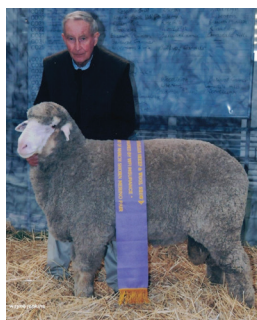




# Desmond... 'A Legend'

## Bred in the Purple



*'Desmond' the ram  
from the 2013  
ASSBA Australian  
National March  
Shorn Pair.*

*(Top): 'Desmond'  
Australian All  
Purpose Champion  
Hogget Ram.  
L-R: Held by Ross  
Wells, Wool Judge  
Ben Lane, Chief  
Steward of All  
Purpose Classes  
Phil Toland, Toland  
Poll, and Meat Judge  
Andrew Michael  
of Leahcim Poll  
Merino Stud S.A.*

Seven months later 'Desmond' came along. 'Desmond' was by 'The GP' and his mother was 'Stella'. In 2006 she was judged the Supreme Exhibit at the Hay Sheep Show. This was followed by her being awarded the Supreme Champion Ewe at Bendigo. 'Stella' was sired by an Australian Supreme Exhibit Ashrose 'Blue Print' bred by Brian Ashby. This ram had been sired by Charinga 'Junior'.

Desmond won the 2013 Australian Champion Hogget (Hay) and the ASBA Australian Champion All Purpose Hogget (Bendigo). Stuart Hodgson introduced Steve and Mary Sutterthwaite from Muller Station, New Zealand, who purchased 'Desmond' for \$35,000. In excess of \$170,000 worth of semen has been sold from 'Desmond' and he has produced a very big number of top sheep across Australia.

## ... it nearly didn't happen

A series of mishaps and neglect during the shipment and quarantine procedure saw the ram eventually delivered to 'Blairich', a stud in the Awateri Valley in the South Island. He was in a state of severe dehydration and "near death". Steve Sutterthwaite, who was in hospital recovering from a knee operation, rang his vet and asked him to be ready to sign a death certificate for insurance purposes.

Thanks to the expert care of Ron Small, the owner of 'Blairich', "a disaster was averted". 'Desmond' pulled through and, according to Michael Elmes the classer at Muller Station, he is fighting fit and has retained his super wool at seven years of age. Steve Sutterthwaite tells me that last season Desmond's ewes marked 155% of lambs. He said that 'Desmond' consistently gets 150%-160% from him and his sons singly mated.

**WILLANDRA MERINOS**  
A LONG TRADITION. A MODERN SUCCESS.