



# One Stop Ram Shop



INTERNATIONAL  
NEWSLETTER No. 135  
October 2023



Home grown feijoa flowering May 9th 2023



Feijoa seedling produced 43 fruit



Cattle pugging paddocks 2022 - 2023



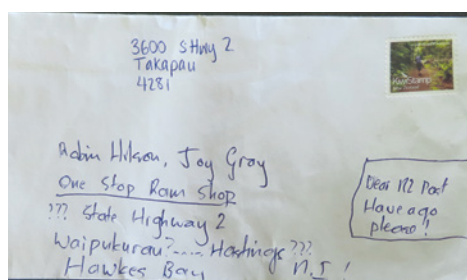
Wiltshire ewe with triplets. Hiding? Sept 2023

## Predictions

- 1, Luxon will be a 'decisive' prime-minister
- 2, Tax gathering by selling NZ to wealthy off-shore owners is foolish. Trouble ahead
- 3, Jacinda's legacy; 'empathy without any constructive national progress'
- 4, Continued immigration means on-going housing shortages
- 5, More people, more urbanisation, more congestion, more disease, more pandemics
- 6, Permanent labour shortages. Why bother to work for a living?
- 7, Wellington won't 'get moving'. Leaking pipes, unreliable transport, twisty cycle lanes hinders moving
- 8, Recognition that microscopic pollution, man-made, is stuffing-up Earth's ecosystem
- 9, The Carbon Credit Scheme's worth is zilch to lowering global warming
- 10, Shedding sheep will finish the medium/coarse wool industry
- 11, Auckland's lamentable pollution of the Waitemata harbour will not lead to prosecution. Urban favouritism

## NOTICES

- Ram sales will begin in the week starting 20 November, 2023
- OSRS Wiltshire sheep are full shedders and SIL recorded
- Ram prices are unaltered except for Wiltshires which have the same ranking price as other breeds
- Please confirm ram orders asap
- Teasers will be available, as usual
- Jeff and Sue Moss are the South Island contact for OSRS
- OSRS hosted Rathkeale College agricultural students again in June



Sometimes letters have funny addresses. The correct address was written by the postie

[www.onestopramshop.co.nz](http://www.onestopramshop.co.nz)



OSRS battens recycled into a Palmerston North fence. Spectacular. OSRS has more battens for sale



Rossella cleverly works on an acorn

OSRS



Finn-Texel two-tooth ewes



Finn-Texel and Texel Suffolk lambs





Wiltshire ewe and triplet lambs September 2023



Wiltshire ewe hogget's September 2022



Wiltshire Ewe hoggets (shedding) with their lambs September 2023



Wiltshire lambs shedding December 2022



Wiltshire ram hogget shedding August 2023



Wiltshire shed wool September 2023



Wiltshire rams shedding September 2023



Wiltshire ram hogget September 2023



Wiltshire ram hoggets September 2023

### WOOL-SHEDDING SHEEP AT OSRS

For decades the stud has bred prolific sheep with quality mid micron wool. OSRS exported specialist wools. However, wool is unprofitable in the micron ranges of OSRS breeds.

Wiltshire sheep were considered in early 1990s and dismissed. An established flock was thoroughly inspected. It had fertility, but awful conformation. Shed wool littered fences, gates and pastures.

Dorpers were farmed from 2000 to 2017. 360 ewes shed wool nicely. Their conformation was excellent, they mated happily all year (eight lambing dates in 2009) but were not fertile. Introduced Australian 'highly fertile' genetics made no difference. Dorpers are incapable of weaning 150%, which OSRS clients want.

Wiltshire ewe lambs were bought from Canterbury, 2017. The flock had been farmed for thirty years with sensible, commercial, organic management. They had good conformation, excellent bums and shifted well. 2023, ewes docked 170%; very satisfactory

for this super wet, muddy year. 70% of the hoggets mated under dire conditions.

Wiltshire sheep have been impressive at OSRS. CHB's farming environment has been unpleasant for all livestock and people. Manager Trevor Bokser has over thirty years of farming Wiltshire sheep. His experience is invaluable to our development of Wiltshire sheep.

Wiltshires managed well even under HB's appalling conditions. They are tough, independent, easy-care, grow fast, require minimal drenching and are 'full shedders'. Wool is rubbed onto netting gates, trees and drops to the ground; it disappears. Growth rates are comparable with other OSRS flocks.

Wiltshire sheep are impressive.

'Tis a pity this line of Wiltshire genetics was not found much earlier. If the Canterbury farmer had not asked for a OSRS visit it is unlikely that Wiltshire sheep would be at OSRS.

**Wiltshires are very impressive.**



Tupping ewes. Green, wet grass with no quality



Sexy Finn Texel ram. Ewes scanned 187%



Scanning was average. This ewe was impatient to know how many lambs she had on board



## ARDABIL NOMADS

In 2017, Joy and Robin went to Iran. Robin's fourth visit. There were visits to nomads high in the Amol Mountains. A tiny, sure-footed mule was led 12 kms with Robin on board to the summer camp. There was neither stirrups or reins, only a sheepskin saddle.



Another group were at Ardabil, close to The Caspian Sea, 20 kms south of Armenia and Azerbaijan. Towering hills and fertile flats, watered by irrigation ditches 700 years old. Spectacular country with a turbulent history. Nomads are 'special' skilled, curious but shy. Meetings started at 11pm.

In September, exactly six years later one of the group in the picture sent the following letter to 1500 nomads.

**Please read what he writes. It is a unique opportunity to read words from a nomadic sheep farmer.**

## A LETTER TO A NEW ZEALAND RANCHER

***"We must do things on time, maybe (this) opportunity will not happen again"***

Dear Mr. Robin Hilson, my dear friend, I am proud of the honor of being with you in Mr. Farzad Sadeghi's house, and I am proud of your unpretentious and humble existence.

Thank you very much. Although the house is small, the facilities are few, and the reception was not acceptable, you will definitely accept our apologies here.

But Mehraban is both my class and my job. The comparison between you and me may be a different comparison, because they consider you the blessing of production, we are the burden of our society. You have the facilities and support of your government to come and take them....

And he says that I am the government, your supporter and means of support, and he proves this in practice, and your government says that you excuse and limit me from reaching out to other countries.

Productivity will surely be a sign of your national pride...

But here we have to introduce ourselves to every manager first, and that official will have the look of a serf lord, like I am a consumer and they are producers behind his table. But regardless of this, if the favor includes our mood and that manager or manager of that day, if he has a good day, maybe he will consider being introduced to a bank with a loan of 18% as his medal honor, and I should be a grateful and grateful rancher for his life, what is the amount spent in the bank now? I will have to take that 6-month loan, it will be a whole story of a story of Narastan(Lier) Bank that I don't want to earn more than this!!



But our dear friend, if we have a traditional view of our profession, we were the best in the time of tradition and age of non-machines and relying on ourselves, but today is the age of technology and productivity, thanks to progress, and the right of today is to be familiar with the language of the day and master the technology of the day, and every profession If he doesn't do this, he will definitely have to fail, because the tools of the day are always the cause of progress and progress, because you can't plow today's land with the tools of yesterday (hundred years ago).

But my friend, our life and work, despite all this technology and lack of support, has made us follow the traditional profession instead of industrialization, but because we were deprived of the facilities, we had to resort to traditional living and traditional animal husbandry, which made our fellow animals lose our bread and take our bread off the floor, now I don't know what to do with this situation. I don't know if we are to blame or....

Sincerely,  
Sadiq Mughanlu-Haj Ali Khan



Rams for South Island farmers November 2022



Josh and Anna Harriman, 1/4 Finn Texels. Eketahuna



Denise and Derryk Burdon, Five Rivers Finn Texels. Southland



Matthew Southgate, Finn Texel rams. Dannevirke



John Little. Came from USA 1997 and returns annually.  
**John does everything Robin should have done years ago**



Duncan McLeod and Angela, clients for decades Wanganui



## POST-GABRIELLE, SPRING 2023

The past year has been a most difficult experience. Pictures show some of the destruction.

Ram sales were strong after the wet of 2022 and tribulations of covid years.

Visits to farms recommenced in December and January allowing a catch-up after the pandemic. Things 'seemed' almost normal. Cyclone Gabrielle dealt with any complacency. It has taken over six months to repair damage. Trees toppled, fences flattened, floodgates and sheep lost. What a mess. A lake formed and was shared with neighbours. The homestead was flooded. Curtains, walls and carpets have been replaced. Only painting remains to be completed. Local tradesmen have been thorough, fast, skilled and very pleasant company.

A total of eighteen people were involved with repairing the home, farm and the author who caught sepsis after a motorbike fall into deep mud. Farmers offered to help tidy-up OSRS. We appreciated their offer. Many people suffered from the cyclone.

Paddocks dried in September. Worst pugged paddocks were rolled and 12ha cultivated for summer crops. A drought is imminent. It's raining solidly at present.

All very strange! The feeling of utter helplessness was a new experience. Repairs had to be dealt with in strict order. Plenty of stored feed was available but access was hindered by deep mud. The tractor made long deep ruts feeding out.

We survived as did the stock. Losses of ewes and lambs have been tiny. Gabrielle's cost has been huge.



Flood waters surprised cacti

14 February



Water seeped in. Paper and towels stemmed nothing



Walls removed between rooms



Furniture stacked outside in rare sunshine.

Tradesmen were brilliant

August 2023



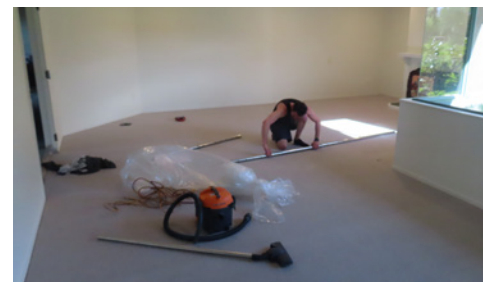
Gabrielle flooding. Lawn covered in water



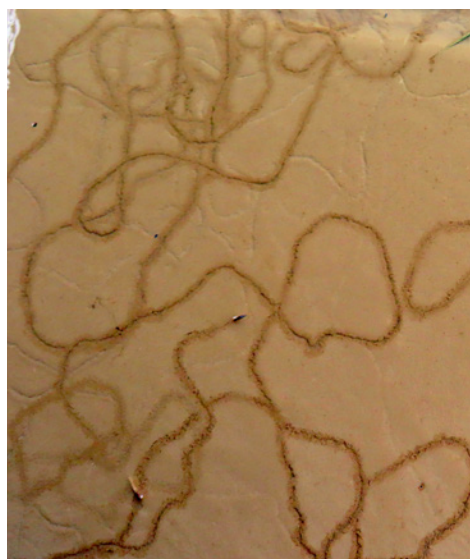
Water seeped into the carpets



Carpets lifted, underlay silt laden. Curtains ruined  
18 February 2023



Walls were replaced after drying. New carpets being laid and new curtains being hung



Copepods 'sand hoppers', plodded through thick silt, leaving tracks  
February 2023



Fed by only a spring this drain became a muddy trap



## WHY?

Why are farmers charged 2% higher interest on bank loans than those for city home buyers? Banker explanations are pathetic

Why are the Proposals for Biodiversity a recipe for uncertainty, increased costs, less efficient management of flora and fauna? No consultation with landowners?

Why is the review into the Future of Local Government hopeless? Consultation achieved nothing. The review is about 'well-being'; whatever that is.

Why does Simon Upton have "grave doubts" about forestry offsets?

Emission pricing (taxes) on agriculture will lower primary production and GDP. It will cost NZ dearly. Doesn't Government listen? Why not give credit to the primary sector which has already lowered emissions? Why not tax the emissions from urban industry?

Why did the Public Service spend \$1.2 b on consultants and contractors in 2022? Because it's OPM.....**other people's money.**

Why are all Black Fern rugby presenters women, when All Black presenters are male and female?



Ginger (Kuni Kuni) watching the digger lifting a pipe and removing a dam



Creek bed being lowered a metre August 2023



Creek lowered



Overflow causeway. This will ensure any future cyclones can't flood the homestead



Typical boggy gateway. Ruts 25cm deep



Muddy drains trapped sheep. They were safe by September



Motorbike stranded on mud humps: big humps. Plenty of new fences



Peaceful. Limbs burnt. Mostly no sun; no quality grass



Cleanup finished, timber burnt, paddocks rolled, silt flattened. Lake gone September 2023



Three neighbours did not like their new lake (arrows). It was impossible to get close because of the water and mud 15 February 2023



Tidy paddock. June 2022 floods wrecked fences. Gabrielle did more damage





Hundreds of potted native plants ready for planting out annually



Home-grown manuka.

September 2023



Winter flowering of feijoa. Crazy times. July 2023



Grass smothered manuka and Blue Mountain azaleas from Otago. Unnecessary losses



Riparian planting. Water-cress grows fast



Riparian planting. Excellent plants from Coppermine Nursey, Woodville thrived



Harry Whiteside, HB Vet Services, scanned the cows. 100% in-calf. **Harry kept us laughing**



Flax lifted and replaced with home-grown coprosmas and podocarps

### CO-GOVERNANCE THREATENS NZ DEMOCRACY

The Treaty of Waitangi is being manipulated. **'Treaty obligations'** and **'Treaty principles'** are new concepts. The Treaty provides Māori the same rights as everyone else and not special constitutional status.

**Co-governance to date provides no practical benefits:**

The Māori Health Authority employs 400 staff, spent almost \$1/2 b with no visible benefits.

Te Pukenga (Polytech), overspent and under-delivers. It has a Māori and a non-Māori for each bureaucratic role.

(After Hobson's Pledge publications).



Anthrenocerus Australis. Big name for little beetle. They wreck carpets



Kintail Manuka Honey spread on toast; **so good!**



Weeplus Acutus: NZ Antlion. Larvae build pits in soft soils. Spiders and wetas that fall in are sucked dry.



History. Large meat packages used by OSRS when exporting Texel meat to UK and US



Morepork tragedy. It died after crashing into the kitchen window

July 2023





Finn Texel ewes. John Dillon's superb sheep  
Riverton, Southland February 2023



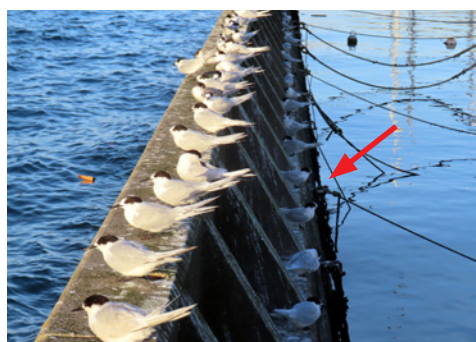
Beautiful Clinton. Well-farmed by the Moss family,



Lone pianist. Quirky Otago humour  
Lawrence



Bicycle stand high on a track above Oriental Parade  
Wellington. December 2022



Terns. Above: face the wind and harbour waves  
Below: face the tranquil marina. Wellington



Rams in borage. Balmoral Forest, North Canterbury



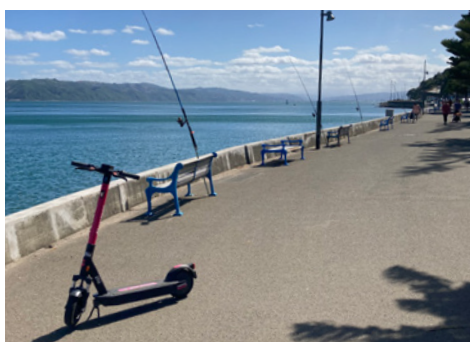
Pine plantings. Senseless planting of good farmland  
for dubious value. Owaka Valley February 2023



Southland humour. Messages to any intruder  
Te Anau. February 2023



Blustery Wellington winds blow signage 180°  
Te Papa is on the left, not right



Unattended rods happily fish by themselves;  
Scooters just wait around for riders. Wellington

## AN 'IDEAL' MP. 22/9/23 OPINION

An opinion before the election, 22/9/23.

- 1, One who had had their own business where ALL income was earned by their acumen
- 2, who fostered democracy ie., one person, one vote
- 3, who ignored tribalism and wanted Kiwis as one people, of one country
- 4, was older than 26 years: the age when Kiwis reach maturity
- 5, was not a career academic; all theory and impractical
- 6, had rural roots, so was practical, thoughtful and 'effective'
- 7, who knows GDP 'relies' on overseas earnings from the primary sector
- 8, who accepts compulsory retirement, from parliament, after three terms
- 9, who understands global warming is a natural phenomena, worsened by human pollution
- 10, who has common-sense and knows regulations need be practical and few

## AND SOME GOOD NEWS

In 2022 the scan result was excellent. Lambing started and so did the rain. There was **no** dry ground, ewes suffered, lambs died.

2023 and the rain stopped just as lambing started. Losses were minimal. An average scanning became a great survival. Ewes have 1.82 lambs recorded each. Lambs 'bonny'. Hogget lambs are not yet recorded.



Brazilians Helena and Natalia tagging and recording parentage. 4th October

September. Paddocks were dry enough to cultivate. And, Trevor did so. 12 ha is drilled and will be ready for the predicted drought.



Tractor drilling brassica. 5th October



	● SIL Recorded		Top 10%	Top	Elite	Commercial	Number
TEXEL SUFFOLK ●	Texel Suffolk		1400	1200	1000	800	
TEXEL ●	Texel		1400	1200	1000	800	
1/4 FINN TEXEL ●	Romney & Perendale ¼ F ¼ T		1400	1200	1000	800	
FINN TEXEL ●	Finn Texel		1400	1200	1000	800	
PERENDALE TEXEL ●	Perendale Texel		1400	1200	1000	800	
WILTSHIRE ●	Wiltshire		1400	1200	1000	800	

Trevor Bokser		027 2402 204	CHB	glengyle@farmside.co.nz
David Meade	(03) 522-4139	021 1686 903	Nelson	david.meade@outlook.com
Philip Munro	(03) 685-5772	027 2289 627	Fairlie	munropa@farmside.co.nz
Jeff Moss	(03) 415-7707	027 4157 707	Clinton	sue.jeff@xtra.co.nz
Freight to South Island \$25/head.		Teasers, all Finn crosses, young and sexy \$250.		



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Quarter Finn Texel (¼F ¼T ½P&R)



Texel



Texel Suffolk



Wiltshire



Finn Texel



Perendale Texel

### THE TRIP UP

Joy and Robin had carefully planned a cruise which left Rio Janeiro in May. It sailed up the east coast of Brazil calling into six ports. This gave a chance to meet Rafael and further OSRS/ Brazil business.

Then sailing across the Atlantic visiting islands until reaching west Africa then turning south, visiting ten countries before finishing in South Africa. It was to be a month of new cultural experiences and dodging coups (which happened).

Finally off to Europe, rellies and friends. In London for Charles's big day (unplanned).

**Cancelled** because of being hospitalised by sepsis. Gabrielle's fault. A previous cruise (included Russia) had been cancelled because of the pandemic. **Very frustrating.** Planning another in 2024.

**No cancelling?**



OSRS shrubbery spring 2023. Magnolia and podocarps. Long, wet, uncut grass



No more golden days: Derelict old dairies, old pig stys and now woolsheds  
 Shannon



**Three remarkables;** the mountains, Joy and Nellie Potter (grand-daughter) at Queenstown about to walk the Milford track  
 January 2023



Colourful. Victoria University graduates included Charlotte Tucker (grand-daughter)  
 May 2023