

## [Open Research](#)

[Library](#)

Search query

[Skip navigation](#)

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Contribute](#)
- [Publishing](#)
- [Policy](#)
- [Copyright](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [My Open Research](#)

[close](#)

## [My Open Research](#)

Your list of unfinished submissions or submissions in the workflow.

- [Edit Profile](#)
- [Receive email updates](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Login](#)
- [Menu](#)
- 

Search query

- Search ANU web, staff & maps
- Search current site content

Search

Home » [ANU Research](#) » [ANU Scholarly Output](#) » [ANU Press \(1965-Present\)](#) » Merinos, myths and Macarthurs : Australian graziers and their sheep, 1788-1900

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Contribute](#)
- [Publishing](#)
- [Policy](#)
- [Copyright](#)

## **Merinos, myths and Macarthurs : Australian graziers and their sheep, 1788-1900**

(22.27 MB)

- [Statistics](#)
- [Export Reference to BibTeX](#)
- [Export Reference to EndNote XML](#)

[Garran, J. C.](#)

### **Description**

Sheep and their wool, the strong backbone that helped colonial Australia walk upright, have a proud place in Australian hearts and in the

national record. But the romance of wool has often shrouded the hard facts, and the myths developed by and around the pioneers have distorted an important story. John Garran, sheep-breeder and historian, was convinced that the history written from the study chair be corrected from the farm. He brought a critical eye, practical experience and a great interest...[\[Show more\]](#) in genetics to tracing the origins and development of sheep in Australia. This approach was complemented by the political economist Leslie White. The particular focus of myth has been John Macarthur and the purity of the Merino breed. Australians have been taught that their nation has ridden to prosperity on the sheep's back, and that early sheep-breeders made a unique contribution in developing a pure breed - beliefs aired in controversies about the export of Merinos. But the earliest sheep in Australia were hairy sheep from the Cape of Good Hope and Bengal which had with an undercoat of fine wool, and these provided the base from which, by cross-breeding with Saxon Merinos and other breeds, the Australian Merino became so successful. It is generally, but wrongly, assumed that all Macarthur's stud sheep were pure bred, unmixed descendants of Spanish Merinos he obtained from King George III. Macarthur has been credited with having a vision of a great Australian industry, and working untiringly to establish it on a permanent basis, and has gained a carefully fostered but unmerited reputation as a scientific breeder, a knowledgeable grazier and a producer of superior sheep. None of these assumptions is tenable, and Merinos, Myths and Macarthurs demolishes once and for all the claims by Macarthur and later advocates to his being the father of the wool industry in Australia. What is more, it was his wife Elizabeth who carried the burden of his sheep enterprise. Macarthur at last is shorn.

**Collections** [ANU Press \(1965-Present\)](#)

**Date published:** 1985

**Type:** Book

**URI:** <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/114835>

**Access Rights:** Open Access

## Download

File	Description	Size	Format	Image
<a href="#">b10633182.pdf</a>		22.27 MB	Adobe PDF	<input type="text"/>

[Show full item record](#)

Items in Open Research are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

Updated: **19 May 2020**/ Responsible Officer: [University Librarian](#)/ Page Contact: [Library Systems & Web Coordinator](#)

- [Contact ANU](#)
- [Campus Map](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [Copyright](#)
- [Disclaimer](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [Freedom of Information](#)

+61 2 6125 5111

The Australian National University, Canberra

CRICOS Provider : 00120C

ABN : 52 234 063 906

Merino, breed of fine-wool sheep originating in Spain; it was known as early as the 12th century and may have been a Moorish importation. It was particularly well adapted to semiarid climates and to nomadic pasturing. The breed has become prominent in many countries worldwide. Merinos vary. Encyclopaedia Britannica's editors oversee subject areas in which they have extensive knowledge, whether from years of experience gained by working on that content or via study for an advanced degree. See Article History.

Alternative Titles: Australian Merino, Merino transhumante. Merino, breed of fine-wool sheep originating in Spain; it was known as early as the 12th century and may have been a Moorish importation. Breeding and fencing Australia's early graziers drew on the global stock of genetic and mechanical know-how. They came from Britain, the world's most advanced economy, and used the vast accumulated knowledge driving the Industrial Revolution there. Australia was a late participant in the Industrial Revolution but benefitted from decades of earlier technological development. At first Australian shepherds tended the colonial flocks but the gold rushes lured them away and fences were erected to keep the sheep from straying. Fences encouraged selective breeding, disease control and improved the qu Merino, breed of fine-wool sheep originating in Spain; it was known as early as the 12th century and may have been a Moorish importation. It was particularly well adapted to semiarid climates and to nomadic pasturing. The breed has become prominent in many

countries worldwide. Merinos vary. Encyclopaedia Britannica's editors oversee subject areas in which they have extensive knowledge, whether from years of experience gained by working on that content or via study for an advanced degree. See Article History.

Alternative Titles: Australian Merino, Merino transhumante. Merino, breed of fine-wool sheep originating in Spain; it was known as early as the 12th century and may have been a Moorish importation. Breeding and fencing Australia's early graziers drew on the global stock of genetic and mechanical know-how. They came from Britain, the world's most advanced economy, and used the vast accumulated knowledge driving the Industrial Revolution there. Australia was a late participant in the Industrial Revolution but benefitted from decades of earlier technological development. At first Australian shepherds tended the colonial flocks but the gold rushes lured them away and fences were erected to keep the sheep from straying. Fences encouraged selective breeding, disease control and improved the qu