



# AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

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## **Hamilton Region Report**

### **July 2010**

The 2009/10 season proved a good one for Hamilton region woolgrowers. The downside was a fortnight of extremely hot weather in November. This caused a major reduction in crop yields and had a significant effect on woolgrowers trying to supplement their income with some cropping.

Most of the regions superfine woolgrowers now have some diversification to other agricultural enterprises, cropping and prime lambs the most popular. Many are using terminal sires over their aged ewes, thus will be breeding less merino replacements in the future.

Wool prices are a concern for all growers and very obviously the longer wool prices remain at the present level the more increased diversification will become.

An indication of reduced merino breeding can be gained by the reduction in the number of rams sold at on property sales and privately. Some studs recording a drop in sales of more than 50% compared to their peak sales.

Ram prices have held up well. Buyers have become more selective, are looking to purchase rams of improved quality and will pay more to obtain the rams of their choice. The standard of rams available in the region is continually improving.

In April the Hamilton Branch organized a luncheon at Collins Kitchen, Melbourne to meet with Paolo Zegna and two of the Zegna companies wool buyers Don Belgre and Tim Marwedel. The luncheon was kept informal, basically to get to know each other and to discuss wool industry issues. Some interesting discussions developed and all had an excellent day.

The branch thanks Kevin Dunn for his continued involvement in promoting superfine wool to the world during his term as President of the ASWGA. A big job well done.

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