

# WINONA Merino and Kelpie Studs

Telephone: (02) 6375 9256 Fax: (02) 6375 9233

Email: [seis@winsoft.net.au](mailto:seis@winsoft.net.au)

Website: [www.winsoft.net.au/~seis](http://www.winsoft.net.au/~seis)

## Breeders of World Class Fine Wool Merinos and Kelpies

**The next Irregular Issue - Jan 2003**

**Mudgee Ram Sales - Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 2003**

Winona has three rams that are going to be offered for sale at the impending **Mudgee Merino Ram Show and Sale**. This show and sale will be held at the Mudgee showground over February 9 & 10, 2003.

These rams are from the Winona Royal Snowy line and are sired by Winona Mike. These rams will stand out as amongst the better rams ever offered for sale at Mudgee. They are two year old and will attract considerable attention from buyers who appreciate good sheep.

Official wool tests from the Australian Wool testing Authority (Oct 6, 2002) shows that their micron diameter are 16.0, 17.2 and 17.9 respectively with appropriate CV and Comfort factor figures.

These are the best as well as the finest bold crimping fine wool rams Winona has ever prepared for the Mudgee sales. They will cut 10 to 12 kilograms of wool and **WILL** pass on this genetic trait to any progeny. That is, these rams will produce progeny that are large framed with heavy cutting wool qualities and yet be extremely fined woolled.

These and other selected rams are available for inspection, prior to the sale, at Winona.

### And Now, Kelpies In Norway

After visiting the Winona website, Tore Nybo, a norwegian prime lamb producer decided to visit Australia with the specific objective of purchasing Kelpies for his farm and learning how to train these

Typical mountainous summer grazing land as used by Tore Nybo and other Norwegian prime lamb producers

dogs.

Tore arrived in mid-january and was initially devastated with the mid summer heat after his homeland temperatures of -25°C but soon came to grips with a refreshing beer for breakfast.

During his stay at Winona he selected and trained a number of dogs under the guidance of Colin Seis that were ultimately exported to Norway.

As a result of this Australian visit, Colin Seis was invited to present working dog training clinics in Norway that was funded by the Norwegian government. Colin spent a month in various parts of Norway and Sweden running numerous training clinics.

Sheep farming in Norway is quite different by Australian standards. Farms are much smaller and sheep are shedded for half of the year. For the other half of the year they graze high in mountain reserves mingled with sheep belonging to other lamb producers.

With the severe winter approaching the sheep must be mustered and brought to sheds lower in the valleys. Sheep do not survive a winter in the mountains. The use of good dogs is extremely important when mustering and the Australian kelpie is proving to be



## Jason Seis now co-principal of Winona



basketball.

Welcome aboard Jason !

Twenty nine year old eldest son of Colin Seis has accepted the role of co-principal of the Winona enterprises. Jason, who is married with two children, originally left the farm to pursue an off farm career in the bright city lights as a green keeper.

He served his apprenticeship working in various golf and bowling greens before recognising the call of the land and his 160 year farming and grazing heritage was stronger than the city lights.

Jason has now worked full time on the Winona property for five years and has completed a wool classers certification and has a very keen interest in both the wool and the breeding directions of the Winona sheep studs.

In addition to his sheep and wool interests, Jason follows the family tradition of being a keen sports participant playing competitive golf, cricket and

This is achieved without sacrificing either the size of the sheep or the wool cut.

Produced by

**Winona Merino and Kelpie Studs**  
**“Winona”**

**Gulgong, NSW 2852**

**Tel (02) 6375 2956**

**Fax (02) 6375 9233**

**Email [seis@winsoft.net.au](mailto:seis@winsoft.net.au)**

**Web site**

**[www.winsoft.net.au/~seis](http://www.winsoft.net.au/~seis)**

## Drier Climate Wool Producers choosing Winona

An ever increasing number of wool producers from the areas west of the central tablelands are purchasing winona rams. This is particularly evident during this current drought when many have substantially destocked and now have a chance to rethink their wool strategies.

The large framed bold crimping fine woolled Winona Merino sheep have no problems adapting to the drier and harsher climates that are traditionally considered to be medium and strong wool areas. Experience has shown that using these rams that the next generation will be a full micron finer than their parents and this trend will continue for a few generations until the fall of micron values begins to plateau.

### Winona wool makes quality mens shirts

After the September shearing, Itochu, the Japapanese wool milling concern purchased a three bale line of 17 micron wool to manufacture an exclusive range of mens woollen shirts.

This wool was the result of the winona bold crimping fine wool line that has been steadily developed for the past many years. The aim has always been to produce large framed sheep that produce fine wool without sacrificing wool weight and the discerning buyers from Itochu are testament of the years of selective breeding.

Overall the wool clip from Winona resulted in a average micron of 19 with an average of six kilograms per animal. Stud ewes are a full micron finer and cutting over seven kilograms per head. The micron values, of course, follow the standard "Bell Curve" overall but the steady decline in micron (without loosing wool weight) is very

pleasing.

This is the objective of the Winona selective breeding program, to produce rams that pass on the large frame, heavy cutting fine microning genes. These qualities make Winona rams ideal for the grazier who is rethinking his breeding direction now that the drought has given him the opportunity via heavy destocking.

Most wool producers are reluctant to reduce the overall micron values fearing a proportionate loss in wool weights per head. This is not the case using the bold crimping fine microning rams. Winona rams are exactly that. designed to produce ewes and wethers with finer wool without loss of total wool clip.



**Two of the rams bred by Winona that will be for sale at the Mudgee Ram Sale (Feb 10, 2003). Winona has a number of similar quality rams that are for sale by private negotiation**

### Ram sales exceed expectations

Despite Australia's worst drought in living memory, the rams sold through the farm gate has been extraordinary. The Winona principals, Colin and Jason Seis predicted a very lean sales time with most graziers severely destocking and not being in the market for new stock.

This has been anything but the case. In reality, ram buyers have either purchased or placed orders on almost the entire supply of 2000 drop rams. Fortunately the 2001 drop rams are of an equal quality and are surviving the drought without effect.

### Tore Nybo appointed Winona kelpie agent for Europe

Following the successful Kelpie exports to Norway and the Norwegian government funded working dog training clinics, Tore Nybo (pictured with his wife and daughter) has been appointed the European agent for Winona kelpies.

Tore has already impressed by selling an exported Winona kelpie to a Norwegian sheep breeder for the equivalent of \$A5,000. This dog is now working for its owner and is regarded as a farm tool, not a high priced status symbol. Norwegians have very much the same need for good working dogs as does the average Australian sheep and wool producer.

For anyone in Europe wishing to discuss a kelpie, Tore's contact details are as follows:

Tore Nybo  
Sortliteigens Kelpies  
6320 ISFJORDEN, Norway  
tel: 00472316500  
email: tonyb2@online.no



**Tore Nybo pictured above with his wife and daughter and again below training kelpies at his farm in the highlands of Norway**

