



ASWGA Region Report Ararat-Barunah

July 2009

These past twelve months have again tested the patience & endurance of our grower members. Following on from a poor season previously, we all held high hopes for a long awaited improvement in seasonal conditions this year, but unfortunately this failed to eventuate. A dry winter was followed by a lacklustre spring, meaning that the need for supplementary feeding arrived earlier than one would hope.

With the cost of production out weighing that of returns for woolgrowers, there is further evidence of a reduction in stock numbers. In fact most merino flocks are currently operating well below potential capacity. Increasingly fine wool merinos are being replaced by meat breeds. If only wool benefited from strong promotional & marketing strategies such as that enjoyed by the lamb industry.

Our member base within the Region remains strong with new members occasionally joining the group. Thankfully we have a small number of younger growers emerging through our ranks, showing a keen interest & commitment toward producing superfine wool.

I feel that it is of the utmost importance that all involved work tirelessly for a sustainable, prosperous future, if not for ourselves, for these

young future leaders. The potential for wool has long been understated & understood.

As voting for Wool poll approaches let me remind you that we must strengthen our resolve & in a display of unity secure sufficient funding to ensure us all a bright future. This may well prove to be the final chance for the wool industry.

At present, farmer groups in general are struggling for their existence & the ASWGA is in no way insulated from the financial pressures. Understandably, finding a little extra for membership is awkward. But before any decision regarding membership renewal is made I stress to you all that the influential strength of a united group is far superior to that of just one individual.

The Ararat-Barunah branch thanks the Executive for their efforts over the past year. It is recognised that at times hard decisions must be made, decisions that are impossible to please everyone. However, it must be understood that the Association always acts in what it understands to be in the best interest of its members as a majority.

To all Association members throughout the supply chain, good luck for all future endeavours this coming season. Hopefully persistence will eventually be blessed by prosperity.

