

13 April 2017

## 2017 “Golden Stencil”

### National Graduate Wool Classer Competition

The 2017 AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Wool Classer Competition was held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April. The competition brings together the best graduate wool classers from across Australia to compete for the major award of 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - “Golden Stencil”.

This year competitors travelled from New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria to vie for the coveted “Golden Stencil”. The 2017 winner of the “Golden Stencil” and \$500 prize money is Georgia Reeves from Daysdale, NSW. Georgia graduated from NSW TAFE Wagga and was trained by Jenni Turner. Second place and “Silver Stencil” (\$300 prize money) was won by Alan Smith, Gilgandra, NSW. Third place (\$200 prize money) and “Bronze Stencil” was won by Casey Patterson, Longford, TAS.

“The competition first became a national completion in 2012 and has proven to be a showcase of the best of wool classing held at an iconic Australian agricultural event, the Sydney Royal Easter Show.” said Mark Grave, AWEX CEO. “This was the 6<sup>th</sup> running of the National Competition and was the most even to date in terms of high level skills across multiple disciplines. Every year the calibre of the wool classers is lifting which can only be great for the industry.”

All finalists completed the tasks of classing crossbred, medium merino and fine merino wool as well as exercises in AWEX-ID, valuation and an oral presentation to the judges. Georgia demonstrated her all-round ability to class wool and perform under the unique pressured environment of the competition.

“Each year TAFE organisations are asked to nominate their best graduate from the previous year. To be nominated is an honour that has been earned and they are to be congratulated on achieving this recognition.” Said Mark Grave “Each competitor gains valuable experience and feedback on how to improve their skills and apply them as they progress through the wool industry.”



L to R: Sarah Hampshire, Lachlan Moody, Lisa Garsztko, Alan Smith (2<sup>nd</sup>), Fiona Raleigh (AWEX), Georgia Reeves (1<sup>st</sup>), Casey Patterson (3<sup>rd</sup>), Laura Offley and Hayley Baker. Charlie Shadwell (absent)

Australian Wool Exchange Ltd

postal: PO Box 651 North Ryde BC 2113 p: +61 2 9428 6100

address: Unit 12A, 2 Eden Park Drive, Macquarie Park, NSW 2113 f: +61 2 9428 6120

www.awex.com.au





NSW TAFE Wagga and Jenni Turner 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 that education plays in the wool industry and in particular made by trainers and TAFE.” said Mark Grave

Georgia was also the winner of the DAS Campbell prize for the top NSW graduate. This is the 44<sup>th</sup> year of the DAS Campbell award.

The judges of this year’s competition were Mr. Brett Cooper, Australian Wool Network, Mr. John Mills, NSW TAFE and Ms. Fiona Raleigh, AWEX.

The aim of the competition is to recognize excellence in wool classing and education and to lift wool classing’s profile as a profession and career opportunity.

	Competitors	From
	Hayley Baker	Canadian, VIC
	Lisa Garsztko	Bungendore, NSW
3 <sup>rd</sup> & Bronze Stencil \$200.00 Prize money	Casey Patterson	Longford, TAS
	Sarah Hampshire	Modewarre, VIC
	Lachlan Moody	Kimbolton, VIC
	Laura Offley	Crookwell, NSW
1 <sup>st</sup> & Golden Stencil \$500.00 Prize money DAS Campbell Prize	Georgia Reeves	Daysdale, NSW
	Charlie Shadwell	Dubbo, NSW
2 <sup>nd</sup> & Silver Stencil \$300.00 Prize money	Alan Smith,	Gilgandra, NSW

“AWEX has been a proud sponsor of the national wool classing competition since they commenced in 2012. The national competition is the pinnacle competition for graduates and has created additional enthusiasm and profile for wool and the skills of wool classing.” said Mr Grave

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.

For more information on the National Graduate Wool Classing Competition please contact:

Fiona Raleigh, Wool Classer Registrar [fraleigh@awex.com.au](mailto:fraleigh@awex.com.au) p: 02 9428 6144  
Mark Grave, CEO [mgrave@awex.com.au](mailto:mgrave@awex.com.au) p: 02 9428 6100