

Dear Clients,

Having just spent the last week feeling very cold I am wondering if we have our months mixed up. The calendar says it is mid December but "bit the bullet this morning and lit the fire" In 86years Leo can never remember it being this cold in December. Global Warming???

For most of us it has been a very strange year. The weather again but what a mixed bag it has been. Sitting on the tablelands we have not suffered floods like a lot of you but getting around the country has proved a nightmare and our country is so rough from cattle hooves sinking in the mud. We have been so pleased that the sheep have come through remarkably well. Our wool clip was bright with very little fleece colouring. Again we give thanks that our shearing team was on the ball and we weren't held up in either shearing. Sold our wool on the right market. Our Ram Sale team have NOT been shedded at all but on a very good pasture. No extra feed and we are so pleased with the condition, size and appearance of them. Some microns may be a little broader due to the good feed they have been on but should all breed back to the average. We will have 40/ 2th rams and 8 older woollies to show you on sale day. See the attached Mini Catalogue.

Property wise it has been a struggle at times. Scott left us in March for greener pastures but we have had our grandson Mitch with us for most of the year. He has been a blessing but has taken a job part time with Back Track which he is thoroughly enjoying. We have him on "Days Off" We are feeling positive about employment in the New Year.

Family wise there have been ups and downs. Started off the year with a granddaughter being married in the garden. A wonderful day. Another has moved to Darwin to work in health and another spends lots of time working from Hay where her boyfriend lives. Piper the youngest of Andrew's finished Uni in Armidale averaging Distinctions for all her efforts but has yet to determine her future. Rylan has moved to the Gold Coast and loving the work he is doing in Advertising/copywriting. Brad and Damon are still in their old jobs. No more marriages on the calendar yet!! Andrew and Mel and Toni & Chris will be up after Christmas. Andrew arrives back from Italy Tuesday and looking forward to a slower pace next year.

Leo is slowing up but still doing a great job keeping Westvale running. I had a hip replacement in August and a dislocation a month later but am on the right path now due to good physiotherapy. Garden tests me but I love it.

Small family this year for Christmas as it is the Outlaw year. Cindy and boys will be here so all in all we are very lucky.

We hope that none of you have suffered too much from the amazing weather we have experienced this year. We know that sheep and shearing have been a big problem for some and some of you have lost much more. There is not much we can say but to let you know that we have been thinking of you all.

Our love and best wishes for 2023. May the weather average out and you all experience good health and happiness.

*Enjoy the Christmas spirit, God Bless, Leo & Judy and all the Blanch Family.*