



**By Anne Burns**

Australia produces 50% of the world's exported goat meat, while some of this comes from the Aussie bush goat a fast growing sector of the market is the South African Boer goat.

Developed in the early 1900's as South African farmers began selecting their goats for meat qualities, the breed developed in Australia in the late 1980's.

With countries like Malaysia and Indonesia close by and with such a strong culture of eating goat meat, Australian producers are well placed to benefit.

Recent arrivals in the Eugowra dis-

trict are Tracey Wood and husband Richard Zidarew. Moving up from the south coast they have settled at "Inglewood" in North Eugowra with their "Pacifica" Boer Goat Stud.

Tracey kindly gave us five minutes out of her busy day to talk about this booming industry.

**Enews: What attracted you to this industry?**

I have always had a deep love of animals and the country life, so when the opportunity came for a change, after years in hospitality and event management things just fell into place.

I was travelling to West Australia a lot, organising a hospitality program for the Rugby World Cup, and through a friend we met Marie and Cedric Hohrman from Amani Boer Goat Stud. Eventually I went out to the stud for a visit that was it for me.

Goats are such intelligent animals, they are also one of the few animals that seek out human contact which I think is lovely. They are just such striking animals and a size I can manage, we love our cattle too,

but they can be difficult for me to handle alone.

So I came away from that first meeting with two bucks and ten does, we have continued with the Amani blood stock as it has such a solid reputation in Australia and internationally.

**Enews: What markets do you see for your goats?**

We have a number of opportunities, the Australian Government, MLA / Live Corp as joint venture partners have set up huge farms in Malaysia to breed goats, and some of our bucks have gone over as seed stock.

With a huge market for goat meat, in our time zone and right on our doorstep there is a lot of opportunity, certainly MLA is very much behind the industry, doing a lot to promote us overseas.

While many farmers in the western division have been rounding up bush goats and shipping them off there is an opportunity to infuse our Aussie doe with a Boer buck to breed a better meat goat. Certainly there is room for improvement in meat quality in what we send overseas at present.

**BELOW: Richard & Tracey with a new arrival**



A small herd of goats also compliment a cattle or sheep operation, they can "clean up" many weeds that the others leave behind, they are certainly great on woody weeds, it is not a problem to run them together.

With sheep numbers at an all time low, goats are a good alternative for many farmers. Another advantage is their very high twinning rate; we find the majority of our doe's giving birth to twins and this is a

huge advantage for any farmer.

This year we will be running our first on farm Open Day and Sale on April 9, hopefully many of the locals will come out to have a look and maybe learn of the advantages of farming goats.

**ENews: What other enterprises are you involved in?**

Our cattle herd is starting to develop, at the moment we have a beautiful Hereford bull he was 2010 Reserve Champion at the Melbourne Show so we are hoping he will make a significant contribution to the herd.

I know they might not be the trendy colour (black) but I think Herefords have many excellent traits; we would love to develop a line Poll Hereford in the future.

We are also running a small Dorper mob and as with all our enterprises we will just get on with building up our numbers over the next few years

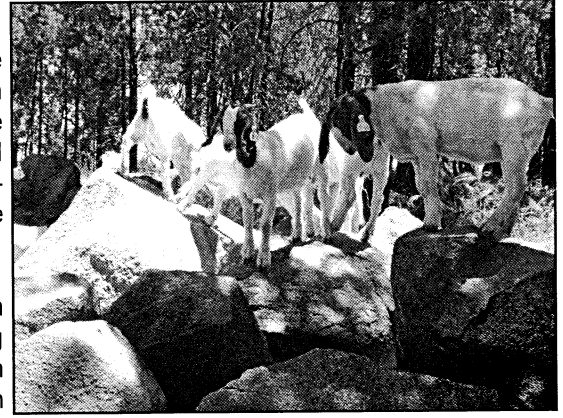
**ENews: While you have only been here a short time what have you got planned for the future?**

We have been so fortunate moving to this district, with such lovely neighbours like the Howell's the Ellis's and Welsh's helping us with invaluable advice and everyone has been so welcoming.

We also have some help from the Awesome Contracting Team. This country has been a big change from the south coast; mind you I think we brought the rain with us in 2010.

We really wanted to go though all four seasons before we do too much at "Inglewood". With goats you do need some basic shelter infrastructure; the doe's need shelter at night when they are kidding. Peter Heath is working with us now and is very capable in developing the required infrastructure. Also the right fencing is important if you want to farm goats. All our paddocks are electrified. The goats have a great deal of respect for a hot wire.

We want to do more pasture cropping in the future. On the south



*ABOVE: Boer goats enjoying the Eugowra granite*

coast we used a mix of vetch, triticale, rye, oats and grazing wheat I am not sure yet how this will go in this country.

Certainly just learning what is growing out in your paddocks is very important and that just takes time as new varieties appear as the seasons change.

Boer Goats are certainly a fast growing sector of the meat industry and I hope if anyone is interested they come out and have a good look on our open day on April 9.



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