



# AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

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## ASWGA Tasmania Region Report

### July 2008

The main superfine wool producing areas of Tasmania are experiencing a 1 in 100 year drought event with no sign that the forthcoming Spring will produce above average rainfall. This 3 year severe drought has reduced sheep numbers very considerably with many properties running at below half their normal carrying capacity. The result will be a much lower wool clip. Production has declined by 30% over the past two seasons. Further when the drought breaks it will take several years to return to normal production.

Despite the drought there will still be from those areas outside the worst of the situation some very high quality stylish wool this season.

As in all areas the rise in costs of production are a matter of concern particularly with the cessation of mulesing growers are concerned that they are facing extra costs and are looking at the returns from possible alternative enterprises.

The TFMBA held its Annual General Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July conducting a special session prior to the meeting to determine new possibilities for marketing Tasmanian superfine wool building on the long established reputation of Tasmania for the production of very high quality wool. There are attractive possibilities for developing strategic alliances through the wool pipeline to final consumer. Roberts

Wool Link programme is gaining support and recognition in this area.

The meeting elected John Cameron of Kelvin Grove and Mona Vale as the TFMBA President and as a delegate to ASWGA Council.

Tasmania largely due to the drought produced its finest ever clip last season with production under of ultrafine wool under 15.5 microns increasing by 120 tones or 285%. Production under 16.5 microns represents 10% of the total clip, with superfine production under 18 microns representing 51% of the States wool production. The staple strength, VM, length and yield averages have been remarkably consistent over the past 3 years showing that despite the drought the standard of the clip is constant and reliable.

Congratulations are extended to Hamish and Georgina Wallace on winning the prestigious Zegna Trophy at the Campbell Town Show. The New England Clip of the Year Awards were well supported by Tasmanian growers and congratulations to Allan and Carol Phillips of Glen Stuart, Nile on being placed second.

The region extends its thanks to the President of ASWGA Kevin Dunn who attended the February wool sales and visited superfine growers throughout the State and for his very well received presentation on his overseas consultations at the AGM.