

3 April 2024

2024 “Golden Stencil”

National Graduate Wool Classer Competition

The 2024 AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Wool Classer Competition was held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Tuesday 2nd of April. It was the 12th running of the highly anticipated national competition.



Winner of the Golden Stencil 2024: Kelly Gellie of Maroona, Victoria.

The competition brings together the best graduate wool classers in 2023 from across Australia to compete for the major award of 1st Prize - “Golden Stencil”.

Australian Wool Exchange Ltd

postal: PO Box 651, North Ryde, NSW 1670 | p: +61 2 9428 6100

address: Unit 12A, 2 Eden Park Drive, Macquarie Park, NSW 2113 | www.awex.com.au

abn: 35 061 495 565

This year competitors travelled from New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia, and Victoria.

The 2024 winner of the “Golden Stencil” and \$500 prize money is Kelly Gellie from Maroona, Vic. Kelly graduated from SCAA SWTI, VIC and was trained by Moera Hammonds and Brian Kearney.

Second place and “Silver Stencil” (\$300 prize money) was won by Andrew Friend, Tamworth NSW.

Third place (\$200 prize money) and “Bronze Stencil” was won by Emma Hawkins, Mudgee, NSW.

“This is the 12th 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.”



2024 Competitors L to R: Jessica Sharman Taralga NSW, Emily Morton The Rock NSW, Alycia Redden Maitland SA, Andrew Friend Tamworth NSW (2nd), Kelly Gellie Maroona VIC (1st), Emma Hawkins Mudgee NSW (3rd), Emelia Browne Hay NSW, Hannah Leonard Cleveland TAS, Dejannah Harvey Euabalong NSW, Ben Golland Quirindi NSW.

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. Kelly 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 2023. 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”

SCAA SWTI and Moera Hammonds and Brian Kearney received the Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy awarded to the training organisation and trainer of the competition winner.



Andrew Friend was the winner of the DAS Campbell prize for the top NSW graduate. This is the 49th year of the DAS Campbell award.

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

“AWEX is a proud sponsor of the National Graduate 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 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,	AWEX, Wool Classer Registrar	fraleigh@awex.com.au	p: 02 9428 6144
Mark Grave,	AWEX, CEO	mgrave@awex.com.au	