

# Merino LINK



## 2018 MerinoLink Conference & Dinner

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Mercure Goulburn

2 Lockyer Street, Goulburn NSW 2580

## MerinoLink Conference Field Day

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018

“Ravenswood”

Cavan Station, Yass NSW 2582

For more information contact Sally Martin 0400 782 477 or Rachael Gawne 0428 212 801  
or email [merinolinklimited@gmail.com](mailto:merinolinklimited@gmail.com) or visit [www.merinolink.com.au](http://www.merinolink.com.au)




# 2018 MerinoLink Annual Conference Program

*Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018*

*The Mercure Hotel, Goulburn*

<b>Conference MC:</b> Di Martin	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic/Presenter</b>
8:00 – 8:40	Registration – Tea and coffee on arrival
<b>Session 1</b>	
8:45 – 9:15	<b>Welcome</b> <i>Richard Keniry, MerinoLink Limited Chair</i>
9:15 – 9:45	<b>QPLU\$ Revived; Merino Breeding Fundamentals</b> <i>Dr Kevin Atkins, former Principal Research Scientist</i> “It is only 20-30 years. I know I am old but...”. Kevin will be revisiting the QPLU\$ Project; What it set out to do; What was achieved; Is this work still relevant today?
9:45 – 10:15	<b>What are ASBV's good At? A Journey from Raw Data to ASVBs – A Practical Approach</b> <i>Mark Mortimer, Centre Plus, Tullamore NSW</i> Mark will take us on a journey from raw data to Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's) to life time performance.
10:15 – 10:45	<b>The Genetic Program in Action on Farm</b> <i>David Vandenberghe, Wattle Dale Merinos, Scadden, WA</i> Dave's seven-year journey to DNA full pedigree. What worked well? What is the focus now? Tips and tricks for producers entering this space.
<b>10:45 – 11:30</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>
<b>Session 2</b>	
11:30 - 12:00pm	<b>Driving Adoption in Genetics</b> <i>David Packer, Adoption Manager – Genetics, Meat &amp; Livestock Australia</i> Dave will outline MLA's genetics program, including the National Livestock Genetics Consortium's role in guiding priority research, development and adoption programs. Where the UNE/MerinoLink DNA Stimulation Project fits in and opportunities for producers to get involved with MLA programs.
<b>12:00pm – 1:00pm</b>	<b>The Hour of Power- Sponsored by T. A. Field Estates</b> Encouraging Young Researchers and Industry Innovators <i>5-minute presentations from up and coming industry visionaries</i>
12:00pm – 12:05pm	<b>Kate McCarthy</b> ( <i>Charles Sturt University, NSW</i> ) The effect of supplementing HyD® on bone turnover in lambs
12:05pm – 12:10pm	<b>Octavia Kelly</b> ( <i>University of Adelaide, SA</i> ) Wool cortisone & cortisol (Hydrocortisone) concentration
12:10pm – 12:15pm	<b>Emma Turner</b> ( <i>University of New England, NSW</i> ) Implementation of shorter shearing intervals in Ivanhoe NSW: a comparison project between 6 monthly and 12 monthly shearing
12:15pm – 12:20pm	<b>Forough Ataollahi</b> ( <i>Charles Sturt University, NSW</i> ) Effects of maternal supplementation with calcium and magnesium on general health and immunity of ewes and their lambs

12:20pm – 12:25pm	<b>Elise Bowen</b> ( <i>Murdoch University, WA</i> ) Accelerating genetic gain through utilisation of genetic technologies
12:30pm – 12:35pm	<b>Dione Howard</b> ( <i>Charles Sturt University, NSW</i> ) The endless opportunities available in the sheep and wool industry
12:35pm – 12:40pm	<b>Heather Earney</b> ( <i>Charles Sturt University, NSW</i> ) Potential benefits of internal pelvimetry for lamb survival in Merino ewes
12:40pm – 12:45pm	<b>Rachael Gawne</b> ( <i>2017 Peter Westblade Scholar</i> ) The Peter Westblade Scholarship Experience
12:45pm – 12:55pm	<b>Will MacSmith</b> ( <i>Corroboree Merinos, Borenore NSW</i> ) Improving efficiency across the board, relying on trial work at a commercial level instead of gut feel. Combining the whole package – genetics and feed efficiency.
<b>1:00pm – 2:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Session 3</b>	
2:00pm – 2:30pm	<b>Moving to a Non-Mulesing Enterprise</b> <i>Geoff Lindon, Program Manager Genetics &amp; Animal Welfare Advocacy, Australian Wool Innovation</i> Geoff will provide a summary of how 40 Merino businesses have moved to non-mulesed Merino enterprises; production benefits; wool market; what can and is AWI doing.
2:30pm – 3:00pm	<b>Product Quality Down the Wool Value Chain</b> <i>Steven Read, Mitchell Wool Pty Ltd, Adelaide</i> Steven will outline what the range of characteristics are for the distinct categories of wool products and markets. Do we need to set up grower-to-mill alliances / networks? How hard is this from a Grower's perspective?
3:00pm – 3:30pm	<b>What are the productivity trade offs for Merino flocks?</b> <i>Dr John Web-Ware, Mackinnon Project, Melbourne University</i> John will explore the trade- offs for Merino breeders chasing the dual-purpose sheep, can we have it all? Is the number of lambs weaned everything?
3:30pm – 4:30pm	<b>Panel of Speakers- Q &amp; A with all speakers</b>
<b>4:30pm</b>	<b>Conference Close - Afternoon tea</b>

<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Canapes from 6:30pm in the bar</b>	
<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Conference Dinner</b> <b>Venue</b> – Mercure Motel, Goulburn NSW <b>Dinner Speaker</b> – Lynne Strong, Clover Hill Dairies & National Program Director Art4Agriculture <i>'A shared vision is a critical component of a successful partnership. Vision is what guides where a business is going and how it will get there; it is the plan and the path for the future. A shared vision allows partners to reconcile their goals and their methods for achieving those goals. Without a shared vision partners usually find themselves pulling in different directions.'</i>	



# 2018 MerinoLink Conference Field Day Program

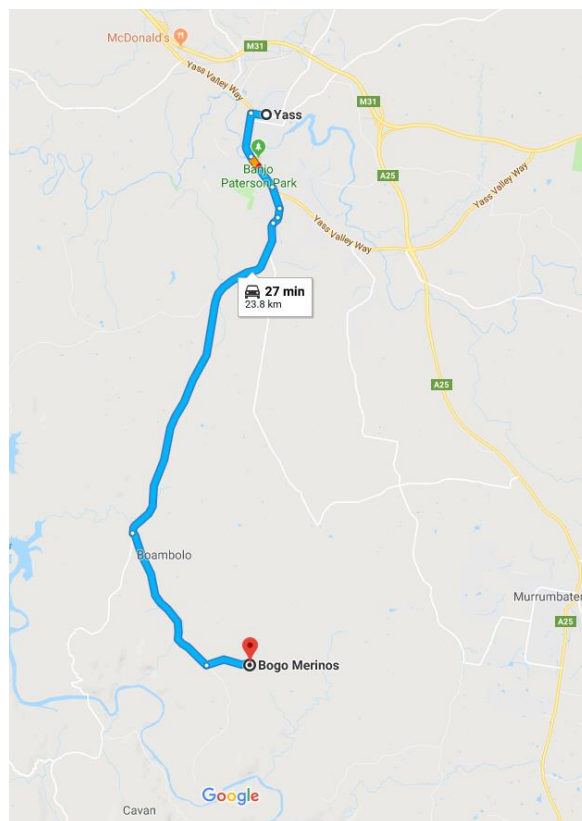
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018**

*"Ravenswood", Cavan Station, Yass NSW 2582*

**BBQ lunch available** (sponsored by Landmark Yass)

Bookings essential

**Directions:** from Yass take the Wee Jasper Road toward Boambolo. Turn left onto the Boambolo Road and follow for 5.5km. Turn left at the Bogo Merino's sign and follow to the end.



<b>MerinoLink Field Day Program – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018</b>			
<b>9:30am - 10:00am</b>	<b>Registration, Tea / Coffee on arrival</b>		
<b>10:00am – 10:20am</b>	<b>Welcome</b> <i>Richard Keniry, MerinoLink Chair, Mal Peake, Bogo Merinos</i> Introduction and welcome to the Field Day		
<b>10:20am - 10:50am</b>	<b>Sire Evaluation Overview</b> <i>Sally Martin, CEO, MerinoLink Limited</i> What sire evaluation aims to achieve; understanding and interpreting the results; collaboration with the Monaro Farming Systems Group - <i>Sire Evaluation progeny will be penned in Sire Groups for viewing at Lunch.</i>		
<b>10:50am – 11:20am</b>	<b>Historic Sires Project Results</b> <i>Ben Swain, Executive Officer, Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association</i> Over the past 5 years AMSEA has evaluated a range of Historic Sires that were widely used 15-20 years ago. Results from the project have now been finalised and show some interesting results of where the industry has come from and perhaps where it is heading.		
<b>Concurrent Group Sessions (Each session will be run three times with smaller groups)</b>			
<b>11:20am - 12:00pm</b> Session: 1	<b>Group 1</b> to Station A	<b>Group 2</b> to Station B	<b>Group 3</b> to Station C
<b>12:00pm – 1:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch - Sponsored by Landmark Yass</b> <b>Inspections of 2017 Sire Evaluation Progeny;</b> Live drone demonstrations (weather permitting); Opportunity to talk to our Trade Display holders		
<b>1:00pm – 1:40pm</b> Session: 2	<b>Group 1</b> to Station B	<b>Group 2</b> to Station C	<b>Group 3</b> to Station A
<b>1:40pm – 2:20pm</b> Session: 3	<b>Group 1</b> to Station C	<b>Group 2</b> to Station A	<b>Group 3</b> to Station B
<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>Evaluations / Close</b>		

<b>2017 Sire Evaluation Progeny on Display (16 Progeny Groups)</b>	
Bundilla Poll (140055); Centre Plus (407185 & 307603); Hazeldean (13.4936, 11.3542 & 12.4030); GRASS (142000); Woodpark Poll (150106); Rocklyn (120182); Pooginook Poll (125188); Greendale (150018); Boudjah (Blue 516); Adina (DB 11-11); Nerstane (150076); Bogo (500300); Centre Plus WA (338205)	
<b>Group Session Speakers</b>	
<b>Station A</b>	<b>Effective on-farm data collection for improving productivity</b> <i>Rachael Gawne, Sally Martin Consulting Pty Ltd &amp; Lu Hogan, Sheep CRC</i> How to achieve my breeding objective; What you could be collecting at a commercial breeder level; How to use this information to make your decisions; Flock Profile testing; RamSelect App -
<b>Station B</b>	<b>Eye muscle and fat scanning demonstration</b> <i>Trevor Pearce, Pearce Scanning &amp; Mark Mortimer, Centre Plus</i> EMD/Fat scanning Demonstration; How is this information used in the Merino industry?
<b>Station C</b>	<b>Practical animal assessments you could be doing on-farm</b> <i>Megan Rogers, Sheep Connect NSW</i> Wet/drying your ewes; Condition scoring; When is the best time(s) to collect this information?

## To Register

Registrations for the **2018 MerinoLink Conference, Conference Dinner and Conference Field Day** will be accepted through **TryBooking**. If you have any difficulties registering, please phone Rachael Gawne on 0428 212 801 or email [merinolinklimited@gmail.com](mailto:merinolinklimited@gmail.com). TryBooking is a web facility designed to assist with organised events. A TryBooking charge of 30 cents per ticket will apply. Early Bird prices apply up to the **8<sup>th</sup> June 2018**.

To register for the **2018 MerinoLink Conference, Conference Dinner and/or the Conference Field Day** please [click here](#) or go to <https://www.trybooking.com/329726>

<b>Early bird Ticket Prices – Up to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>				
Ticket Categories	MerinoLink Member	Non-Member	Under 25s	^MFS & STFS Group
Conference Only	\$70	\$130	\$50	\$90
Conference and Dinner	\$135	\$220	\$120	\$175
Conference and Field Day	\$70	\$170	\$50	\$140
Conference, Dinner and Field Day	\$135	\$265	\$120	\$220
Dinner only	\$70	\$95	\$70	\$85
Field Day Only	\$ -	\$50	\$ -	\$50

<b>Late bird Ticket Prices – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>				
Ticket Categories	MerinoLink Member	Non-Member	Under 25s	^MFS & STFS Group
Conference Only	\$85	\$175	\$65	\$90
Conference and Dinner	\$160	\$265	\$145	\$175
Conference and Field Day	\$125	\$205	\$65	\$140
Conference, Dinner and Field Day	\$210	\$315	\$145	\$220
Dinner only	\$80	\$105	\$80	\$85
Field Day Only	\$50	\$60	\$ -	\$50

^ **MFS & STFS Group** = Monaro Farming Systems and Southern Tablelands Farming System Group Affiliation rate.

### **For more information please contact**

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