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1971-2021

Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association Inc.

Annual 2021-22



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Cover Image: Lyndsay Henderson of Avington Merino, Victoria

Pictured above: Grand Champion Fleece from "Glen Stuart" Tasmania, Photo by Megan Picker

ASWGA thanks Australian Community Media for producing the 2021-22 Annual

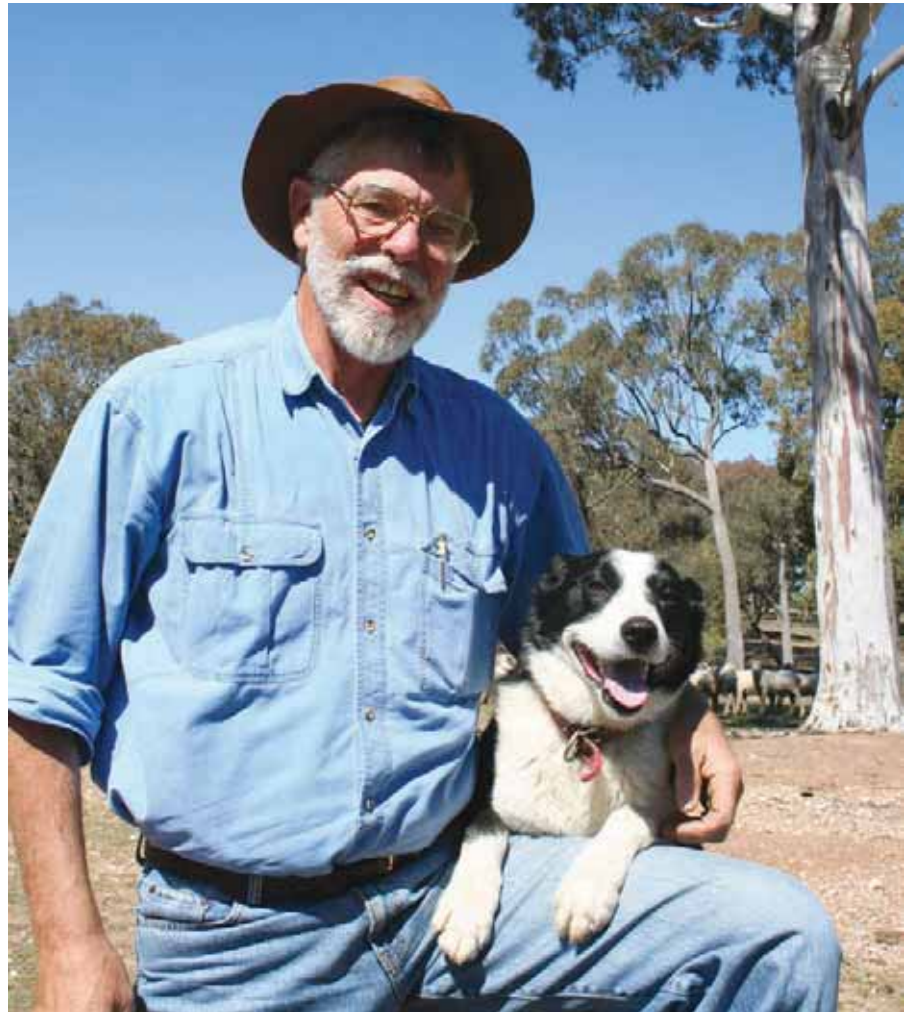
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| Letter from the Editor

This is a significant moment in the history of Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association as it reaches its fiftieth year. The history of the Association combined with the contributions from our past Presidents provides a great insight, although at times frustrating, into the achievements of the Association over the past 50 years. A further historical and positive contribution comes from Federal Shadow Minister for Agriculture Julie Collins, herself a staunch Tasmanian. Unfortunately, despite early request, current Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud did not respond to our invitation before publication deadline. It is unfortunate that the Annual Dinner and Reunion planned to commemorate the 50th anniversary in June in Ararat - the birthplace of ASWGA in 1971, had to be postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. Despite rescheduling for October, it has now had to be cancelled altogether due to on-going lockdowns in both New South Wales and Victoria. This is the second year that the popular Annual Dinner and Reunion has been cancelled along with several other major sheep industry functions including Australian Sheep & Wool Show in Bendigo and National Merino Show & Sale normally in Dubbo but transferred to Mudgee this year. Fortunately, legendary Campbell Town Show was one of few wool-focused events to persist for the 183rd time.

On a brighter note, except for Western Australia, all Regions have experienced one of their best seasons with regional reports suggesting that we are heading for back-to-back exceptionally good seasons. In addition, this season offers the likelihood of higher prices for Superfine wool (currently 16.5 micron indicator is 1000 cents higher than at the same time last year) along with near record prices for prime lambs, beef cattle and very solid grain prices. With above average rainfall forecast at least for eastern wool growing regions into 2022, already firming Superfine wool prices are predicted to



increase. This is consistent with the positive contribution offered by overseas Mill members Natsun, Nikke, Vitale Barberis Canonico, G. Schneider and Zegna and local industry participants Australian Wool Network, Australian Yarn Company and Nutrien. The contribution of Australian Wool Innovation, International Wool Textile Organisation and the Campaign for Wool initiated by His Royal Highness, Prince of Wales provide further insight to international efforts to promote the virtues of wool to an increasingly demanding and environmentally conscious consumer of our high-quality fibre. This is furthered by evolution of Authentico (G. Schneider) and SustainaWOOL (Australian Wool Exchange) and the standards established by Australian Wool Testing Authority. A citizen science approach by member Susan Rowbottom further demonstrates the eco-credentials and biodegradability virtue of wool.

We are pleased to continue the Superfine Women series with Robyn Rayner, Margaret

Smith and Mavis and Sherrie Spielvogel who have each contributed to the wool industry in their own way - makes for some absorbing reading. It might come as some surprise that it was not until 1994 that the Australian Government officially recognised farming as a legitimate career for women, one wonders what the thoughts of Elizabeth Macarthur and Eliza Forlonge may have been - there again they probably just shrugged their shoulders and got on with the job at hand.

The fleece competition attracted a solid 74 entries. Carol and Allan Phillips "Glen Stuart" (Tasmanian Region) won the Grand Champion Trophy sponsored by Australian Council of Wool Exporters and Processors for the best overall fleece - an outstanding 90s quality fleece. This is the second time since the inception of the fleece competition that Carol and Allan have been successful, and this was reinforced by their recent further success in the Campbell Town Show - a sterling effort. In addition to the Association's Fleece Competition,

members are reminded of the re-launch of the prestigious but amended Zegna Wool Trophies and are directed to the Association's website for details: <https://www.aswga.com/competitions>.

Three members achieved 1PP certification during the year. From Tasmanian Region - Carol and Allan Phillips "Glen Stuart" (2 bales) and Ann-Louise and Simon Cameron "Kingston" (3 bales) and Hamilton Region - Marilyn, Everard and Matthew Linke "Glenhome" (3 bales). 1PP certification applies to 16.5 micron or finer, 90s or 100s quality count with 1.0 pc vegetable matter or less and at least 70 mm in length unless wool is significantly finer and exhibit superlative quality, style and soundness and prepared in the best possible manner - and meet with the approval of a panel of up to five members, made up of industry participants with exceptional knowledge and experience of Superfine wools. Quite a demanding achievement that warrants recognition and congratulations.

Congratulations also to Lyndsay Henderson (Ararat-Barunah Region) for the winning photograph in our annual photographic competition which graces the celebratory cover of the Annual - the eight ewes and their lambs should feel very privileged. The photographic competition attracted 43 entrants and we thank the judges Kristen Frost, Chantel McAlister and Tim Marwedel.

Unfortunately, a by-product of the Association reaching its fiftieth year is the loss of some older members. The Association conveys its condolences to their families and tributes outline the contribution that Claire Schnitzerling (New England Region) and Rodney Westmore (Tasmanian Region) have left on our industry.

On the other side of the coin, the Association welcomes new members Shara and Jock Menzies, Winterbourne Pastoral Company (New England Region) and accompanying article provides extensive

background to their farming pursuits particularly to superior wool production.

Increasingly wool production and other agricultural operations are coming under mounting scrutiny from a more environmentally conscious community. This is motivating our members to look at their operations and reassess their management. Articles cover the approaches that three members have taken to ensure that they achieve improved sustainability whilst not foregoing productivity, whether it is by paddock subdivision to enable rotational grazing, reducing carbon footprint by adding seaweed supplement or reversing the increase of pasture's non-productive species by adopting Allan Savory's holistic grazing strategies.

ASWGA congratulates Dr James Rowe on being awarded Order of Australia Medal in June. James led the Sheep Cooperative Research Centre for twenty-years culminating in the launch of a book, Concept to Impact, on its achievements in October 2019, which is available from our website: <https://www.aswga.com>. As the ASWGA representative, I was privileged to develop a sound standing with James despite prime focus on meat issues due to funding difficulties with the wool industry.

Finally, a recent book, A Short History of the World According to Sheep gives many faceted insights to the role sheep have played in history. I read this book during one of my recent times in hospital and it certainly overcame my hospital-induced ovine-withdrawal persona and generated a new perspective. It's well worth the read - obviously hospitalisation is not mandatory.

This year sees a changing of the guard with Danny Picker finishing a four-year term as President and handing over the task to Mark Waters. The inclusive approach Danny generated during his presidency is reflected in the positive comments in the regional reports to which I add my gratitude. The Annual committee welcomes Mark and looks forward to

working with him.

As editor, I am indebted to previous editor Jeff Gill who developed a high standard for the Annual. Many people deserve hearty thanks for their efforts contributed. Firstly, Melissa Mulley from sourcing and coordinating articles, to liaising with the publishers to achieve the high standard - and even conducting a phone tutorial on Adobe Acrobat DC for a grateful editor. Without the multitude of challenging tasks taken on by Melissa this Annual would not be what it is. Secondly, committee member Lyndall Eeg who undertook the task of initial proof reading of articles. Thirdly, I thank other members of the committee Lesley Prior, Susan Rowbottom, Vera Taylor and Simon Cameron who not only offered ideas and suggested articles, but each also contributed an attention-grabbing article. Fourthly, we are grateful to the advertisers who have ensured financial support for the Annual - an important and necessary requirement.

I hope you find this issue of the Annual in harmony with celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our Association; and whether you are reading in it detail or skimming articles, give some thought to the articles you would like covered in next year's edition and let a member of the Annual committee or Melissa know your thoughts, even to the extent of penning an article for next year's issue.

Happy reading,

John Ive
"Talaheni"

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Casino, NSW: TBA August 2022
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| Message from the President

The last four years have disappeared very quickly while being the President of your Association. My time has been enjoyable with the most important highlight being the friendship of so many wonderful people around the world. The support and friendship from our wool growing members and our Mill Members are very much appreciated.

Much of Australia has come out of drought now with abundant rains in most wool growing regions. We are all now waiting for warmer weather and a little sunshine and a good spring.

Wool prices are slowly improving with a few bumps along the road, I sincerely hope they continue to rise and consolidate at a positive level, so Superfine wool producers can compete with other farming enterprises. Lamb, mutton and cattle prices are supporting the farmer to a higher level than wool production, but we are slowly catching up- this has farmers excited about the future after so many years of trying to cover costs while in the long drought.

COVID-19 is now at its peak here in Australia. We are behind much of the world with vaccinations, but with vaccines becoming more readily available, we should slowly recover over the next six months.

I hope all Woollen Mills and Superfine wool growers continue to stay in business, so this wonderful natural fibre survives.

During my four years as your President, I have endeavoured to liaise between all our members via email or mail on all happenings from around the world and here at home, when that information impacts our members and other Superfine wool growers.

Despite rescheduling the Annual Reunion and Fleece Competition Dinner planned to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASWGA in Ararat, Victoria from June to October, it has now had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. This is most unfortunate. Nevertheless, congratulations to all winners. The Champion fleece was entered by Allan and Carol Phillips from the Tasmanian Region. We had some beautiful fleeces entered, so thank you to all who entered.

Thank you to all Woollen Mills and their representatives in Australia and overseas, your support is really appreciated.



We strive to grow the best wool possible under our harsh climatic conditions here in Australia for you to process.

Over the past few months, we have conducted Zoom meetings with most of our Mill members, discussing concerns from all aspects of the wool pipeline. Thank you for your precious time- we need to liaise on a frequent basis for the future of our industry.

The support of all Brokers and Sponsors of our Association is really appreciated. We at ASWGA strive to promote all Australian wool especially Superfine. We need each other's business to keep moving forward.

A special thank you to all Councillors and Members who have worked with me over the last four years. Melissa- you have been a gem which has helped make my time enjoyable. Thank you.

We also welcome the news of the Zegna Wool Competitions resuming this year- this is great news for all Superfine wool growers.

We as wool growers still have challenging times ahead. Animal welfare is becoming

very demanding on all wool growers, I hope the world realises that here in Australia we face many challenges- harsh times from floods, fire, drought, flystrike to name a few. A balance of understanding is needed between Grower, Mills and Consumer, the harsh and dramatic changing climatic conditions here in Australia are very different from other wool growing areas around the world. If we are to continue farming, we need a little more understanding and less demands.

I wish Mark Waters all the best as your newly appointed President, Mark will do a great job. Congratulations.

Let us continue to produce and process this wonderful fibre called Superfine wool.

Danny Picker

ASWGA President - 2017-2021

Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association History

In 2021, the industry can look back with pride over a half century of growth of the Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association (ASWGA) and note little has changed for producers of the unique Superfine Merino wool.

It was founded in May 1971 after prominent Victorian Superfine grower Arthur Beggs, of "Buln Gherin", Beaufort realised there was an urgent need to form a group to protect the premium end of the specialist offering of the Australian wool clip.

Mr Beggs also sought to create closer ties with the major processors abroad to promote Superfine wool products to their consumers.

He was also a member of the Australian Wool Board (forerunner of Australian Wool Innovation) and thus was well known to the growers of Superfine wool.

The urgency of forming the ASWGA was spurred by the declining prices offered for the Superfine wool clips during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Throughout that period, supply exceeded demand and subsequently a considerable stockpile accumulated.

By the end of the 1970-71 wool selling season, the Australian Wool Commission, which was charged with underpinning the Australian wool clip, held nearly a year's production.

The situation for all wool growers, but especially the specialist Superfine producers, had become serious.

Meanwhile, the growers in Tasmania had founded the Tasmanian Fine Merino Breeders' Association in 1947 to link them with the overseas customers.

Its success had been noted by Mr Beggs when, in a letter dated 12 December 1969 written to fellow Superfine breeder Dick de Fegely of "Quamby", Ararat, he wrote proposing a national Superfine organisation.

Mr Beggs had consulted growers and found they were enthusiastic in their support of his proposal in promoting closer collaboration with their special customers

and thus hoping to lift the low prices paid at the time.

A round of meetings in Victoria and New South Wales during February 1970 was planned to consult with growers and develop a simple but suitable constitution for consideration.

Subsequently Arthur Beggs invited interested parties to an inaugural meeting held at Wool House, Bourke Street, Melbourne on 5 May 1971.

The Acting Chairman was Arthur Beggs with Colin Woodfull (Director, Royal Agricultural Society Victoria) acting as Secretary and Malcolm Vawser, General Manager of the Australian Wool Commission was invited to part of the meeting.

In his opening address Mr Beggs stated: "We meet at a time in wool's long history, especially the history of fine wools when we need every possible assistance to survive the onslaught of the forces which are arrayed against us.

"Today we are most certainly making history when men such as ourselves, representing a specific section of wool production, that is the Fine and Superfine types, meet together to take a strong hand in formulating the future of our own special line of production.

"Today we find the Australian Wool Commission in possession of a substantial quantity of the 1970-71 season Fine and Superfine wools and the new season 1971-72 is almost with us.

"Let us face up to this position, surely those of us who have been so long taking an intelligent interest in wool, are not without the ability to formulate a plan for at least our special end of the wool clip.

"We have been down before, but never out, today we have huge forces in modern science and technology against us, but I am sure we can win through."

The Inaugural Council Meeting was held on 5 May 1971 at the Melbourne offices of the Australian Wool Board.

Present: were A R Beggs (Chairman), J Coventry, J Loneragan, M Darmody, B Merriman, J A Russell, P Kininmonth, J Silcock and A Cameron (observer) and Secretary Colin Woodfull.

Arthur Beggs in opening the meeting stated that they were making history as men representing a specific section of wool producers taking a strong hand in formulating the future marketing of their own special line of production.

He was sure that the way was to get much closer contact with users of the product and that by means of this Association a way could be found to improve the prices and achieve some form of stability for the Superfine sector.

When reflecting upon the success of the niche organisation, current President Danny Picker, Hillcrest Park, Bigga, noted that during the last 50 years, Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association (ASWGA) had grown into a well-respected association within all sectors of the wool pipeline from all around the world.

"During this period our Association has had some notable wool industry leaders working on its Council to help promote and ensure a viable future for Superfine wool," Mr Picker said.

He pointed out the Association had changed greatly from its original starting point, where the main aim was to promote traditional Fine and Superfine wools to the world endeavouring to create a better price for wool growers.

"We are now involved heavily in animal welfare which is one of the main subjects we deal with on a regular basis with our ten woollen Mill members. These Mill members operate in all sectors of the wool pipeline from scouring to the finished garment," Mr Picker said.

"This enables us to represent and liaise between Mill and grower members on a regular basis and raise concerns or aspirations any members might have."

Those Mill members are situated in Australia, Japan, China, Turkey and Italy and to have direct contact with these Mills is a great advantage for the Australian wool grower.

"We also have a strong friendship with all of the Australian wool grower representative bodies from agents through to the exporter, and we consult with these organisations on a regular basis," Mr Picker noted.



*Arthur Beggs CBE
1971-1974*

*Michael Darmody
1974-1977*

*Rod O'Connor
1977-1980*

*Merv Mibus
1980-1983*

*John Williams
1983-1986*

*Rod Thirkell-Johnston AM
1986-1989 & 1995-1998*

*Robert Beggs AM
1989-1992*

*Barry Walker OAM
1992-1995*

*Bill Crawford
1998-2001*

*Tony Gall
2001-2004*

*Frank O'Connor
2004-2007*

*Kevin Dunn
2007-2010*

*Helen Cathles
2010-2013*

*John Taylor
2013-2015*

*Simon Cameron
2015-2017*

*Danny Picker
2017-2021*

ASWGA also works with Australian Wool Innovation on three panels - the Wool Industry Consultative Panel, the Wool Grower Consultation Group and the Wool Poll Committee.

"This is where we share views with all members of wool growing groups from all over Australia," Mr Picker pointed out.

"Our main aim is still to promote and advertise Superfine and Fine wools

produced by the Australian wool growers, continually highlighting it as the most ethical and prestigious natural fibre produced.

"We are also very proud to say we do everything possible to promote animal welfare at the highest standard."

Stephen Burns – The Land

“We have been down before, but never out, today we have huge forces in modern science and technology against us, but I am sure we can win through.”

Arthur Beggs



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Message from the Shadow Minister of Agriculture Hon Julie Collins MP



I want to start by congratulating the Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association for its 50th anniversary. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the strong purpose of the organisation, representing the Australian Superfine wool industry.

I know firsthand the importance of the Association and its advocacy for members, promoting the industry to the world. As a Tasmanian I was particularly pleased to note the first organisation representing Superfine wool growers was founded in my home state as the Tasmanian Fine Merino Breeders' Association.

This was a critical precursor to the eventual founding of the Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association and underscored the importance of collaboration in linking local growers with overseas customers. Today of course, the Association has members across the country and continues its work linking Australia with the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly disruptive for many Australians and I am sure it has impacted many growers. But I do believe the challenges of the pandemic also bring huge

opportunities for Superfine wool growers.

Not only in Australia, but across the globe, the pandemic has forced many consumers to more consciously evaluate the source of the products they buy and the ethics of these purchases. As consumers move away from 'fast fashion' there are huge opportunities for Australia's Superfine wool growers.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, I know many consumers will also be looking at the environmental impact of how their clothes are produced. With growers already working hard to achieve reductions in the carbon footprint of producing wool I want to assure you Labor stands ready to work with you to help assist in these changes.

We see governments being able to assist in value adding across the agriculture industry to achieve the ambitious goal of the sector being worth \$100 billion by 2030.

While it will take a suite of policies to help

achieve this goal, I did want to mention Labor's National Reconstruction Fund.

If Labor is elected, the Fund would help create secure jobs for Australian workers, drive regional economic development, boost our sovereign capability and diversify the nation's economy.

This \$15 billion investment includes a focus on agriculture and could unlock potential and value add in the sector's textiles, clothing and footwear manufacturing. I certainly believe the Fund could be a pivotal opportunity for wool growers and the agriculture industry more broadly.

I am proud that Labor has a strong track record of supporting Superfine wool growers and I once again congratulate the Association for the 50th anniversary. I wish you all the best for the next 50 years!

**Office of Julie Collins MP
Shadow Minister for Agriculture**

We approached Minister David Littleproud and Shadow Minister Julie Collins in February as part of the 50th year commemoration. Unfortunately, despite follow up no response was received prior to going to print from Minister David Littleproud.

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Reflecting on ASWGA

In 2021, the Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association (ASWGA) celebrates its 50th year anniversary supporting Superfine wool growers of Australia as well as some of the most famous and prestigious international processors and manufacturers.

Founded in 1971 to promote and further the development and marketing of Superfine wool, the Association is a well-respected organisation and is the peak body of the Australian Superfine industry.

Today we look back at some of the challenges and successes of the ASWGA through the eyes of some of the Association's Past Presidents.

| 1992



BARRY WALKER OAM
1992 - 1995

50 years ago the Superfine greasy market was under great pressure due to low prices. Growers' returns were insufficient to cover costs of production. With great foresight and leadership, Arthur Beggs, Rodrick O'Connor, Mick Darmody and John Williams brought Superfine growers, their customers, garment makers and retailers together.

District meetings were organised from Tasmania to Armidale and all were very well attended.

A small number of the most important customers in U.K, Italy and the emerging market of Japan agreed to join as Mill members.

The ASWGA was now established- the first wool supply chain in Australia, linking grower, processor and retailer. Over time the ASWGA has evolved into a quality control scheme, thus giving a high degree of product confidence at each level of the supply chain.

In 1995 ASWGA Council recognised the opportunities available to expand the Association roles in a more commercial way and thus facilitate stronger relationships within Australian organisations of interest to ASWGA as well as overseas international processors from scouring to retail.

Beside processing interests the time had come to strengthen commercial relationships with industry organisations. The Woolmark Co, AWI, AWTA, Brokers, Exporters and R&D with, for example CSIRO, also Japan, Italy, U.K. and others. The commercial outcome was the registration of AEM Pty Ltd (Australian Extrafine Merino). Although AEM was fit for purpose when formed, in 2008 Council deregistered the AEM Company. The original aims of AEM live on and became the mantra for establishing Australian Wool Network (AWN) in 1999. AWN is now the third largest Broker in Australia, selling the majority of Superfine wool and has 27 ASWGA members as shareholders and remains the Platinum Sponsor for ASWGA.

The ASWGA over the past 50 years has involved itself in all wool industry changes relevant to Superfine wool, to the benefit of its members. ASWGA was an early supporter of measurement of wool, now being used on most greasy wool sold. This was of great benefit to Superfine wool, proving its fineness and next-to-skin comfort.

ASWGA successfully worked with AWEX to establish a new typing system for Superfine wool, where this measurement made the old crimp frequency Bradford Typing System redundant. All the above changes meant the wool classing standards taught needed upgrading. ASWGA worked closely with the Technical and Further Education system to modernise classing standards for Superfine wool accordingly.

ASWGA has initiated a number of quality control issues as appropriate over the years.

ASWGA members worked with all pipeline members to phase out contaminating poly and jute wool packs and implemented the use of much less contaminating multi-filament nylon packs.

In the mid 1990s, at a period of extremely low prices, ASWGA was able to get support from its Mill members who increased the average greasy price by 20% overnight thus saving future supply.

Barry and Kristiane Walker, following Barry's presidency, arranged and led five grower educational tours to the northern hemisphere, enabling over 100 people to gain first-hand experience of the Superfine Wool pipeline and to meet our most important customers.

Today, ASWGA retains a consultative role with all the decision-making bodies within the Australian Wool Industry and IWTO.

When COVID-19 is defeated and world trade establishes a new normal- soft handling, low micron wools definitely have a strong future with luxury garment and environmentally savvy buyers around the world.

| 1998



BILL CRAWFORD
1998 - 2001

The late 1990s was a turbulent period for the wool industry. We were still smarting from the price collapse at the end of the 1980s, we saw the push for the closing of Regional Wool Selling Centres as well as a move towards electronic selling. Some forms of electronic marketing have since been developed, but the traditional open cry auction system still rules the roost.

I visited many woollen Mills during my time as President, mostly with Rod Thirkell-Johnston. Throughout our many overseas visits to woollen Mills, the topic

of contamination was always foremost in our discussions. Essentially, sisal wool packs were the cause of our problems, however thankfully nylon wool packs were perfected during these years and hence the problem disappeared.

The Ermenegildo Zegna Fleece competition continued to be a highlight of the Superfine year, it was always well supported and provided a great contribution to the Association's coffers. Beautiful dinners in Sydney and Melbourne were a magnificent chance to network with our growers and to inspect the outstanding fleeces on offer as part of the competition. In 2001, my final year as President, there were 300 fleeces entered. The use of technology in the everyday woolshed was ramping up enormously and for the first time, many growers were presenting clips which had very even micron lines. The Zegna Fleece competition harnessed this and for the first time was about to introduce a micron fleece tested competition.

The trademark had developed into a major promotional strategy to a point where we had spent a lot of time and money serving registrations around the world for the various categories that were important. The main thrust of the project was to identify members wool from farm bale to cloth and beyond. Much effort was used promoting this strategy, but the complexity of application eventually prevented its uptake.

The backlash from the collapse of the Reserve Price Scheme continued to dog the traditional Superfine market, however in the early 2000s some welcome relief did arrive. Sadly, the fine wool market has proven to be quite unstable over the years, in particular the changing micron profile of the Australian wool clip undermining the uniqueness of our strictly members' product.

From these years, Superfine wool growers have learned to trade as the opportunity comes along. The authenticity of the Superfine wool growing story remains just as relevant to consumers and Mills today as it did 20 years ago. Boutique brands have garnered a certain amount of success over recent years and branding and marketing remains one of the main keys to our healthy future.

My time involved with the Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association (ASWGA) was very rewarding on both a wool-growing and on a personal front and the comradery between members of the ASWGA committee, growers and Mill members was something that while sometimes had to be worked at, was something I valued enormously during

my tenure. Rod Thirkell-Johnston was invaluable to me over my period of Presidency and as an ASWGA committee member. He became a trusted mentor and friend to me over the years who helped, on many occasions not only with his remarkable knowledge of the industry and its people, but particularly when I was lagging in producing my many reports. Both Rod and the ASWGA staff were extremely patient and helpful over my years!

| 2001



ANTHONY (TONY) GALL
2001 - 2004

The early 2000s involved an enormous amount of discussion between the ASWGA and The Woolmark Company (TWC), aimed at closing the gap between our luxury Superfine fibre and other luxury fibres such as Cashmere.

A close relationship was developed with TWC and particularly the Managing Director at the time, David Connors. David's vision and passion for our luxury end of the market and the ASWGA's direction in developing a commercial arm, led to the establishment of a joint venture with TWC. The venture became known as the Australian Extrafine Merino Marketing Project.

Under the constitution of the ASWGA, it was not possible to engage its members in a commercial venture. Thus, with assistance from TWC, a platform and working agreement was formed. ASWGA formed a new commercial company named Australian Extrafine Merino Company (AEM). This step involved creating a new Trademark logo and again TWC assisted in design possibilities for the AEM Trademark. This also involved creating swing tags, sew-on labels and an endless stream of promotional material.

With such an ambitious and time-consuming program ahead, ASWGA Past President, Mr Rod Thirkell-Johnston OA, became the Project Manager. By 2004 a package was available for members to participate in the venture if they so wished.

With 350 grower members and 24 Mill Processor members, considerable funding would be required to create the anticipated premium integrated supply chain. Such a targeted marketing campaign had to be very focused, so an initial Phase 1 Pilot year was planned involving 250 growers and around 50 industry partners. The project would involve raising an initial \$A1 Million.

Project Manager, Rod Thirkell-Johnston was charged with the responsibility of making first-hand communication with Mill processors around the world. Early-stage processing would involve Italian Mills, with Japanese interests used to follow through to fabric and the finished garment. ASWGA President and AEM Chairman, Mr Tony Gall also covered aspects of the marketing strategy with Mill members whilst on overseas duties— along with visiting Superfine grower members in regional Australia.

Full ownership of the newly developed AEM Trademark was officially transferred from TWC to ASWGA around this time.

The response and support from industry sectors was varied. Such an ambitious campaign required the best marketing available. Promoting only the best Superfine wool around 14.5 micron was seen as the most advantageous area initially in developing a range of men's suiting for the future.

The volume of production of Superfine wool finer than 19.5 micron by 2004 had increased by 20% from 1992. The oversupply situation, along with a volatile market for Superfine product and years of drought were not conducive to the future success of the project at this time. Thus said, the groundwork and opportunities gained for the future have not been lost in our challenging times in a changing industry.

Apart from the joint marketing venture to build demand for Superfine wool, the ASWGA through to 2004 embarked on further projects aimed at better promoting and classifying our wools to the world. Such issues included discussion re 1PP typing and the possible new category IPPP for wools finer than 15.0 micron. The outcome from this debate saw the definition and status quo remain as it is to this day for wools 16.9 micron and finer.

During 2001-2004 there continued to be concern re the increasing volumes of finer

micron wools with associated subdued demand for the product. Innovative processing methods also had an effect on where our market was heading. ASWGA thus embarked on extensive market research and surveyed members re future production trends along with surveying all levels of the production chain.

An Industry Working Group (IWG) was established to assist with a broader exchange of ideas and outcomes for the future. Quality Assurance, communication and future strategies that evolved have continued to serve the Superfine organisation through many difficult challenges to this day.

In 2004 the ASWGA Website became a reality, along with tighter controls over the use of the ASWGA Ramshead Trademark. Use of the Trademark became licensed to a grower with a membership number attached to the bale brand and sale catalogue, thereby identifying membership and the high standards set by the Association.

| 2004



FRANK O'CONNOR
2004 - 2007

The first two years of my Presidency were marked by drought and declining prices but some improvement was evident in the latter part of my term. The internet was poor and unavailable in hotels. Council meetings were all face-to-face usually with guest speakers and overseas representatives present. We had representation on all major industry bodies including WoolProducers Australia and Wool Poll.

I was President representing ASWGA in November 2004, when the Wool and Sheep Industry Taskforce agreed to phase out surgical mulesing by 31

December 2010.

This was the biggest issue to face the wool industry since the collapse of the Reserve Price Scheme and I believe Australian Wool growers still fail to grasp how significant it was. It was a major topic at almost every meeting I attended overseas at the time. Marks and Spencer had animal welfare signs in their shop in London and were refusing to sell wool from mulesed sheep. Retailers were turning away from wool and I believe we are still feeling the effect.

Prior to becoming President, ASWGA had been working with Woolmark managing director David Connors on how best to promote members' wool using the ASWGA trademark. Woolmark conducted an extensive survey of all major users of Superfine wool. David was not convinced that the ASWGA trademark was suited for retail promotion. A management services agreement was established with Woolmark and a stylised version of the trademark was developed which was overwhelmingly preferred by retailers. That trademark later became known as the AEM trademark.

Extensive discussions were held with Chargeurs on a Superfine supply chain using tops made in Australia with members' wool processed into yarn by German member Stöhr and distributed to member Mills in the UK. The program eventually collapsed with the closing of Chargeurs Top Making in Australia and its changed business structure. Many thanks to Peter Ackroyd and Malcolm Campbell (Woolmark UK), Harald Menkens (Germany), Richard Boide (Chargeurs UK and Italy) and Gary Turner (Chargeurs Australia) as well as our UK Member Mills for their enthusiasm and support.

The next marketing step was the Pilot Marketing Program using the AEM trademark in Japan. The Woolmark Company and Mill members Toyobo (via Miyuki) and Toabo (via Onward) along with ASWGA Members voluntarily contributed to the program through the AEM Company.

Thirteen tonnes of members' wool were used in the men's high quality suiting program. Both companies were pleased with the result to the extent that Miyuki agreed to continue with the program for another year even if no further funding was supplied. The program showed considerable promise but needed to continue for several years to achieve brand recognition. The AWI Supply Chain Feasibility study resulted from the success of the Pilot Marketing Program.

AWI under the leadership of Len Stephens could see merit in the ASWGA supply

chain proposal and appointed consultant Frank Kisvarda to look at developing a supply chain for Superfine wool in 2005–2006. Kisvarda found the idea worth pursuing but it would require a greater volume of Superfine wool than could be supplied by ASWGA members alone. AWI extended the consultancy to develop outline for a business plan which was taken to four grower meetings, held to determine the support for the proposal.

Although the proposal received a great deal of support among growers and users alike it was considered that more detail would be required before a commitment could be made. Although given assurances, brokers and Mills were concerned that it may be disruptive to existing supply lines. At the time there was considerable friction between AWI and Woolmark and the project lapsed, eventually to be replaced by the Test Marketing Project in the US which also focused heavily on Superfine wool. Although the proposal never proceeded it did demonstrate potential to shorten supply lines, increase certainty and provide a marketing edge.

With our strong links to IWTO through the Federation of Australian Wool Organisations (FAWO) we were able to lift our profile. ASWGA through FAWO pushed for the development of a 15 micron IWTO calibration reference top and supported its passage through the inter-wool labs' trials. This was seen as very important as the clip moved finer.

The most important issue at the Hobart IWTO conference was the birth of the Test Marketing Project. The Test Marketing Project was a Joint venture by AWS (Woolmark), AWI and IWTO. The campaign featuring Superfine wool was of particular interest to ASWGA and we were able through Brenda McGahan to have considerable input into this campaign.

ASWGA and the NZ Merino Company both made presentations on supply chains marketing at the conference.

After more than a decade of little or no organised marketing of Australian wool, ASWGA was fortunate to have a close working relationship with Brenda McGahan who saw the merit of promoting the best to sell the rest. Thank you Brenda for your contribution which I believe greatly contributed to our later success.

Although we were unable to attend the IWTO Edinburgh Conference in person, Dr Peter Morgan represented us at the Grower Country meeting. The 2006 IWTO Annual Conference was held in Cairo where Rod Thirkell-Johnston represented the ASWGA. My wife Prue

and I also attended the Shanghai mid-year conference at our own cost. This was only the second time ASWGA had visited China and was valuable in getting to know the Chinese market. I made a presentation outlining on ASWGA's Pilot Marketing Program.

During 2004 ASWGA was successful in achieving approved body status as the Peak Body representing Australian Superfine wool growers which resulted in Austrade funding approximately 50% of all overseas travel and accommodation expenses through the Export Market Development Grants. This was a great achievement and saved the Association considerable funds.

During my time as President, including the changeover period between myself and Tony Gall as the incoming President, I was privileged to visit Turkey, Italy, United Kingdom, Germany, Korea and Japan four times, China three times as well as Russia and India. Except for the odd private excursion (at our own expense) we averaged two business meetings a day covering all sectors of the industry from Top Making to Retail. Prue took notes allowing me to devote my full attention to the topic at hand. A quick count from my reports to Council revealed that we had up to 45 overseas meetings a year. Topics covered included Supply Chains, Marketing, Trademarks, Mulesing, Certification, Contamination, Organic Wool, Super S Certification, 1PP Types, Classing Standards, Production Forecast, Membership, Price, Grower Viability, Selling Systems and Selling Centres, AWTA Testing etc. New Mill Membership certificates were presented to David Gallimore (John Foster), Paul Smith (Cavendish), Adrian Berry (JH Clissild), William & John Gaunt (Edwin Woodhouse) and Andreas Diebenbusch (Stöhr) and all potential participants in the Chargeurs supply chain project. While away, we stayed in regular contact with Rod Thirkell-Johnston who provided fantastic support when required.

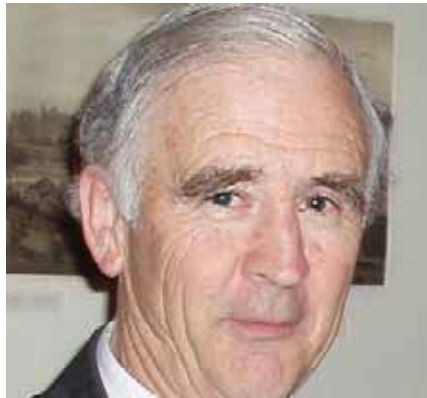
On return from overseas, Prue and I travelled around the regions where I presented my overseas report as was the custom and where possible attended regional AGMs. I took the opportunity to visit as many members and potential members as possible.

During the years of my Presidency we aimed for the sky, achieved less than we hoped but had a great deal of influence on industry decisions, greatly benefiting our members. We always punched well above our weight.

Many thanks to my family, the Council, the office staff, AWI, AWS, all our Mill

members, especially Zegna and many others for the support they provided.

| 2007



KEVIN DUNN
2007 - 2010

When I started my term as ASWGA President in July 2007, my aims were to consolidate and, if possible, build on what those before me had achieved. I had no agenda to change direction or embark upon big projects during the following three years, mindful of the limits of what such a group could hope to achieve.

I worked to contact and promote the Association to those who were members at that time, both at grower and Mill level, and to talk about the benefits of membership to others who fitted the criteria. With the help of people like Jim Konishi, Mike Kuritani, Peter Ackroyd, Malcolm Campbell, Harald Menkens and Laurence Modiano, who were all on our side in terms of the value ASWGA could offer I spoke to a number of users of Superfine wool in various parts of the world. At least two new Mill members resulted from these discussions. There have been constant and rapid changes in ownership and personnel in wool production since, but I am sure some of the goodwill built up in those discussions remains today.

Locally, I visited all the members in Western Australia, which led to a region being established, and also those in South Australia and the more remote parts of the Eastern States who rarely attended regional meetings, to raise the profile and interest among growers.

CSIRO asked me to go to China with three of their scientists in 2008 to attend a series of workshops aimed at lifting the standards of quality in several areas of processing Superfine wool. Feedback in subsequent

visits there indicated lasting efficiencies and better products resulted.

Time was spent in promoting participation in the Zegna Competitions, and discussions in how a fundamental change to the rules could be implemented, with the 2009 Competition having to be postponed. This caused some angst among growers, but we had to keep in mind that it was the right of the Zegna organisation to set the rules, and the importance of the Competition to us needed to be stressed.

Following up on Frank O'Connor's work with The Woolmark Company to establish a supply chain, it fell short of our aims, but some advantages did come out of it.

Several Association Life Memberships were awarded during those three years, and it was a privilege to present certificates to Barry Walker, Robert Beggs, Harald Menkens and Jim Konishi.

There were many meetings to attend—focusing on mulesing, wild dogs and other ongoing issues- and IWTO conferences, FAWO (now Wool Industries Australia) meetings, WoolProducers Australia and AWI discussions, where our point of view needed to be stated and restated to try to influence the wider industry. As I wrote in my 2010 and last report- "The ratio of wins to losses is not high but the input must be continued, because nobody else will do it if we do not. The only way to have a say in your industry is to be involved in ASWGA."

I need to acknowledge the advice and help of Rod Thirkell-Johnson, Frank O'Connor, Peter Morgan and Brenda McGahan, and the great support and background work of Melissa Mulley and Bianca Heaney throughout my term.

| 2010



HELEN CATHLES
2010 - 2013

To raise the profile of ASWGA and promote the organisation

to prospective members in 2011 ASWGA developed and sent out a 'Members Pack' to prospective members. We marked and celebrated the ASWGA 40-year anniversary with a special edition of the Annual magazine plus designed and launched a membership gate sign using the ASWGA Ramshead. These signs were remarked on by international Mills visiting the regions.

Members were lamenting the absence of the Ermenegildo Zegna Dinner for all entrants and there was a need for more opportunities for members to interact with each other. Three initiatives were trialled, enthusiastically received and all continued. The first, the ASWGA Photo Competition was won with an iconic photograph of sheep at sunset. Importantly these photos represented the coalface of ASWGA woolgrowing ethics and quality and have been used on the cover of the ASWGA Annuals. Enlarged quality prints were given as gifts to Mill members. The ASWGA Fleece Competition was established in 2011-12 and all regions strongly supported this competition which exhibited the depth of quality genetics throughout the ASWGA clip. The third initiative in 2012 was the ASWGA Seminar & Dinner weekend which brought members together and gave them the opportunity to touch and admire the best of the best with the ASWGA Fleece Competition and Zegna Award winning fleeces on display. Australian Country Spinners CEO Brenda McGahan, strongly supported the event, offering the ASWGA Fleece Competition major trophy. Held in Canberra the first ASWGA weekend event was so successful it has become an annual event and a great opportunity to showcase the regions. The keynote speakers have included Madam Ding, Shandong Ruyi, Major General Michael Jeffery and Paolo Zegna of the Zegna Group. The range of other speakers include AWEX, AWTA, AWI, DAFF, WPA and Sheep CRC, highlighting the important role that ASWGA plays in the wool industry. Sponsorship is essential to hold these events and AWN has very generously been the Platinum sponsor, with AWEX, AWI, NEW consistent sponsors over the years- thank you.

ASWGA lobbied for a review of the sustainability of the Superfine Merino industry. In 2013 'The Superfine Industry Strategic Review' was completed and released. The review was funded by AWI and authored by John Powell, Optimal ICM. "The Review builds on other investigations into the Superfine Merino wool industry over recent decades. It is a timely reassessment of where the industry was at and its challenges and opportunities." Identifying some courses of

action, it was hoped that the review would lead to constructive dialogue, resulting in action. The lack of industry buy-in was extremely disappointing.

ASWGA continued to visit and engage with international retailers such as Jaegar and our representation to Mill members and non-member Mills nationally and internationally has always been strong. As in previous years there were key messages ASWGA took to Mills, the decline in the production of Australian Superfine (ASF) Merino wool; the cost of production of high crimping wools being markedly higher than broader crimping wools of the same micron; the price received for ASF Merino wool was below the cost of production except for a few promotional and prestige bales; the next generation of ASF growers are focusing on the bottom line and therefore supply of quality high crimping Merino is under threat; and finally that this is a whole of industry problem which we must solve together.

Mills were still recovering from the GFC and Mills that had weathered the storm had three things in common- all valued their staff; all had their R&M up to date; and all kept their equipment updating to schedule. Accessories became the bread and butter for most Mills and one Peebles Mill owner commented that although he had been selling 250,000 scarves a year he had never seen one worn! The scarves were the perfect tourist gift- small and inexpensive.

Thanks to Rod Thirkell-Johston and Peter Morgan (AWIS) with AWTA and AWEX input, ASWGA had timely and accurate production reports to take overseas that gave the whole raw wool picture. It was this reporting that Shandong Ruyi and others found so valuable because they could use them in their strategic planning. In Australia some industry people tried to undermine the validity of these reports but over time the reports have withstood the denials. Unfortunately, these denials definitely cost the Superfine industry a decade of progress.

ASWGA signed up with HRH Prince of Wales' The Campaign for Wool. This campaign was ultimately a worldwide campaign to support the wool industry by increasing the recognition of the natural wool fibre attributes, thus increasing stocking by retailers and retail demand.

The Gold Woolmark initiative in China was extremely successful reaching over 60 million television viewers initially. ASWGA participated in the follow up China Luxury Campaign with Chinese designers, retailers and journalists being hosted on ASWGA farms. I was invited to speak at the Shanghai World Expo in conjunction

with this initiative which gave ASWGA a good platform to promote our quality genetics and reliable supply message to Mills. ASWGA developed and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Shandong Ruyi that advocated ASWGA and Shandong Ruyi jointly work together to secure the Ultrafine wool industry future. Membership was offered to and accepted by Shandong Ruyi. Sam Guthrie and Xiaoya Wei in the AWI Shanghai office were integral in achieving this.

Hosting international visitors was a highlight and increasing our visitors' genuine appreciation and understanding of growing quality ASF was very rewarding. Nikke renewed their membership in 2012 and Mr Sato, Nikke President & Chief Executive visited in 2013 starting the negotiation to develop a new yarn based on ASWGA wool, grown throughout the Australian Great Dividing Range. A next generation hybrid yarn, the 'Nikke Nagaragawa' yarn. There are often snippets of extraordinary information that you pick up along the way and on this occasion it was that Nikke as the largest manufacturer of woollen school uniforms in Japan, had 2,000 specific dye recipes for blue yarn- amazing! Another was that Japanese school children in 2013 could already trace the origins of their school uniform manufacture. I recall Frank O'Connor when he was President telling Council that both the Superfine provenance and quality assurance were the two things that Mills were calling for and they still are. The other standout for me was that in 2010 there was only one inquiry on animal welfare from Mills however in 2013 there was only one Mill across 55 appointments that did not inquire about animal welfare- a complete turnaround.

ASWGA has an important role influencing Industry decisions. Our very good relationships with AWI, AWEX, AWTA, WPA, DAFF (now Department Agriculture Water & Environment DAWE) and IWTO are key in successfully representing the needs of Superfine growers. Presidents visiting the regions to draw on Members' views and needs plus ASWGA Council and Executive meetings are the major information channels to do this well.

ASWGA worked with AWEX's David Cother, in consulting with industry brokers to expand the ASF category to include ASF5. This is particularly important for members during dry periods when the dust level was degrading the category classification from ASF to M on good quality wool and impacting the price received. ASWGA also secured the AS; M; and M(Bold) identifiers to distinguish crimp frequency styles.

We worked with Ian Ashman AWTA and

Peter Morgan AWIS developing curvature graphs to highlight the real picture in the decline of high crimping Merino wools as all Superfine was represented by total percentage figures and this gave a very limited amount of information thus masking the actual production situation.

ASWGA made representation to the AWEX National Auction Selling Committee on maintaining the Newcastle Selling Centre. Ultimately the Newcastle Selling Centre did close and specialty Newcastle Sales were introduced into the Yennora Selling Centre roster.

In 2010-11 ASWGA was the front face in establishing credibility for members' multiple-sheep-pen Ultrafine wool production. Wool grown under intensive farming conditions was questioned by animal welfare groups and there was broad concern about the collateral damage that could spill over to the Superfine Merino industry as a whole. ASWGA supported the Code of (*best*) Practice developed jointly with WPA. Currently there are very few housed enterprises.

ASWGA supported the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre's (IA CRC) five-year extension bid. This work was particularly important, potentially impacting on future costs of many Superfine enterprises in regions with high pest predation, e.g. wild dogs and foxes.

ASWGA supported the Sheep Cooperative Research Centre's (SCRC) bids. The SCRC achievements included the Comfort Meter for next-to-skin wear, improved DNA testing through genomics and an important post-graduate program for future research.

ASWGA has over the years put in many applications to the Australia-China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement (ACACA) Program grant funding, which is an enormous amount of work. Initially Rod Thirkell-Johnston wrote these submissions and latterly, Cathy Hayne.

Council established the ASWGA Business Development Working Group (BDWG). The purpose of the group was to draw on the various expertise of ASWGA members to recognise and further opportunities for ASWGA member wools. Amongst other opportunities the BDWG pursued the R&D KnitExtra Project. In the KnitExtra Project, ASWGA worked with AWI R&D Manager Paul Swan and Garry Robertson to further the AWI 'Fibre to Fabric' work. A major aim of the project "was to determine if the wool textile trade can use ASF type high crimping Ultrafine wools to produce knitted fabrics that are lighter than usual, perhaps by as much as 20%, yet give equivalent warmth/air

permeability, softness, and appearance retention than equivalent knit fabrics from 'average' crimp fine wools." Results in the fine gauge circular knitting showed the most promise for ASWGA wools to give a notable economic advantage. The results also warranted the next step to explore the opportunities in a more robust manner and with industrial partners.

The job of President is both rewarding and demanding and Ian's support was invaluable, especially the extensive contact list with individuals' photos and finding the cheapest hotels. Support from the ASWGA Melbourne office, Zegna and AWI were also outstanding. Barry Walker was a great mentor sharing his extensive industry knowledge. Barry also advised me to aim to achieve just one major goal during my term as three years goes very quickly, and it did.

| 2013



JOHN C.W. TAYLOR
2013 - 2015

The opportunity to have input and be part of the Executive of the ASWGA, the premier body of the Superfine wool industry has been a rewarding experience.

At that time the morale of long-suffering Superfine growers was at a very low ebb.

Despite the disappointing state of the industry, growers continued to show amazing resilience.

Prices received during that time were not sufficient for a Superfine wool operation to be viable. Many Superfine wool growers were leaving the industry and our membership had fallen considerably. Face-to-face meetings had been reduced to the Annual General Meeting and some select overseas visits had been curtailed.

The realisation that there would be genuine shortages amongst the trade

prompted those who needed this high-quality fibre to act urgently to secure supply. Growers who could comply with strict Quality Assurance standards were offered direct contracts. This lifeline enabled a number of dedicated growers to remain in the industry.

Notwithstanding the disappointing state of the industry, added to this was the alarming information presented in 'The Superfine Industry Strategic Review'.

The review into the Superfine industry did make for sobering reading, confirming many wool growers' worst fears. Awareness of this trend toward unprofitability was however necessary for wool growers, enabling them to assess the true picture in regard to their own Superfine wool operations and assess their ability to continue to remain in the industry.

The initiative that was to give the greatest impetus to the Association during that time was the restructuring of the Zegna un-protected fleece award. Growers were paid for the fleeces they exhibited with an added bonus to the Association for each fleece entered.

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group was instrumental in a further development introduced the following year with the commencement of a new Competition for the best prepared bale of Superfine wool.

There was renewed optimism as wool growers realised their efforts were still valued. This incentive meant that the ten finalist growers were rewarded handsomely for well-prepared bales of their best wool. As a result, the Zegna organisation was able to dramatically increase their procurement of the best seasonally produced wools nationally.

Further, the introduction of the ASWGA Fleece Competition allowed all Superfine wool growers to submit their best fleeces. This competition was divided and judged in four different categories based on the traditional count system with more points for heavier fleeces. This competition was well supported by members and winners were selected from each region with an overall winner.

The Dinner Seminars held in Melbourne and Armidale during this time were well supported by members. A number of informative guest speakers outlined the current situation for Superfine growers. We were grateful for the generous sponsorship we received to successfully run these functions.

With today's dramatic increase in property prices there will be huge pressure on land use with competition from sheep meat, cattle, intensive cropping and dairying

and consequently the viability of Superfine wool production will continue to be tested.

The present outlook for Superfine wool has much improved. The differential between 17 micron and 19 micron is significant. This is predominantly because of the scarcity of Fine wool but also Cashmere which is also struggling with supply issues. Because of the shortage of Cashmere, Superfine wool is increasingly required in high quality knitwear to fill this gap.

Significantly, ASWGA with its enviable peak body status is in a unique position to leverage renewed interest in Superfine wool fibre globally. A continued presence and contact with key processing Mills and retail outlets particularly in Europe is necessary to maintain this momentum to assess firsthand likely trends and opportunities going forward.

My time in ASWGA did enable me to make lasting friendships with fellow wool growers and key industry leaders. Members of the Executive were always supportive. I will always be grateful for the counsel and guidance of ASWGA officers, in particular Melissa Mulley, Bianca Heaney and Peter Morgan.

| 2015



SIMON CAMERON
2015 - 2017

I became, reluctantly, President in July 2015 having never been to an ASWGA meeting and only once had attended a Tasmanian regional meeting, the one that confirmed my position as a delegate to Council. My first report to the Regions was entitled "In the deep end". It sure was!

Come the day I turned up to the AGM and Council meetings in Melbourne and was confirmed as John Taylor's successor.

I clearly remember John doing a great job while he was still in the chair and was left wondering why he wanted to step aside. At some stage I assumed the Chair, a change that ensured that John's excellent agenda management went out the window!

In hindsight I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been asked to be President. Yes, there were some challenges but with a lot of goodwill from many people we worked through them and they served to make the good times better. My lack of knowledge of ASWGA conventions helped by not standing in the way of just getting on with what needed to be done.

There were people who were keen to make a contribution that would have ongoing benefit for the Association. These included Frank O'Connor and Vera Taylor who spearheaded the team that organised the Launceston seminar and reunion weekend. Hard to forget the sellout dinner at Josef Chromy Restaurant with the Tasmanian State Governor, the AWI Chairman, the IWTO Chairman, all bar one of the (living) past Presidents and many members present.

Paul Vallely with his study into Superfine wool lifted the level of debate about the future of the Superfine wool industry and, in partnership with Peter Morgan, put real numbers around declining supply.

In 2016 there were significant changes to the Ermenegildo Zegna Superfine Wool Awards. The Regional Chairs and the Fleece Competition Committee, led by Danny Picker, worked hard to guarantee the competition's success— and broke new ground in arranging bales from the top ten finalists in places where wool bales had not been seen before.

Importantly, with AWIS's assistance we reviewed and modified the way we managed our finances and support. Cathy Hayne put new meaning into the role of ASWGA Treasurer. Melissa Mulley's help in making the new arrangement work was the key to its success.

There were a couple of personal highlights. Firstly, the feature that sets the ASWGA apart is its overseas membership and contacts. It provides a very important link to Mills and other organisations in our supply chain. AWI assisted with introductions, itineraries and some on the ground support. The welcomes and discussions were genuine and frank, emphasising the value of the direct grower— processor relationship.

An easy way to get into trouble is to single out one person when many should be mentioned. In the case of Mr Paolo Zegna,

the Chairman of Ermenegildo Zegna, I need to take that risk. His support for the Association and its members, in good times and bad, has been amazing. My time as President gave me a real appreciation of this.

Secondly, and probably most importantly, were the visits to the Regions for their AGMs each year. It was not until these took place that I really started to understand the ASWGA itself. Margaret Humphry's roast lunches were significant! It was not always plain sailing. During one round I was seeking support for a particular issue. I got to Hamilton. We had a good discussion. Lots of head nodding etc. Then the vote. I went down 10 to 1! You cannot win them all. Importantly, we are still talking to each other.

The relevance of the ASWGA is unquestionable. We must continue to find ways to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our sector— the flagship of the Australian wool industry.

The dedication and energy of the ASWGA may be only one driver across a complex and geographically spread industry. However, without the ASWGA representation and joint collaboration nationally and internationally on industry structure and Superfine production capacity and quality, the whole Australian Superfine industry would not enjoy the prestige and benefits that we do today.

Our congratulations to all ASWGA members over the past 50 years.

IWTO Update

Like so many organisations, COVID-19 has challenged the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO)- the body that for 90 years has represented the collected interests of the global wool trade. We have digested the fact that wool is now a very small player in the world of apparel fibres. This does not mean that it is not significant nor that it does not need leadership and advocacy. The reverse could never be truer than it is now. The work it is doing, together with other natural fibre associations, to counter the potential impact of the foreshadowed European Union's Product Environmental Footprint scheme is a very important example.

For this edition of our Annual, we are fortunate to have Michael Jackson, Australian Wool Testing Authority Managing Director and IWTO Vice President (i.e., Australia's top man at the IWTO) provide the following update:-

The International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO) was established 90 years ago to elevate and maintain standards in the wool industry, to facilitate trade and networking and to amplify important wool sector news and information. IWTO now has members in 22 countries and all stages of the wool pipeline from farm to fashion.

IWTO describes its functions under the Four Pillar Strategy described below:

Trading Regulations:

Provide a platform for Test Methods, Regulations, Arbitration, Market Information and Statistics and Licensed Test Laboratories.

Facilitating Industry Strategy:

Provision of a permanent industry forum to review strategy in Marketing, Research and Development and other areas of the wool textile pipeline. Act as the catalyst for the implementation of Marketing strategies.

Advocacy:

Advocate the political, social, environmental, and economic interests of the wool sector with governments, stakeholders and other organisations.

Networking:

Build worldwide industry relationships through networking forums at IWTO Congresses and Events. Provide a communication platform and distribute

information to all internal and external stakeholders.

The IWTO activities under the Trading Regulation pillar are reasonably mature and have been particularly important in self-regulating international trade in wool. IWTO trading rules have allowed the wool industry to trade efficiently with both buyers and sellers of wool accepting standardised contracts, trading conditions and laboratory test results. This has minimised commercial disputes in comparison to other fibres and activity to maintain this pillar is ongoing, if not high profile.

Throughout the textile industry, sustainability and traceability are under sharp focus and IWTO has dedicated working groups addressing these important areas. The working groups allow members from different countries and sectors to share resources and develop common strategies to present to governments, non-government organisations and the retail sector. The most important of those activities are summarised below.

The Sustainable Practices Working Group is overseeing a broad range of projects that are aimed at presenting wool as a sustainable fibre. In some cases, this can involve commissioning projects to quantify the benefits and comparative advantages that we know wool has (e.g., biodegradability in the ocean) while in other cases it is defending wool against unfair accusations that synthetic fibre advocates may make. Right now, this is particularly important as the European Union is considering labeling regulations that the industry believes are biased against natural fibres including wool. Hence, IWTO is working with organisations such as Australian Wool Innovation, marketing organisations from other grower countries and the processing industry and forming coalitions with other natural fibre associations to achieve a fair outcome in Europe.

In a very similar project IWTO is promoting wool's benefits to the ratings agency that estimate the carbon footprint of various fibres. Wool has many benefits over fast fashion that are not recognised by the ratings agency (e.g., it is not washed as often, wool clothes last longer, they are often recycled etc.) and IWTO is working to present the science necessary to convince the ratings agencies of the need to improve their systems.

Growers understand that there are many schemes available to communicate on-

farm practices to the market such as SustainaWOOL, Authentico, Responsible Wool Standard and others. IWTO has engaged with the managers of these schemes with a view to define the essential requirements that would provide buyers with the confidence to rely on various schemes. Just as it is not practical for farmers to have to be certified to multiple schemes, incurring duplication and paying multiple audit fees, it is also not efficient for processors to have to deal with multiple systems when putting together consignments for particular customers.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that IWTO Committees, Working Groups, Forums and Events have continued to operate, albeit on virtual platforms, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Photo: IWTO Team Amanda Millard, Ben Roberts, Dalena White & Jeannette Cook



Photo: 2017 Heuningkrans Merino Ram & Dalena White



| Ermenegildo Zegna



Last year was a truly difficult year, and we all know it will take a while longer before we can return to the way things were. Life sometimes puts us in front of challenges to give us the chance to change and progress. When unexpected events occur, as they do for us all, we have not so many choices but to react. At Zegna we have always reacted with the aim to continue to foster our values, staying true to our DNA and heritage and always looking for building a better future.

Guided by the same passion that has set us apart for over 110 years, Zegna firmly believes that the actions we take today will define our tomorrow. With that in mind, we have decided to re-launch the traditional Wool Trophies, which have only ever been interrupted in 2009 and 2021, further strengthening our commitment to a more sustainable world.

Many things have changed because of the pandemic and many changes are still to come with regards to our way of living, travelling, and relating to each other. These changes have also impacted the way we dress, now that our “public lives” have become our “private lives” and vice versa. Work from home has accelerated a trend that was already emerging before this crisis, favoring more informal, casual clothing without compromising on quality and sustainability.

At Zegna, quality is the heart of our

company, in terms of both our finished products, raw materials and fabrics. Zegna’s relationships with wool growers, the ASWGA, and Australia, which date back over 50 years, are now more important than ever. The fineness of the wool we use, as well as the durability, color, and uniformity of the fibres, continue to play a starring role in the way we create our products.

Assuring continuity, preserving know-how, creating value in the name of craftsmanship and innovation is the vision that is behind Zegna’s global mission deeply rooted in the pioneering vision of our founder.

As a worldwide leader in luxury menswear, Zegna Group has always been open to opportunities for external growth. Zegna’s expansion has been accelerated through a comprehensive strategy of verticalisation, shrewd diversification and a strong and profitable growth trajectory.

The acquisition of historic Italian companies- each one with a specialisation in a particular sector- has allowed the Group to set up, together with Lanificio Zegna, a unique Made in Italy luxury textile platform aimed to create unparalleled quality products while preserving the specificities, know-how and craftsmanship of Made in Italy. The Group has in fact recently acquired the majority stake in Tessitura Ubertino, a company based in Pratrivero, Valdilana, Biella, specialising in high-end fabrics for women such as tweed and jacquard – and Filati Biagioli Modesto, a company based in Montale (Pistoia), which for over a century has excelled in the

production of cashmere and other noble yarns and offered excellence in the process of transforming fibres, assuring perfect quality throughout the entire production process. These latest acquisitions are added to the Group’s previous ones as Bonotto, a fourth-generation textile manufacturer based in Molvena (Vicenza) which is characterised by the creative and experimental dimensions of their fabrics, Dondi a leader in manufacturing high-quality jersey fabrics for men and women based in Carpi (Modena) and Tessitura di Novara, a company specialising in high-quality silk weaving, which since it was founded in 1932 has become a leading producer of pure silk and other high-end natural fabrics.

Showing our support for wool growers, especially through hard times, and strengthening their foundations to strive towards an increasingly sustainable world every day means we continue to offer the highest quality and guarantee a responsible growth. Just as in 2020, Zegna has subsidised 50% of the costs that some wool growers have sustained to improve water resources management on their properties, in 2022, Ermenegildo Zegna will finance 50% of the submitted investments to implement local forest heritage.

In the hopes that in the coming shearing season, the efforts of all wool growers will be properly compensated by the market, Zegna Group is pleased to pledge its support to the people who continue to produce the most beautiful wool in the world.



Details for the 2022 Zegna Wool Trophies competition can be found at <https://www.aswga.com/competitions>

About Ermenegildo Zegna Group

Ermenegildo Zegna is a leading global luxury menswear brand founded in 1910 in Trivero, Italy, by the young entrepreneur Ermenegildo, whose pioneering vision continues to inspire the company business development in a sustainable way: to use resources for the good of others; to give back to people and to employees; to take care of the territory and communities from which the brand comes. The company is today managed by Gildo Zegna as CEO, grandson of the founder and third generation of the Zegna family. Throughout the years the company has evolved from high quality textile production to the artisan commercialization of sartorial expertise and onto the affirmation of a luxury worldwide lifestyle brand with a retail network covering over 80 countries.



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| Nikke of Japan



Wool Promotion Activities

The Japanese clothing market has been dominated by cheap and multi-functional synthetic fibres for a long time, where consumers put an emphasis on pricing and preferred easy-care clothes. Nowadays, there are increasingly critical crusades against such “fast fashion” as witnessed by recent environmental trends.

We at Nikke, launched unique activities to highlight the benefits of wool for multiple stakeholders following sustainable development goals (SDGs) reasoning.

Wool Lab To Classrooms

As the No.1 school uniform fabric manufacturer in Japan, Nikke provides original curriculums for school students in their classrooms. They learn not only about wool and its environmentally-friendly characteristics, naturally functional quality unlike man-made fibres, but also about the virtue “Mottainai” (the Japanese concept of mottainai encompasses the idea of respecting resources and not wasting them, along with an inherent recognition of their value environmentally) by being taught maintenance of their own uniforms. Nikke formulated the content, following authorised curriculum guidelines. For years, our company has been sending employees as lecturers where required, to schools.



Sustainable Fashion Expo

Nikke joined the first exhibition (Sustainable Fashion Expo Tokyo) this Spring, in collaboration with the Japan Wool Industry Association, the Woolmark Company, and others. The Expo is the best opportunity for buyers, merchandisers and store employees to recognise wool's eco-friendly nature. An apparel company requested us to establish a seminar with the aim to learn more about wool, which was held after the Expo. Nikke understands this kind of approach focusing on commercial flow, is as important as direct action to consumers.

Other activities

- Wool Crafts event for children– a collaboration with Rokkosan-Ranch.
- Participation in Hitsuji (Sheep) Summit in Bishu– it is the largest wool producing region in Japan.
- Participation in Children's Day on-line event, hosted by the Ministry of Economy.
- Nikke is endeavouring to promote the many benefits of wool to the Japanese market by various means.



Nikke 1896 Kobe

Since 2017, Nikke has been running their retail store which provides made-to-measure suits using high quality materials. It is located in Kobe, which is where the company originated. Fabrics designed and produced by Nikke have proven to be very popular worldwide– not just to shoppers but to the exclusive brands of Europe, which buy the fabrics for manufacturing apparel. We launched this business to introduce top quality fabrics to Japanese consumers who seek premium quality garments. Shouhei-Ooba, the store's merchandiser said, “ASWGA's high quality wool really helps us achieve our aim.” The retail business is also a part of Nikke's wool promotion strategy.



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Campaign for Wool -10 Year Celebrations in 2020



Campaign for Wool was initiated by The Prince of Wales in 2010 in response to the poor prices paid to sheep farmers in the United Kingdom (UK) for their wool. The idea quickly expanded to include all wool-producing nations and a campaign was launched to raise awareness of wool and generate renewed interest in using it.

In 2010, standing on Savile Row in London with my sheep for the launch event, I had no idea that ten years later, the Campaign would still be going strong and would have achieved so much. To celebrate, there were plans for grand events and retrospectives— and then COVID-19 struck. Some things had to be cancelled, but the 10th Anniversary was still marked with a series of remarkable and important activities which raised awareness and generated publicity for wool.

Celebratory Scarf

The anniversary celebratory scarf was conceived by the Campaign for Wool's Patron, His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales. During the ten years since the Campaign was launched the Prince has tirelessly communicated the benefits of wool as a natural, biodegradable and renewable fibre, and highlighted wool's many attributes and properties to consumers, including wool's reduced impact on the planet and marine life.



This scarf was designed in collaboration with Mother of Pearl's Amy Powney and manufactured by Johnstons of Elgin using

a unique blend of Merino wools from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa plus British Bluefaced Leicester wool. The limited-edition unisex scarf was available in three colourways and sold through three retailers; NET-A-PORTER, Johnstons of Elgin and Mother of Pearl. Profits from the scarf will result in a donation to The Prince's Foundation Future Textiles initiative of more than A\$68,000.

Featured in British Vogue and extensive media channels, the project was supported and seeded by Clarence House on their social media channels, and a range of VIP influencers were photographed wearing the scarf and posting images on social media.

"By investing in nature as the true engine of our economy we have an incredible opportunity to reinvigorate sustainable industries. Wool's sustainable and biodegradable properties provide a unique natural option for us all to reassess our environmental values and purchases. We need to put nature at the heart of how we operate and to evolve our economic model, putting people and planet at the heart of global value creation. The only limit is our willingness to act, and the time to act is now, and we can all make a difference."

His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales



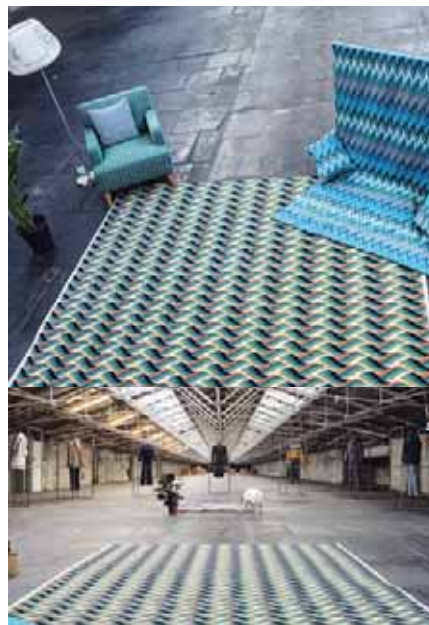
Timeline of the Campaign's Events – Painted by Christopher Corr

Bright and beautifully detailed, each piece has more to see, the more you look at each painting. The work was launched in a virtual gallery tour, with individual hotspots of information for each piece to summarise the activities captured in each of the paintings. Additional items were created; an audio file with Nicholas Coleridge, Chairman of Campaign for Wool narrating the timeline; and a short film capturing Christopher Corr discussing how he worked on the project and the importance of sheep in his artistic career.

Student Design Competition

Campaign for Wool's Wool Week launched early last year with the return of its much-loved Student Design Competition. The year-long competition brought together leading brands and retailers with Universities across the UK, who challenged students to create an innovative and exciting product made from wool. Brands had the opportunity to choose their favourite product, with some offering winning items for sale in stores, or student work placements, and some permanent work positions. The competition was a global endeavour with universities in New Zealand, Canada and South Africa also getting involved and designing innovative wool products.

With extraordinary levels of support from the retail and brand partners, the Student Design Competition did not end with the Wool Week winners' announcements. From the student entries received, twelve product categories were selected- with Limited Edition pieces set to be sold including an Outer Hebrides-inspired bright jumper at *Brora*, a jacquard-knit jumper at *John Smedley* and a relaxed, comfort jumper at *Celtic & Co*. The *Floor Story* rug, exclusively limited to ten pieces,



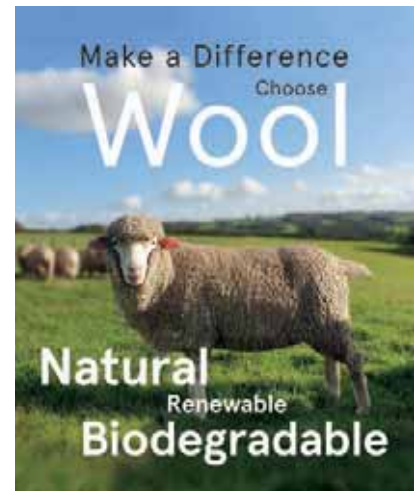
and *Alternative Flooring* carpet runner, plus *Margo Selby* interior cloth and cushion accessories, *Holland & Sherry* interior cloth, and *Blackhouse* chair are all available to purchase on request. Limited Edition cloth and bespoke tailoring is available at both *Anderson & Sheppard* and *Hackett*. Student placements were offered to their winning students by *Marks & Spencer*, *John Smedley* and *Margo Selby*, and *Finisterre* propose to produce the socks in their AW2021 collection.

Across the UK there were 17 universities, 12 brands/retailers, 5 industry partners involved and 107 student submissions with 12 winners and 9 runners-up. Internationally the competition involved 10 universities with 4 winners and 1 runner-up.

"The Student Design Competition is an ideal opportunity for the worlds of textile and fashion education to connect with industry in a series of collaborations that showcase the environmental credentials and diverse applications of wool in lifestyle and fashion. By creating these

partnership opportunities with leading brands, the students are able to add a strong commercial dimension to their course work in preparation for careers in the industry. I'm delighted to hear selected students have been offered placements with participating fashion houses following graduation." Peter Ackroyd, COO The Campaign for Wool.

Wool Week



(image credit Lesley Prior)

With the unprecedented situation of COVID-19 and lockdown, all retail events and activities were postponed and the focus went to social media. The whole of October was utilised for Wool Week to engage more Campaign for Wool supporters and to allow for additional content, messaging and to provide space for the on-line activities to be promoted.

For those retailers who remained open, they ordered over 15,000 pieces of Point of Sale and the iconic sheep models were instore and used across 40 locations.

The Future

2020 will, we hope, be a one-off. The UK and Europe, major consumers of Merino products, were badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with stores closed and much shopping switching to online. Confidence was shaken and consumers withdrew to brands and concepts they trusted. People had time to consider their lives and their futures. As The Prince of Wales said, there was time to Reset. Wool has benefitted from this. Never has the message of Sustainability and Biodegradability seemed more important. The unusually cold Spring in Europe has also encouraged wool sales, and at the point of writing, there are signs of a return of confidence in European markets. The Campaign for Wool will build on this and continue to adapt and promote wool in all its variety, in all our wool-producing nations.

Image credit Lloyd Almond

A Word from Vitale Barberis Canonico

Bruno Landi, VBC Commercial Director

THE YEAR THAT WAS

One year into the COVID-19 pandemic and Vitale Barberis Canonico remains dedicated to its values and planning for its future in this new evolving world.

One year into the pandemic, the global prospects remain highly uncertain. New virus mutations and the human toll raises concerns, even if growing vaccine coverage lifts sentiment.

One year on and economic recoveries are differing across countries and sectors, reflecting variations in pandemic disruptions and the differences in policy support.

The outlook depends not only on the result of the battle between the virus and vaccines, but also on how government support can limit the damage from this unprecedented crisis.

Global growth is projected at 6%, stronger than in March, reflecting additional fiscal support in a few large economies and the anticipated vaccine recovery in the second half of 2021.

THE MARKET SITUATION

Just like the rest of the world, Vitale Barberis Canonico is slowly moving into a (post) COVID-19 scenario.

We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but what we will see is not going to be the same as before. Values, habits, lifestyles have changed.

The safe and practical mindset of the "pandemic consumer" remains, but it is beginning to give way to a more optimistic sentiment on fashion shopping.

As we return to life out in public, the majority of us desire to refresh our style and start dressing more presentably, though that does not mean surrendering to the comfort to which we have become accustomed.

Consumer lifestyle prioritises practical function and comfort for a balanced mix of versatile "work-leisure" and protective outdoor items, while "formalwear" is having a small improvement according to upcoming trends.

FUTURE DRIVERS

Vitale Barberis Canonico sees comfort, wearability, outdoor activewear, fun tailoring and importantly sustainability as the key future drivers.

Comfort and Wearability: As people return to the workplace, they want suits that can travel well in whatever mode of transport and stand up to daylong business activities, before being washed at home.

Outdoor trend: The outdoor trend boom will continue to influence the menswear market, making practical functionality a long-lasting value driver.

Fun with tailoring: As we re-enter the world, those who like to get dressed up will have an excuse to use clothing as a means of celebration.

Sustainability and Responsible fashion: Making sustainable products wherever it is possible, should be a must.

In a complex and challenging year, Vitale Barberis Canonico has continued its activities regarding sustainability, with the integrity, commitment and concrete actions which have always characterised Vitale Barberis Canonico. They have given maximum priority to the health of PEOPLE, introducing extraordinary anti-COVID-19 protection measures before they became legal requirements (which proved to be effective in view of the very limited number of infections). The woollen Mill has renewed its commitment to the ENVIRONMENT by means of the mindful use of resources and the significant structural interventions within the framework of environmental remediation. The medium to long-term

strategy has also been confirmed in terms of considerable investments in research and development of the PRODUCT, expanding customer services and giving emphasis to digital projects.

For Vitale Barberis Canonico, sustainability is not a fashion or a trend to follow because the market requires it, but it is a value deeply rooted in the company's culture that has been handed down from generation to generation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WOOL

At the heart of all that Vitale Barberis Canonico does is, of course, wool.

We know that the best recipe for excellence and elegance in fabrics comes from the best fibres available in the world. The different types used by Vitale Barberis Canonico are selected and purchased while paying attention to their provenance according to the directives for the products as defined at the start of the season and also based on the physical and visual characteristics which determine the quality and style, fineness and length, without neglecting financial and environmental aspects.

Through our Wool Excellence Club (WEC) initiative, the supply chain is tightly controlled with all WEC wool being entirely processed at our facilities, where it is transformed from Fibre to Fabric. The Club is of great importance in maintaining the quality of fibre obtained by sustainable practices, aimed at the protection and conservation of Saxon sheep producing the best quality wool and maintaining Vitale Barberis Canonico's strong environmental ethos.





The concept of transparency is one of the most important company values which is evidenced in the manufacturing process by the traceability of the products.

In an integrated, vertical production system, although very complex, Vitale Barberis Canonico has invested resources to create a computer program which is able to follow and track the production chain of every individual piece, right from the origins of the bale of wool which make up the finished product. The project was started in 2018 and became operative in 2019.

Using a table, it is today possible to look through the components of the product with specific details regarding:

- the farm the bale of wool originated from;
- the batches of greasy wool making up a lot of combed wool;
- the lots of combed wool included in the semi-finished materials for dyeing;
- the semi-finished materials for dyeing included in the blends for spinning;
- spun yarns.

To a certain extent, the traceability project responds to requests from some wholesalers, retailers and tailors for the verification of the production processes, but on the other hand it aspires to contribute to a culture of transparent processes and products. This leads the end consumer to a type of behaviour which is both aware and responsible. The Wool Excellence Club and its members play an important role in creating this transparent system and solidifies our commitment to work shoulder to shoulder with our most valued suppliers.

The last few years have certainly had their share of trials and tribulations for our members, and indeed the wool industry at large, with many experiencing much uncertainty, enduring severe drought, fires, dust storms, and on top of all that, the pandemic. While the drought has ended, or at least eased in most production areas, providing much relief, the pandemic came hot on its heels, resulting in its own set of challenges and further uncertainty- in particular, a shrinking and highly unpredictable market.

Yet in the face of all this, the ongoing investment and dedication of wool growers to achieving excellence in raw fibre production is inspiring and highly regarded by Vitale Barberis Canonico. We share this investment and dedication through the Club, continuing to support our members via contracts and at auction.

THE OUTLOOK

The textile industry is still under-performing even if all the players are having a soft rebound. Vitale Barberis Canonico believes that "revenge" is the key word when thinking about 2022.

Vitale Barberis Canonico is already experiencing good performance thanks to China and a few strategic customers getting back to 2019 volumes.

We heavily invested in a very innovative collection for Autumn and Winter 2022 in order to catch the new trends without forgetting our roots, and the first reaction we had at the Milano Unica show and through our agents who are reaching our customers, is more than positive!

Vitale Barberis Canonico decided with its new range that it is time to evolve and renew. We created the "OFFLIMITS" range- a name which evokes crossing



boundaries and access to inaccessible territories that so far have been forbidden.

Wool is being renewed; it is taking on new functionalities; it is being blended with research fibres; with recycled polymers in a hybridisation process which gives a new light to a natural raw material that Vitale Barberis Canonico has been processing with competence and great passion for more than 350 years. Wool, which is already unique, innovative, renewable and biodegradable is further enriched and transformed, becoming adaptable to satisfy new, contemporary demands.

With OFFLIMITS the Company does not want to forget its past, but simply to embrace change and to try to anticipate continuous future evolutions. The new range joins the classic offer- always the Company core- creating stimuli and ideas with a view to continuous innovation.

Once we regain the possibility to travel again and socialise, we will have wonderful opportunities to capture consumers' raised expectations with our new offerings and to maintain our leadership in the textile field. Most importantly, we will be able to visit those very important individuals at the very beginning of this incredible supply chain- the wool growers.



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G. SCHNEIDER

We can only create value TOGETHER

In this interview, ASWGA talks to Tim Marwedel, Managing Director at G. Schneider Australia and Willy Gallia, Chief Sustainability Officer at The Schneider Group. The two explain the recent changes implemented within the Authentico Integrity Scheme with the goal to help growers and brokers create more value for their businesses while also contributing to the Schneider Group's Sustainability strategy - Together 2030.

ASWGA: Please tell us about The Schneider Group's sustainability strategy and how Authentico fits in with your goals?

Willy Gallia: In 2020, we launched our global sustainability strategy Together 2030 based on Science Based Targets Initiatives with the aim to help tackle climate change through impact mitigation and compensation. To reach our goals, we have put in place four strategic pillars, starting with the industry side by reducing our own carbon footprint within all our industrial and logistical activities. Authentico is another one of these pillars because we as a single company can only do so much, but by joining forces along the entire Schneider Group supply chain from wool growers to end product, we can achieve much more. Authentico enables us to have a direct connection to wool growers, and we can assist them through Authentico to reach their own goals.

ASWGA: Can you get a bit more specific?

Willy Gallia: Yes, let me first mention the final two pillars of our strategy, which are for one dialogue and consensus building through Wool Connect. This is our online community and event format which brings wool growers and the rest of the supply chain closer together for better understanding and creating moments of needed change. The final pillar is partnership, meaning that we build long-lasting relationships with like-minded growers and customers and through the partnership we achieve commitment to and for the people who make our industry. I mention these last two pillars as they enabled us to have valuable discussions and to get more insights of what is needed

to deliver more value to growers and brokers through Authentico.

ASWGA: So that brings us to the changes made within Authentico.

Tim Marwedel: Yes, exactly. Whenever we talked to Growers and Brokers, we kept hearing that the existence of too many integrity schemes in the market was an issue as each audit is costing time and money. Therefore, we decided to form collaborations with other integrity schemes such as SustainaWOOL (non-mulesed) or Sustainable Cape Wools Standards in South Africa. This means that if a grower is already certified for one of these schemes, then they are automatically eligible to become an Authentico Grower as well, at no extra cost. This also holds true for the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS). Here we started offering growers and brokers in Australia to become RWS certified through a group certification to reduce costs and efforts.

Another topic that kept coming up at our Wool Connect events, is the rising interest in environmental care. This has initiated a collaboration with Landcare Australia and Integrity Ag & Environment where we are mapping a number of Authentico growers to do Carbon Accounting and Natural Capital Accounting. This will allow us to create new income streams for growers, to start generating scientific data and key performance indicators (KPI) that will help us reach targets of our Together 2030 strategy and ultimately, to improve the reputation of our industry to achieve an increase on wool consumption within the textile industry which is currently only 1%.

All of these collaboration efforts are designed to help growers add more value to their business and help growers move away from adapting to the market demands of tomorrow and start actually shaping them.

ASWGA: Besides a growing demand for non-mulesed and certified wool, what are other demands the market is asking for?

Willy Gallia: There are two more things we are focusing our efforts on. First, we have partnered with Textile Genesis, a third-party traceability program which tracks and traces each bale of Authentico-certified wool along the entire supply chain. This commitment to full transparency builds



Photo: Willy Gallia



Photo: Tim Marwedel

credibility for Authentico and makes the scheme future-ready for a more digital world. It is the backbone of a system that will take value to where it is produced: at farms.

The other market demand we want to meet through Authentico is storytelling. Certificates and data are dry box ticking exercises, but we also need to connect consumers emotionally to our beautiful fibre and its people. We need to show the faces behind the fibre, talk about the challenges overcome and the efforts being done every day to grow sustainable, animal-friendly wool. Our goal is for each grower to have the possibility to load images, videos and written stories to the Authentico platform which can then be shared with brands and retailers purchasing Authentico wool to deliver these stories to the final consumer. We want to bring people closer together.

ASWGA: Thank you, for answering our questions about Authentico. Any final words before we close?

Tim Marwedel: Yes, we are a strong supporter of ASWGA and this is another form of collaboration that is important to us. We are always open for a direct dialogue as we can only create value for growers, brokers and the rest of the supply chain if we work TOGETHER.

SustainaWOOL continues to grow and develop

For all of us in the Australian wool industry, the 12 months of 2020-21 continued the pattern of significant challenges— recovery from drought in many parts of Australia, yet the dramatic impact of COVID-19 on our lives and especially for our international partners and consumers. Yet it has also been a year of positives, not least the green shoots of recovery in our key consumer markets and re-emerging price differentials for our finer wool, which auger well for 2021-22.

So it is once again, against a challenging backdrop, that we report that SustainaWOOL Integrity Scheme has continued to grow and develop, in service of both buyers and sellers of wool who wish to celebrate excellence.

Continued growth

SustainaWOOL recently welcomed the 1,179th successive grower member, and our 32nd post-farmgate partner.

Around 10.5% of Australia's Merino production is through SustainaWOOL members, and ours is the largest integrity scheme of its type in Australia, and proudly industry owned.

In 2021-21, our new partners have included Loro Piana, Matches Fashion, Volcar, Filidea, The Schneider Group, CapeWools South Africa, Gordon Litchfield Wool, Australian Wool Innovation Limited, and Chemcert Australia, with additional partnerships in train.

Recovery of price premiums

COVID-19 dramatically impacted on the businesses of many key processors around the world, and none more than our leading weavers.

Nonetheless, the price and passed-in rate benefits enjoyed by SustainaWOOL growers have shown very positive signs of recovery so far in 2021, after a difficult 2020.

The chart below shows the premium received on average by SustainaWOOL fleece lots, compared with those outside the scheme, and those who do not declare, or use pain relief when mulesing. The data shows our GREEN and BLUE members receive around 2% more for their fleece wool than received by non-members for equivalent specification wool.

Using a nominal Superfine fleece bale value of \$2,000, an additional 2% received means the typical SustainaWOOL membership fee (\$150, including GST) is recouped with the sale of only 4 bales of fleece wool.

Another indication of recovering demand can be seen in the passed-in rates received by SustainaWOOL growers for their fleece wools, compared to those not part of the Scheme, and those who do not declare, or who mules without pain relief. Again, SustainaWOOL growers typically benefit from a 2% lower passed-in rate for their fleece wool than that for non-members with comparable wool.

The upshot is a continuation of long-term evidence of preferential demand enjoyed by SustainaWOOL growers, reflecting

recognition of the commitment to quality and integrity they embody.

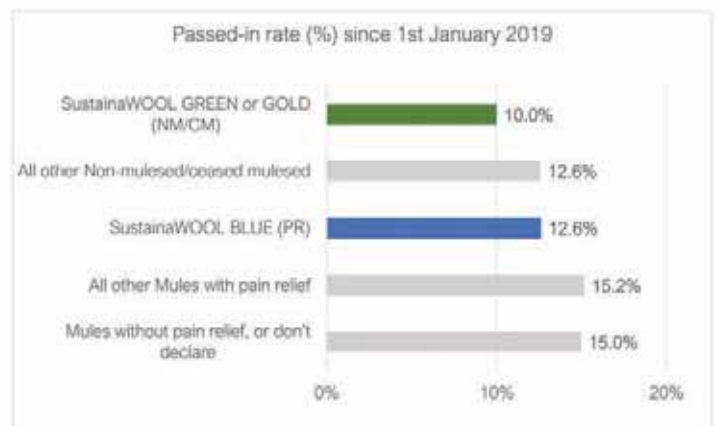
Certification of yarns

Just over 12 months ago we completed development of the new SustainaWOOL Content Claim standard. This development provides the needed guidance for partners wishing to use the Scheme logo to describe or promote their products.

This year we have continued to refine our processes and procedures, including resolving procedures to certify consignments consisting of blends of wool from Australia and other countries.



Since January 2021, we have certified the equivalent of over 1 million kilograms



of greasy wool, including yarns used for fashion knitwear retailed in Europe.

SustainaWOOL GOLD

In October 2020, we introduced a new, higher tier of certification for our members– SustainaWOOL GOLD– and have welcomed 11 growers.

SustainaWOOL GOLD is accessible only to those member growers who do not modify the breeches of their sheep and who do provide pain relief for tail docking and castration procedures. This means the sheep are bred and managed to minimise trauma at lamb marking.

SustainaWOOL GOLD not only represents a differentiation opportunity for passionate SustainaWOOL growers, but also a collaboration opportunity– we will provide the opportunity for SustainaWOOL GOLD members to be involved in electronic tagged bales and e-Declaration trials involving us and our downstream partners.



Quality and pride, packaged – a bale of wool from GOLD member No.1 (SWG001): Michael and Cathy Blake (Bally Glunin Park).

Harmonisation of integrity schemes

Increasingly, sustainability and integrity matter as part of brand and retail marketing strategies. This can be seen in the proliferation of wool integrity standards around the world, many privately owned. While diversity is healthy, it can also create challenges for the supply chain, including

for growers faced with a multiplicity of parallel schemes all requiring audits of some form.

Over the past 15 months, AWEX has led an international forum through IWTO which has brought together representatives of all the key wool sustainability schemes, with a view to encouraging communication, harmonisation, and exploring efficiencies.

This process, the IWTO Sustainable Standards Task Team, has been successful in bringing schemes together including Segard Masurel's Abelusi®, The Schneider Group's Authentico®, Sustainable CapeWools Standard, Chargeurs' NATIVA®, Textile Exchange's Responsible Wool Standard, New Zealand Merino's ZQ®, and SustainaWOOL integrity schemes, and progressed the basis for technical harmonisation.

There are enormous opportunities for all in our industry from cooperation and harmonisation in this area, including between the sheep meat and wool sectors, and there are already some very positive developments in this space, with more to come in the year ahead. Watch this space.

New SustainaWOOL Grower Declaration

In October 2020, we released our updated Grower Declaration. The key changes were:

1. Moving to 'breach modification' language, to account for traditional and non-traditional forms, including use of liquid nitrogen and mulesing clips.
2. Encouraging growers to separately declare provision of pain relief for tail docking and castration.

These changes arose from consultation with stakeholders in Australia and overseas and have been well received. We are currently working on our next revision, for release in October 2022.

New Staff Member

In December 2020, we welcomed a new member to the SustainaWOOL team– Stephanie Balla. Steph, who hails from Attunga in northern New South Wales and completed a Bachelor of Rural Science at University of New England, has taken on the role of Project Officer– Integrity Systems. Steph is responsible for grower engagement and is based in the Sydney office.

AWEX WoolClip Update

AWEX WoolClip is a user-friendly web and app tool which facilitates the transfer of information between upstream and downstream parties in the wool pipeline.

From an on-farm perspective WoolClip provides wool growers and wool classers the tools to capture and transform mob and bale data into Specification, Consignment and National Wool Declaration (NWD) documents, always using the most up to date versions.

On completion, these documents are released instantly to the nominated marketing organisation in data (server to server) and document formats. WoolClip is also eBale ready, allowing for greater traceability from farm through the supply chain.

New features

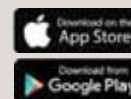
WoolClip is the backbone and primary interface for the AWEX e-bale project. E-bale uniquely identifies each pack/ bale. Using WoolClip each identifier is then associated with the details of the product, its origin, its destination and location of the bale on the journey.

WoolClip now allows registered wool classers to view the test results of wool they have classed, along with the ability to review and respond to clip inspection concerns raised by the AWEX technical team.

WoolClip Training and Support

Training is available 7 days a week and is usually delivered via phone or online. Additional online resources are available including a training site.

To learn more about WoolClip and the benefits it can deliver, or a short training session please email woolclip@awex.com.au or call 02 9428 6170.



AWN expansions offer more benefits for clients

A group of like-minded wool and sheep specialists had a vision to build a unique wool marketing organisation that brought growers and suppliers together and Australian Wool Network (AWN) was born. The grower-to-processor ownership attracts many to AWN and offers the opportunity to market wool 'outside the square'. Clients become part of a company which has built a reputation for innovation, passion and commitment to deliver the highest level of service.

AWN has just ticked over 22 years of operation and, in the words of AWN Managing Director John Colley, the past twelve months have been among the most turbulent.

Mr Colley said this time last year we were recovering from bushfires and drought and COVID-19 had come to stay all over the world. "Our new favourite sayings became "flatten the curve" and "lockdown" whilst "Zoom" became the new normal in business communication. More than a year on, the wool market has dropped and recovered, cattle prices are at an all-time high, sheep and lamb prices are in the top five per cent of all time and we now see grain getting extremely expensive on the back of world shortages. Could it be that finally the increase in population and the need for food and natural fibre has finally caught up with us?"

Despite the roller coaster ride of the past twelve months, AWN has continued to be there for its clients and is going from strength to strength. The business has expanded into Western Australia under the AWN brand, placed a focus on mental health training for staff which then benefits clients and, has expanded into the livestock agency arena.

AWN's presence in Western Australia has been warmly embraced by growers and buyers alike as the company's footprint expands across the nation in the wool and livestock arenas under the AWN banner. AWN's expansion into Western Australia was a natural progression for the business which focuses on growth and value-adding to achieve the best return possible for the grower. Its vertical integration and range of unique marketing options will offer huge opportunities for those involved in



Photo: AWN Managing Director John Colley

the West Australian wool industry and ensure further promotion of this luxury, sustainable fibre that is wool. Value adding and service expansion have been the cornerstone of business for AWN, with the company building on this philosophy by adding a real estate arm to its arsenal. Western Australia is benefitting from this expansion with rural property sales now complementing the well-established wool and livestock services enjoyed by AWN's clients.

AWN has also proven to be a leader when it comes to looking after the mental health of its staff and its clients. The company has been awarded gold status in the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Skilled Workplace Program and, on the back of this success, will be expanding its mental health training program to farming communities in New South Wales (NSW).

With more than thirty employees now fully qualified, it is considered the ideal time to take the program out to the people. With the challenges of drought, bushfires, floods, trade wars and the global

pandemic, the idea was born to train as many staff as possible in mental health to help both staff and clients cope in the face of these testing times.

AWN's General Manager People and Culture Harry Petropoulos said during the drought, AWN had been the industry torchbearer for rural mental health and this recent recognition by MHFA Australia was a clear demonstration of AWN's commitment to mental health in the workplace. "We've now taken on the challenge of helping roll out mental health training to the wider farming community."

Expansion into livestock and property has been a natural progression for AWN as it seeks to grow agency business and offer more services to its existing wool growing clients.

Parkes-based Langlands Hanlon joined forces with AWN as part of the livestock and property network expansion. Business owners Geoff and Renee Rice could see the opportunity for their central west NSW business to be 'part of something bigger' with a national grower network.

With more than twenty years' experience in the industry, Geoff is very excited about the future.

"It is fantastic to be able to take this next step with somebody we absolutely trust. I have 100 per cent faith in AWN's managing director John Colley— his business acumen is above reproach."

AWN has expanded its livestock and property footprint across Australia with a recent acquisition in Shepparton, Victoria and the establishment of new sites in Wangaratta and Western Australia.

An exciting aspect of AWN's livestock division expansion is the acquisition of independent Shepparton-based agency Robson Donaldson. This will enable clients to access a larger network and take advantage of a greater range of selling centres and marketing options with the business known as AWN Robson Donaldson.

While the expansion into livestock in Wangaratta is a new venture, AWN is well known in the area with sheep and wool specialist Peter Byrne having been with the company since 2003 and having sold clients' wool through AWN since 2002.

This expansion complements the unique wool marketing options offered by AWN.

One of these exclusive options is the Direct Network Advantage (DNA) program which allows wool growers who meet specifications to follow the journey of their wool from bale to retail and to share that story with the consumer. For growers who share AWN's vision of connecting along the supply chain to the consumer, the company specialises in wool marketing programs which take wool from bale to retail.

Industry programs such as Authentico and SustainaWOOL are also offered to clients as well as New Zealand's ZQ.

AWN's DNA brand ambassador Alvie Webster said the recent challenges faced by the wool industry had reconfirmed to AWN the necessity to further invest in and expand the DNA program.

"We have focused on consumers and their purchasing habits to further define the program. Australians are early adoptees of consumer trends and we are developing the program, mindful of the changes and motivation of consumers, and their rapidly growing demand for products with provenance and environmental credentials", she said.

"We are working closely with growers, retailers and brands on new projects and have some very exciting collaborations in the pipeline that we look forward to sharing in the very near future."

AWN is proud to be affiliated with ZQ, the world's leading ethical wool brand which teams with world-class brands to provide ethical and sustainable wool supply contracts. AWN is the exclusive partner of the ZQ Merino program in Australia offering clients another unique marketing option.

AWN's national team of wool specialists works with clients to offer a range of marketing options, some unique to AWN— tailoring marketing strategies which allows wool growers to value add and achieve the best results possible.



Photo: AWN Fleece

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Australian Wool Testing Authority and Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association

Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) is proud to be associated with Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association (ASWGA) in this the 50th Anniversary year since its founding. AWTA has been a long-standing supporter of the ASWGA through the provision of direct sponsorship to the organisation in combination with support to associated events such as the prestigious annual Ermenegildo Zegna competitions, which are keystone events in the ASWGA calendar. Through this and other sponsorship or support arrangements to ram sales, sheep shows and fleece competitions around the country, AWTA aims to encourage the progression and development of the industry. These events provide not only a commercial opportunity for members of the ASWGA, but also an opportunity for the industry to interact.

About AWTA

Over the last 64 years, AWTA Ltd has built a highly successful business providing independent test information to its customers, primarily the Australian wool industry. The company has established and maintained a national and international reputation for technical expertise, commercial independence and professional integrity, while its corporate structure facilitates the minimisation of the fees that it charges for its services.

Over the past decade wool production in Australia has declined by almost 12% from 360 million kg during season 2011-12 to 318 million kg for season 2020-21. This contrasts with the previous decade from 2001-02 to 2010-11 when the volume of wool tested declined an alarming 35%. During this period the declining testing volumes impacted on AWTA Ltd revenue. At the time AWTA responded by reducing costs through improved labour productivity, rationalisation of facilities and the diversification into related testing markets to improve profitability by growing revenue from non-wool sources.

As a consequence of its rationalisation and diversification strategy adopted in the mid-2000s AWTA is now in a strong financial position. The Board of AWTA was pleased to announce recently that, for the third year in a row, there was to be no general increase in wool testing fees to wool growers. In 1993-94 the total cost of testing an average farm sale lot was \$70. In 2021-22, 28 years later, the same farm lot costs \$75-80 to test.

AWTA Ltd, as a consolidated group, now comprises three operating divisions in Australia (AWTA Raw Wool, AWTA Product Testing and Agrifood Technology), as well as its wholly owned subsidiary NZWTA Ltd and its joint venture, JinAo Testing Co Ltd.

Volumes

Wool testing volumes increased during season 2020-21 as a consequence of both better seasonal conditions across Australia and the recovery of the wool industry from the effects of the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic. Improved fleece weights and the release of wool held over on farms or delayed-to-market resulted in an increase in the number of bales sampled of 7.4% during 2020-21. The average tested lot size increased during the season, which is often the case when seasonal conditions improve. Hence, the number of core tests conducted by AWTA only increased by 4.9% despite the 7.4% increase in the number of bales. The AWI Wool Production Forecasting Committee remains optimistic with a further increase in wool production of 5.1% predicted for 2021-22 because of continued favourable seasonal conditions and wool growers retaining

mobs of older sheep to bolster livestock numbers.

During the 2020-21 season the volume of wool tested increased in most Australian States but declined in Queensland (-0.4%), Tasmania (-8.2%) and Western Australia (-4%). It is important to remember that volumes of wool tested by State are reported by testing location not State of origin or production. The decline in Tasmania can be partially attributed to wool shipped to the mainland for testing and marketing whilst the decline in Western Australia is due partly to less favourable seasonal conditions locally and the relocation of significant numbers of sheep to Eastern States. The greatest increases in wool testing volume were in South Australia (+18.4%) and New South Wales (+14.3%).

Superfine Wool Production

The volume of wool tested that was finer than 19.6 microns decreased by 2.4% to 159.7 million kg, contrasting with a 7.6% increase in the volume of all wool tested during 2020-21. During the past 12 months, the proportion of wool measuring less than 19.6 microns has decreased from 55.4%, the highest ever recorded to 50.3% of all wool tested.

The profile of the fine wool component of the Australian wool clip continues to change with -8% less Superfine (15.6-18.5 micron) and -37% less Ultrafine (<15.6 micron) wool being tested during the past 12 months. The volume of Fine (18.6-19.5 micron) increased by 8%.

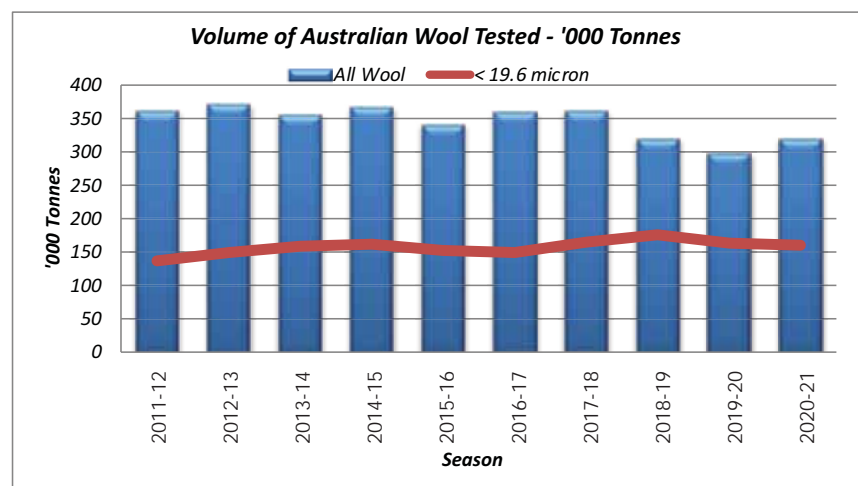


Figure 1 Volume of Australian Wool Tested

Wool Testing Industry Support

- Whilst having to operate in a commercial environment, AWTA Ltd is committed to its industry good purpose underpinned by its not-for-profit status.
- Since its inception, the company's key goal has been to keep the fees it charges for wool testing to a minimum and predominantly under the rate of inflation. The company's major business strategies continue to be developed around this goal.
- The company sponsors agricultural events and plays a key role within the International Wool Textile Organisation, whose mission is to promote wool as a sustainable and accessible premium fibre.
- AWTA Ltd collates and freely makes available to the public, a significant amount of information to aid all facets of the wool industry, including promotion, production and productivity.
- The company invests significant resources in research and development activities which have advanced the objective measurement of wool, reduced costs for the industry and led to more efficient testing methodologies.
- AWTA Ltd maintains two full-function raw wool testing laboratories in Australia (Kensington, Victoria and Bibra Lake, Western Australia) and one in New Zealand (Napier), to comfortably meet peak demand loads and to provide disaster recovery or back-up facilities if one or more laboratory is taken out of service for whatever reason.
- AWTA Ltd provides educational scholarships and university cadetship program placements. It provides administrative and accounting support to the Australian Wool Education Trust. The Trust, which AWTA Ltd established, endeavours to advance education in wool and textile science and technology. It funds educational resources, programs, institutions, students and colleges, as well as scientific research undertaken for the advancement of education.

YEAR	ALL WOOL	<19.6 MICRON
2020/21	318	160
2019/20	296	164
2018/19	318	175
2017/18	360	165
2016/17	358	150
2015/16	340	153
2014/15	365	162
2013/14	354	158
2012/13	370	149
2011/12	360	136

Table 1:
Australian
wool tested
('000 Tonnes)

TONNES	CHANGE	2019/20	2020/21
Qld	0.6%	7,089	7,130
NSW	14.3%	80,434	91,936
Vic	7.9%	106,564	114,971
Tas	-8.2%	7,103	6,518
SA	18.4%	31,065	36,793
WA	-4.0%	63,550	61,029
Australia	7.6%	295,804	318,376

Table 2: Wool
tested by State
('000 Tonnes)

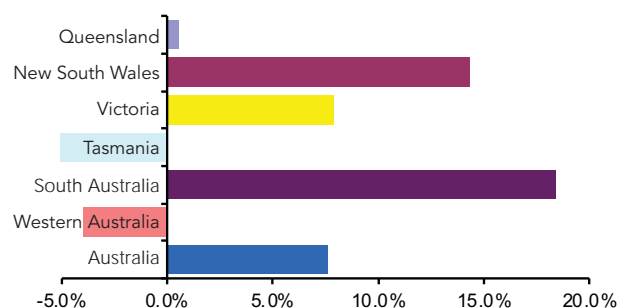


Figure 2
Change in Volume
of Wool Tested

SEASON	ULTRAFINE (<15.6)	SUPERFINE (15.6-18.5)	FINE (18.6-19.5)
2020/21	2.114	92.7	64.9
2019/20	3.368	100.5	60.0
2018/19	3.943	110.2	61.3
2017/18	1.963	96.4	67.1
2016/17	2.596	85.4	62.5
2015/16	2.670	89.3	60.6
2014/15	1.745	92.8	67.6
2013/14	2.402	92.4	62.9
2012/13	1.555	82.7	64.6
2011/12	1.037	68.9	61.6

Table 3: Fine wool
production by micron
category ('000 Tonnes)

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1. Refer to registered label. 2. Hosking, B.C. *et al.* (2010). A pooled analysis of the efficacy of monepantel, an amino-acetonitrile derivative against gastrointestinal nematodes of sheep. *Parasitol Res* 106:529-532. Zolvix Plus contains 25 g/L monepantel and 2 g/L abamectin. For full product details, contact Elanco Customer Service on 1800 226 324 between 8 am and 5 pm EST Monday to Friday. Elanco, Zolvix™ and the diagonal bar logo are trademarks of Elanco or its affiliates. ©2021 Elanco or its affiliates. PM-AU-21-0449. EAH21330

Australian Yarn Company

The last 12 months has been incredibly challenging by forcing us to work in new ways and think outside the box but perhaps most importantly, has allowed Australian Yarn Company to focus on what we do best, which is to create quality Australian made hand knitting yarns. Cleckheaton Superfine Merino 8 ply is one yarn that we have been lucky to be able to continuously produce at our factories in Wangaratta and Bendigo in regional Victoria.

The Mill in Bendigo was working 24 hours a day, six days a week and scrambling to employ more staff to keep up with demand across the five brands in 2020. The company sold five years' worth of hand knitting yarn in a four-month period of which Cleckheaton Superfine Merino 8 ply made up a considerable portion.

Amongst established crafters, there was an immediate rise in demand for wool, as they embraced the activities and habits they

already knew would be comforting and reassuring to combat feelings of anxiety. For others who had never knitted or crocheted before, or who had perhaps not done so for decades, the lockdown turned into a space which made it possible to try something new.

The pandemic has brought a desire for Australian-made products into the spotlight. Craft workers are looking for high quality Aussie-made yarn to support local farmers and manufacturers. The Cleckheaton Superfine Merino 8 ply range provides the perfect solution. Twenty-four bright and luminous shades made possible by the pure white of the Superfine fleece brings joy to all crafters. Cleckheaton Superfine Merino 8 ply yarn is a particular favourite for baby gifts and women's fashion.

The Australian Yarn Company design team produced a publication entitled Home Grown Fashion, focusing solely on Australian made yarns featuring Cleckheaton Superfine Merino 8 ply. Alongside this book, an advertising campaign has featured in Better Homes

and Gardens Magazine and Homespun Magazine, with the call to action 'Support Australian Made'. Both the publication and marketing campaign have been well received and sales are strong.

Australian Yarn Company has recently purchased 94 bales of Superfine Merino wool, in preparation for the next six months. Australian Yarn Company is looking forward to continued growth alongside our Australian Superfine Merino partners into the future.



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ASWGA Fleece Competition

1. Winners 2020-21

Congratulations to Carol & Allan Phillips of "Glen Stuart", Tasmania for their win in three categories of the ASWGA Fleece Competition, the class 90s quality along with first place in the Tasmanian region and the big one, the "Grand Champion" Trophy for the best overall fleece sponsored by Australian Council of Wool Exporters & Processors.



Photo: Carol & Allan Phillips

"We feel very honoured to win the Grand Champion Fleece award in the ASWGA Fleece Competition this year, considering that the fleeces were drawn from many of the best Superfine wool growers in Australia.

"It was fortunate that we had an excellent season here in Tasmania for growing wool.



Photo: David & Katherine Picker with Remy, Henry & Luis

"We would like to thank the sponsors Australian Council of Wool Exporters & Processors Inc, the judges, and everyone else who assisted in making this competition happen.

"Congratulations to all the other winners, and placegetters! Hopefully we can all enjoy some of the good wool prices on offer for Superfine wool.

Allan & Carol Phillips "Glen Stuart" Tasmania.

ASWGA congratulates all winners of respective regions and quality classes.

There were seventy-four fleeces entered in this year's competition and the results were very close.

A huge thank you to our sponsor Australian Council of Wool Exporters & Processors

for the grand trophy and to AWTA for arranging transport of fleeces for judging. We would also like to thank Natsun for sponsoring the quality class section along with Nutrien Wool, Dyson Jones, Fox & Lillie Rural, Riverina Wool Testers and Zoetis for sponsoring the regional awards.

A special thank you to the fleece committee for their assistance in arranging and sorting the fleeces. Once again, special thanks also to AWTA, Nutrien, Schute Bell Badgery Lumby and Australian Wool Network for assisting in the transportation of fleeces. Thank you to Mark Hedley and Australian Wool Network for assisting with storage of fleeces and judging. It was a huge effort and greatly appreciated by the Association.

Finally, thank you to judges Mark Hedley of Australian Wool Network and Tim Marwedel of G. Schneider.

FULL LIST OF WINNERS

CATEGORY	SCORE	WINNERS
Grand Champion	98.1	Carol & Allan Phillips, "Glen Stuart", Tasmania
90s	98.1	Carol & Allan Phillips, "Glen Stuart", Tasmania
80s	95.6	Kathy & Trevor Mibus, "Glenara", Hamilton
74s	93.7	Victoria & Bradley Venning, "Kilmarnock", Hamilton
70s	89.6	Lesleann & Mark Waters, "Riverton", New England
Ararat-Barunah	93.6	Heather & Geoff Phillips, "Currawong"
Goulburn-Yass	90.3	Katherine & David Picker, "Clear Hill"
Hamilton	96.1	Kathy & Trevor Mibus, "Glenara"
Mudgee	94.6	Irene & Daryl Croake, "Oak Hills"
New England	91.4	Janet, Tony & Cameron Gall, "Wilson's Creek"
Tasmania	98.1	Carol & Allan Phillips, "Glen Stuart"
Western Australia	85.9	Faye & Jim Pepper, "Mumballview"



Photo: Murray Price, Daryl & Irene Croake



Photo: Tony, Janet & Cam Gall

YEAR	WINNERS	REGION
2013-14	"Glen Stuart" – Carol & Allan Phillips	Tasmania
2014-15	"Avington" – Noel & Lyndsay Henderson	Ararat-Barunah
2015-16	"Kelsedale" - Penny & Russell Hartwich	Ararat-Barunah
2016-17	"Windradeen" – Ed & Jill (dec.) Hundy	Mudgee
2017-18	"Riverton" – Mark & Lesleann Waters	New England
2018-19	"Oak Hills" – Irene & Daryl Croake	Mudgee
2019-20	"Tarrangower"- Angie & David Waters	New England
2020-21	"Glen Stuart" – Carol & Allan Phillips	Tasmania

ASWGA FLEECE COMPETITION

Roll of Honour of Previous Winners

2. Analysis

The fleece competition attracted 74 fleeces from 27 members across seven Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association (ASWGA) Regions (Table 1) with an average of just under three fleeces entered per participating grower. This was a slight increase in entries over the previous year and represents the average over the past eight years. Ararat-Barunah members entered the most fleeces with the greatest number of members entering—almost a third of the competition entries. Fleeces from each Region generally fell within a common quality count range, predominantly 80s (40) and 90s (16). Although there were no 100s quality fleeces this year there was a continuing trend for finer fleeces on average. Most Regions have a relatively wide variation in Quality range and the Score received by individual fleeces, with over ten points being relatively common. While seasonal conditions varied from Region to Region, although much better than recent seasons, there is little evidence that variation in seasonal conditions hampered any Region from producing high scoring fleeces, as evidenced by the similarity in highest score for each Region (Table 1 & 2).

The mean scores of the fleeces entered from each Region (Table 2) highlights regional variation. Fleeces from Hamilton and to a lesser extent Tasmania consistently scored better across attributes relative to the respective means, while Ararat-Barunah and Goulburn-Yass consistently underperformed with Western Australia inconsistent but relatively low. Table 2 also shows the overall ranking of the Regions with Hamilton ahead of Tasmania with Mudgee and New England coming third and fourth respectively. The other three Regions were below the mean Score.

NO.	REGION	GROWERS ENTERING NO.	FLEECES NO.	QUALITY RANGE	SCORE RANGE
1	Ararat-Barunah	8	26	74s-90s	73.9-93.6
2	Goulburn-Yass	3	7	80s-90s	79.0-90.3
3	Hamilton	2	11	74s-90s	87.8-96.1
4	Mudgee	4	9	74s-90s	82.0-94.6
5	New England	5	8	70s-90s	81.4-91.4
6	Tasmania	5	11	80s-90s	81.4-98.1
7	Western Australia	1	2	74s-80s	83.4-85.9
	Total/ Mean	27	74	70s-90s	73.9-98.1

Table 1: Overall summary by Region of 74 fleeces entered in ASWGA Fleece Competition.

	Fleeces	Weight	Yield	Trueness	Uniformity	Evenness	Excellence	Score	Rank
Region	(no.)	(22)	(10)	(20)	(15)	(18)	(15)	(100)	
Ararat-Barunah	26	19.8	9.3	16.3	12.6	15.1	12.3	85.4	6
Goulburn-Yass	7	19.8	9.3	16.6	12.6	15.3	12.4	85.9	5
Hamilton	11	21.6	9.6	17.9	13.8	16	13.5	92.5	1
Mudgee	9	20.9	9.1	16.9	12.9	15.4	12.6	87.7	3
New England	8	20.5	9.4	16.8	13.4	15.8	12.3	87.6	4
Tasmania	11	20.2	9.5	17.4	13.4	16	13.2	89.7	2
Western Australia	2	21.5	8.7	15.5	13	14.5	11.5	84.7	7
Total/Mean	74	20.4	9.3	16.8	13	15.4	12.7	87.6	
Possible (pc)		92.2	93.3	84.1	86.8	85.8	84.4	87.6	
CoV (pc)		10.9	4.3	6.7	6.4	5.8	7.1	5.6	

Table 2: Mean attribute scores for each ASWGA Region and overall. Bold blue cells are above the average for the attribute and tan cells are below the attribute mean, those unshaded coincide with the mean. The overall mean attribute scores are shown as a percentage of the maximum score possible for the attribute. The coefficient of variation (CoV) is also shown for each attribute.

Of the six attributes judged, the mean score for Yield received the greatest proportion of that possible (93.3 pc) closely followed by Weight (92.2 pc) while Trueness received the least proportion of the possible score (84.1 pc). Evenness (85.8 pc), Uniformity (86.8 pc) and Excellence (84.4 pc) all received relatively uniform high proportion of the possible score (Table 2). Taking the mean results for each Region, the six attributes judged were variably correlated to the final Score (Table 3). In contrast to previous seasons, Trueness ($r=0.847$) and Excellence ($r=0.812$) are the best predictors of a fleece's Score. Yield was least correlated ($r=0.602$), this also contrasts with the previous season where Yield was considerably more highly correlated ($r=0.842$). Although, Yield and Weight combine to provide the heaviest cutting fleeces on a clean basis but are not the best predictors of a fleece's overall Score. Unfortunately, on the other hand, Trueness (84.1) and Excellence (84.4) again received the lowest proportion of that possible, thereby offering an opportunity for improvement for underperforming fleeces. This contrasts with the previous year and may be the outcome of dissimilar

seasons. All other attributes are relatively uniform in their variation as indicated by the CoV (Table 2) and correlation with the Score (Table 3). Although the fleece weight required to gain maximum points has been increased by 10 pc, 46 pc of the fleece entries still achieved the maximum points (70s=100 pc, 74s=67 pc, 80s=40 pc, 90s=38 pc) for fleece weight (22 points) while fleece weight had the highest variation in attribute scores (CoV 10.9 pc), the next highest was Excellence (CoV 7.1 pc), with lower CoV indicating increasing uniformity (Table 2). However, no entry received maximum points for any other attribute - except for one entry for the Uniformity attribute (15 points).

Interestingly the composition of the fleece entries has changed significantly over the last eight years (Table 4). In 2013-14 the

dominant class was 90s (49.2 pc), then a near even distribution across the Classes in 2014-15, followed by 80s domination (55.1 pc) in 2015-16, then again near-even distribution again in 2016-17 before domination by 74s (55.7 pc) in 2017-18. This trend did not persist, in 2018-19 with 80s and 90s being the dominant entries (each 36.2 pc), a trend that was consolidated in 2019-20 (43.9 pc) and further in 2020-21 (54.1 pc) and is possibly due to the tough seasonal conditions across all regions in recent times. In fact, this variation in annual variation of the dominant Class could, at least in part, be due to extensive variation in seasonal conditions experienced of late

John Ive "Talaheni"

Attribute	Weight	Yield	Trueness	Uniformity	Evenness	Excellence
Correlation	0.756	0.602	0.847	0.727	0.797	0.812
Rank	4	6	1	5	3	2

Table 3: Correlation and Rank of the Score with each of the attributes judged.

Class	2020-21		2019-20		2018-19		2017-18		2016-17		2015-16		2014-15		2013-14	
	No.	pc	No.	pc	No.	pc	No.	pc	No.	pc	No.	pc	No.	pc	No.	pc
60s									1	1.4						
70s	3	4.0	2	3.0	5	6.2	11	13.9	13	18.3	7	6.5	7	12.3	3	4.6
74s	15	20.3	15	22.7	17	21.2	44	55.7	18	25.4	25	23.4	16	28.1	6	9.2
80s	40	54.1	29	43.9	29	36.2	22	27.8	22	31.0	59	55.1	19	33.3	24	36.9
90s	16	21.6	19	28.8	29	36.2	2	2.5	17	23.9	15	14.0	15	26.3	32	49.2
100s			1	1.5							1	0.9				
Total	74		66		80		79		71		107		57		65	

Table 4: Comparison of entries by Class over the last eight years. The blue highlighted cells indicate the dominant Class(es) for each year.




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VR4610707


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“Avington” - Sustainability can improve productivity



The Avington Merino Stud started with the purchase of land at Sidonia in the Macedon Ranges in central Victoria. The land had been leased for many years and was badly degraded with little ground cover and much erosion and very few trees.

The history of the district is that it had been subject to very fast settlement in the 1850-70 period after the discovery of gold at Bendigo, 70km to the north.

This resulted in over-clearing of land for firewood and timber for constructing houses, sheds and fencing.

This was followed by a long period of over-cultivation and over-grazing by sheep which resulted in disastrous effects to the land.

During the 1950s-70s period remedial works were undertaken to reduce erosion and the silting of streams and water storage.

In 1991 the Baynton-Sidonia Landcare Group was formed and was not only concerned about maintenance of previous works but the need for works not tackled.

This included control of the rapidly developing rabbit population in the granite hills and slopes and the spread of bent grass which posed a serious threat to pasture management and productivity. Other issues of focus were invasive plants and weeds, pests such as foxes, tree decline and land degradation.

A consultant had been employed to prepare a report and plan ... 'to assist and facilitate an understanding, adoption and implementation of Landcare activities in the area'.

When Avington was purchased in 1996 the Landcare Action Plan was a great source of information. But to fast track the development of the proposed farming enterprise a specialist Agricultural Consultant was engaged to prepare a specific Farm and Land Management Plan.

The Plan started with analysis of land types, soil analysis, vegetation (pasture and trees), wetland areas, land degradation status, fire hazards and the streams and stream sides.

The Plan that was developed was implemented including the location of houses, fencing, yards, laneway system for stock, water supply and reticulation,

pasture improvement and management, stock management, trees for shelter belts and plantations and rabbit control.

Soon after purchasing the property, the neighbour who had been leasing the property for many years advised that his flock had been diagnosed with Ovine Johnes Disease. The Agricultural Department in Victoria then notified that sheep could not be introduced onto the property for two summers to allow the bacteria that could be in the soil to be destroyed.

This had some upside as we then decided to double fence the boundaries and plant trees as shelter belts to provide a biosecurity barrier. As well it provided time for sowing new pasture which we mulched to start the regeneration of the soil. The mulching continued for some years as stock numbers were built up.

The area farmed is 83% of the total area with 17% set aside as shelter belts, plantations, remnant native vegetation areas and fenced streams. With the elevation of the farm at 530m there is consistent wind and the shelter belts act as barriers to filter the wind and slow it down. This reduces evaporation and helps



Merinos that had been bred do not require any treatment. Pre-lambing crutching continues as best practice and pre-shearing crutching continues to maintain the high quality standard of the clip.

A key method of balancing production and sustainability is the composition of the flock. The flock consists of Ultrafine and Superfine ewes, rams, lambs and wethers. The wethers are run so that stocking numbers can be adjusted to suit the rainfall and seasons. The wethers can be easily sold if required without affecting the genetics of the flock.

In 1991 when the Landcare study was undertaken the average stocking rate for the district was 4.5 DSE/per ha. The land was badly degraded and there were very few trees. Since 1996 Avington has implemented regenerative and sustainable practices including improving the soil, planting perennial pasture, planting in excess of 160,000 trees and building up a sheep flock that is managed to have minimum impact on the land. The production is currently measured at 14 DSE/per ha and it could be higher but maintaining ground cover has always been essential.

Avington was the first wool growing enterprise in Australia to be certified by Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) in early 2017. RWS is about the standards used in the welfare of the sheep and the land they graze. RWS certified wool is in growing demand in the United Kingdom, Europe and China and the certification applies along the whole supply chain from the grower to the retail customer. Certification requires inspection of farm practices, and it is surprising that the wool industry is one of the few industries in the world that does not have an ISO standard Quality Assurance system. Certification systems no longer work in the old way of 'trust me I am a farmer', they demand 'show me' so that there is third party verification, and this applies right through all stages of the supply chain.

Sustainable practices are essential if farmers are to manage climate change and keep farming enterprises viable. There are also the community and social expectations that are changing regarding the welfare of animals and the use of land. But adopting and using sustainable practices does not mean there should be a loss in productivity and in fact can lead to increases in productivity and profitable farming outcomes.

Noel Henderson, Sidonia, Victoria
www.avingtonmerino.com

preserve soil moisture resulting in the growth of more pasture.

The historic rainfall for the district is an average of 750 mm per year but in the last 20 years this has reduced to 660 mm. The seasons have been changing with later onset of the Autumn break bringing welcome rain and an earlier Summer which has reduced the Spring growing season for pasture and limiting the opportunity for further pasture improvement.

Soil tests are done annually to inform the Agronomist of the required inputs. The main input is lime as the granite soils are naturally acidic and this can limit the establishment of pasture such as Phalaris (a deep-rooted perennial) which is the main species used along with Subterranean clover. The test records over more than 20 years track the improvements that have been made to the soil profile.

But the management of the land is not only limited to pasture. The paddock layouts and size are critical as is the grazing management of the sheep. The paddock sizes started at 20-25 ha with set stocking as the grazing plan. But it was found that in some of the smaller paddocks the lambing

had produced better results. Paddocks were then divided into 10-12 ha with shelter belts between them to provide protection for the sheep.

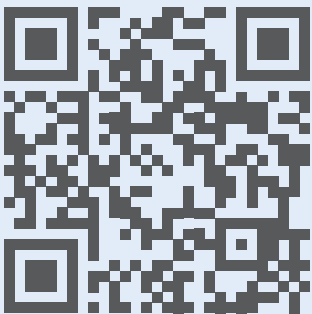
Set stocking is only used for a short duration during lambing but for the rest of the year a rotational grazing system is used. This involves larger mobs for shorter periods being rotated through a group of paddocks with the paddocks being rested to recover. More even grazing is achieved as there is less time for selective grazing to occur. Even when set stocking was used 20 years ago the aim was always to maintain ground cover. This is a lot easier to achieve with the system of rotation and results in a much healthier and productive soil.

The other benefit from rotational grazing is the reduction in the worm burden that can accumulate in paddocks. Since implementing this system, the sheep rarely need drenching. Testing is still carried out in conjunction with the McKinnon Project as a precaution but there are very few worms to deal with.

The decision to cease mulesing in 2010 has also resulted in a significant reduction in the use of chemicals. The plainer skin



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| “Kingston” - Front Foot

Australia’s tradition of innovation has found a new member in Sam Elsom, the founder and CEO of Sea Forest, a company established for the commercial production of Asparagopsis. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation has proven Asparagopsis, a red seaweed, to be capable of virtually eliminating methane production from ruminant livestock. Sam is building his operation on the east coast of Tasmania. At “Kingston”, our sheep run on a property about 60 kilometres south-east of Launceston, were the first to sample the fare.

So, why do sheep- good, clean-living vegetarians- need seaweed to enhance their diet? Domestic livestock are responsible for about 10% of Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions. I do not pretend to understand all the scientific stuff but what I do understand is the call from our customers for moves towards carbon neutrality. Perhaps a stock feed supplement like Asparagopsis will help us achieve this. This leads to a couple of maybes: firstly, we may reduce GHGs (i.e., greenhouse gases) and therefore help slow climate change and, secondly, put ourselves in a better position to answer our critics in relation to the environmental impact of wool production.

The project is being sponsored by the menswear retailer, M.J. Bale, as part of its carbon neutral program and undertaken with assistance from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, part of the University of Tasmania.

In August last year I segregated two small mobs from the same age group. One mob was fed a daily ration of Asparagopsis mixed with barley. The other was fed just barley. This went on for about 300 days- the longest trial period undertaken with livestock. Individual weight and condition score records were taken each month.

Pasture measurements were taken each month to estimate feed consumption.

Late in June (2021) the sheep were shorn, probably the first ever wool from methane reduced sheep! The shearers were not sure there was a difference. The classer did not discern a difference across the table. Fleeces were weighed,



Photo: Trial sheep and their daily barley and Asparagopsis ration

samples were taken, fleeces were individually bagged.

So far so good. The sheep involved are Fine wool and the wool produced is visually normal- two fundamental requirements. There is now a lot of analysis to be done around the wool itself and the pasture and grain consumed in producing it. Not only are we after reducing the level of methane in wool production but also potential benefits such as reduced feed intake.

So, what is next? While waiting for the fleece analysis I am looking for ways to scale up and take another step towards more commercial production. However, a lot more higher-level research is needed to ensure the efficacy of what is being trialed. A greater understanding of fundamentals like feed frequency and dose rates is needed. Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) has this in its sights with a major project to be undertaken in conjunction with University of New England (UNE).

Yes, there are additional costs, at this stage, significant ones. If we get the concept right these will be able to be offset through carbon credits, able to be earned as a result of greenhouse gas mitigation. Navigating this will be part of the AWI/UNE project.

Simon Cameron
“Kingston”, Tasmania



Photo: Wool classer Evelyn Archer taking wool sample for analysis



Photo: Recording individual fleece data as part of the Asparagopsis trial

| “Fern Hill” – Holistic Farming

Recently, Mark Waters and I were fortunate enough to be invited to visit “Fern Hill” (near Black Mountain in northern New South Wales) and spend some time with Stuart Hutton and his mother Lauris. Stuart is the third generation to manage this land. We spent a wonderful morning with Stuart and Lauris. I came away with some great insights into the practical application of regenerative farming methods.

In the process of writing this article, I became tormented with some questions. Holistic farming, or as it is now called, regenerative farming, was devised by Allan Savory in the early 1990s. Scientists have argued over his claims since first published. So, my first question was– why have not these methods become mainstream? My second question was– is there scientific peer reviewed evidence which supports the notion that holistic or regenerative farming results in the sequestration of carbon, which can be measured, audited and converted into marketable carbon credits?

My search for answers led me to the Cooperative Research Centre for High Performance Soils- <https://soilcra.com.au/> which is a collaboration between researchers, farmers and governments and supported by government and seed funding. Soils CRC has a number of projects underway to help identify how to increase soil carbon and keep it there, however it is looking to expand this portfolio of research to ensure that all farmers have viable, profitable pathways for sequestering soil carbon and building soil health.

On Earth Day (22 April 2021), the National Soils Advocate (and Soil CRC Patron), The Hon. Penny Wensley AC, hosted a Forum in Canberra: Soil Organic Carbon– Realities and science for policy advisers and decision-makers. In particular, I refer readers to the presentation by Dr Michael Crawford, CEO of the Soil CRC, in April 2021 at the Soil Organic Carbon Forum- <https://soilcra.com.au/policy-makers-discuss-soil-organic-carbon-on-earth-day/>.

The presentation provides a tidy summary of the challenge, which is to increase the rate of input of soil carbon and decrease the rate of decomposition or loss. The presentation also discusses some of the limitations (i.e. there are limits to how much carbon can be sequestered in soil) as SOC (soil organic carbon) is governed by soil

type, texture and climate, the unintended consequences and the requirement for widespread practice change to become mainstream, and many other issues to consider.

This is Stuart’s journey- but it is about so much more than just the potential to store carbon. Stuart had a ‘light bulb’ moment 20 years ago. As a result, the landscape he manages continues to improve in productivity and biodiversity. Stuart himself has benefitted, both financially and in overall personal wellbeing. But most of all, the benefits can be seen on “Fern Hill” farm.

BACKGROUND

“Fern Hill” is situated west of Black Mountain on the Northern Tablelands. “Fern Hill” has been in the family for three generations, having been settled by Stuart’s grandfather in the late 1800s. The property had been fertilised from the 1950s to the 1980s along traditional lines, with the addition of sowing “improved” pastures to replace the rich mix of natives. Many farmers of that era (with the help of the Department of Agriculture) overlooked the wondrous value of the grasses, medics and phorbs already there. This paradigm continues to this day.

ASWGA member Stuart Hutton was co-managing “Fern Hill” with his father in the 1990s. After a century of grazing, Fern Hill’s undulating hills were becoming overrun with Pinrush (a perennial tussock) which was spreading from the gullies and basins up the hillsides. In 1995, “Fern Hill” was confronting an issue requiring an investment of around \$100,000 in equipment to fight a weed pandemic. The equipment required was a weed-wiper, rotary plough, deep ripper and a new tractor, not to mention herbicides. The costs of the fight with the weeds under traditional farming methods was not only “unsustainable” but felt like an unwinnable war.

THE AWAKENING

As the Hutton family looked for answers to the weed issue, Stuart attended a seminar presented by Allan Savory at the University of New England. At first, he read Allan’s book– which he put down again as too complicated. However, with continuing frustration with the traditional responses to the weed issue, and sub-optimal grazing of paddocks by livestock, Stuart was motivated in 1996 to attend a “Grazing for Profit School” in Canberra, run by the group now known as RCS¹. Afterwards

Stuart read the Allan Savory book from cover to cover– several times. (Another publication Stuart has found immensely relevant to his regenerative endeavours is Charles Massy’s book “The Call of the Reed Warbler”.)

RCS run the Farming and Grazing for Profit School (GFP) which is a holistic seven-day course that brings together all elements of a farming business. It teaches fundamental guiding principles for managing land, livestock and grain production, finance and people. Through this, it directs people and businesses towards more profitable, healthy, resilient futures on-farm. One of the benefits for graduates is the ability to attend additional professional courses to support their application of the principles on-farm.

THE APPLICATION

After attending the GFP School, Stuart prepared his rough paddock plan to split the existing twenty paddocks into thirty paddocks and assessed his land types. After splitting 300 wooden posts and dividing his paddocks, he merged his mobs from their set stocked paddocks into two mobs- one mob of wethers and cows and one mob of ewes and cows. The number of paddocks has grown from 30 to 83 currently, with the average paddock size coming down from 50 ha (set stocking) to 12 ha. Stuart started rotating the stock through the paddocks, observing rest periods. Initially, Stuart says, his rest periods were too short– but he continued to split paddocks, to lengthen the rest periods as the mob was forced into areas previously left ungrazed.

The results were immediate. The most compelling positive evidence was the emergence of grasses and legumes which had not been apparent for years– cocksfoot, phalaris, rye grass, and red clover which had been sown decades before became evident. Native grasses such as microlaena, eragrostis, winter wheat, foxtail, fog grass, red grass, wild sorghum, danthonia, paramatta grass and a host of other species could all be identified. The Pinrush tussock disappeared– without the need for chemicals. We pay the price of using herbicides in many ways: not just financial. We create monocultures in the bio-system and leave nature’s nightmare- bare ground.

Stuart has spent the intervening twenty years refining his techniques in managing regenerative agriculture, reviewing and refining his techniques using the bio-



Photo: Stuart Hutton

system and using animal health and productivity as his key indicators.

Stuart observed there were several other management changes he has made that have significantly streamlined and improved the system- reducing the number of enterprises, combining all classes of stock into one mob and shortening joining periods. Simplifying the system has made life in general much easier to manage!

As part of Stuart's evolution into regenerative farming, he recently incorporated MaiaGrazing into his practice. Stuart is starting to migrate two decade's worth of grazing data into MaiaGrazing, so that he can soon make evidence-based decisions to match his stocking rate to carrying capacity.

BENEFITS

The benefits of the system have become more and more evident over time:

- The livestock are healthy and contented and their dietary requirements are met from the pastures, without supplements.
- There have been no artificial fertilizer inputs for over twenty years. The animals provide the fertiliser.
- Native and introduced pasture species have an adequate recovery period, thus ensuring their longevity.
- The colour of the soils has changed



Photo: Mixed Grazing

to a darker chocolate colour: the topsoil was originally grey but is now a dark layer. Even the clay underneath is changing colour! Plant roots can be seen penetrating down to a metre in depth. Earth worms and soil biota are thriving.

- The farming operation has become a 'low cost' input operation: cattle are only drenched on an "as needs" basis for fluke and sheep have been only drenched twice this year despite the property receiving over 300 mm in February and March.
- No stock mineral supplements are used with the exception of an annual selenium vaccination.
- The bio-system is so much healthier and much more diverse.

Apart from being understocked after the drought, Stuart says that his stocking rate is pretty much the same as it always was- at around 8.5 DSE per ha. But he says he has the capacity to go higher to 13.5-15 DSE per ha- but he doesn't need the extra work. His sheep are cutting 4.8-5 kg per head- they are actually cutting more wool than when managed under the traditional system.

CONCLUSION

Wool is one of the finest products in the world, unsurpassed in a multitude



Photo: Tree line

of qualities. Under a regenerative management regime (using sheep as a grazing tool to revitalise perennial grass plants), Australia's wool growers can sequester huge amounts of carbon on their farms, while producing this superb textile.

Overwhelmingly, Stuart enjoys the feeling of wellbeing from the way the farm is managed - the active management approach provides him with more control over decision-making, taking into account likely rainfall events, drier periods, and when the decision to de-stock should be taken. Stuart says, "Farming is so much easier when one works with nature, instead of fighting it."

With thanks to Stuart Hutton and Lauris Hutton for welcoming us to "Fern Hill" and showing us how holistic grazing can be applied so practically with stunning results.

Cathy Hayne.

¹Grazing for Profit School is run by RCS Australia - refer to advertisement in this magazine and website link - <https://www.rcsaustralia.com.au/products/family-business/grazing-for-profit-2/>

²Maia Grazing is a software management tool designed to plan grazing management. Refer to advertisement in this magazine and website link - <https://www.maia grazing.com/>



Photo: Farm Visit- Cathy Hayne & Mark Waters (ASWGA Councillors)

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*Reference: H.Dickson AgriPartner Consulting Pty Ltd, Maximising the Value of Existing Technology for Sheep Producers, Meat and Livestock Australia Limited, 10 May 2019; <https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/reports/2019-maximising-the-value-of-eid-technology-for-sheep-producers/>; Date publication accessed: 15 June 2021.

Photo credit: Pooginook Merino and Poll Stud

Identify leaders and under-performers in the flock

Flock averages such as weight, fibre diameter and reproductive traits are data sets commonly recorded by producers, however being able to drill down further to individual variations can take operations to a new level, which only individual identification can provide.

Victorian Sheep Farmer Jack Briscoe, who runs a self-replacing Merino flock on the outskirts of Geelong, Victoria said, "Keeping an entire age group for the lifetime under the same criteria can be costly if they are underperforming. With electronic identification (EID) the best performing individuals can be retained, and this can have significant changes on the flock's performance."

\$4.12 return for every dollar invested

Not only can be it costly to retain the underperformers in a flock, which can bring the average down, identifying and retaining the top performers can increase returns. According to a report (<https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/reports/2019/maximising-the-value-of-eid-technology-for-sheep-producers/>) published in 2019 by Meat and Livestock Australia, EID provides a 35% return on investment.**

The study showed an average cost benefit of \$4.12 return for every dollar invested "by using EID to improve breeding and selection decisions across Merino and crossbred/composite type enterprises."

Start small for big insights

Jack commented that there is a perception that sheep EID "requires a large outlay and investment, or it is too hard to record." In his opinion, this could not be further from the truth, "For a simple set-up and low-cost spend, you can get a clear idea of your top and worst performers, which is worth the investment."

Belinda Steers, Livestock Data Specialist, who has collated data for studs across Australia for almost 20 years agrees, "For producers who are thinking about moving from visual management tags to EID and do not know where to start or think there needs to be a big outlay, I would say to them it does not have to be a huge outlay to begin. Start simple. Get yourself a stick

reader like the Allflex RS420, attach EIDs to your flock such as the Allflex RapID tags, download the data onto your computer into the Excel spreadsheet. The reader will help reduce transcription errors and save time and labour in the yards and increase your accuracy. Back in the office, choose one or two measurements that will help you improve production such as pregnancy status, weaning weights, breeding weights or growth rates. Record the measurement to the individual's EID to identify the superior performers and form the basis of your breeding future."

The Autosteer for flock management

When asked about EID usage in the industry Jack commented that, "more and more producers are jumping on board with sheep EID as they see it helping their on-farm management. I liken it to how autosteering tractors in the cropping industry were, back in the day, a far-fetched idea, but are now a necessity for many running a profitable cropping operation. Allflex's sheep EID is the autosteer for flock management."

Lifting the average in sheep flocks

Rick Robertson, who along with wife Jenny runs Gracemere Merinos in Bengworden, south-east Victoria, commented about the value that EID has brought to his operation, "I have been using Allflex Sheep Rapid Tag EIDs for about a year. I use the RapID Tags for recording individual data such as fleece weights, micron and fleece data. I can look up the data on each individual ram and see if it was from a twin or single bearing ewe and sire to determine which animals are more likely to throw these characteristics



in their offspring. The data can be given to the buyers to help support their ram selection alongside the wool tests or visual assessments to lift the average performance of their mobs."

Still the Tag of Choice for Aussie Sheep Producers

Based on 2020 NLIS market share data, Allflex electronic sheep tags are the tags of choice for Aussie Sheep producers.

Allflex Australia, Business Unit Lead, Jane Parker said this position is achieved because the company continues to evolve and meet producer's needs.

"Building on our proven and trusted experience identifying and monitoring livestock worldwide for over 65 years, we continue to innovate our design, development, manufacture and delivery of animal identification, monitoring and farm management solutions to put intelligent, actionable management data into the farmer's hands."

Mrs Parker commented that sheep electronic identification is becoming a popular farm management tool for sheep producers, outside of the mandated scheme in Victoria.

"More and more producers are seeing the benefits of switching from visual management tags to electronic tags (EID tags) to easily and accurately collect individual data across their flocks and make better farm management decisions."

*** Project code: L.LSM.0011, prepared by: Hamish Dickson, AgriPartner Consulting Pty Ltd, date published: 10 May 2019, published by Meat and Livestock Australia Limited*



REGIONAL REPORT

Ararat-Barunah

The Ararat-Barunah region has certainly enjoyed a favourable twelve months with good growing and Summer rainfall providing good feed throughout the year.

An excellent Spring last year across the Region provided the foundation for what has been a good year for sheep health. Lambing percentages were generally good last year and available feed ensured these lambs grew out in a healthy fashion. The Summer rainfall has helped with the cleanliness of the wool produced with most clips being cleaner than normal. Once again meat has been an outstanding contributor to income. Whether in prime lambs or simply Merino mutton, the price for protein has been very helpful.

It has been pleasing to see the wool market provide good resistance to the COVID-19 situation across the world. The demand for finer wool has seen a steady increase for this sector over the past six months with a substantial difference now between microns. This will be enjoyed by our members who have all maintained their breeding programs focusing on Superfine wool.

Animal health continues to be front and centre in a lot of discussions around Superfine wool. While this is obviously important, I sometimes wonder if the quality of the wool itself becomes lost in the mix of the rhetoric around animal health and marketing angles.

The turmoil of the pandemic has seen last year's Sheep Shows in our region cancelled. The studs across our membership no doubt will be looking forward to exhibiting their sheep this year.

Congratulations to Geoff and Heather Phillips on winning our regional section of the ASWGA Fleece Competition. Many



Photo by Duncan Barber

thanks to Nutrien Ag for their support.

An opportunity was given to Ararat to run the 50th Anniversary ASWGA Celebration Dinner at the origins of its birthplace. I would like to thank our Regional Committee, in particular Penny Hartwich, and participating properties for all their efforts in organising this year's event. Unfortunately, we have had to postpone from June until October due to COVID-19 situation but look forward to an enjoyable weekend.

Many thanks again to Melissa for her contribution to the running of the Association. During the past few months whilst organising the Celebration Dinner, I have been amazed at the amount of input Melissa contributes. Thank you to

Penny for the great work she has also done regarding the Dinner and our regional Secretarial work. Thank you to Russell Hartwich and Tom Spielvogel for representing us at Council level.

I would like to thank and congratulate Danny Picker for his time, effort and stewardship of the Association. The time required is obviously a big personal commitment, simply rewarded by his love of wool and sheep. Our Association covers a diverse range of areas and Danny has maintained the work ethic of representing our whole membership group.

Thank you, Danny.

Geoff Phillips
Regional Chair



Photo by Duncan Barber



Photo by Rachel Loader



Photo by Jack Loader

Hamilton

Here we go again! 2020-21 and what has changed? We are now (July) still in Lockdown with Home Schooling, no Sheep Shows or Field Days, looking for Shearers for the Spring, although we now have a Vaccine. So, not much.

Spring of 2020 was a bumper one in south-west Victoria, with high hay yields and some of the best grain yields ever. Prime lambs weighed well and Summer crops grew well no matter when they were sown, so prime lambs sold well off these. Spring, Summer and Autumn shorn sheep cut very well, but there was more colour in the wool in the Autumn shorn clips than normal.

The beginning of 2021 saw a change though. It started raining on the second day of January and by the end of January, the Western District had had between 100 and 200 mm of unseasonal rain. Then the flies started.

Sheep that are unmulesed were the first ones struck even with chemical protection applied, so needed to be crutched (one of many crutches this year as worms have not been as bad for many years). February and March were dry but very cool, good for fire control, as there were no fires in our area, but not good for pastures, pests or controlling worm eggs.

April saw a break to the season for the far east and some of the southern parts of the area, but most of the western and north-western parts of the area had to wait until mid-May to early June for a break.



Photo: Fleece competition winners Bradley Venning (left) and Trevor Mibus (right) with President Danny Picker (centre)

This led to a lot of containment feeding and poor pasture growth leading into Winter. May and the start of June were warm but July has been very cold and wet, leading to high worm pressure and a small amount of dry matter in the green grass. To compound those problems, days through June and July have had more cloud than normal, leading to low energy levels in the grass.

Spring shorn wool will not be as sound as last year, will cut less and be finer. The Autumn shorn clip will also cut less, be finer and lower tensile strength and it will depend on what happens in the Spring, but yield should be good then.

A big thank you to Danny for all his hard work and dedication to ASWGA over the last twelve months— and for keeping us united and going forward together.

Thanks also to Megan.

Thanks also to Melissa in the Melbourne office for her work with Council and the Regions.

Some Members in the area have seen some better prices this year, if they sold in June and July 2021. But if you sold in the last half of 2020, you still have a while to wait to get prices that may make you stay with Superfine wool and not follow the trend into prime lambs. The trend towards Fine wool Merinos or Cross bred ewes is still occurring, to the detriment of 15 to 17 micron wool.

Some highlights of the year:

- Three 1PP bales produced and sold

by Everard, Marilyn and Matthew Linke.

- 9000c for a bale of 12.7 micron, 68% yield and a number of bales over 5800c for paddock-grown wool sold by David and Susan and Aaron and Rebecca Rowbottom.
- Average \$1750 for a near total clearance at the 2021 Ram Sale, followed by a good wool sale in June (topping their Sale day), for Bill and Jenny and Will and Prue Crawford.
- The Mibus family won Hamilton Region ASWGA Fleece Competition and the 80s section. They also won the Grand Champion Pair in Horsham as well and the Glendonald Trophy for one ram and two ewes, and at the Ballarat Sheep Show they received the Reserve August Shorn Ultrafine Ram and the Reserve March Shorn Ultrafine Ram.
- The Venning family for winning the 74s section of the ASWGA Fleece Competition.

Thank you to the local Branch for their help in the last year and to Trevor for his assistance on Council.

Looking into the future we hope and pray that vaccines will control COVID-19 and that the world will adjust to a new normal. We hope that the price of Superfine wool stabilises to a level where it competes with prime lambs and beef cattle to create sustainability of production.

Bradley Venning
Regional Chair



Photo: Back Row: William Kinghorne, Peter Mibus, Trevor Mibus, Everard Linke, Matthew Linke, Bill Crawford. Middle Row: Barry Kinghorne, David Rowbottom, Phon Seanin, Danny Picker, Bradley Venning, Jenny Crawford. Front Row: Marilyn Linke, Diane Kinghorne, Susan Rowbottom

Goulburn-Yass

The Goulburn–Yass region has experienced a year that is one to remember, for all the good reasons. The Spring started off on the right foot, after the great Winter rains and snow, that put lots of moisture into the Spring growth. Continuing rains throughout Spring and into early December promoted grass growth along with the weeds. All Summer the rain continued to fall, bringing with it an ongoing wave of flies that seemed to continue well into May. All strategies were tested, some flocks were shorn up to six weeks early to beat the flies. Early sown feed oats flourished with good early Autumn rain and are now a picture with fat stock on them.

Where it began ...

This year's Spring lambing for most people was trouble-free and at marking time the figures were there to show how good a Spring we had had. Multiple births were the normal and the size of the lambs was very pleasing.

A number of our local members joined in the Wool Connect Seminar held by The Schneider Group in October. The end

users of our Superfine wool are calling for assurance systems and accreditation to standards to ensure sustainability of our enterprises for the future. Many of our members are looking at farm group RWS accreditation in the near future.

The Summer was one of a couple of heat waves of moderate temperatures but punctuated with rain periods to ensure a fire period was being pushed back to late February, if any.

The sheep prices have been sky-high and any restocking after the drought conditions have to be looked at carefully to make sure the dollars stack up. A number of local growers had sourced ewes from as far afield as, Western Australia. Quality ewes with good skins on them were taxied across the country to fill empty paddocks with good pastures.

Wool prices took a roller coaster ride over the last six months but the impact of low tensile strength on the clips have subdued any premium for our region's wool. A micron premium has been experienced recently which if it continues will see any drought Fine wools quickly sold and the well-bred lines of traditional Superfine wools be highly sought after. Several members' clips have reached 3000 cents/kg greasy, which is a very pleasing result.

A special note should be given to local member Brett Picker and his brother Murray Picker who were presented with ten 1PP Certificates in May this year for their Pine Hill Hillcreston wool. A very fine effort indeed.

The current weather pattern is set to continue throughout the rest of Winter, so we can all expect a damp shearing season, with a few challenges to get the clip to market. The current appetite for our Superfine wool is music to the growers' ears. Enjoy; it while it lasts.

Neil Carey
Regional Chair



Photos by Megan Picker

REGIONAL REPORT

Mudgee

Commencing with the Mudgee Region seasons, rainfall began slowly towards the end of last October and gradually increased with the heaviest falls occurring in December. We also experienced a mild Summer. This year we received approximately 360mm of rain until end July and we have had the heaviest snowfall since 1967 with 125mm of snow on the ground. September lambing percentage was up on the past year with good survival rates. We are fortunate that flystrike has not greatly affected the stock in our area. With the good season sheep are now looking after themselves.

With the rain came great pasture growth but also weed growth. As with most Regions, vegetable fault will be higher than usual. Growers have been able to cut and bale hay and now have plenty of hay supplies, which will be a financial relief to them.

Also like most Regions, growers have had to decrease their stock numbers for survival. However, some have opted not to increase their numbers again. Others will be relying on natural increases as the price to restock is financially impossible. Most properties that have been sold have now become lifestyle blocks and no longer stocking them with Merino sheep. This has led to a heavy toll on Merino sheep numbers in the Mudgee Region. Wild dogs are still a big problem in our area with recent attacks occurring.

Congratulations to Daryl & Irene Croake for their win in the Mudgee Region 2021 ASWGA Fleece Competition.

Also, congratulations to winners in this year Sydney Royal Show, Bathurst Royal Show and Mudgee Show.

Geoff & Robyn Rayner- Sydney Royal Easter Show 2021 Ultrafine Merino Ram Fleece and Reserve Grand Champion Merino Fleece. Bathurst Royal Show- Grand Champion Fleece. Mudgee Show 2021- Most successful exhibitor.

Glen Maye Partnership- Bathurst Royal Show 2021- Extra Superfine fleece -1st place Unprotected Fleece.

Brenden & Kerry Cole- Bathurst Royal Show 2021- Best Extra Superfine Ram 1st place.

We have been very fortunate throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, living in rural New South Wales and being isolated. Unfortunately, the world COVID-19 crisis has impacted greatly on the wool industry. The world lockdown has affected the movement of wool and prices, with a flow-on effect and has put many into financial difficulties. Hopefully, as the world starts to recover so will the wool industry.

After nearly 20 years as Secretary/Treasurer, Nella Price is handing the position over to Robyn Rayner. Nella's support and dedication to the Mudgee Region has been greatly appreciated over the years.

**Murray Price
Regional Chair**



Photo: Superfine sheep at Glen-Maye



Photo: Robyn & Geoff Rayner with their winning fleeces at the Bathurst Show



Mudgee AGM L/R Paul Jones, Murray Price, Danny Picker, Geoff Rayner & Robyn Rayner

New England

The New England seasonal conditions for Spring, Summer, Autumn have been some of the best members have ever experienced. We have nearly all dams full and a huge amount of grass. The long grass is leading to some management challenges such as slashing paddocks for weaners and falling off your motorbike. Flies have been prevalent due to worms, extra wool growth and ewes lying in wet grass. Fortunately, there is virtually no body strike but the breech strikes are constant and costly.

Lambing in the Spring was excellent with lots of very good percentages recorded. Most lambs grew fast and developed well, so they should be one of the most productive drops ever.

Wool prices have been poor especially through the middle of last year. Thankfully the market has risen and again it is the finer microns leading the way and making members happier. The New England 2020 clip was not up to usual standards with a lot of vegetable fault and mostly tender or stretchy fleeces however some Winter clips have been excellent with increased wool cut from the extra nutrition. We are headed towards a big wool cut year as most sheep have been in good condition. Vegetable fault is going to be a concern again due to long grass and low numbers.

Meat prices are phenomenal. Growers who have sold sheep are being well paid. The frustration is that due to the worst drought ever in 2018-19 all members had substantial reductions in sheep numbers. They are busily increasing numbers and have very few surplus sheep to sell.

Superfine ram sales this Autumn were a little subdued although better than the 2020 sales. Breeders reported higher sale averages and ram clearances this year but continuing lower ewe numbers to join will not improve sales until next Autumn. Best prices at the Arimidale Merino ram sale were Merryville \$15,500 and Grathlyn \$12,000.

There is a continuing trend towards larger framed broader woolled rams which is taking sales away from traditional breeders. The biggest issue is the stampede to meat breed rams. Only a large rise in Superfine wool prices will stop these two trends.

In December we held a pre-Christmas lunch attended by 20 members. It was great to gather after such a disrupted COVID-19 year. A round table discussion ensued following on from the earlier Council debate regarding mulesing. All contributed and some very constructive thoughts emerged from this sensitive and difficult issue. The group moved onto quality assurance schemes with the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) emerging as the leading standard. There are large audit costs associated but if there is a group of growers involved, the cost can be reduced. This will need cooperation and commitment.

Several members were participating in the Sydney Royal Easter show. Philip Carlon was selected to judge the Superfine Merino section. Mark and Lesleann Waters won the champion spinners-type fleece.

The COVID-19 epidemic caused the Annual Dinner planned for Ararat to be rescheduled. Several growers from the New England region were disappointed in not being able to go. The Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo was cancelled the day prior to opening, again leaving members frustrated.

Our ASWGA AGM was held by Zoom conference. Federal president Danny Picker outlined the Association's work for this highly interrupted year. He thanked those who had sat on various Committees in which ASWGA is involved and especially welcomed the return of the Zegna Competition. Danny informed entrants of slight changes to the Vellus Aureum where the fleeces need to measure 12.9 micron or finer. He is convinced that the issue of animal welfare is growing stronger as buyers are seeking more wool that is Responsible Wool Standard (RWS)

accredited. RWS is the only accreditation scheme widely recognised by woollen Mill customers— apart from the competition from recognised accreditation schemes in South Africa and New Zealand— so Australia is in catch-up with our competitors.

The ASWGA's Fleece Competition results were announced by Danny. The New England regional prize was won by Cameron, Janet and Tony Gall. Congratulations in a less than ideal growing season.

Finally, we have experienced one of the best years ever with plenty of rain and grass. The wool and sheep meat prices are wonderful too. Shearing is starting— reports are that we are seeing a great clip. The wool is long AND sound but has more vegetable fault than usual, especially thistles.

The New England branch would like to thank Danny for his contribution to ASWGA and wish him well in his 'retirement'.

Mark Waters
New England Councillor



Photo: Tom Henry with Blakes fleece Walcha show 2021



Photo: Kimberley Blake had grand champion with an exceptional hogget fleece walcha show 2021



Photo: Edington best fine wool fleece which was also the reserve grand champion Walcha show 2021

REGIONAL REPORT

Tasmania

In Tasmania, like most regions the seasons throughout 2020-21 have been one of the best on record. Good rains in Spring resulted in a huge amount of hay and silage being cut. The grain harvest was excellent with high yields leading to the need for extra storage when silos filled.

Record stock prices are still being paid for both sheep and cattle which is positive, although this does make it expensive to purchase for restocking. I am unsure how long these high prices will remain but there is no sign of dropping at this stage.

Due to the better seasons, there was an increase in flystrike risk; body, breech and dags in both mulesed and unmulesed flocks which prompted some management changes.

Wool prices have recently recovered to more acceptable levels with strong demand for Tasmanian Superfine wool and good prices received especially if the wool meets the desired specifications.

Despite the worldwide devastating effects and impacts of COVID-19, it is encouraging to be informed that overseas Mills are still wishing to show their support and want to visit Tasmania when travel restrictions ease, aligning with their ongoing support of Tasmanian wool.

Congratulations to Campbell Town show committee for once again hosting a very successful event with the standard and number of entries in the New England Wool competition excellent.

An extended congratulations to Allan and Carol Phillips for their winning entries showcasing their ongoing passion for producing high quality Tasmanian wool. Also, congratulations to Allan and Carol for winning the ASWGA Grand Champion Trophy, Class 90's and Tasmanian Regional award. We must also recognise the outstanding achievements of Simon and Ann-Louise Cameron of "Kingston" and Allan and Carol Phillips of "Glen Stewart" in producing multiple 1PP bales throughout the year.

Recently we held an informal dinner meeting with several guest speakers

including Andrew Blanch and David Freney from New England Wool, Lachlan West, Project Manager, Primary Employers Tasmania and Steven Rigby from the Shearing Contractors' Association. This occasion allowed for informative and robust discussion on the current wool market and concerns regarding shearer availability and levels of training of shearers and shed staff as we move into the future and the options we have available as producers to help improve this situation in partnership with other involved parties.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work by Danny Picker, ASWGA and our current Tasmanian Councillors, who on our behalf, have been dealing with the current issues we are facing as wool producers. Thank you also to Simon Cameron and Marie Boadle for your assistance throughout the year.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the passing of our long-time member Rodney Westmore from Patterdale.

Richard Gee
Regional Chair



Photo: (from back left): John Taylor, David Freney, Andrew Blanch, Michael Moore, Richard Gee, Luke Rapley, Carol Phillips, Simon Cameron, Vera Taylor. Front row: Rachel Bowler, Jimmy Manning, Lachlan West, Marie Boadle, Ann-Louise Cameron



Photo: Ian Thirkell-Johnston, Simon Cameron, John Taylor, Joan Gee, Richard Gee, Marie Boadle, Carol Phillips & Allan Phillips.

REGIONAL REPORT

Western Region

Most wool growing areas in Western Australia had a soft finish to the season in 2020 and are now having good rains following an early start. Pastures and sheep are in very good order and production per sheep will be up but overall production will be down due to movement into cropping. Micron will also be up. Vegetable fault from grass seeds may be a problem towards the end of the year.

Large numbers of surplus sheep have gone from Western Australia to drought and bushfire recovery areas in the Eastern States in the last twelve months. Our efforts to connect Superfine members to eastern counterparts did not result in any sales. More will be available later this year.

The Fremantle wool auction market for Superfine wool has always been a bit behind the Eastern markets, but this year it has finally caught up, and some odd lots have topped the Australian weekly market.

We look forward to a bright future in the short term, with a rare combination of good wool markets, especially Superfine, record sheep prices and a good season in progress.

The Western Region embarked on a Direct Network Advantage marketing scheme with AWN to produce garments made from our own wool, from garment-making factories now located in Western Australia, but this did not continue in the original form, due to insufficient supplies and a perceived conflict of interest. Steve Squire from AWN addressed the members before the AGM. It will now proceed through the

new AWN branch which has started in Western Australia. Steve explained that AWN buy up to 10% of wool that meets specification from a consignment, at 10% above market price. This is sent to China for early-stage processing when a 100-bale container is filled.

The Western Region AGM was held on 16th July with eight people present plus Danny Picker by Zoom. James Pepper was elected Regional Chairman and Roland Ritson as his deputy.

Danny Picker addressed the meeting on current ASWGA business and offered to run a fleece preparation course when circumstances permit, in response to our wishes.

Roland Ritson
Regional Chair



Photo: Russell Meaton, Roland Ritson, Jim Pepper, Steve Squire, Rob Carter, Owen Snook & Heather Meaton

REGIONAL REPORT

South Australia

Life continues to throw curveballs our way. Looking back, 2020 was just the beginning it seems. I write this report as South Australia is in lockdown. Compared with other States, we have been extremely lucky and have enjoyed great freedom during the pandemic. Most of us feel this is because our government acts very quickly and decisively. All of us hope that the whole country can get back on track with speed.

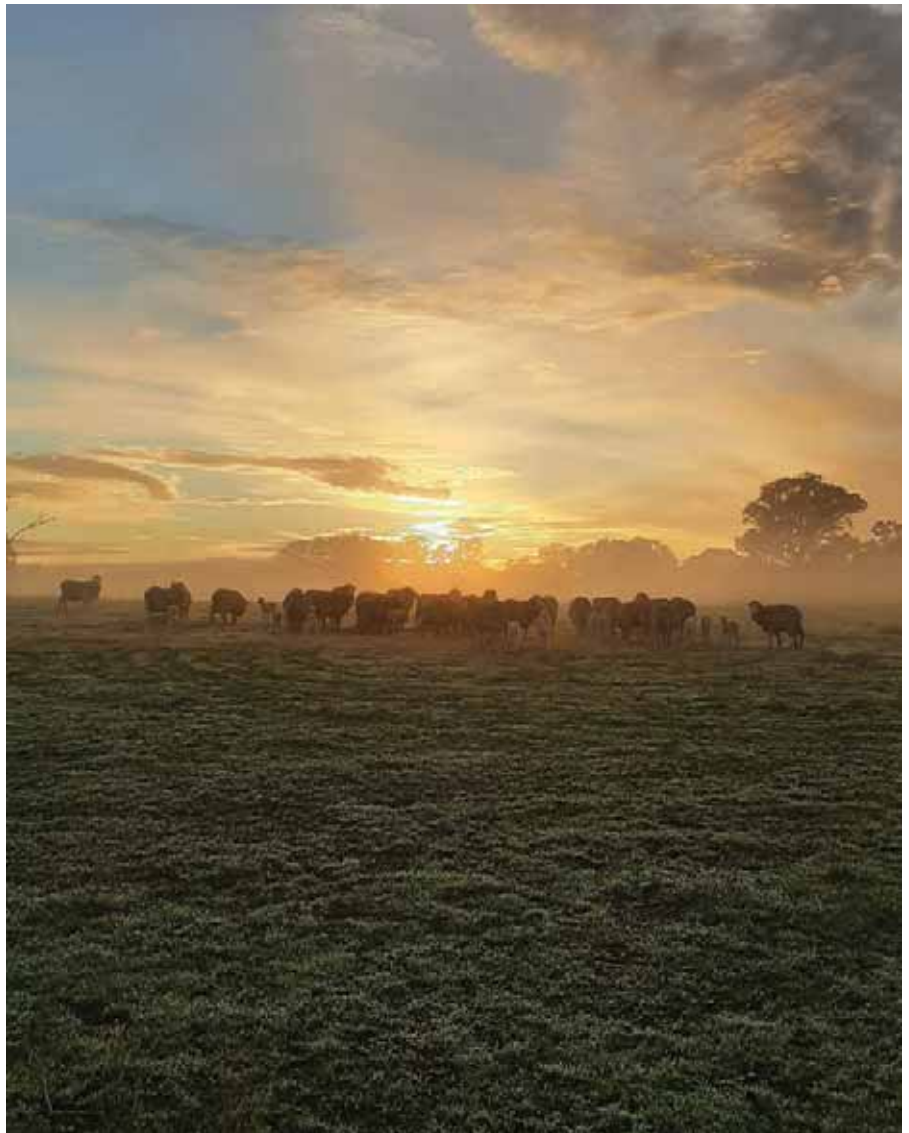
Today in Mt Pleasant we are experiencing very cold temperatures of about 4 degrees, it's raining and so far, June and July have been the wettest for some years. Fortunately, we have finished lambing with good numbers. We just need some nice weather now to get the lambs marked.

South Australia has had a fair last 12 months as a whole, weatherwise. Last Winter whilst not overly wet, led us to a reasonable Spring with excellent hay cuts around the State and good Summer feed. This dried up in 2021 into a long Autumn which created its own problems. Those who lamb early struggled to keep the ewes in good condition and had to feed very heavily in March, April and early May. Fortunately, the weather remained warmish and any rain created good growth through May and June. Crops are looking reasonable for this time of year.

Unfortunately, there remain areas in the pastoral districts that have not been as fortunate in receiving as much rain, while some areas have been very lucky and had good falls. Just like anywhere, it is a lucky dip at times.

Prices have continued to be excellent for sheep, lambs and cattle. In particular wool, after a roller coaster 2020, is also back at a reasonable level considering the situation the world is in.

Driving around the Adelaide Hills region is vastly different today than 20 years ago. Unfortunately, there are less and less Merinos visible, though lots of Dorpers or equivalents and crossbred lamb production very high. Cattle are



extremely popular as well. More and more country is now in vineyards and also more horses about. Most land sales are smaller blocks and seem to attract horse owners. It's not unusual to see 30-acre blocks with a reasonable house sell for \$1 million and then six horses arrive. Hard for us traditionalists but a growing trend everywhere I suspect.

We have 285 hectares of beautiful land at Mt Pleasant which is approximately a 660 mm rainfall area and we shear about

2200 Superfine Merinos a year. We have managed to get our micron down to 17.5 average. Not many of these sheep in South Australia unfortunately, even though the Hills region is perfect for them.

Here's hoping that the next twelve months will see things settling down globally, prices remaining steady and that we can all stay healthy.

Nick Seager
Regional Chair

Campbell Town Show 2020 and 2021

Following a difficult year due to COVID-19, the MAA (Midlands Agricultural Association) committee found a way to present a 'token' 182nd Show on Friday 4 December 2020. The event followed very restrictive COVID-19 requirements allowing a limited attendance. The Show revolved around the popular Exhibition Hall with a very colourful and attractive Christmas theme with Father Christmas attending.

An excellent wool competition and display was run by the Show Wool Committee headed by John Taylor. A good number of fleeces were entered from all around the State and reflected the careful breeding programs undertaken by Tasmanian wool growers. The New England Wool Fleece Competition was won by Bruce Dunbabin of Mayfield.

Working with the MAA, the Stud Merino Breeders of Tasmania conducted their annual sale on the day - a situation similar to past years. This successful sale created significant interest and all seven stud vendors sold their rams well with a gross of over \$100,000 with the average price of \$2,500 for 47 rams offered for sale.

Less than six months later, the MAA successfully programmed their 183rd successive show. As a result of a Federal Government Grant, we saw upgraded new wool display rooms, office and auditorium completed in time for the 28-29 May show.

The very good display in the fleece section was well supported and run by new convener, Matilda Scott. The Champion Fleece of the show was won by Trefusis following their success in 2020. The most valuable fleece was won by the Weeding family, near Oatlands. The New England Wool Fleece Competition was also well supported with 23 entries. Carol and Allan Phillips, were placed first and third respectively with their entries from "Glen Stuart." Doug and Lisa White of "Lilyburne" also at Nile, was placed second. The beautiful wool fleeces made an impressive display.

The continuing Shearing competition was of particular interest as well as the Prime Lamb competition. Sheep exhibits of over 200 sheep entries represented 23 Tasmanian studs. Wool sheep entries were disappointingly low with Georgina



Photo: Judging superfine wool fleece section.



Photo: Winning fleece of the New England Wool Trophy. 18.5 micron or finer. 1st Glen Stuart, 2nd Bonneys Plains, 3rd Mayfield Estate



Photo: Most Valuable Fleece in Flock Section Rockford Pastoral

Wallace again very successful in all Fine and Superfine classes.

Guest speakers invited to address the Show patrons were Sally Murfet from Inspire Ag who spoke on People Power Agriculture. George Bailey, Tasmanian test cricketer and now a selector, spoke on team leadership and Marius Cumming gave an overview of the current situation of the wool industry.

The AWI Runaway Kit 101 was presented, showing the latest wool fashion trends representing some of Australia's best-known designers and retailers. A winter collection from local suppliers Kachoo, Coco-Blue, Smitten, Jan Dineen and the Tasmanian Wool Centre were included.



Photo: Jan Dineen design wedding dress in wool featured in the MAA Fashion Parade 2021

The Fashion parade held in the new and warm environment included menswear collections from the Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) designer wardrobe featuring Sportscraft, MJ Bale, Country Road and the Tasmanian Wool Centre. The AWI Fashion Parade 2021 was also sponsored by Nutrien Ag Solutions and the Tasmanian Wool Centre.

Considering the strict COVID-19 rules which have hampered shows all around the country and the world, the MAA can be justifiably proud to have successfully run the iconic Show. The team effort as displayed by vendors, committee members, show members, patrons and volunteers will enable the Show to continue in 2021 and beyond.

Vera Taylor

Photos by Vera Taylor

SUPERFINE WOMEN

Robyn Rayner | “Pomanara”

My name is Robyn Rayner. My husband Geoff and I own “Pomanara” Merino Stud. Marrying into a 3rd generation wool growing family, I learnt very early it takes love and passion to grow Superfine wool. I married Geoff when I was 19 and had been working in my parent’s cake shop when I met him. We moved to Green Vale, 6 km from “Pomanara”, to start married life. Being a town girl, most of the neighbours thought I would never last in the country. They thought I was not cut out to be a farmer’s wife. Geoff and I will celebrate 38 years of marriage this year!

When starting our family, I got very ill and while the doctors were able to save my life they were unable to save our precious little girls. I was lucky to be able to have four more beautiful children. Early in our marriage I went back to work, as I would learn the harsh reality of droughts and what it did to your income. While we had a house to call home, it needed lots of work, including hot running water and an indoor toilet. So, with the help and support from my family, I was able to work and stay in Bathurst with our young children, instead of travelling the 140 km round trip each day on rough, dirt roads. My income meant we would get to have the comforts most people took for granted, without affecting the running of the farm.

I started to work in the shearing shed, at shearing time. My first job was piece picking - the worst job in the shed, so I thought at the time. I really wanted to learn how to work on the wool table. So, under the guidance of my father-in-law and Geoff I learnt how to prepare our wool for sale. Sharing our love of wool and working together, Geoff and I took over the running of “Pomanara” after Geoff’s dad passed away in 2000.

We have continued running the stud, growing the best Superfine wool we can, along with the stud rams we breed, which would see us win many awards over the years. The most prestigious award was winning the Ermenegildo Zegna wool award in 2006. Geoff loves showing sheep. He took me to my first local sheep show

on our first date and we have continued to show our sheep together ever since. I have always helped Geoff prepare the show team and together with our children we have attended shows and sales all over Australia. We have been lucky to make so many wonderful friendships. Spending time with our sheep family is something we look forward to every year. Holidays are few and far between but there is always a sheep show to go to.

Over the years I have learnt to drive the tractor, spray weeds and do most things around the property. Luckily, I love to cook as this made it very easy at shearing time. Life was very hard for me when I first moved out to the property- it was very lonely and isolated. I learnt very quickly that you had to make the most of everything in your life. So I became involved in the Mudgee Region of the ASWGA and helped run the Mudgee Stud Merino Field Days and for the last 25 years I have been the Merino Steward of The Royal Bathurst Show, all while raising our four children. I also do all the bookwork and office work that is involved with running our stud. I also prepare our ram catalogue for our sale as well as ensure that we raise money on the day to donate to a local charity each year. I set up and run all our social media pages as well as our website. Over the years I have completed courses to enable me to keep up with technology. I have just started working one day a week in the office of our little school at Hill End. Due to a shoulder injury and a nasty fall injuring my back, I have given up working in the shearing shed.

We are now grandparents and our grandchildren bring such joy to our life. Spending time with them and watching them grow is so special as is watching their love for sheep and wool grow and learning everything they can. I also enjoy knitting for them and teaching them to cook.

You have to dig deep when things are tough- that’s life on the land. I have been through many challenges in the last 38 years and to say it has been easy would be a lie. Geoff and I have always made sure we do everything together. I am very proud of the contributions I have made over the years in making “Pomanara” what it is today.



Photo: Robyn 2006 Mudgee Show

SUPERFINE WOMEN

Margaret Smith | “Mulgowan”

Twenty-nine years ago, my husband Clive and I decided to sell our house in Sydney and buy a property owned by Clive’s family, run by a manager for forty years, near Stanthorpe, Queensland. I had grown up in country towns around New South Wales and had friends on sheep properties and Clive had spent his holidays on “Mulgowan” at shearing time, doing the wool pressing.

That, of course, was not enough for us to know what we were doing. We were fortunate that the newly-formed Traprock Wool Association undertook many education activities for its members, such as inviting speakers from within the wool industry, and holding workshops on marketing etc. As well, neighbours and family were very helpful and supportive. We also attempted to attend every sale when we sold, and have learnt a lot looking at our wool, comparing it to others, talking to other graziers and talking with the brokers and buyers.

After several years, Clive and I decided that I should do the wool classers course, when our current woolclasser, part of a contract team, could no longer work for us. I was later invited to attend a Master Classer course, held in Newcastle, when wool sales were still held there.

I have classed in sheds around the Traprock region and enjoyed seeing the different styles of wool and management. I just love the feel of wool and working with it to produce distinct lines of style.

“Mulgowan” had been purchasing a mob of 18 micron Merryville-based bloodline wethers from Moree for several years and we continued this until the Moree family stopped breeding.

Our big leap forward came when we were introduced to our broker’s New England Wool representative, Harold Manttan and he sourced traditional wool sheep from Kentucky and, later, Guyra for us. Our 14-16 micron wool sheep, to be run successfully on our Traprock natural pastures, had to be coated to keep out VM (vegetable matter) and dust. We have modified our yards to make this a lot easier on our bodies.

The first 500 sheep we coated in 2002 amazed us with the clean staple and brightness of the wool. That started our association with the buyers for the Italian Mills. Since then, we have coated all sheep. If the wool is not worth coating, we don’t keep the sheep. I love this part of sheep selection!

Over the years, we have increased nutrition levels over winter to improve the strength and handle of the wool.

We were in drought for the first three years we were here and thought we were ready for anything. We doubled our property size to 11,500 acres and increased sheep numbers from 3,000 to 5,400. The 2019 drought just blew away all previous experiences. The end result is we have only 2,000 wethers at the moment and think 3,000 could be our maximum.

Our first 1PP bale came in 2005, after several attempts. We do more work on the wool in the shed, to separate the coated fleece from the dirtier edges. It is one of the best times of shearing to see the selected fleeces brought back into the light and spread out for pressing into a display bale. We have received 55 1PP certificates over the years.

Clive and I have never regretted our move from Sydney and have since experienced such satisfaction and feelings of accomplishment.

We have been guests of the major Italian Mills twice - once as part of a tour group and the second time, after winning New England Wool’s competition- and been shown a world outside Australia, where others in the wool processing chain are as passionate, or even more so, than us.



SUPERFINE WOMEN

Mavis & Sherrie Spielvogel | “Karalta”



Photo: (left to right) Dakota Cordie (granddaughter), Sherrie Spielvogel and Melita Cordie (daughter).

Sarah Mavis Spielvogel, known as Mavis to all, was one of the first, perhaps the actual first, woman to focus on and breed Superfine Merinos. The only child of the farming family of Tom and Dolly McCormack, Morrison, it was always destined that she would be significantly involved in farming enterprises. When Mavis grew up, her family farmed meat and wool sheep, cattle and croppeds.

Upon the death of her father in 1949, Mavis, at just 24 years old, took control of the management of the two farms. She had earlier married a photographer with no farming background, her son Tom was an infant and her mother had followed the traditional farmer's housewife path. The farm and the family's wellbeing rested solely with her. It was her decision to name the properties "Karalta" (Indigenous for "many places") but most importantly, her decision to focus on Superfine Merino wool production.

To facilitate this, she enrolled in a wool classing course run by the Gordon Institute at Geelong. Today this seems like such a

simple thing for a woman to do but Mavis was refused on the grounds of her gender. She stood her ground and fought for her right to participate. Mavis, of course, excelled and people who remember her speak of her absolute commitment and courage when she encountered what we call sexism today but what was considered the norm in the 1950s.

Last week during shearing I watched the men and women working in the "Karalta" sheds. I pondered how impressed and proud Mavis would have been to see so many talented and confident women handling and classing the Ultrafine wool that she founded. Mavis pioneered women wool classers in Australia and we forever stand on her shoulders.

The rest as they say is history— her passion for Superfine wool production laid the foundation for the 10–14 micron producing Ultrafine sheep that are farmed on "Karalta" by her son Tom Spielvogel today.

Senate Estimates to Wool Estimates

A sugar cane farmer's daughter from Queensland who had an extensive and successful career as a public servant in

Canberra, Sherrie Spielvogel was not a likely candidate to become involved in the Superfine wool industry.

Nine years ago she met and married Tom Spielvogel, an Ultrafine wool producer with a three-generational history in sheep farming. She discovered that she was not bad at the hard, physical tasks— roustabout, drencher, etc. but soon embraced Tom's passion for Ultrafine wool. Consequently, she wanted to contribute to the continued improvement of the flock and the wool.

She did not have 100 years of experience like her husband but she did have a strong knowledge of technology, statistics and research. She was also very curious and importantly, she was also very, very persistent.

Collaborating with Tom and mining his vast knowledge she was able to write tailored computer programs, analytical spreadsheets and macros as well as easily master the electronic tag tools and data. This has resulted in significant gains to the "Karalta" breeding program and she feels she can finally be "classed" as a AAA Superfine wool producer instead of a dag.

ASWGA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Shara & Jock Menzies, Winterbourne Pastoral Co.



I love farming, it's in my blood. My great grandfather was a sheep farmer in Australia between 1840 and 1900. He had come from Scotland and ran a Merino flock of up to 70,000 sheep in the Riverina area of New South Wales (NSW). My grandfather returned to Scotland and married a Scots woman and stayed in Scotland. In childhood I grew up on my father's sheep farm in the Scottish Highlands, which was focused on prime lambs rather than wool. I really enjoyed sheep work as a boy especially at lambing time with the shepherd and my father. Lambing was done indoors as it was so cold.

I came to Australia as a jackaroo in 1986 and had a few jobs working with Merino sheep and soon discovered they were different from Scottish black face and Suffolk cross sheep.

Working sheep without good dogs was

a nightmare however, in 1988 we bought our first farm here in Australia at Walcha, New South Wales and a few kelpie dogs to help with the sheep. It was hard work and very challenging especially through the dry times and the market crash, but the sheep were still the only thing that kept us going in the drought. We had to feed them, but they made a little money. In 1988 I had a trip to Biella in Italy and the Reda Mill. I was fascinated by the Mill's brand-new investment in machinery for the spinning of wool, dye, the colours and the passion for our fibre. It gave me courage to stick with wool and to target my market rather than just produce a commodity. So began the friendship with New England Wool and the Botto families.

Shara and I sold our farm at Walcha in 2001 and bought a farm at Armidale—a larger one. Now we have 2,000 hectares. We took all of our 7,000 sheep and the dogs with us and we now run about 10,000 Merino and some cattle. We also join a few to White Suffolk for prime lambs.

Like everyone else at the time, wool

production was getting finer due to the market influence though sheep were getting smaller and our production of wool cut was less. We started looking for different genetics to impact production. I am still working on it.

We ran a sire evaluation program with the Department of Agriculture to look for different rams to use in our flock. Some worked rather better than others—we are still trying to improve them. By carefully recording the better performing animals, we use electronic tags to track each individual ewe and ram in the flock, then weigh the fleeces and measure their body weight and micron of the wool and class the sheep—only breeding from the best. We strive to improve our sheep so they can perform well in our environment to produce a world-class fibre which is clean and sustainable. The wool industry employs people in every step of the production process, helping our planet become a better place to live and without leaving a footprint. Wool is naturally biodegradable, unlike plastic which is cheap and harmful to all forms of life.



Pictured above: Jock, Shara, Archie (14) and Henry (17)



Our goal is to leave less of a footprint and to leave a legacy for the next generation to continue in a similar manner, where we help our local community and the environment in which we live, rather than mine and extract everything. Life is about what you put in, not what you take out. If we choose to buy a product which is often more expensive but lasts longer and looks better than a cheaper one and by the purchase of it, we employ more people, it keeps us happy in the knowledge that what we do helps others and our environment. It costs more to be green and that cost must be passed back to keep the balance.

We are so lucky to grow wool in the beautiful New England region, with high altitude and stable, well-balanced weather which gives us the ability to grow a stronger cleaner fibre. It sometimes still

snows here so I think of Scotland on those days. We run a farmstay Bed and Breakfast for some diversity of income. I am very often asked; how often do you shear your sheep?

The wool fibre is like a diary of the sheep's health for the last twelve months. From when it was last shorn, a well fed and cared for sheep produces wool that is strong, but if the season changes or the diet changes, so it affects the fibre. Matching the growth of the fibre to these challenges or when lambing occurs is what determines shearing time as the fibre is normally weak at this point. This is normally in Spring, as the feed starts to grow and the newborn lambs can benefit from the new grass. It is a natural cycle going back for thousands of years. I love what I do as did my great grandfather- it is a challenge which we all need.

My advice to others is do what you enjoy if you have a choice. Working with animals in the country with its outdoor life gives you time to enjoy nature, being free of the stress and noise of city life, to hear the birds sing and to see the stars at night. I never cared for being kept inside, so an office job was not for me.

You have to bend things to make them work, you have to weed before you sow, and before you can harvest and sometimes is not easy. Like now, we are all tested and we must bend to make things work but harvest will be all the better next year. Stay positive.

Jock Menzies
Winterbourne Pastoral Co. NSW

“Kooringa”

Dobie, Victoria,



Photo: Kooringa Farming partners



Photo: Shearing at Kooringa circ. 1910 with Thomas Lewis in the apron.

The history of “Kooringa” goes back to the Duffy Act of 1862.

The property “Kooringa” has been owned continuously by members of the Lewis family and associated with sheep farming and wool from that time forward.

In the early 1860s William Lewis and his son Thomas and Thomas’s wife Esther migrated from County Cavan in Ireland and took up land under the Duffy Act of 1862. This land formed the beginning of the property called “Kooringa”.

William built a bluestone dwelling on an Allotment he took up in the Parish of Gorrin and he lived there for most of the rest of his life. The bluestone from this dwelling was used for the foundation of the tennis court at “Kooringa” in the 1920s.

Thomas built a home on an Allotment he took up in the Parrish of Colvinsby, adjoining the Parish of Gorrin, and he lived there with Esther and their three children William, Esther and Sarah. A short mud and stone wall and part of the chimney of this dwelling still stands on this block today.

At some stage Thomas and his family moved from Colvinsby to an Allotment in the Parish of Gorrin adjacent to William’s Allotment. There he constructed a timber cottage called ‘Roseville’. The family continued to live in ‘Roseville’ cottage until around the turn of the century (1900) when Thomas built “Kooringa” on that same block about 20 metres to the east of ‘Roseville’ cottage. It is believed this brick residence was designed by an architect as evidenced by existing drawings signed GCP.

Thomas’s son, William, married Maria Hinchliffe of Cornhill, Langi Logan in 1905 and they made their home in ‘Roseville’ cottage alongside “Kooringa”. They lived there with their five children, Bertha, Thomas, Archibald, Dorothy and Mary until they moved into “Kooringa” around 1916 after Thomas died. They continued to live in “Kooringa” until 1937 when they retired to Ararat.

In the 1930s ‘Roseville’ cottage was re-sited in the farmyard, west of “Kooringa”, where it was separated into two buildings, the Tool Shed and the Shearers Hut. Both buildings have recently been restored and remain useful sheds on the property.

William’s son, Thomas (Tom), married Jean

Louttit from Donald in 1937 and they made their home in “Kooringa”. In 1940 Jean died in childbirth when Barbara was born.

Thomas later married Elizabeth Sutton, known as Dulcie, and they lived at “Kooringa” with their four children Barbara, Heather, Marion and Stuart. Tom and Elizabeth lived at “Kooringa” for the rest of their lives. Elizabeth died in 1999 and Tom died in 2001.

In 1935 Tom founded “Kooringa”’s Superfine Merino wool stud after the purchase of Yallay Poora and Langi Kal Kal cast for age ewes and Merryville stud rams. Merryville stud rams were regularly bought thereafter and included in the artificial insemination program from 1988. He also established a Superfine Merino Poll stud. He was a successful exhibitor at Victorian Sheep shows for over 60 years.

In Tom’s time, “Kooringa” grew to be approximately 4,000 acres (1,600 ha). In the 1950s he built two weatherboard workman’s cottages west of the farmyard, on the same block as “Kooringa” and a purpose-built shed to house his Show sheep and several haysheds. The 1960s brought with it the State Electricity Commission and 240 volt power. It replaced a 32 volt generator that had

been installed in the old woolshed in the early 1930s. Tom built a new modern woolshed and a machinery shed and installed a spray dip, some silos and concrete water tanks and switched from using a windmill to the use of pumps.

The property has been used over the years for breeding sheep and cattle and for cropping oats, oaten hay, clover and clover hay and other grains but the major income has always been from sheep and the Superfine wool they produced and the sale of stud rams.

Tom's son Stuart died in 1991 after which the bulk of the property was divided up by his widow and her family as trustees for their two children and Tom continued to farm some of this land under a lease arrangement set up before Stuart's death. After Tom's death in 2001 his stud was sold and dispersed. "Kooringa" is used today to produce Ultrafine Merino wool.

Tom's daughter, Heather Reid, bought the homestead and one hundred acres from her father's Estate in 2002. In May of that year Kooringa Farming, the partnership of Stephen and Heather and their son William and Heather's brother-in-law Garry Fenton, was established to produce Ultrafine wool.



Letter from first ASWGA President Arthur Beggs



Membership Receipt from 1971



Sale of wool, T Lewis to O'Beirne Bros, Barkly Street, Ararat. 23rd October 1888

The venture was conceived by Garry and the initial sheep were purchased from John Milne, Pomonal and operated from the existing woolshed modified to house one hundred sheep. Once it was established William wanted to continue the enterprise, a purpose-built shed was constructed in 2004. As their priority was to have strong healthy sheep, they designed the shed to provide for multi-penning of sheep and for them to have continuous access to feed. They consulted a nutritionist, Productive Nutrition Pty Ltd, South Australia with the aim of ensuring the health of the sheep was upheld and the quality of the wool, its strength and micron, was maintained. They also engaged advisors for the project, Keith Jackson and Ted Wilson of Landmark, Jacksons of Geelong. They continue to work with Ted Wilson of Landmark which now trades as Nutrien Ag.

In their shed today their sheep are from their own breeding stock of ewes founded on pure Rockbank bloodlines with stud ewes and rams from Rowensville. As part of their farming operation all sheep are non-mulesed, Kooringa Farming exhibits fleeces at Australian Sheep & Wool Show (Bendigo) each year and has won many awards over the years in this competition.

There was no Australian Sheep & Wool Show in 2020 due to COVID-19, however Will did receive an award in the 2020 Ermenegildo Zegna Fleece competition, winning a trophy for fifth place.

For further detail search the web - www.ararat.vic.gov.au

Rural Ararat Heritage Study, Volume 3, Heritage Place and Precinct Citations (March 2016)

"Kooringa" Farm Complex Hermes No 194228.



Receipt from Denny, Lascelles, Austin & Co, Geelong. 16th October 1888 for auction of wool for Thomas Lewis.



Historical Statement of significance of Kooringa Farm



OBITUARY

Claire Schnitzerling

28 September 1934 - 08 February 2021

Claire grew up in Brisbane and during the War years she and her siblings were evacuated to an orchard outside of Stanthorpe. This was her first introduction to country life. When Claire left school, she worked with the Commonwealth Bank and was transferred to the Warwick branch in Queensland where she met the love of her life, country lad Ray. They married 26 May 1956; in fact in May this year they would have been married 65 years.

During the early days Ray managed several sheep stations in south-west Queensland, while Claire raised their young children. Ray and Claire purchased a property in 1969 outside Stanthorpe and started a Dorset Horn stud breeding prime lambs. In 1980 they moved to a property west of Warwick, but within a couple of years, they decided to sell the property and the Dorset Horn stock, as it was time to go on a trip of a lifetime to see the Edinburgh Games.

However, before they departed, a property came up for sale at Elbow Valley, with no house, only a five-stand shearing shed in good condition. Ray wanted to go back

to his roots – back to wool production, so the property was purchased and named “Kirralin”, a combination of their children’s names. The property remains in the family.

Claire and Ray lived in the shearing shed while Ray built their house. During this time shearing occurred with the sheep shedded overnight. The sheep shuffled and murmured all night, which proved to be very testing time with minimal sleep—Ray was under the pump to build and get the house to lock up stage.

Claire and Ray ventured back into Merinos and through selective breeding over thirty years, utilising Hillcreston and Grathlyn blood lines, developed an even line of Superfine Merinos 15-16 micron. They did not escape the devastating droughts; however, they took it all in their stride. You have to be made of stern stuff if you want to gamble on the weather and rely on the frailty of markets. But they cherished the challenge and were rewarded annually by gaining prizes at the local show. The ultimate accolade— was their protected fleeces winning a place for their wool in the world-renowned Zegna competition—3rd place 2004, 3rd place 2005 and 2nd place 2010.

Claire obviously loved the rural life and

assisted Ray on the property, whilst working full time as a clerk at Riverina Stockfeeds. She was very involved in the community, initially writing for the Warwick Daily News doing a weekly Technical and Further Education (TAFE) talk article on students doing the Jackaroo and Jillaroo course which encouraged young people into the rural environment. The students were welcomed at “Kirralin” to learn sheep husbandry and wool handling techniques.

Shearing was obviously the focal point annually on the property, but it was also an opportunity for many a yarn to be spun at smoko. In fact, Claire was the main culprit for telling tall tales.

Over the past ten years Claire developed a number of major medical issues that impacted on her health. While she able, she continued to help at shearing time, maintaining a strong interest in the wool production.

Unfortunately, Claire’s ailing body failed her early in February this year. How she would have loved to see the place now— so much water, abundant grass and happy animals. One thing has not changed though, the sheep still watch for an opportunity to get into the house yard to eat her beloved roses.



Photo: Zegna comp - 2005 - 3rd place



Photo: Claire in the woolshed



Photo: Ray & Claire with the Rosenthal Cup

OBITUARY

Rodney Norman Westmore

16 June 1941 - 10 October 2020

Rodney was born in Melbourne and attended Melbourne University for his undergraduate medical degrees. His training in Ophthalmology took place at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1971. He subsequently completed a Fellowship in London and was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1973.

He arrived in Tasmania in 1974 and was appointed a Visiting Medical Officer at the Launceston General Hospital as well as being in private practice in Launceston. He had a broad training and skills in many areas of Ophthalmology and, as befitted someone practising in a rural area, he could turn his hand to many things. Many of the Registrars in training commented about how much more varied their training with Rodney was compared to their city rotations. He carried out retinal, orbital and ptosis surgery and entered the field of refractive surgery early on. I think he was particularly proud of his surgical visits to Uganda as well as to East Timor.

Rodney was a Captain in the Army Reserve in the Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment and took great pleasure in being able to drive an armoured personnel carrier in his younger days. He was a member of the Naval and Military Club for many years and the Launceston Club. Rodney was a keen trout fisherman, wine buff, collector

of antiques and Persian carpets, and supporter of fine arts.

There has been a strong tradition amongst Tasmanian ophthalmologists of being involved in farming. He embraced this enthusiastically and initially had a farm on King Island. When travel to the island became more daunting, he bought a farm at Greens Beach and a few years later moved to another farm, "Patterdale", located at Deddington in Northern Tasmania. This farm had been the abode of renowned Colonial artist John Glover. A project to restore the artist's derelict home and gardens was carried out by Rodney and his wife Carol. Tours showcasing the award-winning restoration and the history of John Glover are now run by Carol. The renowned garden which surrounded the house and is celebrated in the painting in the Art Gallery of South Australia, *A View of the Artist's house and garden*, was long gone. This has been redesigned in a similar colour palette and style and continues to evolve and attract increasing numbers of visitors.

Rodney was passionate about growing Superfine Merino wool and acquired an excellent flock along with the purchase of "Patterdale" and soon after joined the ASWGA. In recent years "Patterdale" has received several awards and continues to improve the flock genetics as well as developing alternative farm enterprises. One of his passions was to rid the farm of weeds, such as gorse. This of course continues to be an ongoing activity.

He is survived by his wife Carol who continues to manage both farm and



Glover Country tourism, children Guy and Anna and grandchildren James, Emma, Annabelle and Alice. Rodney led an active and respected professional life, a strong family life and had many and varied interests. Ultimately what more can any of us ask for other than this evidence of a life well lived.

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ASWGA Photographic Competition Winner– 2021



Congratulations to Lyndsay Henderson for winning the 2021 ASWGA Photographic Competition.

There were 43 entries in this year's competition that was judged by Kristen Frost (Wool & Sheep Writer for Australian Community Media), Chantel McAlister (Chantel Renae Photography, Truth about Wool) and Tim Marwedel (G Schneider Australia).

Thank you to all who supported the competition.

"A Quiet Life"

Lyndsay Henderson, Avington Merino

The photo features a small group of Avington Stud Superfine Merino ewes with their lambs.

The paddock has a fenced-off creek on one side that was planted with Lombardi poplars in the 1960s as part of an erosion control project in the district by the Government.

During Summer the trees provide good shade for the sheep and in Autumn there is a spectacular display of colour. In the last 25 years we have planted over 160,000 trees on the property and all have been native to the area.

Tree planting is an essential part of our land management strategy as well as providing shade and shelter to the sheep.

Lyndsay Henderson

A selection of entries in the 2020-21 Photographic Competition

Thank you to all that supported the competition



Photo by Duncan Barber



Photo by Duncan Barber

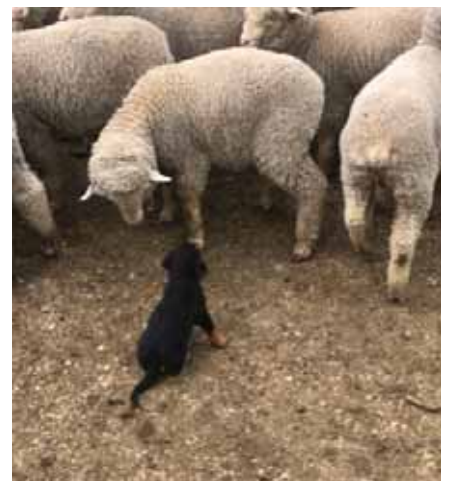


Photo by Duncan Barber



Photo by Duncan Barber



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James Rowe OAM

Award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) 14 June 2021

James Rowe was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on 14 June 2021 for services to science as a researcher and educator. James was embarrassed when I suggested that ASWGA publish some of his achievements in the ASWGA Annual - but it is important to recognise and publicise those achievements - and how they have helped shape the Australian sheep industry over the last two decades.

James undertook an undergraduate degree in Rural Science, at University of New England (UNE) Armidale - the degree established by Prof Bill McClymont which emphasised the importance of interactions between soils, plants, animals, markets and the social elements involved managing agricultural production and natural resources – a systems based approach bringing together diverse expertise.

James' PhD training in ruminant nutrition, under the supervision of Prof Ron Leng at UNE, opened up a wide range of research opportunities around the world, that extended from high-tech experience in the pharmaceutical industry to applied systems-based research to improve the profitability and sustainability of extensive grazing systems. The research covered different animal species including sheep, cattle, horses and dogs and also resulted in a number of successful patent applications providing a valuable perspective on the process of commercialising research findings with practical applications.

James' strengths lie not only in his problem solving capabilities, but also his commitment to collaboration and working with integrated teams of experts. He says that, any meaningful contribution in the complex field of agricultural research and education requires input and expertise from many people in numerous disciplines. Effective team-work is essential. James says that, having worked with lots of really talented researchers, educators and industry experts throughout his career, it is clear that any meaningful success only resulted from combining expertise and working together. James sees his award as a recognition of the people that he has worked with and those that have helped shape his career.

James says that the ultimate team



collaboration in his career was leading the Australian Sheep Cooperative Research Centre (Sheep CRC) between 2000 and 2019. The combined effort of 40 organisations, including private sector commercial entities, industry organisations, researchers and universities, working together was able to achieve significant transformation of the sheep industry. Guiding the research team to achieve a coordinated approach was only possible by recognising that each individual member had real expertise in their chosen area and that his role was to ensure that the team remained focussed on goals, communicated well and shared the work and the credits appropriately. The guidance of the Sheep CRC Board was invaluable and helped shape the achievements of an outstanding team of researchers, educators and communicators who converted some big ideas into practical innovations for industry.

The Sheep CRC, under James' leadership, contributed to a wide range of sweeping changes in the Australian Sheep Industry

over the last two decades. The industry-led partnership between end-users and researchers delivered research results and solutions suitable for breeders, producers and the wool and meat supply chains. Giant steps forward were made in transforming the information available to producers in relation to nutrition, reproduction, parasite management, precision sheep management, measuring wool quality, managing ewe reproduction for improvements in wool quality, genetic selection, genomic and DNA testing for ram and flock profiling, using Australian Sheep Breeding Values, accelerating traits with genomic selection, impacts of on-farm decisions in lamb reproduction for improvements in lamb eating quality, and research in meat and meat processing.

A huge wealth of reference information is still held on the archived Sheep CRC websites:

<https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20191106222333/https://www.sheepcrc.org.au/>

There is also a summary of the Sheep CRC and its achievements in the book:

“Concept to Impact – The Story of the Sheep CRC – 2001-2019”

The publication is available online:

https://web.archive.org/au/awa/20191106222340mp_/https://www.sheepcrc.org.au/files/pages/publications/publications/concept-to-impact/Concept_to_Impact_final.pdf

Perhaps the greatest legacies left by the Sheep CRC is the cohort of 81 postgraduate students who completed their degrees through research and training activities embedded in the CRC's programs, and the undergraduate educational resources still delivered through the AWTA Wool Education Trust.

James always acknowledged the importance of industry engagement with the Sheep CRC to provide direction and relevance to the R&D activities. Participation of ASWGA facilitated a productive two-way flow of information and ideas and was, yet another, example of the benefits of collaboration.

The following is the official citation for the award to James Rowe in June 2021

For Services to Science as a Researcher and Educator

Service includes:

Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation (Sheep CRC)

- Chief Executive Officer, Sheep CRC Pty Ltd (2000-2019).

University of New England

- Professor of Animal Science (1994 - 2020)
- Emeritus Professor (December 2020)

Research

- Former Board Member, Cooperative Research Centres Association.
- Former Manager Cattle Industry Research and Development, Western Australian Department of Agriculture.
- Former Research Officer Sheep and Wool, Western Australian Department of Agriculture.
- Former Research Scientist, ICI Pharmaceuticals, Cheshire, UK.

I commend readers to the reference material still available on the Sheep CRC

archived websites. It is a truly valuable resource. I confess that it was not until my time on the Sheep CRC Board of Directors that I fully realised how much the Sheep CRC contributed to the Australian Sheep Industry. James' award and recognition are truly well deserved.

Contributed by Catherine Hayne

Honorary Treasurer – ASWGA

Former director – Sheep CRC – 2017-2019



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Revealing wool's biodegradable benefits

The Women on Farms gathering in March saw an impactful demonstration of wool's biodegradability, highlighting the fibre's eco-credentials in a world that is paying more and more attention to sustainability issues.

The Women on Farms movement in Victoria, which has existed for 30 years, gathered in March at Port Fairy in the south-west of the State for its annual celebration of women playing a crucial part of farming.

Superfine woolgrower Susan Rowbottom was one of the organisers of the event and she had the foresight in September last year to bury two jumpers - one pure wool and one fully synthetic - to be unearthed six months later at the gathering to showcase wool's biodegradability.

"We buried the jumpers side by side, each between two pieces of wire mesh, and at the gathering in March we dug them up to see the extent that they had biodegraded", Susan said.

"The results speak for themselves. There was not much left of the woollen jumper; was well on the way to be fully decomposed. The only thing that was holding it together was the wire. In contrast, the synthetic jumper was fully intact, and aside from needing a bit of a wash was no different from the day it was buried."



Photo: Susan Rowbottom holding up the pure wool jumper that has significantly biodegraded after being buried in soil for six months, while holding in her other hand the polyester jumper that has not biodegraded at all.

Susan said the sharply contrasting biodegradability of the two jumpers symbolises perfectly that the decisions that consumers make today have long-term consequences for the environment.

"The sustainability of products is increasingly in the spotlight and so we did the demonstration to prove and showcase wool eco-credentials. It is important to understand that natural fibres like wool can return to the soil, whereas nylons and other synthetics, aside from being made from a non-replaceable fossil fuel, will continue to add to the waste in our landfills forever and a day."

This is an important message that Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) continually reinforces through its subsidiary The Woolmark Company in its marketing to consumers, brands, retailers and regulatory authorities. The initiative by Women on Farms to demonstrate the biodegradability of wool replicates the burying of a wool jumper by HRH The Prince of Wales in a flowerbed at his Clarence House residence in 2014 as part of The Campaign for Wool.

Wool is made of a 100% natural biodegradable protein, similar to that found in human hair. When a wool product reaches its end-of-life and is disposed of, the wool fibre readily decomposes in soil in a matter of months or years, slowly releasing valuable nutrients and carbon back into the earth, acting like a fertiliser. Wool also biodegrades in a marine environment and does not contribute to microplastic pollution.



In contrast, synthetic fibres do not biodegrade and significantly contribute to the world's overflowing landfills. Microfibres from synthetic textiles (microplastics) also accumulate in marine environments, as well as terrestrial environments, where they damage ecosystems.

Susan and her husband David farm at St Helens in south-western Victoria. They are well known for their commitment to safeguarding the environment on and around their property, "Rowensville", illustrating the harmony that exists between wool growing and the local wildlife. They work with the Basalt to Bay Landcare network and have planted trees on their property since the 1990s.

The Rowbottoms have won the Vellus Aureum Trophy in six of the past seven years. Ermenegildo Zegna introduced the award in 2000 to reward the wool growers who have produced the finest of the finest Merino fleece in the world. In 2016, the Rowbottoms' winning fleece was recorded at an exceptional 9.9 microns, still an unbeaten world record.

More information:
www.facebook.com/WomenOnFarms

Hear more from Susan Rowbottom in Episode 172 of AWI's The Yarn podcast, titled 'Burying wool and stereotypes', available at www.wool.com/podcast



BOOK OF INTEREST:

A Short History of the World According to Sheep

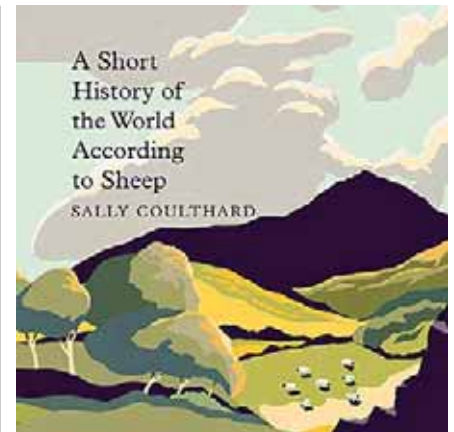
by Sally Coulthard

There has been a trend in recent years to explore the history of specific, often seemingly mundane, items or actions. These micro-histories have provided us with a range of weird and wonderful tales, about the 'history of statues', or of a celebrity, or of interesting and random 'firsts'. But few topics are as deserving of this treatment as a history of sheep. For, as Sally Coulthard rightly points out in her book, *A Short History of the World According to Sheep*, these docile, woolly creatures, which are so common in the countryside that we barely notice them, 'have shaped the course of human history'. They have fed us, clothed us, changed our diet, made us both richer and poorer, altered our landscape, helped build great civilisations and win wars, decorated our homes, allowed us to create artistic treasures and financed pioneers and privateers to conquer large swathes of the Earth.

Coulthard's claim for the importance of sheep in human history is a grand one, but even a brief glimpse at her book is enough to convince the reader of the truth of it. Each chapter – organised thematically rather than chronologically – teems with evidence. There are the obvious great events and historical

turning points – the alteration of the landscape from open fields to enclosed, and private lands to maximize farming profits, or the importance of wool to the Industrial Revolution and Britain's rise to worldwide prominence – but there are also the surprising snippets of information that show how the tendrils of wool have influenced far more than first suspected: how knitting was important for morale in both the Western and Home fronts during the First World War, for example; or how sheep contributed to the Peasants' Revolt and subsequent rebellions. Plus, there are the wonderful stories of the influence of sheep on everyday life, such as how a randy shepherd's wanderings led to the development of Roquefort cheese, and how the language of sheep farming has turned into common parlance on the floors of the world's stockmarkets.

There is, perhaps, no better person to write such a history than Sally Coulthard. As a journalist with a regular column for *Country Living* magazine, she has written extensively on pastoral England and the delights of nature, and as a small land holder in deepest North Yorkshire she has had ample opportunity to observe her ovine subjects up close and personal. This proximity comes across in her writing: there is a gentle patience, a deep fascination, and a sense of respect for these strange, unassuming animals that in popular myth have come to represent the meek and submissive, yet who can be found rolling Commando-style across cattle grids to devour the flower beds beyond. The author brings a delicious sense of humour



to her topic and invites the reader to come with her on this incredible journey of discovery. Yes, the book does not go into a great deal of depth – the economic analysis that many authors slide into when considering the impact of sheep and wool is thankfully missing. But what it lacks in depth it makes up for in breadth. What is truly joyful about *A Short History of the World According to Sheep* is how Coulthard has woven together so many different disciplines – history, literature, archaeology, etymology, genetics, current affairs and politics, earth sciences and astrophysics – into such a witty and entertaining narrative, so that the reader comes away not just more knowledgeable about sheep, but about the world in general.

[This article is based on a review found at: <https://www.gethistory.co.uk/reviews/book-reviews/a-short-history-of-the-world-according-to-sheep-sally-coulthard>].

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NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING:

A new perspective to farm profit

Background:

New ways of thinking are changing how we can better understand and measure farm profit.

With some 80% of the investment in a farm tied up in the land base, it makes good sense that we incorporate the measurement of the condition of this important business asset into our thinking on Profit.

Natural capital accounting can do this.

This article summarises a recently completed Australian Wool Innovation (AWI)-funded study which applied a natural capital accounting approach for 11 case study farms. This information was used by the business owners to give a new perspective on farm profit.

Understanding Natural Capital Accounting: What gets measured.

Natural capital accounting is a new knowledge field for farm business management. Traditionally, assessing farm business performance has been orientated to financial metrics alone. This project demonstrated that it is possible and practical to now include natural capital measures.

The 11 growers in the AWI study contributed farm management information, had a farm assessment undertaken by a trained ecologist and farm data was collected from a satellite using a commercial program.

A detailed report was prepared for each farm which assessed the natural capital base. This covered Ecosystem Services across 12 criteria, assessed Ecosystem Type, Use and Capacity, estimated Carbon Storage and undertook a detailed Environmental Profit and Loss statement covering 31 key criteria. Historical groundcover assessments were provided by a commercial satellite monitoring program.

Results from the 11 case study farms:

The case study farms were located across eastern Australia. Five were in New South Wales, three in Victoria and three in Tasmania. They covered a diverse range of climates, production systems



Photo: Grazing sheep New England

Summary Criteria:	Ranges	Averages
Long term Groundcover ranges	Most above 80%	
Emissions for the farm (tCO ₂ e/year)	715 to 9067	2517
Emissions for the farm (tCO ₂ e/year/ha)	0.21 to 5.55	1.43
Estimated C sequestration for the farm (tCO ₂ e/year)	-11,925 to 1136	-4055
Estimated C sequestration for the farm (tCO ₂ e/year/ha)	-3.44 to 1.01	-1.36
Net position for emissions for the farm (tCO ₂ e/year)	-9649 to 6007	-1539
Net position for emissions for the farm (tCO ₂ e/year/ha)	-2.72 to 3.68	0.06
Green House Gas emissions for wool (kg CO ₂ e/kg greasy wool)	21.3 to 67.8	29.9

and landscapes and were considered as industry leaders in wool production.

A summary of some key metrics from the case studies were as follows. *It is important to note that a negative number indicates a removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere.*

Notes to the above table:

1. Ground cover estimates from satellite technology.
2. Greenhouse Gas emissions and sequestration calculated using industry models.

The rates of CO₂ emissions and sequestration varied greatly depending on the farming system used and the type, extent, and condition of vegetation.

Practical uses for natural capital accounting:

If the condition of the farm's natural capital base is measured, it can be more effectively managed.

Natural capital accounting may provide new business opportunities for those

growers who wish to pursue them, through differentiated marketing to sustainability conscious brands and consumers and to a range of organisations who are seeking to invest into biodiversity and natural capital.

Further information is available by contacting:

Mark Gardner
Vanguard Business Services
Dubbo Australia
mark.gardner@vbs.net.au
www.vbs.net.au

Acknowledgement:
This project was funded by Australian Wool Innovation and represents one of a series of case studies on Natural Capital on commercial wool growing properties. The authors would like to thank Mr Angus Ireland and Mr Sam Ropert from Australian Wool Innovation for their assistance. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Dr Steve Wiedemann, Integrity Ag and Environment, for his technical review and input. Vanguard appreciates its professional partnership with Integrated Futures who completed the technical analysis for this project.

Pain relief:

Options for mulesing, castration and tail docking sheep

This article was compiled by a Local Land Services District Veterinarian. Local Land Services District Veterinarians work with producers and communities across New South Wales to help safeguard the health and well-being of livestock and the reputation of primary industries.

The decision not to mules is an admirable goal for the industry but must be worked towards with years of selective breeding and then be backed with an integrated fly management plan. In the interim pain relief and the adoption of the smaller modified mules at lamb marking is widely supported and utilised by the industry. Another new mulesing option worth considering, and trialing is the liquid nitrogen mulesing option where the excess breach skin is frozen off by a cleverly designed liquid nitrogen applicator. It causes less pain and no open wounds. For more information see the following links:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-03-11/liquid-nitrogen-mulesing-alternative/10878280>

<https://agvetinnovations.com/2019/11/20/what-is-sheep-freeze-branding/>

Strong progress has been made in the field of pain relief around lamb marking. With new products entering the market, there are now multiple forms of pain relief available. If you are introducing pain relief to your lamb marking program for the first time, one form of pain relief will be beneficial alone, but the best results are seen when pain relief is layered or multimodal (i.e., two forms are used together). Pain relief at lamb marking reduces the stress on the lambs and the time taken to mother-up post marking.

There are now several options available for producers. To assist you with your decision this Guide has been put together to present the options. The table below shows available registered pain relief products that can be used in lambs in New South Wales:

The most effective approach to managing pain in lambs is to use a local anaesthetic, topical (Trisolfen®) or injected (Numnuts®), combined with a long-acting pain-relief or anti-inflammatory (Buccalgesic® or Metacam20®).

Tri-Solfen® is used for open exterior wounds, it is a topical local anaesthetic and antiseptic spray and was released in 2007.

Numnuts® is a device released in 2019 which injects a long-acting local anaesthetic (numocaine) around the ring used for either castration or tail docking.

Buccalgesic® and Metacam® are both meloxicam based anti-inflammatory drugs, released in 2016. Buccalgesic offers a good addition to Trisolfen to extend the pain relief for sheep undergoing surgical mulesing or offering pain relief on its own to those just undergoing castration, tail docking or dehorning.





For more information on these products and how they work see:

<https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/research-publications/welfare/improved-pain-relief/btb-dec2019-anaesthetics-analgesics-widely-adopted-by-wool-growers.pdf>

For a comprehensive break down of the cost of the above products per lamb see:

<http://www.flyboss.com.au/sheep-goats/management/breech-modification/pain-relief-faqs.php>

Alexandra Stephens
District Veterinarian
South East Local Land Services, Yass

PRODUCT NAME	ACTIVE INGREDIENTS	DESCRIPTION & HOW IT'S ADMINISTERED	VETERINARY PRESCRIPTION NEEDED?	WHP	WHEN WOULD IT BE USEFUL
 Tri-Solfen	Lignocaine (fast acting pain relief) bupivacaine (longer acting pain relief), adrenaline (reduces bleeding), cetrimide (antiseptic+)	Gel spray applied to the wound providing antiseptic and local anaesthetic	No	90 days	When there is an open wound - mulesing, surgical castration, gas knife tail docking (i.e. not using rings).
 Buccalgesic	Meloxicam	Oral liquid to be put out between the molar teeth and cheek.	Yes	10 days	General pain relief provided, no matter which tail docking or castration method used.
 Metacam20	Meloxicam	Sub-cutaneous injection providing anti-inflammatory action and analgesia. Ideally administered prior to being in the cradle.	Yes	11 days	General pain relief provided, no matter which tail docking or castration method used.
 Numnuts	Lignocaine	Injection while castrator or tail ring is applied using applicator providing anaesthetic to the area injected	Yes	0 days	When using the Numnuts applicator to apply castrator and tail rings.

For a comprehensive break down of the cost of all of the above products per lamb please see: <http://www.flyboss.com.au/sheep-goats/management/breech-modification/pain-relief-faqs.php>



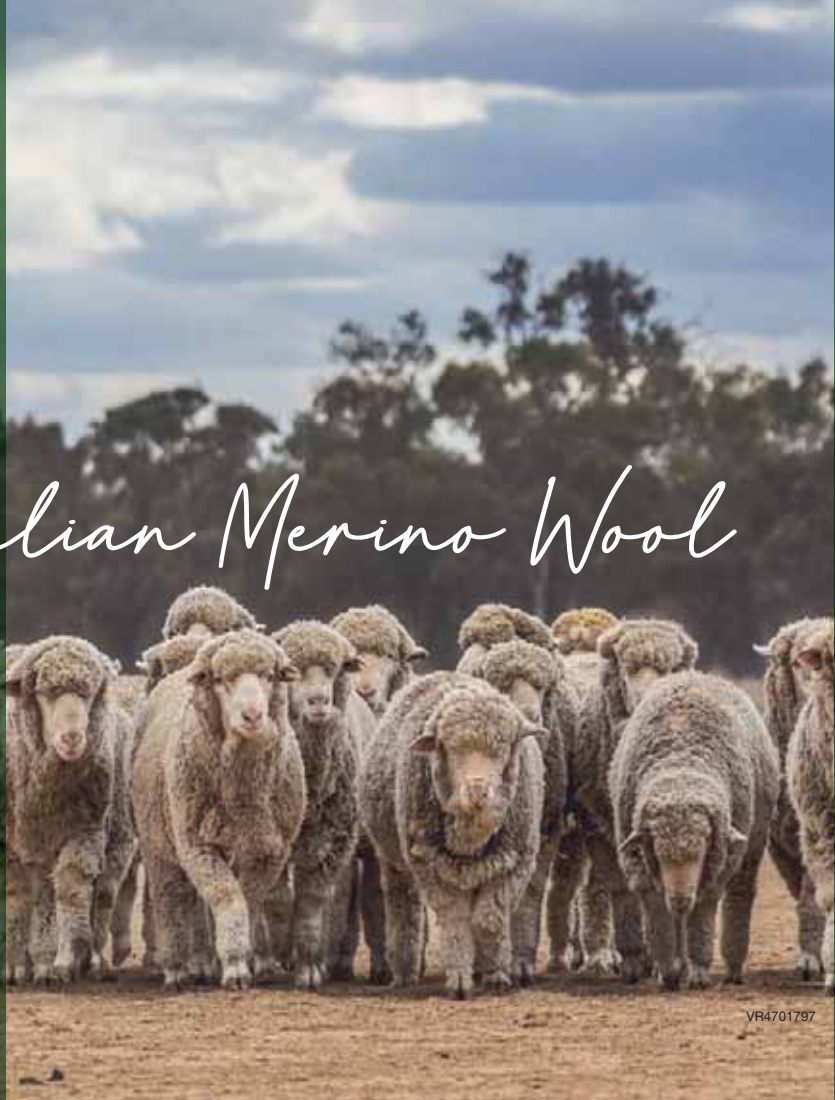
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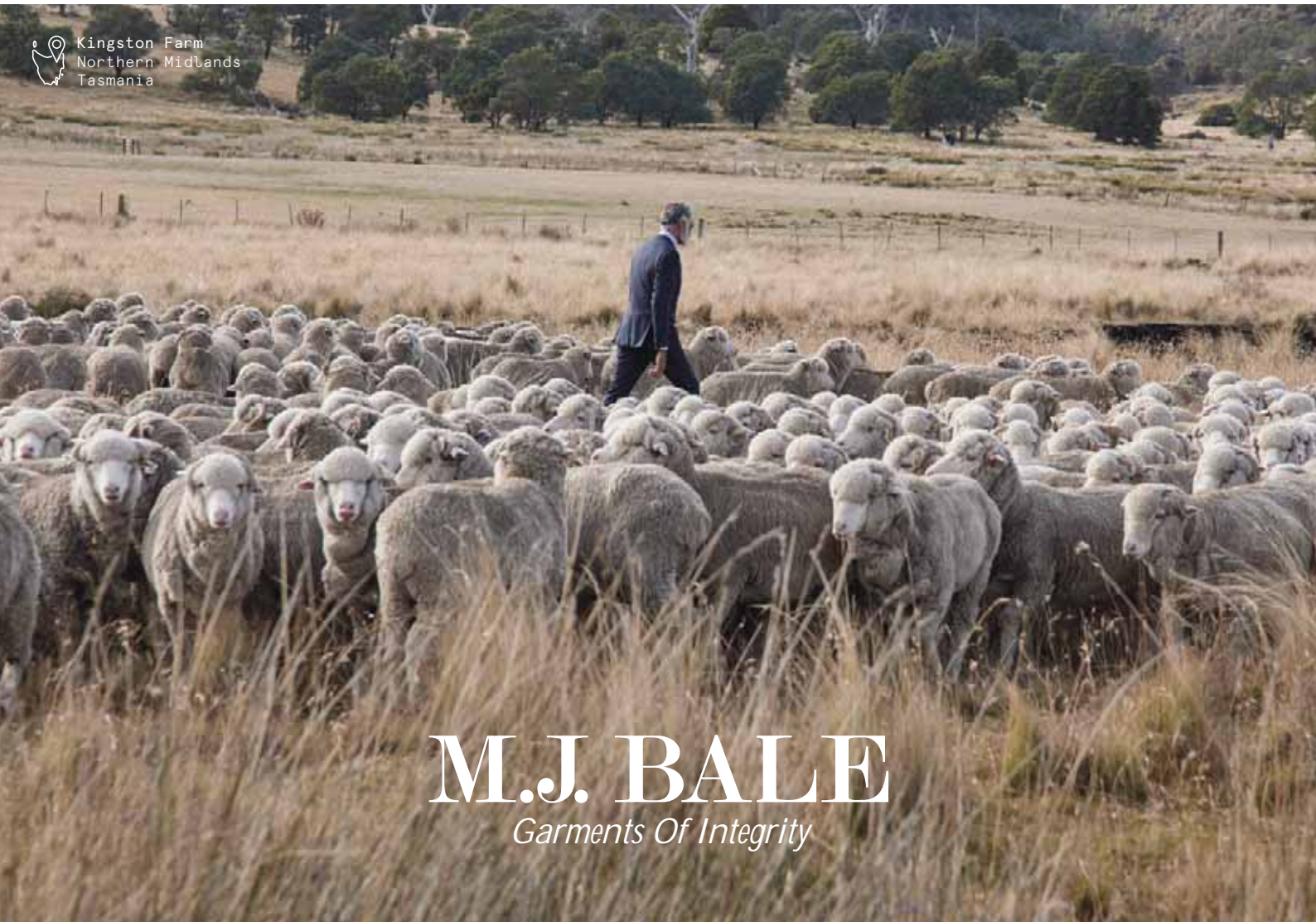
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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION & MEMBER UPDATE, 1/7/2021 - 30/06/2022 RECIPIENT CREATED TAX INVOICE

Please ensure that all shaded areas are completed and personal details are checked for errors.

Office Use:

TRADING NAME	
ABN please	

--

FULL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION :

Base Annual Subscription (GST Inclusive)	\$265.00
Number of Superfine Bales (19.5 microns and finer) in your last clip	
Bale Levy @ \$2 per Bale (GST Inclusive) up to a maximum of 300 bales	\$
Region Levy (GST Inclusive) (If Applicable)	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Associate Member (GST Inclusive)	\$100.00
Please tick if you require a receipt	
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$

PRIVACY POLICY - I CONSENT TO THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES - Yes/No

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FAX	
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E-MAIL	
WOOL BRAND	
SELLING CENTRE	
BROKER	

ANNUAL SURVEY INFORMATION: (Not Required if Associate Member)

How many sheep do you have in your Superfine flock (19.5 microns and finer) at 30 June 2021?	
How many Superfine ewes have you joined to Superfine rams at last joining?	
Please indicate your seasonal conditions as Good/Average/Poor	
Please estimate this year's (July 2021 to June 2022) Superfine clip in bales	
What is your Average Fibre Diameter?	
What is the Fibre Diameter of your Finest line?	
What is the Fibre Diameter of your Strongest line?	

Your Signature & Date Please: _____

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ZOETIS SHEEP VACCINES CAN BE USED FOR UP TO **30 DAYS**¹ AFTER OPENING. SIMPLY FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS*

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JOINING TO 8 WEEKS PRIOR TO LAMBING

GlanEry[®] 7in1 B12
1st "Priming" dose

OR

Glanvac[®] 6S B12
1st "Priming" dose

Eryvac[®]
1st "Priming" dose

ALL EWES

4 WEEKS BEFORE LAMBING

GlanEry[®] 7in1 B12
2nd "Booster" dose
Annual "Booster" dose

OR

Glanvac[®] 6S B12
2nd "Booster" dose
Annual "Booster" dose

Eryvac[®]
2nd "Booster" dose
Annual "Booster" dose

STARTECT[®]
Drench all ewes

OR SheepGuard LA + Startect if extended worm protection is required. Drench all ewes.

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FOR HEALTHIER AND HEAVIER LAMBS

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OR

Glanvac[®] 6S B12
1st "Priming" dose

Eryvac[®]
1st "Priming" dose

Gudair[®]
Single dose (if OJD risk dictates)

Scabigard[®]
Single scratch (if scabby mouth risk exists)

WEANING

GlanEry[®] 7in1 B12
2nd "Booster" dose

OR

Glanvac[®] 6S B12
2nd "Booster" dose

Eryvac[®]
2nd "Booster" dose

STARTECT[®]
Drench all lambs

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14 DAYS
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*This does not include Scabigard which should be discarded after the day of use. Reference 1. Zoetis data on file 2016.

