



AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

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ASWGA Tasmania Region Report

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The Tasmanian Fine Merino Breeders Association (TFMBA) held its AGM on 19th August and was pleased to receive a comprehensive report from the President of ASWGA Kevin Dunn on his findings of the visits undertaken overseas and other important issues being covered by ASWGA.

Hamish Wallace of Trefusis, Ross was elected TFMBA President for the ensuing year and F O'Connor, M Legge, S Foster and R Thirkell-Johnston elected to serve on ASWGA Council.

Protracted negotiations are continuing with the State Government on the Regulations controlling the movement and operations of Exotic Sheep Breed (Dorpers) owners. The Government would like to abolish the Control Regulations but has reluctantly agreed to continue but in a more modified form.

The negotiations over the listing of the Native Grasslands are also continuing with the Federal Department of the Environment particularly in relation to the definition of 'derived grasslands' and the definition of

'continuing use'. The outcome will have a significant effect on the management of some superfine properties.

Unfortunately there is a continuing trend to sheep meat production and away from wool production that has resulted in the loss of some long established superfine flocks and a reduction in the numbers of superfine sheep on other properties.

The 3 year drought has at least temporarily ended with record rainfall in some areas over the August to October period. The feed situation has improved considerably with the best early to mid Spring for some time. Sheep numbers are well below normal but growers are now looking to rebuild flocks.

Wool production continues to decline due to the destocking caused by the drought and it will take some years to recover to more normal volumes. However unless the market for superfine wool shows an improvement the drift to alternate enterprises will continue.