as successfully providing quality training for high achievers seeking a career pathway in rural industry.

In the early 1990's the school farm purchased a Hampshire Down ram purchased from the Torwood stud owned by sisters, Louise Adams & Elizabeth Long in Tea Tree and 7 ewes from Marananga Stud in Evandale. The school farm stud was

named "Summerville" after the original property in Brighton. In 1996 17 students and 15 sheep went to the Royal Melbourne Show. One special ram, Rocky won all his classes and the school won the inaugural schools trophy.

The school farm students have continued to train, prepare and successfully exhibit sheep at 10 state agricultural shows for 20 years. Last year was a very successful year showing and this year, have had stud rams and ewes go to Naracoorte, South Australia.

Along with many other attractions and activities at the Big Woolly Day Out, a sheep handling competition was held with the participants coming from Jordon River and Cressy District High School. Cressy School has a Suffolk Stud. The event was judged by Barry Evans and life members, Louise Adams & Elizabeth Long.

A great deal of credit must be given to the people who are putting so much time and energy into organising, fund raising and running events and outings such as these. Special thanks must go to Jackie Brown, Stuart Cordwell & Friends of the Farm



Judging underway.





Paul Weeding, Elizabeth Long, Louise Adams & Tom



Jackie after...



All for a good cause. Jackie before..



Paul Weeding of Triabunna with Tom.

Tom was top priced dog at the Casterton sheep dog trials of 2012. \$12,000 which is the current record price eclipsing the old record of \$9,000. The dog was bred in Tasmania sold in Victoria and returned to Tasmania



## Book Review

Book review from Evanstoke: Ivan Heazlewood's *From the Sheep Pen*

When Ivan Heazlewood gives an interview (Tasmanian Country, 5/10/12) about his new book *From the Sheep Pen*, he says he knows nothing about wool breeds. However, a reading of his book suggests that Ivan's knowledge of the contribution by breeders like Eliza Furlonge, Thomas Henty and the Peppin Brothers belies his modesty about Australian Merinos. But if Ivan's sense of historical integrity demands an appreciation of the role the Merino plays in the Australian sheep industry, it is British Breed sheep for which he reserves his passion.

When you read Ivan's history about the contribution that British Breeds have made to the prosperity of Britain and Australia you understand why he regards them to be "aristocrats". For more than 1000 years wool was Britain's key commodity. Britain had the best and greatest quantities of wool and as manufacturing developed in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries Britain was able to influence the prosperity of all Western Europe because of her control of the supplies of wool.

In Australia agricultural historians have often overlooked the vital role that British Breed sheep have and still play in our sheep industry. From the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and for 100 years Merinos were infused with English Leicester and Lincoln genetics to improve size, constitution and meat producing capabilities. This cross-breeding also produced the Polwarth and Corriedale wool breeds. Their recognition at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century precipitated the decline of the influence of the English Leicester and Lincoln breeds which culminated in 1930 when the Border Leicester took over their half-breeding role. In Australia's wool industry today a "first-cross" is definitively a Merino x Border Leicester.

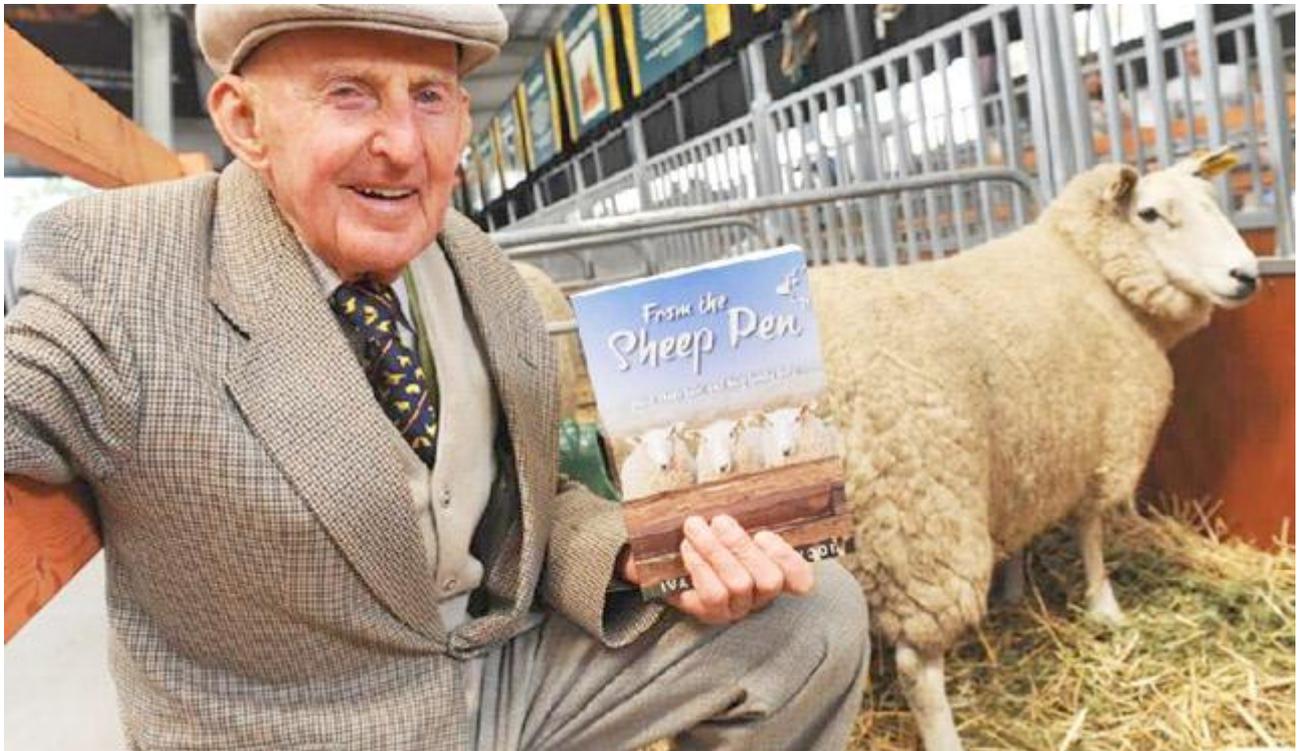
Ivan reminds us that while modern research has a role to play, it's all those years of British sheep breeding that has given us the improved Australian Merino. The farming practices of those times have also given us much of today's approach to genetics, wool production and sheep husbandry. 14<sup>th</sup> century British records show big, well managed farm businesses with ewes, weaners and wethers in separate flocks of up to 10,000 and the best establishments had shearing sheds with boarded floors. And if there's a hero in *From the Sheep Pen*, it's probably 18<sup>th</sup> century Leicestershire farmer Robert Bakewell who achieved dramatic genetic improvement in his flocks by keeping the best sheep, "rigid culling" and "judicious mating". His group breeding organisation known as the Dishley Society applied progeny testing principles which today have been adapted and refined to form the basis of Lambplan. Bakewell's unique contribution to the development of the English Leicester continues to demonstrate his genius today.



In his Tasmanian Country interview Ivan says that meat breeds are his world. Through *From the Sheep Pen* he gives us the opportunity to share his life with British Breed sheep. And while their's is still a minority role in the Australian sheep industry, demand for sheep meat products has led to a build up of first-cross ewes. As Ivan says, "The Tasmanian sheep industry is not exactly back where it started...but Australian shepherds are undoubtedly paying more attention to meat production than they have been since 1830."

Heazlewood, Ivan C, *From the Sheep Pen: short sheep tales and long lambs tails*, Australian Stud Sheep Breeders Association Limited (Tasmanian Branch), Whitmore, Tasmania, 2012.

Available from Sharon Heazlewood and Petrarch's Bookshop



Ewe beauty: Tasmanian author Ivan Heazlewood launched *From the Sheep Pen: Short Sheep Tales and Long Lambs Tails* at the Royal Melbourne Show. Photo Weekly Times Sep 2012



# ED's SpoT



are your best weights for a single, combined weight of twins and triplets. Lambs are to be weighed within 48 hours of being born. If you have any lambing stories about "the one saved" for example or any tricks and tips that can help our new members or some of the old hands, shoot us a line.

Remember this newsletter is only as good as its content and that content comes from you. So, please help out by sending in your show results, photos, articles and any ideas that you have that may improve or add to the newsletter.

*Cheers,*

Ed.

Who has the Heaviest Hampy Lamb  
Members, please send in your best pictures for this seasons lambs and what

## AUSTRALIAN HAMPSHIRE DOWN BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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LIFE MEMBERS: Elizabeth Long, Torwood. Louise Adams, Torwood. Rodney Summers, Marananga. Dianne Huett, Cote Hele. Frances Murray, Burrandool.