



AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

ABN: 41 338 467 905

Victorian Wool Centre, 691 Geelong Road, Brooklyn Vic 3025

Telephone: 03 9318 0399

e-mail: aswga@woolindustries.org

Facsimile: 03 9318 0877

ASWGA Ararat-Barunah Region Report March 2009

Oh dear...it seems that all four wheels have fallen off this time!

Please forgive the sarcasm, but with the global economy in such a state, keeping a sense of humour helps put things into perspective.

We certainly live in a diverse country. While our colleagues in Queensland & surrounds battle with destructive flooding, we here in the south eastern corner of Australia still find ourselves confronting the familiarities associated with drought. This is something quite unique to anything that many have experienced before, with many areas failing to achieve a year of above average rainfall for over a decade resources are becoming stretched. Perhaps the solution lies with the ability & willingness to adapt to this change.

This past summer will be etched into our memories for many years to come. Early December rain arrived too late to be of much use other than to perhaps delay the job of water cartage for a short while. The months following proved disastrously hot & dry. Days of strong winds combined with low humidity kept us all on edge, constantly scanning the horizon for any threat of fire. Not only did the gale force winds limit visibility but what remained of any dry feed was quickly dispersed, taking with it valuable top soil & nutrients. Although at times threatened by fire, thankfully most of our members escaped relatively unscathed.

Looking around the countryside & considering the situation I expect that stock numbers remain at critically low levels.

This can only be expected given the imbalance between the ever-increasing costs of production against returns for superfine wool. It is difficult to foresee any turn-around in demand during this period of economic downturn. Unfortunately luxury items such as those manufactured containing superfine wool apparel are amongst the first casualties during times like these.

On a brighter note congratulations must be extended to Mr Robert Beggs AM & Mr Barry Walker on receiving Honorary Life Membership into the ASWGA. Both gentlemen have been prominent figures within the wool industry over a long period of time, particularly within the Superfine sector. Each having served terms of Federal Presidency within the Association, their dedication & commitment toward building a brighter future for us all cannot be overstated.

