



# AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

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## ASWGA Hamilton Region Report

### November 2008

Winter was mild with good rain, whilst spring started very mild. By the end of September the rain ceased and as of time of writing, we have received 20mm in the last 8 weeks. Although this rain will vary throughout the region, there have been storms passing through.

The spring has cut off very quickly, and as a result there is a distinct lack of moisture, resulting in short pasture growth, poor hay making and great concern over the condition of grain crops, which represent a large portion of land in our region. Moisture stress will most likely result in a significant loss of yield in most areas.

Most growers in the region have produced a very good wool clip for the 2008 season. Increased wool cuts, improved style, higher yields and newtons seem to be common, resulting in one of the best clips to come out of western Victoria in recent years. Let us hope for improvement in the world financial climate, and that it will flow through to satisfactory returns for all the hard work that superfine woolgrowers put in to produce this wonderful fibre.

Local woolgrowers received notable results though Aug/Sept with some very encouraging sales and prices achieved. However since September prices have dropped alarmingly to a level where growers will once again question the viability of superfine wool production.

For some it will be the last straw, and unfortunately a continued decline in the once rich western district superfine woolgrower base that we were renowned for.

Now as you drive around you see tens of thousands of acres dedicated to cropping, prime lambs and now more recently, blue gum plantations.

In October the Glenara stud held their 21<sup>st</sup> on property ram auction. The sale was well supported by a loyal clientele from through Victorian and southern NSW. 47 rams sold to a top of \$3200 and averaged \$850.

On October 21<sup>st</sup> our region and the ASWGA was saddened to lose Mr Merv Mibus, an honorary life member of the association, former president and long time council member. Merv was extremely dedicated to growing superfine wool and doing whatever was required to support those around him that shared his passion of superfine merino wool. Merv served as regional chairperson for many years and during this time in charge, took great pride in organising superfine woolgrower dinners in Hamilton, with woolled fashion parades that in their peak often attracted 250 to 300 people. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him, but we are left to continue his dream of producing superfine wool for the world.