



One Stop Ram Shop



INTERNATIONAL
NEWSLETTER No. 65
October 2007



Rhodos and natives. Tarata

NOTICE BOARD OSRS OPEN DAYS 2007

OSRS. Tuesday 6th November 2007.
Venue: 'Burnside', 3962, SH 2,
Takapau.

OSRS South. Friday 9th November 2007.
Venue: Colin McDonald's Farm,
Pope Rd, Tokanui, Southland.

OSRS West. Monday 19th November 2007.
Venue: Don Buchanan's farm,
560b Hikumutu Road, Taumarunui.

These are informal open days starting at 10 am. There is plenty of opportunity to view stock; discuss One Stop Ram Shop breeding programmes and Texel Marketing Group initiatives. We feed you.

Join us; you will find the visit rewarding and thought provoking.



STABILISED CROSSBRED: 1/4 FINN 1/4 TEXEL 1/2 PERENDALE

- Key Points...
- (i) Perendale toughness
 - (ii) Texel muscling
 - (iii) Finn prolificacy
 - (iv) Easy-care
 - (v) Low maintenance

- *SIL Recorded; NZ Animal Breeding Trust (Bureau).*
- *Stabilised crossbred for all NZ conditions.*
- *Lambs small and vigorous at birth.*
- *Lamb growth up to 400gms per day.*
- *High lamb survival.*
- *Carcasses high yielding. 'Market choice' type.*
- *Lambs finish well to heavy weights.*
- *Soft, very white, long, bulky, 32-34 micron wool.*
- *Medium adult body size.*
- *Excellent foragers; self reliant.*
- *Easy-care ewes; alert. Good milkers.*
- *Ewes maintain body condition under adverse conditions.*
- *Scanning percentage 180 plus, without masses of triplets.*

A resilient breed that may be utilised in intensive grazing systems and under conservative management with equal success.

Comments: This stabilised crossbred combines the toughness of Perendales and Texels with Finn fertility. They are the 'best' survivors of all 'three-breed' crossbreds. Extremely popular breed now found everywhere in NZ.



Milestone; 500,000 km's. 7am, Hauraki Plains. 14 Sept, 07.

ROBIN HILSON	06 855 8335
COLIN MCDONALD	03 246 8475
DON BUCHANAN	07 896 6845
ROBERT CARTER	07 896 7020
DAN WHEELER	0274 363 167
PETER KETTLE	0274 839 595

TO MAKE IT OR NOT?

The challenge of **500,000 kms for RAM 4 U** arose after a visit to Australia which involved a taxi ride from Brisbane airport into the city. This old 'clapped out' Falcon was about to be delicensed as it had completed 5.6 years and **3.4 million kms**, the maximum permissible for a taxi in Queensland.

Shayne Peters (Westlow Service Station, Dannevirke) had maintained OSRS vehicles for years and felt that the 500,000 km milestone could be reached if the servicing was punctual. This was done. Nobody envisaged it would take so long to complete the idea born in 1996.

Only two crashes occurred; each when people drove into the Maxima. No one has been hurt. However, many 'incidents' have happened involving road hazards.

RAM 4 U carried heavy loads around NZ e.g. hundreds of kilos of lemons. Once while travelling to Wellington at 3am for an early ferry crossing, all on coming trucks 'blinked' the loaded Maxima, whose dipped lights were beaming into their cabs.

Much driving has been on farms and windy roads. Fuel consumption was 7.3 km/litre upon the twists and turns of NW Nelson, KC, Gisborne and 10.68 km/litre on the flat and easy South Island. Being front wheel drive and with plenty of forward weight allowed RAM 4 U to go many strange places. Low ratio has rarely been used.

If the average consumption of petrol was 8.5 km/litre, 58,823 litres of petrol have been consumed. The engine has never given any problems. Over it's life RAM 4 U has not left a major footprint whilst making a large contribution to the national sheep industry. Sixteen years and still going strong.

More energy is used in constructing a car than it ever uses in its lifetime. RAM 4 U by going and going is doing much to keep its footprint tiny and contribution to pollution minimal.

Since December 2003 when the magic 400,000 kms arrived **all** costs, outside general maintenance were



RAM 4 U. Only 4 WD vehicles drive over the Dustan in snow Central Otago

:- \$540 new fuel pump at Mossburn.

\$450 new clutch kit

\$90.09. new tripmeter.

\$126.97. new brake cylinder.

\$1207.06, not much for 100,000kms driven.

During this last year, everybody seemed to ask after the Maxima and found a way to view the odometer. On one SI trip in February 2007 **every** farmer checked the odometer except one who was dipping.

RAM 4 U chuckled because nobody ever asked after the driver.

On the 14th of September while travelling over the Hauraki Plain, the 500,000 km barrier for RAM 4 U came and went. A quick hug and a pat, a photo or two and back into the car before being wiped out by bossy milk trucks.

There are winners from the hundreds of competition entries for the trips to Australia.

Nobody got the date right although two predicted the 15th of September. A flip of a coin chose the winner:

Bevan Haslett from Southland.

Stuart Clarke of (Te Kuiti) sent this answer which was so close. (abridged)

When will RAM 4 U reach 500,00 km?

New car March 92 0 kms

September 03 385,710 kms

Distance travelled, 33,540 kms at 91.82 kms/day

15-12-03. 400,000.

20-7-06. 468,853

68853 kms in 947 days

Distance travelled per day at this stage 72.706 kms/day

Time to travel the remaining 31,147 @ 72.707 kms/day, 428.5 days.

20-7-06. + 428.5 would be 20-9-07 (428)

or 21-9-07. (429)

Other factors, Sept 03 RAM 4 U 385,710.

Dec 03 RAM 4 U 400,00, 14290 Kms. at 157 kms/day.

From this it could appear that RAM 4 U travels more in Sept-Dec than the rest of the year.

Guessimate, RAM 4 U will do 500,000 on the 15th September 2007. (my mother's birthday)

Wrong by only one day.

Replies to the second question, "What will Robin 'do' with the car once the distance 500,000 kms has been reached?" reflected peoples thoughts about the car. Here are some selected examples.

2.5% thought Robin would take a photo of the odometer. "Take a photo of the odometer, say "well done old girl", now for the next 100,000" Murchison.

Technically correct.

4% suggested Robin will wash RAM 4 U.

Ram 4 U was washed and vacuumed annually!

41% suggested RAM 4 U will go on driving to 600,000 kms and so to 1,000,000.

A number wished to cut down the car, turn it into a nest box, a kennel for Ra (next edition), put rails inside to make a hen house. If the doors were welded it could even become a boat.

"Cut it down to a farm ute so that SI clients don't receive dusty lemons when Robin buys his next Nissan"

Te Anau.

"Turn it into a stretch-limousine for delivering Rams".

Marlborough.

"Attach a hay rack to the roof of the car, for a mobile or towable hay rack for the 'big rams of One Stop Ram Shop."

Fairlie.

Even a reply came from the car.

"Dear Robin,

I know you have such silky grey hair, and I have reached the magic 500,000 kms, as both are a sign of the aged, but please keep me as I haven't Rammed anyone 4 U, so please let's try the million together.

Your beloved Red Maxima RAM 4 U". (Winning entry)

OSRS: the white hair is hereditary nothing to do with age!

Some suggestions were positively dangerous.

"Pack it full of explosives and drive it up the Beehive steps." Raglan. Poor RAM 4 U, not a nice end.

Some thought RAM 4 U was a 'trophy'.

"Shoot it, stuff it, then mount it in his office". Otatau. Even worse.

Others thought it celebration time.

"Have a car boot party to celebrate and drink to the next 500,000. Milton.

"Celebrate by providing 1/2 price rams to clients."

Tokomaru. Worth considering; sometime

6% suggested just parking RAM 4 U. Four as a mai mai, one in resin as a souvenir.

"Bury RAM 4 U at the top of Maire Hill and commemorate the cars achievements and loyalty with a plaque."

Norsewood.

A cairn and plaque is planned for Maire Hill,

RAM 4 U could be remembered there also.

"Park it in the paddock with the rams – they paid for it."

Taumarunui.



RAM 4 U, Wairoa

"Park the Maxima permanently halfway through the road fence at Burnside" Dipton.

"Put RAM 4 U Maxima on display on SH 2 where cars keep wrecking your fences, advertising how long a car will last if looked after and driven CAREFULLY."

Dannevirke.

"Robin being a sentimental soul, will paint RAM 4 U white, add two ears and a tail and erect it at the entrance of OSRS as a novel sign to prove rams from OSRS can last the distance."

Waikato.

5% thought RAM 4 U should be sold or traded for a new car.

Others suggested destroying poor RAM 4 U, ie. "Push it over a cliff", "scrap it and recycle it as a garden gnome", "crush it", "use it for jaws of life practice".

"Sell it for scrap and then produce and sell a set of coasters featuring the red machine".

Feilding.

Would the car make **enough** coasters to satisfy OSRS clients?

Many liked the idea of giving the red machine to a worthy cause, a charity, raffling it off or giving it to Te Papa.

"Replace it with an SS Crewman ute and run a client draw for the 'old girl' – the car I mean"

Wairoa.

A very important last clause.

7% thought the car should be mounted on a pole at OSRS as an advertisement for rams and Maximas.

"Mount the care on a pole at the front gate. Paint on the side – One Stop Ram Shop rams go the distance just like our Maxima".

Dipton and Taumarunui.

Mount it on poles in a paddock with a sign 500,000 kms. This car went the distance, so will our rams. Pahiatua.

There were unusual ideas.

"The red Maxima will be redeployed. It will become a billboard for the 2009 Meat & Wool levy vote on a State Highway SH2 " Ashburton.

Possible!

"On TV there is an advertisement with a 4x4 Angus bull calling a ram 'sheep shagger'! Reverse the roles with a ram driving the Maxima, telling the Angus bull "it's time to go, Burger meat!"

Fairlie.

'Replace motor, gearbox and axle. Replace wheels and steering mechanism and steering wheels.

Upgrade seats. De rust-treat body and chassis. Drive another 500,000 kms keeping out of Foveaux Strait.

Te Kuiti.

None of this is necessary yet! Keeping out of Foveaux Strait definitely is.

10% of replies said.

Nissan should give OSRS a new car. OSRS agrees.

"Go to a Nissan franchise and they should give (OSRS) a new car for the great advertising."

Mokatua, South.

"Contact Nissan and offer the Maxima to them to use as a promo vehicle for advertising reasons. Sign write the Maxima beforehand as extra advertising for One Stop Ram Shop". Wellington.

OSRS agrees Nissan NZ should give a new Nissan Maxima. Would RAM 4 U be jealous?

What next!

"Robin will move the Maxima into his bedroom take out the seats and put his mattress in. His bed will then be complete with reading light, radio, cup holder, mirror (to make sure he is looking his best) and of course the RAM 4 U number plate will remain. Plus the cigarette lighter for a cigarette if needed. No name or area.

Robin started and gave up smoking on the same day, when he was nine.

"Belt up with Daphne, Lily and Iris in the backseat and Rose in the front and keep on CRUISING.

Marlborough.

What ever would Joy say?

"Palpate its mufflers and measure their circumference. Put it out with a 100 Corollas. You'll get good hybrid vigour from the progeny." King Country.

"Turn it into a garden feature – a good talking point"

Te Kuiti.

An immobile RAM 4 U, would never be the same.

We laughed at the many wonderful replies and had trouble awarding a winner, but a winner there is, **Butch and Barbara Gordon, Mosgiel** - congratulations.

As for RAM 4 U? Robin will just keep on drivin; of course.



STABILISED CROSSBRED: 3/4 TEXEL 1/4 FINN

- Key Points...
- (i) Tough, extremely hardy lambs.
 - (ii) Fecund hoggets.
 - (iii) Easy-care.
 - (iv) Low maintainance.
 - (v) Well muscled.

○ SIL Recorded; NZ Animal Breeding Trust (Bureau).

- Lambs, born small without difficulty.
- White, 32-34 micron wool, 4 to 5kgs.
- Growth rates; up to 400 gms per day as lambs.
- Mid season hogget oestrous.
- Pronounced carcase muscling.
- Curious, inquisitive nature, alert.
- Minimal dagginess. Large skin area under the tail.
- Lambs maybe grown to heavy carcase weights.
- Superb meat characteristics: taste, quality, colour, little smell.
- Relaxed mothers.
- Long lived.
- Scanning percentage 180 plus, few triplets

Comments: This is a specialist breed with huge potential. Farmers, with this crossbred, all comment on their hardiness, productivity and pleasant nature. Ewe lambs are kept for replacements. Close to being the "ethical" sheep. Used over ewes with too much E.Friesian or Finn.

THEY SAID.

Dean Boros, Te Kuiti. 10-9-07.

Flock, 1/4 Finn, 1/4 Texel, 1/2 Perendale.

2th, 669, 162 singles, 491 multiples, 16 dry, 171%.

MA 1230, 217 singles, 1004 multiples, 9 dry, 181%.

Hoggets, 69% conceived.

Comments: 120% used to be the maximum. Drys were always a problem. Ewes have virtually no shepherding. Lambs fatten easily. Lovely wool is produced.

David Powell. Kopaki, KC, 16-9-07.

Ewes 2th, 1/4 Finn, 1/4 Texel, 1/2 Perendale.

Ewes 2th, 313, 112 singles, 186 multiples, 5 dry, 155%.

MA Romneys, 154%.

"I wish I had farmed these sheep years ago – they are so good".



Shayne Peters: who kept RAM 4 U going.



Parents and pupils from Wairarapa College visited.

Teacher Murray Ford is at the centre.

Paratu, Aug, 07

Rex McLeod

"I was just reading your newsletters they were fabulous"

Romney Breeder

Central Hawke's Bay.

"Thanks for the newsletters and the ram catalogue. I bet many farmers really look forward to receiving them. I couldn't write like that; great.

Gerald Bull

Ngaruawahia.

"Newsletters are brilliant, brilliant and factual too"

John Maikuku,

Oparau.

"I can't wait to eat one". John used Texel Suffolk over Finn Texel Perendales.

Rowan Gailey

Waimiha.

"I really look forward to the newsletters and wonder what you're up to now"

Carol Johnstone

Aria.

"The newsletter arrived the other day – I knew it had. I could hear Trevor having a good laugh!

But they are very serious.

Annie Carmichael

Matiere.

Referring to RAM 4 U. "It ain't going to die Robin, it's going to go down with you".

Marion Gillard.

Tokirima.

Rang Robert Carter. Marion loved the newsletters because they are "just so b----- interesting".

Steve Goodman.

Havelock Nth.

"I enjoyed the newsletters which show you are a hands on-----as a fencer".

I can fence properly in NZ; Robin.

Shakespeare.

England.

"Even now, whilst I speak some black ram is tuppung your white ewe"

Othello, Act I.

Sally Sisson.

Patea.

"Hi Robin, A quick note to say he is a luvley boy. Quiet, good manners and the girls adore him. Can't do better."

OSRS enjoys emails like this.

Sue Rowlands.

Waipukurau.

"Dear Robin, So enjoy your stimulating newsletters and love showing them to visitors. We also wish to thank you for the way in which you present and deliver your stock. I recently bought a small flock of lambs for fattening, at the saleyards and realised when they arrived that they had probably sat in the yards for a day or even two, then were trucked and sat on the concrete in the burning sun at the saleyards for a day, then trucked very late in the day to us. I believe I lost one from heat exhaustion and another I revived by hand feeding for a couple of days. Whenever we have had stock from you they have been in awesome condition. It surely made me realise a thing or two.

I feel that it is difficult to become optimistic about farming when there are so many bureaucrats working for large dairy monopolies or cartels, Secondary and Tertiary sectors. We have a unique farming industry in New Zealand which

Walton.

needs fostering and I fail to see where the leadership is coming from, apart from enterprising people like yourself. I must say that the newsletter gives us hope as it surely gives us a common feeling of unity of Purpose.

OSRS. Was there ever leadership?



*King Country has too many goats. One goat is too many.
Takiri Rd, Tanitu.*

In the early 1990's when Robin was chairman of The Rangitikei-Hawke's Bay Conservation Board the issue of whether to use 1080 or not was **first** considered for NZ possum control. The Board largely academics and a few practical people, wanted to say 'no' from the outset. DOC was asked to present **all** the known information about the poison so we could make a 'fair' decision.

DOC presented all the findings. The sceptical Board queried and questioned the data then unanimously voted for its use.

1080 is a natural poison in 57 plants. NZ is unique in that all targeted animals are introduced and not indigenous.

Trials (in 1990's) showed a 'few' small birds taking baits. Surviving birds easily replaced the losses in the same season in the absence of rats and possums (target species).

DOC and science have come a long way since we first said Yes. The poison has an unfortunate name with which it is stuck, but it has been the saviour of huge tracks of bush as farmers throughout NZ will confirm. It has made possible the establishment of 'inland islands' throughout NZ and it has created pest-free sanctuaries for native birds on the 500 off-shore islands.

Without this effective poison great chunks of NZ's biodiversity would have been lost because of the possum alone. Let us stop criticising the use of this chemical. It is not used unwisely. So much of the criticism is emotional and unscientific.

Because we dislike motor vehicle pollution should we stop using cars totally?

Time will allow other solutions for predator control to be developed. However in the meantime it is a wonderfully effective tool.

NZ is extremely lucky to have 1080 available.

MEAT AND WOOL NZ (MWNZ)

E News

Oct 2007

'Meetings in Europe'

Two farmer directors and the CEO are off to Europe to talk with farmer groups and industry representatives 'to progress trade access and market development opportunities'.

What will these people achieve?

What qualifications have they to progress trade access?

It is government's task to create trade access. It is the meat companies, who own the sheepmeat, whose task it is to find market opportunities.

MWNZ claim they don't have a political role, so why are they playing politics in Europe and pretending to be marketers.

Have any of these three ever been marketers and knocked on doors or lifted meat onto supermarket shelves? Only marketers recognise market opportunities.

Our representatives need to put money in farmer's pockets now. Only by doing so can they justify the levy expenditures. Gallivanting around Europe is just the same old stuff of past Meat and Wool Directors.

'North American Lamb Promotion'.

Here farmer's levy money is being used to subsidise meat companies. Farmers are making a \$500,000 **investment** in market development.

Jargon, spin----- the word is subsidisation. Its easy to spend **other people's money (OPM)**.

Will farmers receive meeting reports?



Robin at 13 months of age.

After motorcycling for hours through Mexican deserts Alastair Hilson stopped, turned his bike off for a rest. He was surprised as the bike still rattled! Then he noticed a very excited **rattle snake**, half a metre from his leg.



Plovers and curious ewe. Screaming plovers were furious with the ewe. Just so much noise. Oparau



PERENDALE TEXEL

- Key Points...
- (i) Very hardy, very tough, good natured.
 - (ii) Best as maternal sires.
 - (iii) Extremely well muscled.
 - (iv) White, bulky, 34 micron wool.
 - (v) Low maintenance sheep.

- Birth weight 3 to 4kgs.
- Bond well with lambs. Outstanding lamb survival.
- Responds well to either intensive farming or no shepherding.
- Lambs growth rate 250 to 350 gms per day.
- Lambs suitable for 'market choice' premiums.
- High yielding carcasses. 'Lamb Oscar' finalists, 2007.
- White, bulky, 34 micron wool, 4 to 5kgs per ewe.
- Ewes require 80 to 85% of the feed normally provided to winter traditional NZ whiteface sheep.
- Good foragers. Grow few dags, if any.
- Outstanding lamb survival. Both parent breeds are 'survivors'.
- Mobile sheep which muster easily.
- Natural tolerance to parasites higher than in NZ white face ewes.
- 112 days lactation may have 100% of these lambs ready for slaughter at 15+kgs carcase weight.

Medium sized, compact, stocky sheep.

Comments: This breed is increasingly being used because it is tough and runs on little fuel. 'Relaxed' Perendale Texels require little attention. There is a shortage of breeding stock nationwide.



Dorper lambs and ewes. August born.

Burnside.

DISLIKES.

Psychics; what mischievous foolery.

Icons; an overused silly adjective.

Heroes; most are just doing what is required of a decent human being.

Poor sheepmeat marketing; there is no excuse.

KFC, McDonald's food containers dumped along SH 2.

Queensland Premier Peter Beattie's call for Australia to aim for a 50 million population by use of 'significant migration', is admirable.

Dom-Post.

Already Australians spend A\$8.2 billion on beef and lamb. With an increased population little lamb would be available for export, pressuring the availability of lamb world wide.

Good for NZ sheep farmers.



Scotty Newman shovelled 120 tonnes of sheep pooh from under two OSRS sheds. Heaps went onto the home garden.



Steve Goodman (Westpac) talking with John Douglas (fencer). Essential people in the OSRS team.

Tarata Sept, 07.



Tim McCormick, Waipukurau, on Sunday TV. Tim explained how his farm was managed during the drought. Tim farms ¼ Finn, ¼ Texel, ½ Perendale ewes. July, 07.

A COST OF DROUGHT.

OSRS has sold 260 cattle which normally would be finished.

200 steers and heifers went to auction in August because they could only be fed hay, as there was no more.

60 yearling steers averaging about 200 kg LW were sold 28th Sept, at Feilding. Prices ranged from \$2.44 to \$2.76/kg and were the top priced cattle for the sale.

Only now (1st October) are sheep being adequately fed and cattle are possible at Paratu/ Burnside, Takapau.



Paratu water reticulation, extension. Contractor, Garry Beckett.



'Paratu Cathedral', the finished job. Scotty Newman does an essential job perfectly. Contact Robin if you need this task done.



Posting out publications 62, 63, 64. Evcha, Joy and anybody else willing is roped in. **A big task.** Boxes of letters.



Repaired and planted Paratu dam. August rain wrecked the new earthworks.

Sept, 07

OSRS has always sold two-tooth rams, only ram hoggets when older rams have not been available. Mature rams always perform better and last longer. The time taken to rear OSRS hoggets is used to allow competition between rams, to thoroughly test them individually and to compile accurate SIL records. All rams are given the opportunity to 'express themselves' under the watchful eyes of the staff before being checked by vets, prior to sale. This method of rearing allows OSRS time to assess all the quirks of 'teenage', adolescent hoggets and provide rams for farmers which last and last. (Like RAM4 U).

OSRS predicted that the selling of ram hoggets will be phased-out by other ram producers. This is happening.

'Superior genetics' of each generation of ram hoggets left many dissatisfied farmers when they 'packed up'. 'Superior genetics' mean little if the ram hogget is useless or dead by two-tooth tugging.

The myth of the 'superior ram hogget' has gone and the two-tooth sire is the dominant ram option again.



STABILISED CROSSBRED: 3/8 FINN 3/8 TEXEL 1/4 ROMNEY

- Key Points...
- (i) Clear faced, bold.
 - (ii) Tough.
 - (iii) Visually attractive.
 - (iv) Sexy and prolific.
 - (v) Very productive.

- **SIL Recorded; NZ Animal Breeding Trust (Bureau).**
- Lambs born small, without difficulty.
- Wool. White, 34 micron, 5 to 6kg.
- Lamb growth rates up to 400gms daily.
- Hoggets exhibit early oestrous.
- Long, well-muscled carcasses.
- Excellent carcase conformation.
- Pleasant to farm. Free moving.
- Heavy lean carcasses up to 25kg are possible.
- Relaxed, caring dams.
- Longevity.
- Scanning percentage 180 plus, few triplets

Comments: This crossbred is widely used as a dual-purpose sheep. It is a medium sized breed, capable of handling the worst conditions. Farmers find this breed easy to farm: it has no nasty traits. Survivors.



Palpating thousands of rams is a **big job**. Harry Whiteside, a local vet, has developed an original method for the task. Rams remain very relaxed; but not so the operator. OSRS. He will show the technique at 2008 monitor fielddays.

