

Preparations in full swing for Balmattum sale

By EMMA OLIVER

EXCITEMENT is mounting at Balmattum Australian White Sheep Stud, with their October 3 ram sale rapidly approaching.

In keeping with the over-riding vision for the stud and the ongoing investment in the enterprise, co-owner Grant Davey has been constructing newly appointed lambing pens and developing the on-farm facilities for the upcoming auction.

Carefully considered and with the sheep's welfare at the forefront, the red gum bays are not only a work of true craftsmanship they will also be showcasing over 30 rams going under the hammer at the Euroa farm in their spring sale.

Current sires Silk and Number One will also be on display alongside their progeny, highlighting the fact that these rams breed true.

Twenty six rams - progeny of Number One - will be going under the auction, with the majority 17 to 18 months of age.

This 2021 Autumn drop are well-handled, quiet and ready to go to work, and are all clean shedding.

"Rams from Number One continue to impress," said Kristen Davey, stud principal.

"We've never been disappointed with any of his progeny.



HANDSOME BOYS: 'Number 1' on left, is the outstanding sire of the majority of ram lambs going to auction at Balmattum's October sale.

"The consistency is there.

"His genetics are amazing.

"As one of our foundation rams he has proven time and again to be more than a sound investment, he has stamped his genetics on the entire Balmattum flock."

Last year, the Balmattum team purchased a number of ewes in lamb from both Ardene and directly from Tattykeel itself.

"Ten year's strong, South Australian stud Ardene has been behind the breed from its relevant infancy," said Kristen.

"We bought some Ardene ewes in lamb to Magnum.

"Magnum was Tattykeel's previous chart-topping ram, that sold for \$53,000 in 2020.

"We will be offering up his progeny at our upcoming sale,

along with Bullseye's progeny.

"Bullseye remains part of the Tattykeel flock, and we will also be looking to retain one of his ram lambs to build on our own genetics."

Offering up stud quality as flock, Balmattum are envisaging a 100 per cent clearance rate, with the stud opting not to put a reserve on any of their livestock.

"We believe the quality of the rams speak for themselves, and in keeping with our ethos on affordability and accessibility, we're happy to allow the market to determine their worth," said Kristen.

Commanding a sale average of \$3200 at their inaugural event in 2021, Balmattum are inordinately proud of being able to offer that Tattykeel quality at such a reasonable price.

In addition to the over 30 flock rams going under the hammer at the October 3 sale, Balmattum Australian White Sheep Stud are incredibly excited about offering up some registered stud rams to the local market.

"We've had such strong interest in a few of our really noteworthy boys, that it seemed the natural progression," said stud principal, Kristen Davey.

"At Tattykeel's September sale in 2021 even the flock rams were commanding significant dollars," said Kristen.

"Top figure was \$26,000, with 210 quality flock rams listed in the catalogue, commanding an average of \$14,762 when they went under the hammer.

"It's that Tattykeel stamp of quality that producers are looking to emulate and incorporate into their own enterprise.

"We may be a boutique enterprise, but we offer that quality.

"All our sires are Tattykeel born and bred.

"So whether that's progeny from the much-hyped Magnum, or Bullseye that Tattykeel chose to retain, or Number One and Silk that we bought directly from the Oberon-based farm, our genetics are all there."



IN PREPARATION: Co-owner and stud principal, Grant Davey has been developing the on-farm facilities for the upcoming auction.

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