

# Top SWS ram to Cowra

## Quality Merino rams on display

**SOUTHWEST STUD MERINO BREEDERS 2017 FIELD DAY**

BY STEPHEN BURNS

**W**ITH 56 Merino and Poll Merino studs on display during the annual SWS Stud Merino Breeders field day at Harden, it was the best opportunity for producers to assess and discuss their specific breeding ambitions with studmasters, according to committee president, Steve Phillips.

"The Merino industry is experiencing great returns for those who have stuck with their flocks, and it is encouraging to see so many attend the field day," Mr Phillips, co-principal of the Yarrawonga Merino stud, Harden, said.

"This field day is now established as the leading display of Merino sheep in NSW and we have a waiting list for studs wishing to exhibit their sheep here."

Along with the Merino stud displays, there were many industry displays attracting a lot of interest and woollen garments for sale.

A feature of the field day was the Stud Merino Breeders ram of the year, judged by Ben Simmons, Langdene Merino stud, Dunedoo, Tony Inder, Allendale Merinos, Wellington, and associate judge, Sam Phillips, Yarrawonga Merinos, Harden.

Against a strong parade of young rams, the award was



Ram of the Year was awarded to Richard and Brad Chalker, Lach River Merinos, Cowra, with sponsors, Deanne Madgwick, Bromar Engineering, Grenfell, and Trent Fordham, Riverina Wool Testers, Wagga Wagga.



Ron and Cheryl Blyth, Blyth Merinos, Adelong with one of the superb Merino fleeces displayed during the field day.



Tim Westblade, Pastora Poll Merinos, Lockhart opening up the fleece of one of his rams on display.

eventually given to Richard and Brad Chalker, Lach River Merinos, Cowra, for their June 2016 drop Merino ram, LR 16-11.44.

With a micron measurement 17.8, and 99.6 per cent comfort factor, the March-shorn ram weighed 110 kilograms and will be retained for stud use, after attending sheep shows next year in Canberra and Sydney.

The son of a Pemcaw ram was considered to be an outstanding sire prospect by

the judges.

"We have gone with the Lach River ram this year," judge Ben Simmons said.

"He is up on his feet and carries his fleece down to his points and has a really good structure."

The event was sponsored by Bromar Engineering, Grenfell, who presented a sheep feeder to the winner, and Riverina Wool Testers, Wagga Wagga who provided complimentary package of fleece tests to the Chalk-

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er family.

The other major award sponsored by Clive J. Ander-

son and Co, Grenfell, and Jack Whitechurch, Wendouree Merino stud, Grenfell,

was the Wendouree Perpetual Shield for the Pen of Three Merino Hogget rams.

This year the winner was the team from Tara Park Merinos, Boorowa, bred by Guy Evans, selected from five teams paraded.

"We started with 10 groups and sorted a few out in the sheds to save everyone bring them out," judge, Mr Inder, said.

"We don't have to give a third place but we've gone with the Demondrille team, our second placed team was Yarrawonga and the first place was Tara Park."

Mr Inder said the judging criteria for group of three depends on evenness, both as a team and individually.

"The Tara Park team were an incredibly even type, beautiful length of staple and very even wool type.

"Structurally, they were incredibly sound for a group."

Mr Inder said the successful teams were truly representative of the type of Merino being bred today to satisfy demands for both meat and quality wool.

"They are a very good example of where the industry is heading and where it should be heading, in my opinion."

Guy Evans said his two leading rams in the group would continue to be shown at forthcoming shows but the third ram will be offered for sale at his annual on-property sale.

"It is always a tough competition and we were up against some of the strongest groups," he said.

The Spectators Choice - the Bill Carter Memorial Trophy sponsored by Schute Bell Badgery Lumby - was presented to John and Greg Alcock, Greenland Merino and Poll Merino stud, Bungarby.



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# SOUTH WEST SLOPES

Stud Merino Field Day



Keith McGrath, Billa Burra Burra Merino stud, Yass with a draft of his rams on display.



Michael West, Barmedman discussing the tremendous interest in the Merino industry with Russell Jones, Dariwell Merinos, Trundle.



Pete Lette, Conrayn Merino and Poll Merino stud, Dalgety with Len Cooney, Golma excited about current prospects for the wool industry.

## MERINOS ON DISPLAY

Fifty-six of Australia's leading Merino and Poll Merino studs were on display at Harden drawing a large crowd of committed wool growers.



One of the superb Merino fleeces displayed showing all the characteristics the breed is known for and which is in demand worldwide.



Wendouree Perpetual Shield to Tara Park Merinos, Boorowa - Guy Evans, Tara Park, Boorowa, Sam Phillips, Jack Whitechurch, Wendouree Merinos, Grenfell, Ben Simmons, Tony Inder, Rick Power, Greg Bowerman, Clive J Anderson and Son, Grenfell and Greg Carmody.



John and Greg Alcock, Greenland Merino and Poll Merino studs, Bungarby, won the Spectators Choice - Bill Carter Memorial Trophy sponsored by Schute Bell Badgery Lumby.



Sam Hunter, Agstock, Yass taking the opportunity to look over a classy line up of Merino and Poll Merino rams at Harden.



Garry Cotter looking over the Merino rams presented by the Cottage Park Merino stud, Cooma, with studmaster Mark Pendergast and his son Will.

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