



*Trade Mark of Excellence*

## Ararat Barunah Region Report March 2011

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The change in the season has been welcomed throughout the Ararat-Barunah region, lifting the mood of many of our members. The continued rainfall over summer has meant that many pastures have maintained spring growth, with stock in good condition and water resources, which have been empty for many years if not decades, now replenished. It is hoped that these rains will mark the end to the run of droughts that have plagued the eastern seaboard of Australia.

The large amount of available pasture has meant a reduced need for supplementary feeding. The exceptional season has realised sheep to be carrying heavy, high yielding fleeces. However, the once in 100 year rains, have not been beneficial to all our members with some having flood damage to property, fences and loss of livestock. Other issues green feed has produced, is ongoing worm and fly problems, along with a proliferation of summer weeds that are proving to be toxic to sheep.

The long awaited increase in wool prices has seen a return of confidence within the wool growing community. Increased financial returns will give growers money to reinvest into on-property capital works following years of only maintenance works due to close to or below breakeven prices.

During the Australia Day Awards, long time member Mr George Holden, Concongella, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM). Mr Holden (OAM) received the award for his ongoing service to the local community, through his work with environmental groups including Landcare and Project Platypus, agricultural groups, the Country Fire Authority and local government.



Photo:

George Holden and his daughter  
Sue Holden.

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