Australian Heritage Angoras
A National Breeding Strategy

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Australian Heritage Angoras

- Who are they?
- Why conserve them?
- What is the National Breeding Strategy?
- Where has it got to?
- What is the future plans?
Who are they?

The history of Angoras in Australia
A brief history of goats in Australia

- There is no indigenous breed of Australian goats
- First goats arrived in Australia in 1788.
- These importations were for meat, milk and hair
History of Angora Goats in Australia

- First Cashmere-Angoras imported to Australia in 1832
- 1840-1870 – Small importations of Angoras from Turkey
- 1880s – Cashmere in decline and dispersal of Angora flocks
- 1888 – E C Kemp established herd of Angoras collecting the Turkish purebreds
History of Angora Goats in Australia

- 1904 – Establishment of the Banksia Stud by F Barton

- 1947 – Banksia flock registered by the Goat Breeders Society of Australia (GBSA)

- From the establishment of GBSA we are able to trace the lineages of the Banksia goats
History continued

- 1963 – 14 studs registered
- 1970s – Interest in Angoras renewed
- 1975 – Angora Breed Society (ABS) established to maintain records purebred Angoras
- 1980s – Commercial flocks grew, importation of Texan & South African bloodlines
- 2000 - ABS dissolved
- 2002 – Australia Heritage Angoras registered by Rare Breeds Trust of Australia
Why Conserve them?
Why conserve them?

Maintenance of the biodiversity of species provides economic, ecological, recreational, cultural and scientific values.
Why conserve them?

- Cultural
  Australian Agricultural History

- Scientific
  Genetic diversity

- Recreational
  A fibre which would otherwise be lost
Development of a National Breeding Strategy
National Breeding Strategy

- 2016 commence development of a National Breeding Strategy
- Driven by small group of breeders

Approach
- Multi-faceted
- Step-wise
- Intertwining

First steps
- Where are they?
- How many are left?
- Breed assessment
Methods – First Steps

- Database/Literature Interrogation
  - Review of existing databases
  - Literature search for historical records
  - Grey matter/other sources search

- Unstructured Interviews
  - Key starting themes
    - Why are you interested in Australian Heritage Angoras
    - How many animals
    - Describe them (in own words)

- Herd and fleece Observation
  - Visual inspection of herds
  - Visual inspection of fleece
Geographical Distribution
How many AHAs are there? And why is it so hard to find out

Challenges
- Register but not all breeders using it
- Register not up to date
- Tracking animals /Hobby farms
- Breeders not all connected

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BUCKS</th>
<th>DOES</th>
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<td>VIC</td>
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<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>49 (32%)</td>
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Breed Characteristics

Does – 64-67cm (25-27in) at shoulders
Bucks – 69-74.5cm (27-30in)
High Fertility, 95% twinning rate
Quiet Temperament
Horns - Bucks

Horizontal projection
Approximately 75cm wide
Horns - Bucks
Horns – Buck comparison
Horns - Does

Patterns observed

- Straight backwards curve
- Backwards curve with twist
- Forward curve
- “Curley Wurly”
Horns - Does
Bare face and legs

- Little to no wigging required
- Minimal crutching
- Hoof health generally strong
- Worm care
Bare face and legs
Mohair

Kemp
Fine
Lustre
Wavy staples
Yield
• Does 1.3kg – 1.8kg (3-4lbs)
• Bucks – 2kg-2.5kg
Fibre comparisons
Coloured genes
What’s been achieved so far?

Commencement of evidenced based information
Breeders understand the importance of the goats
Breeders now all known to either other
  • Opportunities for sale of animals
  • Opportunities for Buck swapping
Ability to mobilize and seek research and other funding
Where to next?

- Structured Interviews
- Further definition of the breed characteristics
- Individual assessment of the goats (EBVs)
- Fleece Testing
- Genetic Testing
- Creating of semen bank
- Ultimate goal – Defined conservation breeding program
Thank you

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