

5 April 2018

## 2018 “Golden Stencil”

### National Graduate Wool Classer Competition

The 2018 AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Wool Classer Competition was held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March.



LtoR: Lena Price, Pyramul, NSW; Sophie Watson (3<sup>rd</sup>), Kentucky, NSW; Harry Kemp, Binnaway, NSW; Matilda Scott (1<sup>st</sup>), Conara, TAS; Jack Finch, Forbes, NSW; Josie Post (2<sup>nd</sup>), Wuddina, SA and Tom Hurley, Boorowa, NSW

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 South Australia to vie for the coveted “Golden Stencil”. The 2018 winner of the “Golden Stencil” and \$500 prize money is Matilda Scott from Conara, TAS. Matilda graduated from TAS TAFE and was trained by Evelyn Archer. Second place and “Silver Stencil” (\$300 prize money) was won by Josie Post, Wuddina, Sth Aust. Third place (\$200 prize money) and “Bronze Stencil” was won by Sophie Watson, Kentucky, NSW.

“This is the seventh running of the national competition and it has firmly entrenched itself as a key event at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The competition showcases the best of wool classing and is a platform for new and emerging wool classers. said Mark Grave, AWEX CEO. “What is particularly pleasing is that we have some very talented (& younger) people coming into the industry. This is something we should celebrate.”

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. Matilda demonstrated her all-round ability to class wool and perform under the unique pressured environment of the competition.

“TAFE organisations across the country 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 finalist gains valuable experience and feedback on how to improve their skills and apply them as they progress through the wool industry. In many ways this is as good as a job interview for prospective industry personnel”

TAS TAFE and Evelyn Archer received the 12<sup>th</sup> Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy awarded to the training organisation and trainer of the competition winner.

Sophie Watson was the winner of the DAS Campbell prize for the top NSW graduate. This is the 45<sup>th</sup> year of the DAS Campbell award.

The judges of this year’s competition were Mr. Simon Hogan, Elders Limited, Mr John Mills, NSW TAFE and Mr Bob Mead, 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.

“AWEX has been a proud sponsor of the national wool classing competition since it 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.



LtoR: Bob Mead, AWEX; Matilda Scott (1<sup>st</sup>), TAS, John Mills, NSW TAFE, Josie Post (2<sup>nd</sup>), SA & Simon Hogan, Elders

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

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