

## *A Passionate Contributor to the Superfine Wool Industry*

**Tony Gall**, a former President of the ASWGA, was very honoured recently when awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Association for his outstanding service to the ASWGA and the Australian Superfine Merino Industry as a whole. The award was presented in Armidale by the Federal President, Mrs Helen Cathles during her annual visit to the region in June.

Tony grew up on the well known Uralla family property, “Wilson’s Creek,” some thirty minutes drive from the university city of Armidale. His father the late Bill Gall was an inaugural member of the association when it was formed forty years ago.

With a love and passion to grow the highest quality superfine wool from sheep with a good frame and constitution returning premium wool cut, has given Tony much satisfaction as dedicated woolgrower. The property is 2000 hectares in size, 1100 metres above sea level, runs 7,500 superfine merinos along with 250 Hereford/Angus breeding cattle. The property is highly improved and some 30,000 trees have been planted for shelter for the stock.

The “Wilson’s Creek” woolclip has received many placings in the Ermengildo Zegna Fleece Competition, winning the Unprotected Section in 2001. The clip has also been a finalist on many occasions in the New England Ultimate Clip competition.

Tony has been an active member of the association for the past thirty years being a President of the local New England Branch and representing the region at Council level as a councillor for 21 years. He has also been actively involved with the AWEX working groups in regard to many wool selling centre issues, particularly with the rostering and future of the Newcastle centre. Involvement with the ASF typing and Code of Practice reviews for the superfine industry has kept Tony in constant contact with the day to day activities of the wool industry in Australia. Tony is a highly respected grower who is always available to investigate issues to ensure that growers receive the best returns for their wool.

At local level he has been involved with the Armidale Ram Show and Sales as head steward for twenty years, the New England Wool Expo, chairing as Master of Ceremonies for the events on stage. Also for many years he has officiated as chief steward for the Merino Sheep Section at the local Uralla Show since leaving school forty years ago.

Remarkably Tony has found some time for his wife Janet and daughters Rosie (27), Edwina (24) and son Cameron (19) who is currently doing a Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business at the University of New England in Armidale. Being a pilot and owning his own Cessna aircraft has given Tony a great opportunity to see much of Australia as well as being able to visit regional wool growing areas during his term as Federal President. When time permits he still plays “Golden Oldies” cricket and rarely misses watching the Wallabies play Rugby Union.

Being involved with the association over a number of years has given much satisfaction with working with many outstanding former Federal Presidents prior to his own term as Federal President in 2001-2004. To name a few, the late Merv Mibus, John Williams, Rod Thirkell-Johnson, Barry Walker and Bill Crawford. These men were great role models for Tony before becoming President.

Working with the many principals of the processor mill members of the association has given great insight to the end of the pipeline for the wool once it was processed. He always believed that a supply chain arrangement utilising a Trademark promotion had great potential to work with our processor members, but unfortunately the resources of the ASWGA at the time were not great enough to follow the dream through.

Tony would encourage members and their children to keep actively involved in the ASWGA as the industry body and is confident that the industry will see good times again and that growers will receive rewards for their continuing efforts. He also would like to express thanks to members for all their encouragement and support over many years.

July 2011.

