

# BOARDtalk

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## AWEX 20 YEARS: 1993 - 2013

### Mark Grave, CEO

2013 marks AWEX's 20th year. In 1993 the Australian Wool Exchange Limited, or AWEX as we are now better known amongst woolclassers, was established following the restructure of the Australian wool industry.

The late 1980s and early 1990s was a difficult period for the Australian wool industry and AWEX's role was to assist the new industry structure in the self-regulated environment.

AWEX commenced operation as the key organisation servicing auction sales around Australia, providing the infrastructure, administration services and monitoring wool quality. Today AWEX's prime focus is



Quality Assurance recognising that woolclassers play a critical part in maintaining Australia's reputation of having the best prepared wool in the world.

The introduction of Boardtalk, Masterclasser, Boardtalk to the Bush seminars, and the new

Woolclasser Forums are important steps ensuring that all woolclassers have an opportunity to be informed. The evolution of the Code of Practice, Sheep Breed Compendium and the introduction of WoolClip woolclasser software are examples of the increased professionalism in woolclassing. The continued input from woolclassers regarding wool pack quality and the review of bale fasteners is vital in improving Australian wool industry standards.

**AWEX is proud of what has been achieved and we know that this must continue. We value your feedback and your support.**

## “And the Golden Stencil goes to...”



From Left to Right: John Bassett, 3rd “Bronze Stencil” John Cook, Angus Laurie, 1st “Golden Stencil” Genevieve Butler, Ben Maher, 2nd “Silver Stencil” John Webb.



Mrs Fran Teasdale presenting the “Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy” to Genevieve Butler (1st Place and Golden Stencil).

The 2013 1st place and “Golden Stencil” at the AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Woolclassing Competition was won by Genevieve Butler, Strathlea, Victoria.

The best graduate woolclassers from 2012 were nominated from around Australia to compete for the “Golden Stencil”. This year competitors travelled from across New South Wales and Victoria. This is

the second time the national competition has been held in what is widely regarded as the showcase for woolclassing and for the wool industry.

Mark Grave said “Genevieve was outstanding in completing the tasks of classing crossbred, medium merino and fine merino exercises as well as AWEX-ID, valuation and a spoken presentation to the judges. Genevieve’s all round woolclassing skill and poise 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 trainer Sarah Moran received the Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy awarded to the training organisation and trainer of the winner of the competition. “Woolclassing is a professional qualification and the Dennis Teasdale Trophy recognizes the valuable contribution made by trainers and TAFE to rural education and the wool industry.” For the second year in a row 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 (Mr. Andrew Blanch, New England Wool, Mr. John Mills, NSW TAFE and Mr. David Cother, AWEX) commented on the evenness and high quality of the competitors, which resulted in an extremely close competition.

The competition recognizes excellence in woolclassing and education and aims to lift the profile of woolclassing as a profession and career opportunity. The woolclasser competition at the Royal Easter Show has been running since 2007 with

the National Competition commencing in 2012.

Mark said “NSW TAFE played an integral role in developing the competition with AWEX, taking it from State-based to a National competition.”

“To be nominated is an honour that has been earned and we congratulate each of the woolclassers 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

John COOK	Springvale NSW
Angus LAURIE	Bourke NSW
Ben MAHER	Dubbo NSW
Rhianne ELLIOTT	Glen Innes NSW
John WEBB	Mudgee NSW
John BASSETT	Seymour VIC
Genevieve BUTLER	Strathlea VIC

“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:

Mark Grave, ph. 02 9428 6100 or e. [mgrave@awex.com.au](mailto:mgrave@awex.com.au)

## Search for: AWEX Woolclasser “Ambassador”

AWEX is offering a qualified and motivated woolclasser the opportunity of a lifetime to be the Woolclasser “Ambassador”.

The successful applicant must be able to travel with AWEX staff to China in September 2013 to attend the Nanjing Wool Conference, Training Seminar and to meet with wool processors. The successful Woolclasser “Ambassador” will be required to make a presentation on their role as woolclasser at the Training Seminar and report back to woolclassers through Boardtalk and presentations at Boardtalk Forums.

The Nanjing Conference, China, is the biggest wool industry conference of its type in the world. To meet with our wool processing customers and gain insight into issues that affect them is a tremendous opportunity for a woolclasser.

The Australian woolclasser is vital to the future prospects of the Australian wool industry and maintaining our reputation of having the best prepared wool in the world. As the first step in the wool processing pipeline, it is important that woolclassers understand the needs of wool processors: their customer.

Australia needs wool processors to have a greater understanding of the Australian wool industry and the role that woolclassers play, as trained professionals, in preparing the wool that they process. We have common interests and developing the relationship between processors and woolclassers is about building confidence in each other and the product.

AWEX is making this “Ambassador’s” role available to experienced AW and MC woolclassers who are currently working in the industry and have strong

presentation skills – that is, a good communicator. This exciting opportunity will allow an Australian woolclasser to gain invaluable experience.

Applications are now open and will close on 31 May, 2013. Applications will be accepted in writing or by video footage. All must meet the selection criteria. Applications can be submitted by post or email.

The selection criteria is available on the AWEX website home page: [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au) or by contacting Peter Sudholz on ph. 02 9428 6144 or [psudholz@awex.com.au](mailto:psudholz@awex.com.au)

**All Applications should be submitted to:**  
**Email:** [psudholz@awex.com.au](mailto:psudholz@awex.com.au)

**Post:** Woolclasser Ambassador  
PO Box 651  
North Ryde BC  
NSW 2113



Use [woolsearch.com.au](http://woolsearch.com.au) to find qualified Woolclassers, Shearers and Shed Hands.

- It's free to search and get contact information
- Download Wool Preparation Standards
- Thousands of listings
- Work wanted section
- Easy to use, Search by postcode or town
- Local or interstate



[www.woolcheque.com.au](http://www.woolcheque.com.au)

- FREE Online pricing tool
- Relevant, up to date wool market information
- Simple charts and graphs
- Independently assess prices and trends
- It's quick and easy



**we know wool**

### AWEX HEAD OFFICE

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AWEX is a national organisation of brokers, growers, exporters, processors and private treaty merchants which, in the best interests of the wool industry, provides: Industry standards (wool packs, wool preparation), Clip inspection services, the National Wool Declaration-Integrity Program, Woolclasser registration, Independent market reports, Wool description and appraisal, Wool sale rostering and Wool administration.



## Contamination in Wool

Contamination is an ever present problem in the industry, which is identified at various stages in the wool pipeline. Woolclassers, shed staff and woolgrowers are in the front line and have a responsibility to be vigilant in eliminating contamination during the wool harvesting operation. Recently, the issue of contamination in the wool industry have been raised again and the following articles reflect its impact at different stages.

### In Bale Contamination

Talking about the contamination of the wool clip can bring mixed reactions from various participants in the wool industry. For many wool growers, the word "contamination" can be interpreted as referring to others not themselves or "we have heard it all before". However, for buyers and processors contamination continues to be a real issue, which if not continually confronted can cost many thousands of dollars in processing "down time" and inferior or rejected end products that damage the overall reputation of the Australian Wool Clip.

A recent example of "in bale" contamination was barbed wire discovered in a grab sample (see picture below). If not discovered before the bales of wool are processed, this sort of contamination could have caused major damage to machinery resulting in high costs to the processor and, in turn, the buyer.

Everyone must be diligent in their efforts to keep all parts of the shearing shed, holding yards and paddocks clean to avoid any form of contamination.

Another example of "in bale" contamination that is often over-looked is skin pieces. A large skin piece (as shown below) can also break and damage wool processing equipment such as combs resulting in costly downtime and repairs.

**David Aslett, AWEX Technical Controller - Western Region**



### Wool processing

Wool contamination for Victoria Wool Processors has again become an issue with more articles and issues evident in the past 6/12 months. When we talk contamination, we talk of all aspects from wrongly described / mixed bales of wool to hard evidence of contamination such as hand pieces, bale hooks, rags, lamb boards and drink bottles (see photo at top of middle column). These articles can affect an entire delivery of product or cause substantial damage to the machinery resulting in costs and production downtime, to us the processor, something we would like to avoid.

Also increasingly common are bales containing better lines of wool being "topped up" with a wrong fleece, black wool, skin and stained pieces. Some classers seem to think that

this is a good place to "hide" these problems, but it is the first place we check when we inspect a batch for production. In these cases, if a problem is detected in one bale, all bales in the lot are rejected and are dealt with accordingly.

It is for the above reasons that we open our doors up to all woolclassers so they can see first hand the issues we are faced with and the damage and costs some of these contamination issues can cause.

**Paul Ferronato, Victoria Wool Processors - Wool Trading Manager**



A sample of contamination found in bales at VWP.

### Wool Sampling and Testing- AWTA

On average, the AWTA Ltd laboratory staff find contamination or non-wool material in the samples of four lots each and every week. After further investigation, usually involving the inspection of the wool by emptying the bales, about half of these lots are confirmed to contain contamination.

Contamination is usually identified in the core sample material that has been sub sampled and prepared for Vegetable Matter (VM) identification. This process involves the dissolving the wool in caustic soda. All the wool is dissolved away and any insoluble material, which includes VM and occasionally contamination material, is left behind.

When contamination material has been identified in a sample, the selling broker is advised and an image of the contamination is emailed to the broker as an aid to those searching through the bales. Usually the bales in the offending lot are emptied out one by one and the contents are laboriously combed through by hand. This can often take several hours and has to be done under AWTA supervision to ensure that no wool is removed during the process since this would affect the certified test results and bale weights.

When contamination is found, the contaminant is removed and forwarded to AWEX, along with the details of the offending bale. This allows AWEX to take appropriate action against the owner of the bales and the Wool Classer. Although the AWTA contamination screening process is a free service provided to the industry, an invoice is issued by AWTA for the cost of supervising the search of the bales if contamination is found. There is no charge if contamination is not found.

Typical contamination includes clothing such as shirts (see photo below) or hats, paper and other rubbish, stencils, lamb-bats, rope, shearing paraphernalia, towels and even dog-leads. It should be noted that this screening process is not a fail-safe; it relies on the contamination material being penetrated by a core tube during sampling and then for it to be included in the sub-sampled portion allocated for VM testing.

**Tim Steere, AWTA Sampling Operations Manager - Eastern Australia**



Shirt showing core sampling holes

## 50th Anniversary

**Mark Grave, CEO**

During the recent 2013-15 re-registration, several woolclassers brought to my attention that 2013 is also another special year of recognition. 50 years ago, 1963, marked the first formal year of woolclasser registration. Prior to 1963 woolclassing was both taught and performed in wool sheds across Australia but it wasn't until 1963 that the Australian wool industry introduced a formal registration scheme where woolclassers were recorded and given stencils to place on bales of wool.

AWEX has checked its records and over the next three year registration period, we will have nearly 200 woolclassers who have been continuously registered since 1963 and will achieve the 50 year milestone. This is an outstanding achievement and one that needs to be recognised and celebrated by the entire wool industry.

I have had the good fortune of speaking with a couple of the 50 year club and all are proud of their association with "this great industry" over such a long time. Some of the conversations have been long, all have been colourful and each is passionate about wool.

On behalf of AWEX, all woolclassers and the wool industry both here and overseas, I would like to extend our gratitude and congratulations for the valued contribution that each one of them has made to this industry.

The AWEX Board at their meeting on 25 February 2013 agreed that this occasion must be recognised and AWEX will be sending a memento to each eligible woolclasser on the anniversary of their 50 years of registration.

In future BOARDtalks we will publish the names of woolclassers who are celebrating 50 years of continuous service.

## Get the Mulesing Status Right

It is great that Woolclassers are assisting wool growers to complete the NWD, but you must make sure that the information is correct.

We have had instances where the Classer has completed all of the NWD, including the Mulesing Status, with the grower signing off on it. Unfortunately, the information provided has been incorrect resulting in Non-Compliance.

We encourage Classers to assist the grower to complete the NWD, but make sure the owner/manager is there when you fill it out and also ask them to sign it at the same time. The owner/manager is the only person who knows the history of every mob.

If the owner/manager is not there, only complete the mob detail, do not complete the Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk and Mulesing Status questions.

Also, to make sure every line of wool receives a Mulesing Status, the Woolclasser must complete the Mob Column for both fleece and oddment lines. If the line of wool contains wool from multiple mobs, please list every mob.

**Contact:**

Dr Kerry Hansford p. 03 9318 0277 or  
e. [khansford@awex.com.au](mailto:khansford@awex.com.au)

### CHANGE OF DETAILS?

If you have moved or changed contact details, please advise AWEX Head Office by:

Phone: (02) 9428 6100 Fax: (02) 9428 6120  
or Email: [woolclasser@awex.com.au](mailto:woolclasser@awex.com.au)

Make sure you provide your **full name** and **stencil number** as well as your Postal Address, Phone, Fax and Mobile Numbers and Email Address.

## Events and Training

### BOARDTalk Forum

AWEX will be changing the format of the former "BOARDTALK to the Bush" seminars to a forum format. These high profile forums will be delivered to woolclassers based on a format similar to the successful woolclasser's forum that has been conducted in Bendigo for more than 20 years. The forum includes a guest speaker, panel of 3 wool buyers with open floor questioning and industry update information. The forums will be conducted Saturday mornings from 9.00am to 12.00 noon at various major venues. All woolclassers are invited to attend and ask questions of the wool buyer panel. Please register early for these Forums.

### Masterclasser Courses

Masterclasser courses are a professional development opportunity for Australian Woolclassers. Applicants must be nominated by an industry representative who believes the classer would benefit from attending this program. A classer may be nominated; for example by: a Selling Agent, Auction or Private Buyer, Wool Producer, Shearing Contractor, or Industry/Training Organisations.

#### Woolclassers nominated by industry should have the following attributes:

- Must have been actively woolclassing for the last three years (and intend to continue),
- Must class a minimum of 7 clips or 400 bales per annum,
- Must have the ability and desire to further their wool knowledge, and
- Must demonstrate good character, judgment and capacity for leadership.

#### The Masterclasser course is of 4 days duration focussing on:

- Staff management/supervision skills, strategic thinking and communication techniques,
- Customer requirements (producer, warehouse, broker, buyer, and processor),
- Quality assurance and wool preparation with showfloor lots,
- Building deeper levels of understanding behind the Woolclasser's Code of Practice,
- WoolClip woolclassing software.

#### Nominations close Friday 10th May 2013.

Nomination forms are available from the AWEX website: [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au)  
Peter Sudholz, ph. 02 9428 6100  
e: [psudholz@awex.com.au](mailto:psudholz@awex.com.au)

### Masterclasser Update

This one day workshop is specifically conducted for currently registered Masterclassers. The day includes the WoolClip software workshop on electronic woolclasser specification and shed documentation as well as the 2013-2015 COP update and industry feedback forum. Participants owning a laptop computer are urged to bring it along to the workshop. A workshop is being held at each of the three major wool selling centres. Please register early.

### WoolClip software workshops

WoolClip is an easy to use, Windows based, software database developed by AWEX to record woolshed activity and create reports such as Specification Sheets, Wool Book and Tally Book printouts. Users of Woolclip include:

- The professional Woolclasser,
- Owner (Woolclassers) or Wool Growers,
- Shearing Contractors, and
- Wool Broking staff.

WoolClip software can be used in the home office, in the shearing quarters, or in the woolshed.

The range of modules within WoolClip reflects the differing needs of each user group.

The BASE modules represent the minimum inputs required by the user to create a Specification Sheet, namely:

- Add the Owner (in the Address Book)
- Create the Trading Name (Trading Name)
- Set up the Job (Job)
- Add Mob Records (Mob Book)
- Add Bales to the Wool Book (Wool Book)
- Create one or more Specification(s) for the Job and generate print and/or data files.
- Create one or more Consignment notes for the Job.

The OPTIONAL modules contain other functions that can be used at the discretion of the user. These include Personnel Details, Team Address Book, Tally Book, Time Sheets, QA Checklist, Post Farm Information and Job Statistics Summary.

Training and demonstration workshops will commence in 2013, please register early as limited places are available. Support is available via phone, email and website. The software is available free of charge to registered woolclassers.

#### For more information:

David Cother, ph. 02 9428 6100  
e. [dcother@awex.com.au](mailto:dcother@awex.com.au)

## Understanding AWEX-ID

The Australian Wool Exchange Industry Description (AWEX-ID) is a system introduced as a method of recording subjective appraisal and non-measured characteristics of greasy wool. It is a simple, intuitive and logical reporting system based on universal descriptive principles. The AWEX-ID is applied to sale lots of wool by AWEX Auditors when the grab sample is appraised in the sale boxes on the show floor pre-sale.

Increasingly AWEX is receiving calls from woolclassers when they receive a Clip Inspection Report (CIR) inquiring about the reasons behind the CIR. This can be easily determined by analysing the AWEX-ID applied to the lot.

The AWEX-ID chart is located on page 118 of the 2013-2015 Code of Practice and also available on the AWEX website at [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au)

Below are two examples of an AWEX-ID; please use your AWEX-ID chart to follow the explanations.

**XNF5S.100H1U2** - this lot is crossbred (X), non-conforming (N), fleece (F), good style (5), predominant vegetable matter is shive (S). This lot has not been additionally measured for length, length average is 100mm, (100), light unscourable colour (H1; H=unscourable colour, 1=scale, light), medium sweat/frib/skirting (U2; U= unskirted, 2=scale, medium)..

**Note:** This is a non-conforming lot as it is obviously from a crossbred clip where the fleeces have not been skirted. The classers stencil should not be placed on this wool. D certification (not classed to COP) would be applied to the lot.

**MP6B.S1Q1C2** - this lot is merino (M), pieces (P), inferior style (6), predominant vegetable matter is burr (B). The line has light stain (S1; S=stain, 1=scale, light), light dags (Q1; Q=dags, 1=scale, light), medium cotted (C2; C=cotted medium/hard, 2=scale, medium).

#### Further information:

Peter Sudholz, ph. 02 9428 6100  
e: [psudholz@awex.com.au](mailto:psudholz@awex.com.au)

## Bale Descriptions

There has been an increase in the use of AAA as a standalone bale description without the noting of any breed group, particularly when describing crossbred adult and lambs wool. For example:

- AAA used to describe adult crossbred wool.
- AAA LMS used to describe crossbred lambs

The use of the AAA descriptor as a stand-alone description is **not** a recognised branding description ie. code without the breed group, and consequently registered classers have been receiving letters from AWEX advising them of an alternative description. Commercial reasons as to why the AAA description is being recommended have been cited; however, woolclassers are obliged to adhere to the descriptions detailed on the Code of Practice.

Woolclassers are also reminded that the mixing of pieces and bellies is not permitted in adult and weaner wool. Additionally, the use of a description such as P&B is not a recognised bale description. In both these instances, woolclassers will be contacted by the AWEX through the Clip Inspection Report. Note: it is permissible to mix pieces and bellies in lambs wool only, with the appropriate bale descriptions as documented in the Code of Practice.

Generally, where a classer is advised to use a bale description or prepare wool in a manner that is contrary to the Code of Practice, it is recommended that he/she contact AWEX for clarification.

#### For more information:

David Williams, ph. 03 9318 0277 or  
e. [dwilliams@awex.com.au](mailto:dwilliams@awex.com.au)

## AWEX Review of the Wool Pack Standard



The AWEX Wool Pack trials, which were reported in previous editions of BOARDtalk, are now in their final stage. These trials were conducted to see if modifications to the Australian Wool Pack Standard could reduce the incidence of over-length bales.

The outcomes from the trials found that bale length is significantly reduced if the following changes are made to the Pack Standard:

- If the Bale Fastening Guide (BFG) is used, and
- If 4 seams are used at the base of the pack (compared to 2 seams).

These two changes reduce the bulge at the head and base of the bale, respectively.

The final trial, that is currently underway, is designed to evaluate the sewing method required to produce a "4 seamed base". That is, do 4 seams achieved by sewing two "pinch pleats" across the long panel of the packs produce a better result compared to a 4 seamed pack achieved by sewing a separate panel on the base of the pack.

The significant outcomes for the trials related to other factors are that:

- If the box length of the press is too long, the likelihood of a longer bale length is increased.

- However, if the box length is reduced through the use of a raised floor, the bale length is decreased.

The Industry Services Advisory Committee and the AWEX Board will finalise changes to the Australian Wool Pack Standard (Bale Fastening Guide and 4 seam base), and in addition will make recommendations on the dimensions of the press box to produce bales that can achieve a 1250 mm length. This information will be provided to:

- wool press manufacturers (for their use in the production of new wool presses), and
- growers wishing to reduce the length of the box of their current press (by adding a raised floor).

It is anticipated that these changes will be implemented in the first half of 2013.

#### Further information:

Kerry Hansford, ph. 03 9318 0277  
e. [khansford@awex.com.au](mailto:khansford@awex.com.au)

Mark Grave, ph. 02 9428 6100 e. [mgrave@awex.com.au](mailto:mgrave@awex.com.au)



## Auction Action

Although some time has passed since the last "Auction Action" article in June/July last year, coincidentally the market is at similar levels for most types. It has been somewhat of a roller-coaster ride; however, with the market at that time still in a downward trend, which continued for the following few months before bottoming out in August/September 2012. At that stage, the market had been falling for 14 months and had lost almost 500 cents (as measured by the AWEX-EMI) or 35% from the peak. The finer microns had enjoyed the largest gains on the way up, but were punished on the way down. As an indication, the 17 Micron Price Guide (MPG)

more than doubled (+104%) over an 11-month period during late 2010/early 2011, before halving (-50%) over the following 14 months to close at a similar level prior to the bull market. Compare that to the 21 MPG which rose 74% followed by a 32% fall, resulting in a net increase of 18% when compared to pre-rally levels. Since bottoming out in early Spring, the market has made significant gains with prices close to 200 cents higher. Often in a rising market the finer types will outperform the broader categories; however, the recent increases have been fairly consistent across the Merino spectrum as both the fine and broader types have all risen by similar amounts. Crossbreds have been a different prospect and the 28 MPG has recorded a more modest gain

of 80 cents clean. Coming off a lower base the rise equates to 15%, still short of the Merino gains of 20%. Leading the way has been the Merino Carding Indicator which has jumped 50% in six months. At times the Carding market can be a "first mover" with other sectors following suit at a later date. In the current rally, this was clearly the case with the fleece types moving ahead some six weeks after the Carding types started to move. The rally in the Carding Market Indicator still appears to be in full swing, which is a positive sign to the rest of the market.

**For more information:**

Lionel Plunkett, ph. 02 9428 6136 or [lplunkett@awex.com.au](mailto:lplunkett@awex.com.au)

04  
April  
13



### AWEX EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
April 17	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	Illawarra TAFE, Verner St, Goulburn NSW
April 17	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	CYOC TAFE, 59 Fortune St, Narrogin WA
April 18	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	CYOC TAFE, 1 Hutt St, Northam WA
April 18	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	Riverina TAFE, Coolamon Rd, North Wagga NSW
April 19	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	CYOC TAFE, 242 Berkshire Valley Rd, Moora WA
April 23	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	A&P Society Room, Kings Park, Seymour VIC
April 24	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	RSL Club, 114 Rankin St, Bathurst NSW
May 2	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	New England TAFE, 219 Taylor St, Armidale NSW
May 3	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	West. Institute TAFE, Naromine Rd, Dubbo NSW
May 4	9am-12 noon	BOARDTalk Forum	West. Institute TAFE, Naromine Rd, Dubbo NSW
May 7	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	Uni Ball. Pr. Ind. Tr. Centre, Mt Rowan, Ballarat VIC
May 9	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	Longerenong College, Dooen, via Horsham VIC
May 13	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	TAFE SA, 19 Gordon St, Naracoorte SA
May 23	1-4pm	WoolClip Workshop	TAFE SA, 52 Swanport Rd Murray Bridge SA
May 24	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	Community & Sports Club, Smelts Rd, Burra SA
May 25	9am-12 noon	BOARDTalk Forum	Community & Sports Club, Smelts Rd, Burra SA
May 31	9am -12 noon	WoolClip Workshop	Town Hall, Midland Highway, Campbell Town TAS
June 3-6	9am-5pm	Masterclasser Course	Yennora Wool Centre, Dennistoun Ave, Guildford NSW
June 7	9am-4pm	Masterclasser Update	Yennora Wool Centre, Dennistoun Ave, Guildford NSW
June 21	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	Grt. Sth. Inst. TAFE, 9 Dore St, Katanning WA
June 22	9am-12 noon	BOARDTalk Forum	Function Centre, 4 Pemble St, Katanning WA
June 24-27	9am-5pm	Masterclasser Course	Western Wool Centre, Sudlow Rd, Bibra Lake WA
June 28	9am-4pm	Masterclasser Update	Western Wool Centre, Sudlow Rd, Bibra Lake WA
July 8-11	9am-5pm	Masterclasser Course	Southern Wool Centre, Frederick St, Brooklyn VIC
July 12	9am-4pm	Masterclasser Update	Southern Wool Centre, Frederick St, Brooklyn VIC
August 23	1-4pm, 6-9pm	WoolClip Workshop	Sth West TAFE, Hammond St, Hamilton VIC
August 24	9am-12 noon	BOARDTalk Forum	Hamilton Golf Club, 170 Rippon Rd, Hamilton VIC

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE EVENT RESPONSE FORM INSERT

## AWEX to Develop Bale Fastener Standard

Feedback from classers and other industry personnel has raised numerous issues with the performance of bale fasteners currently available in Australia. These issues were also found during the conduct of the AWEX Wool Pack Trials where bale fasteners bent before they could be inserted at the Bale Fastening Guide.

### AWEX aims to develop a Standard for bale fasteners given that:

- The performance of bale fasteners can contribute to the issue of over-length bales,
- There is the possibility of injury through the use of poor quality bale fasteners as they move throughout the wool pipeline (i.e. on-farm, during transport, in wool store, and at the processing mill), and
- A standard will improve the overall performance of bale fasteners and allow easy identification of approved brands that are fit for purpose.

### Key complaints about bale fasteners

1. Breaking under pressure,
2. Bending,
3. Burred edges,
4. Angles on points incorrectly cut, and
5. Non-standard dimensions.

Contact has been established with the manufacturers and they are supportive of a Bale Fastener Standard.

Following further consultation with industry and manufacturers, a Bale Fastener Standard will be developed to be considered by ISAC and the AWEX Board.

### For more information:

Kerry Hansford, ph. 03 9318 0277 or  
e. [khansford@awex.com.au](mailto:khansford@awex.com.au)

### Correction/Addition to the Code of Practice 2013-2015

On page 108 of the Code of Practice the following information for the **SOUTHDOWN** breed is missing:

PIG. CAT. (Y)	LOW
MED. CAT. (K)	HIGH

### PLEASE WRITE IT IN YOUR COPY

These values are unchanged from the previous edition of the COP and Sheep Breed Compendium.

## NWCG: National Woolclasser Consultative Group

### Expression of Interest required

The NWCG is an advisory group convened by AWEX to advise, or be consulted on, matters relating to administration, standards and delivery of services to woolclassers and/or woolclassing in Australia. This group consists of membership from all states and meets via teleconference, as required.

Currently, there are two vacant positions on this group that AWEX is seeking to fill; one representative from Queensland and one from Western Australia. Applications are invited from suitably experienced classers to fill these two vacancies. Interested applicants must complete an Expression of Interest Form; applications close 19th April 2013.

### For Expression of Interest Form and further information:

Peter Sudholz ph.02 9428 6144  
e. [psudholz@awex.com.au](mailto:psudholz@awex.com.au)

## Minimum Bale Weight

Woolclassers are reminded that the minimum gross bale weight is **110 kg**.

The only exception to this is where a bale is (to be offered as) a **single bale line of specialty style adult fleece wool finer than 18.5 micron (Superfine)**, which can be a minimum gross weight of 90 kg.

Light and underweight bales will add unnecessary additional handling costs to the pipeline. Underweight bales are a safety hazard in a warehouse and transport environment when stacking and handling.

Please read page 85 and 86 of the 2013-15 Woolclassing Code of Practice for Bale Weight rules. **Ensure your woolpresser is aware of both the maximum (204 kg) and minimum bale weights.**



# EVENT RESPONSE FORM

Name: .....

Phone: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

<b>Stencil Number:</b>  
<b>MUST BE SUPPLIED</b>

**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY** (you may register for more than one event)

<i>(✓ tick box)</i>	<i>(please complete)</i>	Date:	Time:
I will be attending: <input type="checkbox"/> <b>BOARDTALK Forum</b>	Venue:		
I wish to register for: <input type="checkbox"/> <b>WoolClip Software Workshop</b>	Venue:		
I wish to register for: <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Masterclasser Update</b> <i>(existing Masterclassers only)</i>	Venue:		
I wish to be considered for: <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Masterclasser Course</b>	Venue:		

**COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SEND BACK VIA:**

**MAIL TO:** AWEX, PO Box 651, North Ryde BC, NSW 2113

**FAX:** 02 9428 6120

**EMAIL:** woolclasser@awex.com.au