



# 2013 Newsletter

## Welcome

Welcome to the 2013 Trigger Vale newsletter and trust that where ever you farm in this vast country of ours your season is going well. After doing the rounds again with our trade display at Bendigo and Sheepvention we have had a great chance to catch up with both clients and other farmers and it seems that in most parts after a very tough start to the year the season is going very well with plenty of rain. Lets hope the Spring rain gods are kind to us and the season fulfils its potential. Just for something a little bit different as an introduction to this years newsletter we have decided to reprint the editorial that was in this years Rural News Spring Ram Guide feature as the analogy comparing purchasing Wine with Rams has created quite a bit of comment.

You might well ask what does selecting and drinking a bottle of wine got to do with improving the productivity and in turn the profitability of your sheep enterprise. Trigger Vale Stud principle Andrew Bouffler believes that this simple comparison is an effective and clear way to highlight why it is important commercial producers ask their ram suppliers not just what their breeding objectives are but how they are achieving them.

Flipping through an annual spring ram guide is similar to stepping into a bottle shop and browsing through the wine section. There is no doubt that there is plenty of choice in both situations but the reality is the right decision can't be actually made unless you have an understanding of how the wine will taste or that the ram will actually perform like it's packaging suggests.

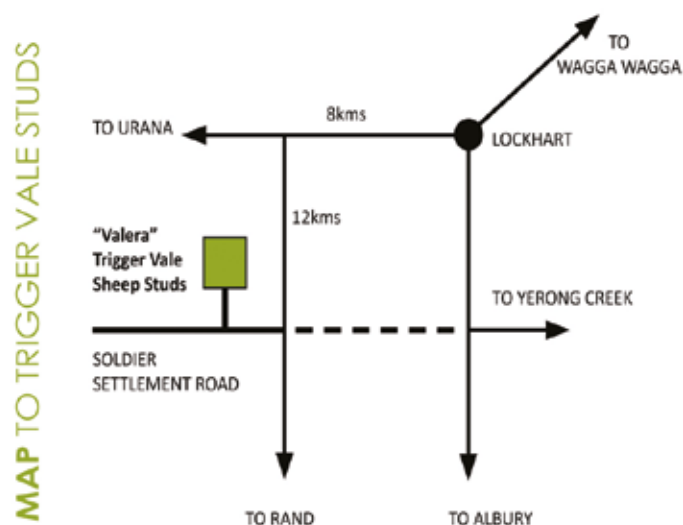
Obviously the goal when purchasing a bottle of wine is to end up with a good drinking experience. Regardless of how appealing the packaging, labeling and fancy advertising campaign are, it's the actual contents of the bottle that needs to deliver. This is not to say that the packaging isn't important but at the end of the day it only plays a functional role. The bottle needs to stay sealed and be easily transported while the label needs to tell us what's inside and what region it's from. Once these boxes have been ticked we then focus on the quality of what's actually inside the bottle.

This should be the same process for purchasing sheep genetics. The phenotype and structural correctness of a ram or ewe is still and always will be the most important criteria regardless of genetic merit. The old adage of teeth, toes and testes rings as true today as it ever has been. Like the bottle of wine the body of the animal must play a functional role involving eating, producing meat and fibre and reproducing itself but once this is achieved the important aspect for

flock improvement is what the genetic potential of the individual animal actually is. In Andrew's opinion the only "label" that has any merit when considering sheep genetics are independently assessed Breeding Values.

At Trigger Vale we endeavor to use every single available tool to ensure our clients have accurate information at hand to asses both the packaging and genetic merit of our sheep. Established over 60 ago with 15 years of extensive pedigreeing and performance testing the use of Breeding Values has resulted in Trigger Vale being able to inform clients with confidence what our Poll Maternal and White Suffolk Terminal genetics offer to improve their commercial flocks profitability.

So in wine terms if you want the Penfolds Grange experience from your ram supplier contact us to discuss your breeding objectives and direction or organize an obligation free inspection. On Friday 6th September Trigger Vale will be conducting our 36th annual on property sale at "Valera" Lockhart. Last year we increased the Poll draft by 20 rams and even though a handful of rams were passed in we will once again pen 110 Poll Rams as we believe by having a few more than is possibly required we give clients a greater selection to fill their order while ensuring individual budgets can be met. While the 2012 sale averaged \$1860 its important to note that 32 rams sold for under \$1000. These will be followed by 6 White Suffolk stud rams and a further 64 high indexed specially selected White Suffolk flock rams. Further information and sale catalogues can be found at [info@triggervalesheepstuds.com.au](mailto:info@triggervalesheepstuds.com.au)



## 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SALE - FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013

[www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au](http://www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au)

Andrew Bouffler: (02) 6920 7656 • Michael Elmes 0429 847 552 • Jim Bouffler (02) 6921 2135

## New Assistant Manager

In January this year we welcomed Sam Clothier to the Trigger Vale team taking on an Assistant Managers Role. Sam had just graduated from Marcus Oldham College where he had completed a Bachelor of Business (in Farm Management). While only 23, Sam brought a wealth of experience to the job having grown up on a 2500 acre family farm at Lucindale, SA which turns off over 5000 prime lambs annually. Previously Sam's father Graham was in a partnership with his brother Phil Clothier, they ran the long established and highly regarded Woolumbbool White Suffolk stud so Sam had a good understanding of the stud industry.

Prior and during his studies Sam travelled and worked around Australia and New Zealand which has given him a broad experience with regards to different farming practices and management styles.

Sam is currently participating in the Life Time Ewe program and has taken on the role at Trigger Vale of monitoring ewe condition scores throughout the year and matching that with her energy requirements Vs pasture quality and quantity. He has also contributed to designing and building a new watering system over Valera which will allow us to develop a more intense rotational grazing system.

In time it is envisaged that Sam's involvement will free up some extra time for Andrew to get around and visit clients on farm to discuss their breeding and management programs. While already classing many clients flocks our after sales service is something we aim to improve on.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate Sam and his wonderful girlfriend Nicole on their recent engagement.



## New Shearing Shed

As this newsletter goes to print the final touches are being made on our new Proway 3 stand shearing shed. This is the final stage of our investment in a large storage, auction sale and shearing shed complex which highlight our long term commitment to the Australian sheep and particularly stud industry.

The new shed will be in pristine condition on our auction sale day as we don't shear the first sheep until mid-September so it will be a great chance for anyone interested in inspecting a new shed to have a look.

Proway will have staff present on the day if people would like to discuss their own plans or any specific features.



## 6 Month Shearing Trial

After our initial trial of shearing 500 ewes every six months in 2012 and achieving 72 and 66 mm staple length with above 60 newton strength we decided to jump right in and shear all our poll ewes instead of crutching in March this year. We knew that due to the failed spring, poor stubble quality and no summer rain for our lucerne that the ewes had done it pretty tough nutritionally and as a result wool growth was less than the previous two wet summers. Due to the results achieved during our initial trial when they grew 6 mm more when they didn't have a dependent lamb on them (over summer) we also broke the shearing periods down into 5 ½ months growth for summer and 6 ½ for winter to try and even the staple length between the 2 periods. With only 5 ½ months growth and a nutritionally restricted summer we knew that achieving our target of 65mm would be a real challenge but after being assured by our wool rep that there would no discount on anything over 60 mm we decided to go ahead as the other benefits associated with lambing off shears would still be achieved.

While we were a little disappointed at the final tested length of 58 mm the strength result of 60 newtons and only a small discount (if any) due to length resulted in a greasy price of 660c being realised. To achieve over \$1300 a bale for our medium micron wools at this length was a great result. The really interesting part of the exercise is that we observed that the ewes picked up ½ to 1 whole condition score over the 4 week period off shears. At the time the ewes were in mid pregnancy and only being fed a maintenance ration to keep them at around 3 condition score. To actually pick up condition in this off shears period was a real bonus and saved us considerable money in extra feeding costs as we moved into



*Stud Poll maiden ewes lambing.*

late pregnancy and lambing still without an autumn break. While very hard to quantify I am sure that our lamb survival and final lamb marking results of well over 100% during



such a tough autumn lambing period was certainly aided by the fact that the ewes were only 6-8 weeks off shears. While the jury is still out on whether a 6 month shearing program is more profitable overall than the more traditional 12 months, the hard to measure benefits like this are certainly enough for us to continue for another 12 months.

## Trigger Vale Current Core Sire Battery

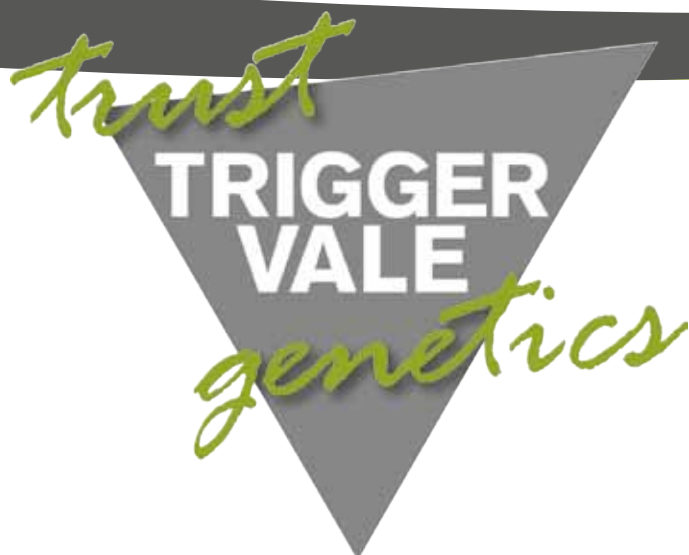
Why the future is so bright. Limited progeny in 744, 839 and 856 in 2013. Semen available.



	PWT	YWT	PFAT	PEMD	YGFW	YFD	YSL	YSS	YSC	NLW	EBWR	EBCOV
<b>TV 110744</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	-5.0	0.8	10.7	<b>4.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>TV 110839</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	6.8	0.1	<b>12.2</b>	0.9	<b>3.2</b>	5%	0.1	0.1
<b>TV110511</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>13.9</b>	1.0	<b>13.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>10%</b>	-0.1	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>TV 110856</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>	2.3	1.7	5.4	1.5	<b>2.6</b>	4%	<b>-1.0</b>	-0.2
<b>Industry Averages</b>	1.7	3.0	0.0	0.2	5.6	-1.1	4.1	0.4	0.7	1%	-0.1	0.0

Shaded areas equals top 10% for trait in Sheep Genetic Database (over 1.3 million animals tested).





Trigger Vale is one of the leading studs in the adaption of Genomics.

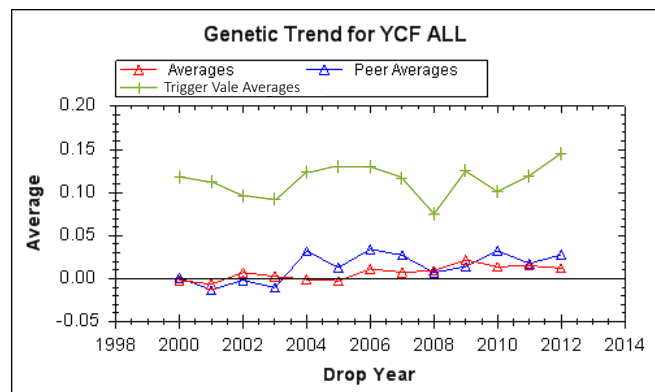
Visit our updated website at [www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au](http://www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au)

for more information, including our 2013 Ram Catalogue, available online two weeks prior to the sale.

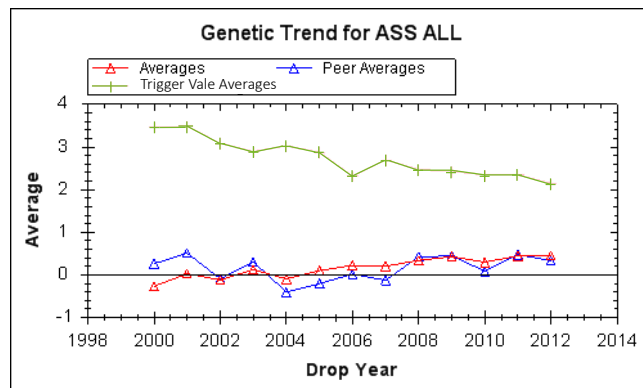
## Poll 2013 Genetic Trends

*Trigger Vale's Genetic Trends in areas we feel are most important for our clients commercial profitability.*

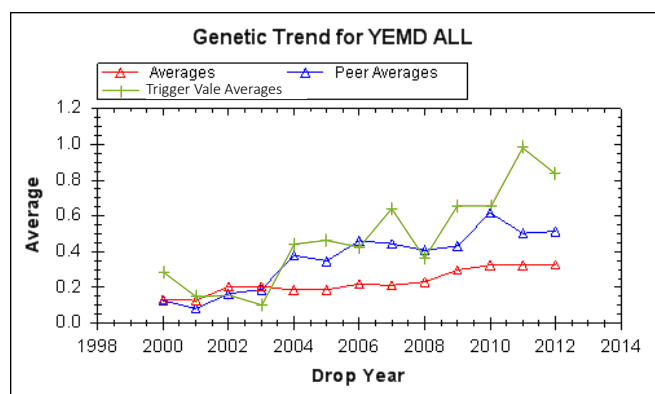
### Yearling Fat



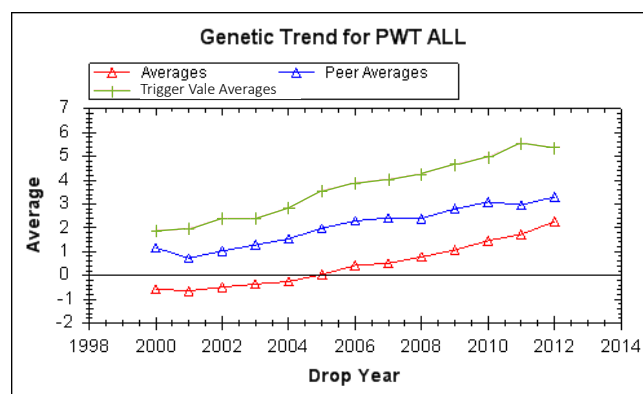
### Staple Strength



### Yearling Eye Muscle



### Post Weaning Weight



# Trigger Vale Poll News

## Graphs Vs What We Are Seeing

The independently Sheep Genetic generated graphs on the opposite page show quite clearly that by using Sheep Breeding values in our breeding program and placing emphasis on the traits that impact profitability we have been able to drive genetic gain in the areas we desire. While graphs show the genetic gains achieved, what is of real interest to commercial producers is what we at Trigger Vale and our commercial clients are seeing change in the paddock. Following is a list of anecdotal observations that we think reflect the gains we are making.

- 1. Select for muscle and you get muscle.** While recently cutting up a couple of 10 months old Poll wether lambs for the house Sam observed and brought to my attention the amazing size of the muscle on the loin chops. The comment was made that the amount of meat on the small side of the chop is often what you find on the larger side. The reserve of energy stored in the muscle is a valuable resource for the ewe in peak short term feed deficiency periods. The other advantage is the high red meat yields achieved when a larger proportion of the carcase is muscle. The chops featured here were on the BBQ 10 seconds after the photo was taken and ate beautifully.
- 2. Increasing Longevity.** We are noticing at Trigger Vale and many clients have made comment that older 5 and 6 year old ewes are holding up a lot more with regard to teeth, wool quality, udders and overall structure. I have also noticed when checking through clients sire batteries that more often than not 6 and even 7 year old rams sire still sound of mouth and firm of testes. By selecting for more fat, muscle and growth in our program we believe we are contributing to what has historically been referred to as do-ability and robustness. We are seeing ewes and rams



coming out of high energy demand periods like lambing for ewes and joining for rams in better condition. I am sure this is contributing to this improvement in longevity.

- 3. Ewes with lambs at foot will get in lamb again.** As a general observation 10 years ago if we noticed a ram had jumped the fence into a mob of ewes and lambs, due to the influence of lactation on ovulation the damage he would do over a week or two period was minimal and often only with any dry or ewes who had lost their lamb. This certainly isn't the case anymore with rams often observed hanging on fences with ewes with 120% lambs at foot on the other side due to the fact that many are ovulating. This is illustrated in a situation last year when 2 young rams got in with a mob of 420 ewes with 118% 6-10 week old lambs at foot for a period of 3 weeks. Before the next joining due the ewes starting to spring we scanned 34% pregnant. This increase in ewe fecundity is due to our selection pressure on increasing fat hence they will have a higher condition score during all stages of their reproduction cycle. This increase in condition even in peak energy demand periods like lactation resulting in ovulation occurring.
- 4. Improved staple strength.** Over the past 5 years we have observed and clients have commented on how their wool is testing much higher Newton levels. While this is no doubt partly due to the end of a decade of drought we think the improvement also coincides with our increase emphasis on fat, muscle and growth in our breeding programs. When the pinch comes and the feed on offer isn't enough to cover the demands being made on the ewe for fibre production and lactation (which is the reason a break occurs in the wool) Trigger Vale blood ewes have a bit larger hay stack sitting on their backs to cover the deficit and see them through.



# White Suffolk News

## An Industry Comment

There has been a small amount of rumor in the Australian lamb industry spread largely by other Terminal breeds that Coles had introduced a new policy of not purchasing White Suffolk lambs for their domestic supermarkets. Given that Coles is a major market for Australian lamb it was important that the White Suffolk as a breed addressed this issue to clarify Coles position. The feedback obtained for Coles **clearly** stated that this rumor is false and they actually acknowledged that a majority of the best lambs they purchased were sired by White Suffolk's. They did however state that a small portion of White Suffolk sired lambs failed to hang-up correctly and were concerned that some lamb producers were selling lambs that were genetically bred to target the large carcass weight export market at trade lamb weights. The maturity pattern of these longer legged, slower growing leaner export focused lambs simple won't have the muscle development and fat cover at lighter trade weights. The importance of this feedback is for commercial producers to have a clear understanding of their breeding objectives and market they are targeting and purchase rams accordingly. At Trigger Vale we have a range of genotypes within our White Suffolks so clients can purchase genetics tailor made to target the market they want. In summary if aiming to sell sucker or trade lambs clients need to seek higher muscle, weaning weight and neutral to slightly negative fat Breeding Values. Rams with these Breeding Values need to visually look thicker with shorter legs. If wanting to grow lambs out to export weights producers need to focus on higher Post weaning weight and more negative fat Breeding Values.

## Genomics and DNA Markers

2012/13 has seen Trigger Vale Genotype many of our top ram lambs as part of the Sheep CRC pilot projects. While the information we have received back is still in Research Breeding Value form the extra accuracy this information provides on the genetic merit of these young rams gives us a fantastic tool to identify the next super sires to take our rate of genetic gain to a new level. Besides obtaining higher accuracy on our core traits like birth weight, growth, muscle, WEC and fat, genomics is also giving us new insight into hard to measure meat eating quality traits. While as producers we are not paid at this stage on tenderness, meat yields or juiciness it's important for the sake of the broader lamb industry that committed seed stock producers are ensuring our consumers of lamb are going to have a great eating experience and will buy again.

At this stage we are not putting any real selection pressure on improving these meat eating traits but we certainly won't be using any rams that are poor performers in this area.

## Export to Falkland Islands

While Trigger Vale have been exporting our Poll genetics to the Falklands for many years with outstanding results we were thrilled to receive our first order for White Suffolk semen this year.

## Outstanding New Sire

While Trigger Vale has bred many outstanding sires over the years we are extremely proud of the huge impact Trigger Vale 050449 and Trigger Vale 060250 have had within the White Suffolk breed. Both of these rams have large numbers of progeny in many of the leading White Suffolk studs in Australia and they have contributed significantly to the success of the breed. We think that we have unearthed our next impact sire in Trigger Vale 120401 and are excited that he has been recently selected in the Superwhites young sire evaluation program. This ensures he will be benchmarked in several studs across Australia over the next year. While our breeding objective for the White Suffolks is to breed big lines of high indexed flock rams it's very satisfying as a breeder to unearth these special impact sires.

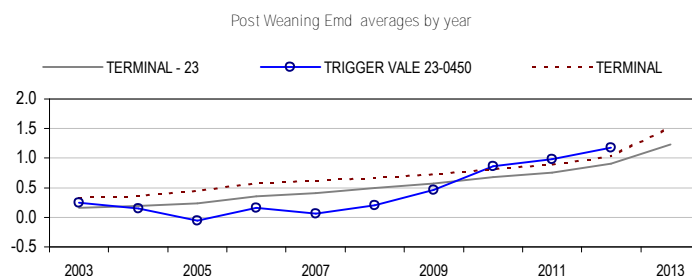
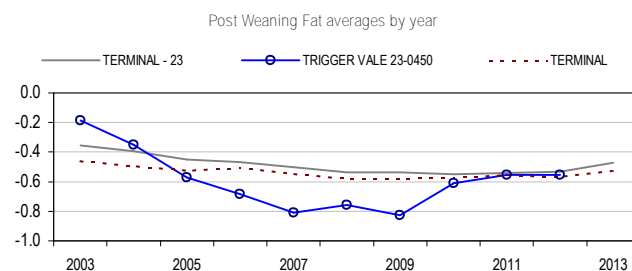
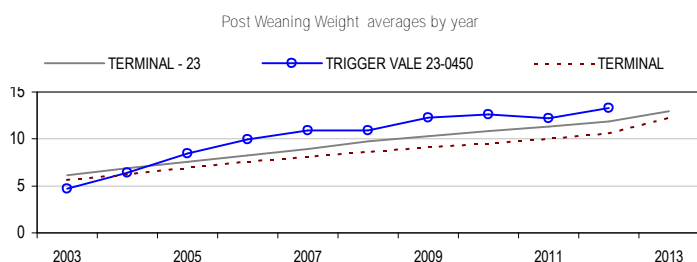
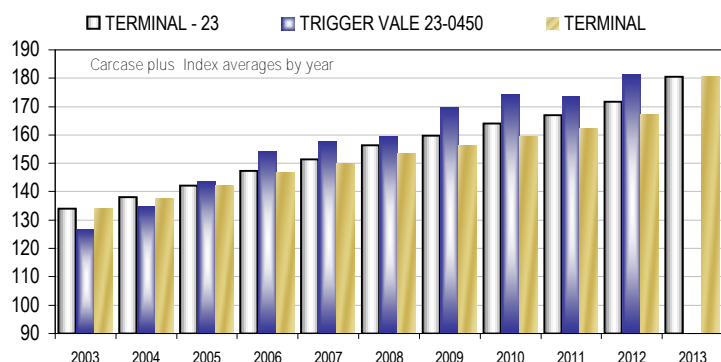


*Ram TV 120751 Lot 112 (Half brother of TV 120401)*





# White Suffolk 2013 Genetic Trends



## ON A LIGHTER NOTE

**Subject:** Newman in all it's glory - Me Home Town  
**NEWMAN, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

### August 31st

Just got transferred with work from grey old London to our new home in Newman, Western Australia .. Now this is a town that knows how to live! Beautiful, sunny days and warm, balmy evenings. I watched the sunset from a deckchair by the pool yesterday. It was beautiful. I've finally found my new home. I love it here.

### September 13th

Really heating up now. It got to 31 today. No problem though. Living in air-conditioned home, driving air-conditioned car. What a pleasure to see the sun every day like this. I'm turning into a sun-worshipper.

### September 30th

Had the back yard landscaped with tropical plants today. Lots of palms and rocks. No more mowing lawns for me. Another scorcher today, but I love it here.

### October 10th

The temperature hasn't been below 35 all week. How do people get used to this kind of heat? At least today it's windy though. Keeps the flies off a bit. Acclimatizing is taking longer than I expected.

### October 15th

Fell asleep by the pool yesterday. Got third degree burns over 60% of my body. Missed three days of work. What a dumb thing to do! Got to respect the ol' sun in a climate like this.

### October 20th

Didn't notice Kitty (our cat) sneaking into the car before I left for work this morning. By the time I got back to the car after work, Kitty had died and swollen up to the size of a shopping bag and stuck to the upholstery. The car now smells like Whiskettes and cat shit. I've learned my lesson though: no more pets in this heat.

### October 25th

This wind is a bastard. It feels like a giant bloody blow dryer. And it's hot as hell! The home air conditioner is on the blink and the repair man charged \$200 just to drive over and tell me he needs to order parts from bloody Perth.

### October 30th

The temperatures up around 40 and the parts still haven't arrived for the

bloody air-con. Been sleeping outside by the pool for three nights now. Bloody \$800,000 house and we can't even go inside. Why the hell did I ever come here?

### November 4th

Finally got the ol' aircon fixed. It cost \$1,500 and gets the temperature down to around 25 degrees, but the humidity makes it feel about 30. Stupid repairman.

### November 8th

If one more smart arse says 'Hot enough for you today?', I'm going to bloody throttle him. bloody heat! By the time I get to work, the car's radiator is boiling over, my clothes are soaking bloody wet and I smell like baked cat!

### November 9th

Tried to run some errands after work, wore shorts, and sat on the black leather upholstery in the ol' car. I thought my bloody arse was on fire. I lost two layers of flesh, all the hair on the backs of my legs and my bloody arse. Now the car smells like burnt hair, fried arse and baked cat!

### November 10th

Weather report! It might as well be a bloody recording. Hot and sunny. Hot and sunny, Hot and bloody sunny! It's been too hot to do anything for two bloody months and the weatherman says it might really warm up next week. Doesn't it ever rain in this damn bloody place. Water restrictions will be next, so my \$5,000 worth of palms might just dry up and blow into the bloody pool. The only things that thrive in this hell-hole are the bloody flies. You don't dare open your mouth for fear of swallowing half a dozen of the buggers!

### November 20th

Welcome to HELL! It got to 45 bloody degrees today. Now the air conditioner's gone in my car. The repair man came to fix it and said, 'Hot enough for you today?' My wife had to spend the \$2,500 mortgage payment to bail me out of jail for assaulting the stupid whacker. Bloody Newman! What kind of sick, demented bloody idiot would want to live here!

### December 1st

WHAT!!!! The first day of Summer!!!!  
 You are bloody kidding!





Est. 1952

# Trigger Vale

## Polls & White Suffolks

### 36<sup>th</sup> Annual On-Property Auction

At "Valera" Lockhart on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 Inspections  
10.00am onwards, Poll Sale commencing at 1.30pm



**110 Poll Rams**

**6 Stud White Suffolk Rams**

**60 Specially Selected White Suffolk**



**Rabobank**



**Vendors:** Andrew & Mandi Bouffler 0427 207656

**Stud Classer:** Michael Elmes 0429 847 552

**Selling Agents:** Elders Ltd Wagga (02) 6923-4666

In conjunction with H. Francis & Co Wagga (02) 6921-6366

**3% rebate to outside agents introducing clients on day of Sale**

*Luncheon Available*

**Catalogue on-line two weeks before the Sale**



[www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au](http://www.triggervalesheepstuds.com.au)

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