

Members' update



2 April 2013

“Golden Stencil” 2nd National Graduate Woolclasser Competition

The 2nd AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Woolclasser Competition was held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Wednesday 27th March. The best graduate woolclassers from 2012 were nominated from around Australia to compete for the “Golden Stencil”. This is the second time the national competition has been held which is the showcase for woolclassing and the wool industry.

This year competitors travelled from across New South Wales and Victoria. The 2013 winner of the “Golden Stencil” is Genevieve Butler from Strathlea, Victoria. Genevieve was outstanding in completing the tasks of classing crossbred, medium merino and fine merino exercises as well as AWEX-ID, valuation and her spoken presentation. Genevieve's all round woolclassing skill were brought to the fore under the pressure of competition.

Genevieve graduated from University of Ballarat and was trained by Sarah Moran.

The University of Ballarat and Sarah Moran received the Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy awarded to the training organisation and trainer of the competition winner. The Dennis Teasdale Trophy recognizes the valuable contribution to education in the wool industry made by trainers and TAFE. This is the second time that a Victorian graduate and training organisation have taken out the coveted titles.

Second place and “Silver Stencil” was awarded to John Webb, Mudgee, NSW. John was also the winner of the DAS Campbell prize for the top NSW graduate. This is the 40th year of the DAS Campbell award.

Third place and “Bronze Stencil” was awarded to John Cook, Springvale, NSW.

The judges of this year's competition were Mr. Andrew Blanch, New England Wool, Mr. John Mills, NSW TAFE and Mr. David Cother, AWEX. Judges commented on the evenness of the competition across all competitors and that the final result was extremely close. The RAS Easter Show environment is world class and of high pressure over the six hour duration of the competition.

The aim of the competition is to recognize excellence in woolclassing and education and to lift woolclassing's profile as a profession and career opportunity. Competition between competitors and training organisations is fierce. The woolclasser competition at the Royal Easter Show has been running since 2007 with the National Competition commencing in 2012.

The competition would not be possible without the support and encouragement of AWEX, NSW TAFE and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. NSW TAFE has been integral in developing the competition with AWEX from a state based competition to a competition at a National level.

Australian Wool Exchange Limited

PO Box 651 North Ryde BC 2113 www.awex.com.au | t. (+61 2) 9428 6100
Unit 12A, 2 Eden Park Drive Macquarie Park NSW 2113 abn. 35 061 495 565 | f. (+61 2) 9428 6120

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Each year TAFE organisations are asked to nominate their best graduates from the previous year. To be nominated is an honor that has been earned and we congratulate each of the competitors who took part in the competition. Each competitor gains valuable experience and feedback on how to improve their skills as they progress through the wool industry

Competitors	Address
John COOK	SPRINGVALE NSW 2650
Angus LAURIE	BOURKE, NSW 2840
Ben MAHER	DUBBO 2830
Rhianne ELLIOTT	GLEN INNES, NSW 2370
John WEBB	MUDGEES, NSW 2850
John BASSETT	SEYMOUR, VIC 3660
Genevieve BUTLER	STRATHLEA, VIC 3364

This year SkillsOne were again on hand to cover the competition and they will release a story about the competition on their website and through television station TV4ME. AWEX will receive a link to the web site and will advise members when the story is available.

Last year when AWEX commissioned a 20 minute program on woolclassing and the competition it received a high number of hits on the web site and views as a television program. This proved to be a successful opportunity to raise awareness about woolclassing and the wool industry through.

AWEX has been a proud sponsor of this event since it commenced in 2007. The enthusiasm created by a competition of this scale on this stage is positive for woolclassing and the wool industry.

For more information on the National Graduate Woolclassing Competition please contact:

Peter Sudholz, Woolclasser Registrar psudholz@awex.com.au p: 02 9428 6144
Mark Grave, CEO mgrave@awex.com.au p: 02 9428 6100