

BOARDtalk

2014 "Golden Stencil" National Graduate Woolclasser Competition



Left to right: Shireen Mond (second, silver stencil), Scott Austen (fifth), Ally Horan (first, gold stencil), Jake Walkom (fourth) and Clare Price (third, bronze stencil)

The 2014 AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Woolclasser Competition was held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Wednesday 16th April. This is the third time the competition has been held which brings together the best 2013 graduate woolclassers from across Australia to compete for the "Golden Stencil". The competition was first held as a NSW/QLD competition in 2007 and due to its success became a national competition in 2012. The AWEX/TAFE competition has proven to be a showcase for woolclassing and the wool industry.

This year competitors travelled from West Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria to vie for the coveted "Golden Stencil". This year's winner of the competition and "Golden Stencil" is Ally Horan from Goulburn, NSW. Ally completed the tasks of classing crossbred, medium merino and fine merino exercises as well as AWEX-ID, valuation and oral presentation to the judges. Ally demonstrated an all-round ability to class wool of all types under the pressure of the competition.

Ally graduated from TAFE NSW - Illiwarra Institute and was trained by Greg Bush and Alex Wilson.

Second place and "Silver Stencil" was awarded to Shireen Mond, Bathurst, NSW. Trained at TAFE NSW - Western Institute, Dubbo.

Third place and "Bronze Stencil" was awarded to Clare Price, Broadwater, VIC. Trained at Rural Industries Skills Training, Hamilton.

Ally Horan was also the winner of the DAS Campbell

prize for the top NSW graduate. This is the 41st year of the DAS Campbell award.

The TAFE NSW - Illiwarra Institute and trainers Greg and Alex received the Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy awarded to the training organisation and trainers 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. This is the first time that a New South Wales graduate and training organisation have taken out the coveted titles.



Presentation of the "Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy" (left to right) Greg Bush, Mrs Fran Teasdale, Alex Wilson.

The judges of this year's competition were Mr. Rowan Woods, Jemalong Wool, Mr. John Mills, TAFE NSW and Mr. Peter Sudholz, AWEX. Judges commented on the evenness of the competition this year and said that all graduates had strengths that will hold them in good stead for their future in wool.

The RAS Easter Show is a world class and iconic event in Australian agriculture. The sustained pressure of the competition over 6 hours is what sets this competition apart from anything else on the industry calendar.

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.

The competition would not be possible without the support and encouragement of AWEX, TAFE NSW and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. TAFE NSW has been integral in developing the

competition with AWEX from a state based competition to a competition at a National level. Each year TAFE organisations are asked to nominate their best graduate 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

Lester POULTNEY	MUKINBUDIN, WA
Stevie-Ray PAUL	BROKEN HILL, NSW
Clare PRICE	BROADWATER, VIC
Rachel WOOD	GOLDEN SQUARE, VIC
Justine DOUGLAS	ARARAT, VIC
Catherine WORNER	WEST WYALONG, NSW
Ally HORAN	GOULBURN, NSW
Jake WALKOM	BLAYNEY, NSW
Emily BOWLER	TAMWORTH, NSW
Scott AUSTEN	TARANA, NSW
Shireen MONDS	BATHURST, NSW

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:

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Bale Weight Review

AWEX, through ISAC, will be meeting to review bale weights on 16th May.

The review is in response to a meeting of industry representatives, called by ACWEP and PTWMA in March, where concerns about issues arising from low bale weights were raised.

The key concerns raised by ACWEP & PTWMA were:

1. Work Health and Safety concerns when handling/stacking in warehouses,
2. Greater difficulties in core and grab sampling,
3. Work Health and Safety concerns when handling during transporting, and
4. Higher costs when per bale charges are converted to a per kilogram basis.

A number of additional views were expressed with respect to bale weights, including:

1. Current concerns about the number and cost of handling overweight bales,
2. Whether the minimum bale weight should be increased,



Always press to correct weight

3. Whether the maximum bale weight should be increased,
4. A relevance of the criteria for the 'Speciality Superfine Fleece' minimum bale weight,
5. The need to preserve the current bale weight average for dumping purposes,
6. The need to improve wool pressing on all bales,
7. The need to maintain wool preparation quality,

8. The need to improve the communication and awareness of industry issues.

The meeting overwhelmingly supported that a review of bale weights MUST NOT impact on the quality of wool preparation and that it is essential to increase the awareness about industry concerns of industry and how improvements might be achieved.

The purpose of the review is to consider whether a change to minimum and/or maximum bale weights would generate efficiencies through the supply chain and reduce the risk of Workplace Health and Safety events.

AWEX will continue to update Facebook and Boardtalk on all developments and progress on this issue.

If you would like to know more about this matter, discuss your views or raise any issues for consideration please contact AWEX, CEO Mark Grave.

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WoolClip

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we know wool

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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.



Woolclasser Ambassador Report

Dear fellow Woolclassers,

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank AWEX for offering the position of Ambassador.

After a few days without our luggage we managed to settle into our routine of visiting wool processors, flights, hotels and official meetings, which included Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and the Australian Embassy in Beijing.

The first major port of call was the China International Wool Conference in Suzhou, where many of the heavy weights in the industry from around the world gave key note talks on the future direction of wool, including such topics as supply, price and quality.



"Inspecting wool top in the showroom of Australian Harvest, Zhangjiagang, China".

This was very interesting and one could get the feeling of the enormity of the wool trade and the important part we play in it as woolclassers.

After we see the bale closed off in the shearing shed, it's not opened again until it's dropped into the hopper for washing/scouring, so we had better get it right!!

Being introduced as the Australian Woolclasser Ambassador, I was surprised at how welcome I was made to feel by all the processors I met and how interested they are in what woolclassers do. They understand that our role is about quality.

Between the conference and the training seminar, which was held in Nanjing, we had organised visits to a number of textile mills to see the steps that are taken to process greasy wool right through to the finished garment. Some mills just specialise in one process while others such as Sunshine and Australian Harvest do a lot of vertical integration including doing their own retail. The owners and managers openly discussed the issues that affect them and what their customers demand. They're very proud of their companies.

I suppose the pointy end of the stick came when we were visiting the Tianyu mill where the quality control officer asked me if I was the Australian Woolclasser Ambassador, upon which I replied "Yes". Within minutes the lady came back with bags and bags of foreign objects (contamination) found during processing. To say I was a little embarrassed

would be an understatement. I know the message is broadcast to us loud and clear but after seeing the objects with my own eyes I had to ask myself is the message really sinking in? This problem has been around for as long as I can remember but the ball is truly in our court.

Let's see if we make those contamination boxes in China empty, which will give our major customers even more confidence in buying the best apparel wool in the world.

The training seminar in Nanjing was both interesting and entertaining. We had a couple of unskirted fleeces there to demonstrate both skirting and classing techniques and I made a presentation to explain what woolclassers did and what happens during shearing. We showed some footage of a recent shed where I had classed, showing the progress of the sheep from being mustered, shedded, shorn and the wool being classed and pressed. I had many questions about the role of each person in the shed and for many, this was the first time they had seen an Australian farm and shearing shed in full flight.

All in all, the trip was very informative and friendly and I would encourage anyone to visit the country and; if possible, get an insight into the wool and textile industry. Keep up the great work we do as classers and let's see if we can make it even better because what we do really matters.

Regards **Phill Kennedy**

02
May
14

Congratulations classers!

Well done classers, AWEX auditors have noticed a marked improvement in the application of AWEX Bale descriptions by woolclassers since the mandatory breed group descriptor was introduced into the bale branding code several years ago. The accurate description of wool and the branding of bales, "truth in labelling", is of critical importance to all stakeholders in the wool industry.

Reminder: there remains a small number of individuals as well as some wool broker classing houses who continue to describe and brand bales with sub-standard or non-conforming descriptions (also see article in this edition: *Bale Descriptions - Comeback not Merino*).

The Bale Description section of the Code of Practice (see p. 41) clearly outlines how best to describe the various

lines of wool. The breed group descriptor (or code) is mandatory and must be applied as part of the description on all lines of wool. Woolclassers should note that a bale description of AAA alone is not acceptable. It must be accompanied by a breed group; for example, AAA M or AAA FX or AAA SM etc. Similarly, breed codes are mandatory for all non-fleece wools.

Another issue is the misuse of bale descriptions on the 2nd or 3rd lines of Merino Lambs wool in a clip, where the lowest line of Lambs described as "AA M LMS" contains skirtings, pieces, sweat and frib. Note, in some cases, "A M LMS" is used but it should be noted that this is not a valid description. Woolclassers are reminded that the use of "AAA M LMS" or "AA M LMS" signifies that the lot is a Lambs fleece line and that all the skirtings have been removed.

If a Lambs fleece line contains excessive skirtings, the lots will be audited as "Non Conforming". Any 2nd or 3rd line of Lambs, which includes the shortest lambs pick, pieces and frib, should always be described as "M LPCS". Note, these errors in description and branding have also occurred in Crossbred Lambs lines, they also need to be corrected.

Woolclassers can avoid breaches of the Code of Practice by following these simple rules and applying the methodologies and practices outlined in the Woolclassing Code of Practice.

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Australian Woolclasser Stencil Rules for Correct Use On Farm

Australian Woolclassers (AW), who have a relationship with a commercial wool buying, brokering, handling or private treaty merchant, should take note of the rules for the correct use of an AW stencil.

The Rules for Woolclasser Registration (3.4.3) states: "An AW must ensure that all greasy wool bales carrying his or her Woolclasser ID Number (stamp or stencil) have been prepared by him or her on farm and comply with the requirements contained in the Code of Practice".

Section 5 of the Rules – "Verification of Presence of Woolclasser on Farm" outlines the rules where a relationship exists between the registered classer and a commercial wool buying, wool broking, wool handling or private treaty merchant. Rule 5.2 states: "Where a relationship exists, the woolclasser shall be required to keep a copy of all Classer's Specification sheets (of wool declared and classed by them) along with the wool grower's name and contact details".

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Bale Descriptions Comeback not Merino

Southern Region auditors are coming across Comeback and Crossbred wool that is being described using the Merino breed code (M). These wools may have a diameter (or micron) measurement that falls into the Merino range but they display Comeback (or Crossbred) characteristics. In these circumstances, they must be described using the appropriate breed group; that is: AAA CBK, CBK PCS, etc.

Wool in this category is audited as Comeback (or Crossbred) and the bale description is considered "non-conforming" if M is used. If the incorrect breed code is used, the woolclasser will receive a letter from AWEX asking why the M breed code was used.

The full list of breeds and their breed codes are listed in the Code of Practice Appendices (pp. 106 - 109). In this section, the pigmented and medullated fibre risk is noted against the breeds. For example, Merino wool is considered very low risk and the use of the M breed group

recognises this. On the other hand, Comebacks and Crossbreds have a higher risk of containing pigmented and/or medullated fibre; and therefore, the appropriate Comeback or Crossbred breed code must be used in the bale description.

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WOOLCLASSER 50 YEAR HONOUR ROLL Registered 1963

AW	A	Ahyee	EAGLE POINT	VIC	AW	W	Hudson	WEERING	VIC	AW	H	Nightingale	ROCKLEY	NSW
AW	G	Allen	TEESDALE	VIC	AW	G	Hulme	URANA	NSW	AW	K	Norri e	GRENFELL	NSW
AW	B	Alty	MERRIWAGGA	NSW	AW	B	Hunt	MURRURUNDI	NSW	AW	B	O'Brien	BELMONT	VIC
AW	R	Anderson	CROOKWELL	NSW	AW	R	Jackman	HORSHAM	VIC	AW	D	Parham	HAMILTON	VIC
AW	P	Anderson	ALBURY	NSW	AW	T	Jenkyn	LOCKHART	NSW	AW	W	Pearson	BROKEN HILL	NSW
AW	L	Austerberry	ST ARNAUD	VIC	AW	N	Johnson	GUNNING	NSW	AW	M	Perry	NAGAMBIE	VIC
AW	L	Baker	ORANGE	NSW	AW	J	Jones	RAND	NSW	AW	G	Phillips	TATYOON	VIC
AW	C	Baker	GRENFELL	NSW	AW	I	Jones	GEELONG	VIC	AW	B	Phillips	BANNOCKBURN	VIC
AW	J	Battye	Victor Harbour	SA	AW	J	Keating	LISMORE	VIC	AW	J	Pirie	MUDGEES	NSW
AW	A	Bennett	WELLINGTON	NSW	AW	B	Keefe	CONDOBOLIN	NSW	AW	L	Pitcher	BALLARAT	VIC
AW	R	Betheras	GLENTHOMPSON	VIC	AW	W	Kember OAM	GANMAIN	NSW	AW	T	Pridham	NARACOORTE	SA
AW	W	Binnie	BUNGEET	VIC	AW	R	Kingston	EUGOWRA	NSW	AW	A	Rizzi	TAMWORTH	NSW
AW	K	Bloom	HAMILTON	VIC	AW	M	Knight	LAKE BOLAC	VIC	AW	C	Rusden	LAUNCESTON	TAS
AW	R	Bloomfield	LYNDHURST	NSW	AW	W	Knights	ST ARNAUD	VIC	AW	J	Russell	ADAMINABY	NSW
AW	N	Bonnett	SORELL	TAS	AW	K	Lamph	GLEN INNES	NSW	AW	M	Saines	MONTEAGLE	NSW
AW	K	Bridgewater	PORTLAND	VIC	AW	A	Lawton	GUNNING	NSW	AW	R	Schweitzer	AUGATHELLA	QLD
AW	G	Bruce	CUMNOCK	NSW	AW	P	Leahy	COOTAMUNDRA	NSW	AW	C	Sharpe	LINTON	VIC
AW	J	Bruckner	COLLINGULLIE	NSW	AW	I	Letchford	CHURCH POINT	NSW	AW	A	Sheridan	BENGWORDEN	VIC
AW	G	Burgess	APSLEY	VIC	AW	I	Lewis	INDENTED HEAD	VIC	AW	W	Sieler	MARULAN	NSW
AW	A	Burnie	WIRRIMAH	NSW	AW	R	Lightfoot	NAPOLEONS	VIC	AW	R	Simpson	BERRIWILLOCK	VIC
AW	A	Campeato	HORSHAM	VIC	AW	C	Lindores	ST GEORGE	QLD	AW	W	Smith	HARDEN	NSW
AW	B	Clarke	DUBBO	NSW	AW	D	Lumsden	OMEEO	VIC	AW	G	Smith	MEREDITH	VIC
AW	I	Clarke	JINGELIC	NSW	AW	M	MacPherson	STAWELL	VIC	AW	C	Spackman	BOOROWA	NSW
AW	R	Condon	THE ROCK	NSW	AW	J	Marks	GILGANDRA	NSW	AW	A	Terlich	TABLE TOP	NSW
AW	I	Cuming	TATONG	VIC	AW	G	Marple	BENALLA	VIC	AW	K	Thomas	STAWELL	VIC
AW	B	Davis	MURRUMBURRAH	NSW	AW	J	Marsh	BOREE CREEK	NSW	AW	P	Thompson	BOOROWA	NSW
AW	B	Davis	COONAWARRA	SA	AW	R	Matthews	BLAYNEY	NSW	AW	I	Tiver	YUNTA	SA
AW	B	Dugan	NARROMINE	NSW	AW	G	McCann	CERES	VIC	AW	T	Tomlins	DUBBO	NSW
AW	G	Ferguson	NIMMITABEL	NSW	AW	B	McCarron	CUNNAMULLA	QLD	AW	J	Tomlinson	YARRIE LAKE	NSW
AW	P	Fitzgerald	HARROW	VIC	AW	L	McConachy	WINCHELSEA	VIC	AW	K	Toole	BATHURST	NSW
AW	D	Foster	KOORINGAL	NSW	AW	K	McCrabb	WANGANELLA	NSW	AW	A	Toole	BATHURST	NSW
AW	M	Galvin	HOLBROOK	NSW	AW	D	McInnes	GOULBURN	NSW	AW	J	Toole	ROCKLEY	NSW
AW	J	Gay	REIDS FLAT	NSW	AW	G	Mcintyre	NARROMINE	NSW	AW	F	Tuddenham	HERNE HILL	VIC
AW	B	Golland	QUIRINDI	NSW	AW	J	McRae	WOLLOMOMBI	NSW	AW	C	Wales	SEYMOUR	VIC
AW	K	Granger	MUMMEL	NSW	AW	D	Mills	FRANCES	SA	AW	J	Walmsley	GRENFELL	NSW
AW	J	Grosse	WALLA WALLA	NSW	AW	R	Mills	TERANG	VIC	AW	J	Walsh	DALTON	NSW
AW	E	Haddrill	TEMORA	NSW	AW	R	Mitton	BUMBALDRY	NSW	AW	R	Wise	THE ROCK	NSW
AW	H	Hagan	TOOBORAC	VIC	AW	R	Moodie-Hedde	KERANG	VIC	AW	M	Wyatt	CULCAIRN	NSW
AW	K	Hamer	PERTHVILLE	NSW	AW	A	Moore	MUDGEES	NSW	AW	G	Young	BUNDARRA	NSW
AW	F	Harrop	GOORNONG	VIC	AW	J	Muller	HALLS GAP	VIC	OC	V	Hosking	Walcha	NSW
AW	A	Hart	OLD JUNEE	NSW	AW	K	Mulligan	GUYRA	NSW	OC	R	McGeoch	WAGGA WAGGA	NSW
AW	R	Hatty	MATONG	NSW	AW	D	Murchie	WALCHA	NSW	CA	R	Gorey	GERALDTON	WA
AW	W	Haydon	GOOLOOGONG	NSW	AW	R	Nelson	TEMORA	NSW	CA	B	Laming	BUDDINA	QLD
AW	R	Heley	SWAN HILL	VIC	AW	E	Nicholls	KOOROOCHANG	VIC	CA	I	Stringer	BAIRNSDALE	VIC
AW	M	Hicks	COOTAMUNDRA	NSW	AW	A	Nicholson	NEW NORFOLK	TAS	CA	R	Webster	BOOROWA	NSW
AW	W	Honner	JUNEE	NSW	AW	R	Nicol	MANNIBADAR	VIC					
AW	I	Hucker	LAKE BOLAC	VIC	AW	D	Nietschke	NURIOOTPA	SA					

WOOLCLASSER 50 YEAR HONOUR ROLL Registered 1964

AW	R	Ballard	CURRABUBULA	NSW	AW	B	Keen	GUNNEDAH	NSW	AW	B	Murphy	ORANGE	NSW
AW	F	Bates	SOUTH WEST ROCKS	NSW	AW	P	King	CANOWINDRA	NSW	AW	N	Musgrove	THE ROCK	NSW
AW	P	Cameron	DUNKELD	VIC	AW	P	Kokalis	NEWTOWN	VIC	AW	I	Peters	CHEWTON	VIC
AW	P	Carslake	KINGSTON SE	SA	AW	R	Lyons	EUCHAREENA	NSW	AW	L	Pola	ST GEORGE	QLD
AW	W	Chalmers	DENILQUIN	NSW	AW	B	Lyons	LAKE CATHIE	NSW	AW	N	Robinson	NIMMITABEL	NSW
AW	B	Christopher	MANSFIELD	VIC	AW	N	Maberly	GUNNING	NSW	AW	A	Simmons	TRUNDLE	NSW
AW	R	Copper	MERRYGOEN	NSW	AW	D	Manwaring	CONDOBOLIN	NSW	AW	W	Tyrer	DEANS MARSH	VIC
AW	B	Cordy	CAVENDISH	VIC	AW	G	Matchett	HERMIDALE	NSW	AW	B	Ward	COOTAMUNDRA	NSW
AW	R	Cummins	CROOKWELL	NSW	AW	P	Mathews	WERNETH	VIC	AW	H	Wells	AUBIN GROVE	WA
AW	A	Curtis	COOLUM BEACH	QLD	AW	T	McCleary	PARKES	NSW	AW	W	Worland	TULLIBIGEAL	NSW
AW	A	Edgcumbe	MILLICENT	SA	AW	I	McDonald	KANIVA	VIC	AW	W	Zweck	HENTY	NSW
AW	L	Finlay	STANTHORPE	QLD	AW	D	McIntyre	PEAK HILL	NSW	CA	G	Booley	GHERINGHAP	VIC
AW	K	Gleeson	YERONG CREEK	NSW	AW	J	McLean	DUBBO	NSW	CA	T	Oddie	BEAUFORT	VIC
AW	N	Hann	GORAE WEST	VIC	AW	R	Meecham	DANDARAGAN	WA	CA	P	Rose	ARMIDALE	NSW
AW	L	Hines	ST ARNAUD	VIC	AW	R	Mizzen	KOOROOCHANG	VIC					

Congratulations to all of our 50 Year Woolclassers for your continued commitment and valued contribution to the Australian wool industry.



50 Years of Woolclassing...

...well not exactly. 2013 was the 50th anniversary of the first year of woolclasser registration but it was not the first year of woolclassing. The wool industry has been very fortunate that during the early 1960's the education and training of woolclassers was considered so strategic to the future of wool that woolclassers were able to receive formal recognition of their skills and their qualifications for those that had completed the woolclassing course.

Woolclassing courses back then were a four year course with many having to travel to colleges to learn because flexible options available today were not available then. Of the 179 woolclassers who have now reached this fantastic milestone, I have been fortunate to have spoken to nearly half and most have reminded me that they were classing well before 1963. We have woolclassers who began their craft in the mid-1950's, learning their trade by

travelling for months on end across the country and most started as rouse-abouters and have completed nearly every job possible in the wool shed.

Many recounted with absolute clarity the characters they met and had worked with and the significant changes they have seen, such as the use of hydraulic wool presses, wide combs, the changes in the type of sheep that come across the board. Most remember their trainers names and how they looked up to them as experts of the day. All speak with passion about an industry they love and tell of how privileged they feel to have been a (small) part of it. "The industry has been good to me", was said often in our conversations but overwhelmingly they were humble.

AWEX is privileged to be in the position of being able to recognise woolclassers that have achieved the 50 year milestone and in so doing they have given so much over such a long period of time. The most common response was how surprised and proud they were to be recognised and yes, they wanted to use their '50 Year' stencil as a badge of honour and I suspect as subtle bragging rights.

The history of how the first woolclasser's stencils were allocated has a few gaps but it seems that initially they were given in batches depending on the state and region you lived. The first stencils, so I am told, were a letter and 3 numbers e.g. A325. Wisely, the Wool Board (back then) decided not to have an A1 stencil because everyone wanted to be A1 and many would think this was given to the best woolclasser in the country. Regardless it started a wonderful history and a rich heritage for this industry. One we must never forget.

I received a photo (attached) from 50 year woolclasser, Fred Tuddenham, Herne Hill, VIC. Fred said that the photo is of his father with one of the first bales bearing a 'new' woolclassers stencil. I have not seen one of the old stencils yet but I am assured that they are still lying in the back of

the shed somewhere. If anyone has an old stencil or a photo they would like to share please send it to me care of AWEX. The other pleasing part of this anniversary is the way in which fellow woolclassers and the general wool industry have embraced this recognition. It validates the confidence we have in woolclassing and woolclassers. From the Chairman and Board of AWEX, AWEX staff and Members, Buyers, Sellers and Growers a sincere congratulations and appreciation to all 50 Year woolclassers and AWEX will continue this recognition.

Finally, AWEX has published on Facebook the names of those who were first registered in 1963 & 1964 to have a look go to <https://www.facebook.com/woolexchange> also the insert page in this edition of Boardtalk is to highlight how important these woolclassers are to the wool industry.

For Further Information:

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50 years of Woolclasser Registration (2013)

Names (l to r): Dr John Keniry AM, AWEX Chairman; Mr Neville Bonnett, TAS; Mr Ian Tiver, SA; Mr Patrick Thompson, NSW; Mr Kevin Thomas, VIC; Mr Peter Sudholz, AWEX Woolclasser Registrar



This is a picture taken in June 1965 at TOGANMAIN. It is of Fred Tuddenham Snr and John Robertson owner of TOGANMAIN at the time. The stencil is of a map of Australia with Fred Snr stencil number A174 and underneath that is WOOL the map includes Tasmania.

50 Year Woolclasser John Muller, Halls Gap Victoria



John was brought up on the family cropping/sheep farm at Nagambie, Victoria that ran about 3-4,000 crossbred ewes and a grain cropping program. Following his secondary school education he attended the woolclassing course at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 1960/61, which included a term of four months practical shearing shed work in Victoria. One of the sheds was a large 8 stand depot shed in Werribee, Victoria, which

shore for several weeks. The course also included an experting program.

After gaining his stencil, John classed for the next 8 years mainly in the Nagambie, Avenel, Heathcote areas. An interesting shed that he classed in the Warrnambool region shore 2,000 Lincoln sheep and 8,000 Corriedales. John also classed in the Riverina with Grazcos and in southern Tasmania for Roberts Stewart. At Bothwell, Tasmania one clip comprised 18,000 Corriedales.

John commenced Wool Classer Teacher Training at Melbourne College of Textiles in 1969. He was posted to Stawell Technical School to teach wool classing in 1971.

During this time, with the support of a proactive School Principal, wool testing equipment was obtained. John subsequently introduced wool testing to a large number of Merino studs in the Marnoo, Stawell and Ararat areas. He was involved in the development of weaner competitions and sheep shows, and also judged fleeces at local shows. John transferred to Longerenong College Campus (Horsham) of the University of Ballarat in the 1990s and finished his career in teaching in 2008. Since then, John has remained a registered Australian Woolclasser and maintains a keen interest in the wool industry.

AWEX 2104 Events Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Mon 2nd – Thurs 5th June 2014	9am - 5pm	Masterclasser Course	Yennora Wool Centre, Dennistoun Ave, Guildford, NSW 2161
Thurs 19th June 2014	9am – 12noon	Woolclasser Forum	Katanning Leisure & Function Centre, 4 Pemble St, Katanning, WA 6317
Mon 23rd – Thurs 26th June 2014	9am – 5pm	Masterclasser Course	Western Wool Centre, Sudlow Rd, Bibra Lake, WA 6131
Wed 16th July 2014	7pm -10pm	Woolclasser Forum	Bendigo TAFE, MacGillvray Hall, McCrae St, Bendigo, VIC 3550
Wed 23rd July 2014	7pm - 10pm	Woolclasser Forum	Cooma Ex-Services Club, 106 Vale St, Cooma, NSW 2630
Wed 30th July 2014	7pm - 10pm	Woolclasser Forum	Armidale City Bowling Club, 92 Dumaresq St, Armidale, NSW 2350
Fri 8th August 2014	6.30pm - 9.30pm	Woolclasser Forum	Naracoorte Town Hall, 95 Smith St, Naracoorte, SA 5271

CHANGE OF DETAILS?

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

p.(02) 9428 6100 f. (02) 9428 6120
or e. 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.



Masterclasser Courses Change in Courses Offered

AWEX has been conducting Masterclasser Courses for several years and in recent years the number of applicants for the course has dropped such that it is no longer viable to conduct the courses at each selling centre (Sydney, Perth and Melbourne) every year.

In view of this, the number of Masterclasser courses offered will be reduced and conducted on rotational basis, with one course being offered in each selling centre every second year. In 2014 Masterclasser Courses will be offered in Sydney (2nd- 5th June) and Perth (23rd – 26th June). In 2015, the course will only be offered in Melbourne. Subsequently, Masterclasser will be held in Sydney and Perth in 2016 and Melbourne in 2017 etc.

Masterclasser Courses are a professional development opportunity for Australian Woolclassers. Applicants must

be nominated by an industry body who believes the classer would benefit from attending this program. Nominations may be made by; for example, by a Selling Agent, Auction or Private Buyer, Wool Producer, Shearing Contractor or Training Organisation.

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 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 show floor lots, and
- Building deeper levels of understanding behind the Woolclasser's Code of Practice.

Nomination Forms available from the website: www.awex.com.au.

For further information:

Peter Sudholz p. 02 9428 6144 or e. psudholz@awex.com.au

06
May
14

Auction Action

At the time of writing the AWEX Eastern Market Indicator was 8 cents lower than the season opening but well down on the recent peak made just prior to Christmas. At that stage (4th Dec.) the EMI hit 1145 which was a nineteen month high. Since then the market has made steady falls, especially through February when it fell for 8 consecutive days for a total loss of 6%.

Despite the recent weakness in the EMI there has been some positive results in certain sectors of the market. The mid-microns have attracted the most attention with 18 to 22-microns all ahead by 1% to 2%. Meanwhile superfine types have tended to underperform since July 1 with 16.5-microns falling 8%. The differentials between this

superfine range and the broader types narrowed during the spring 2013 period but have generally moved in step with each other since that time.

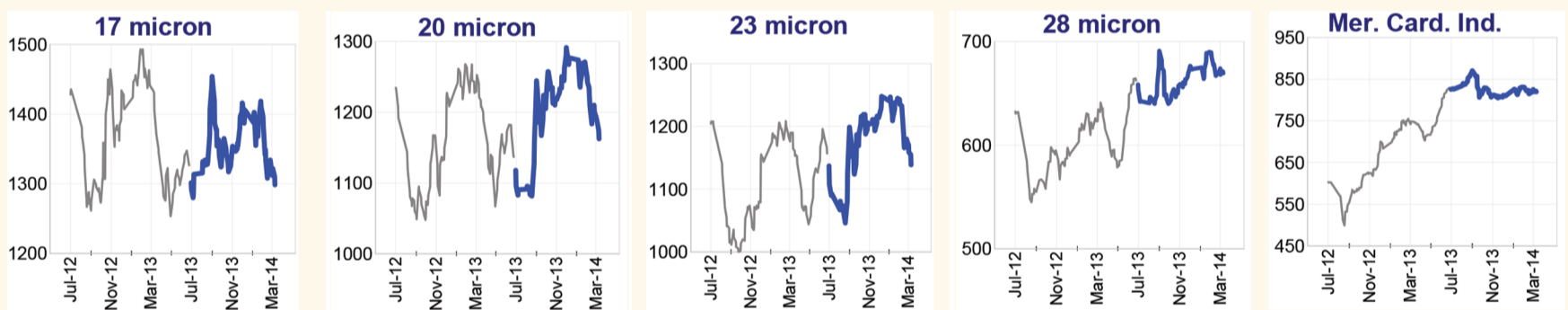
Regardless of micron the better types (40nkt, low mid-break) have generally found good competition, including through the ultrafine section. Whilst a relatively minor part of the overall market, Spinners style is increasingly finding solid support and selling to large premiums of the lower styles. The Reda 150PP project, which is targeting 150 bales of certified 1PP wool, is also helping to boost prices at the most exclusive end of the market.

The Merino Carding market remains buoyant and prices

appear to have found a comfort zone as they trade within a small range. Over the last six months the Merino Carding Indicator has traded within a 26 cent range and the seasonal average is at a record level. There has been an occasional dip in Crossbreds but generally these have also been well supported. Whilst 30-microns traded at higher levels, the average over the current season is currently at a record level showing consistent support over a relatively long period. The strength is despite a trend towards increasing volumes in this sector.

For further information:

Lionel Plunkett, p. 02 9428 6136 or e. lplunkett@awex.com.au



National Woolclasser Consultative Group (NWCG)

The National Woolclasser Consultative Group (NWCG) has reached the end of its current term. AWEX wishes to thank the outgoing Committee for their valued input, on behalf of all woolclassers, over a number of years.

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. AWEX is currently reviewing the role of the NWCG and it will undertake a new strategic direction in the future.

Applications are invited from suitably experienced proactive Australian Woolclassers to fill the six vacancies. Interested applicants must complete an Expression of Interest Form, with applications closing on 30th June 2014.

For Expression of Interest Form and Further Information:

Peter Sudholz, p. 02 9428 6144 or e. psudholz@awex.com.au



WoolClip

WoolClip is a Windows™ based software tool suitable for woolclassers and wool growers to manage the data and documents used in a shearing shed.

Features and benefits include;

- No duplicate bale numbers allowed in the Job.
- No missing bales on the Specification.
- An option to Auto-generate a specification.

Modules within woolclip include: Mob Book, Wool Book, Tally Book, Specification, and easy to run Statistics (cuts/head etc). Version 1.2.4 has now been released.

For more information:

David Cother p. 02 9428 6100 or e. woolclip@awex.com.au