

8 April 2012

## **NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR WOOLCLASSERS**

Twelve of Australia's top graduate woolclassers competed at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Saturday in the inaugural AWEX National Graduate Woolclasser of the Year Competition.

The winner of the inaugural AWEX National Graduate Woolclasser of the Year and "Golden Stencil" is:

Holly, Byrne, Bagshot, VIC.

Second place and "Silver Stencil" was awarded to Carmen-Lee Campbell, Dubbo, NSW, and

3<sup>rd</sup> place and "Bronze Stencil" was awarded to Thornall Burey, Guyra, NSW

In winning the 2012 AWEX National Graduate Competition, Holly received the "Golden Stencil" trophy, \$500.00 and an invitation to attend a 2012 Masterclasser course.

"Holly's performance along with the other finalists was outstanding. Holly displayed confidence under pressure and the ability to make effective decisions throughout the competition," says Mark Grave, AWEX CEO.

The AWEX National Graduate Woolclasser of the Year award acknowledges the skills required to be a professional woolclasser in today's wool industry. "We're delighted at the high standard and evenness of the competition which highlights the depth of talent and skill of the next generation of Australian woolclassers. This is why Australia's reputation for producing the best wool in the world is justified,"

Competitors in today's national competition were the best graduate woolclassers from around the country representing: New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. "Each of today's finalists should be acknowledged for their commitment to the wool industry and on achieving such recognition so early in their careers. This is exciting for woolclassing and the wool industry," says Mr. Grave.

The national competition initiated by the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) in conjunction with TAFE is aimed at raising the profile of woolclassing as an important Australian profession.

The Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy which recognises the college and trainer of the winner of the National Graduate Woolclasser Competition, was awarded to Bendigo Regional Institute of Tafe (BRIT) and trainer Mr Jim Field. This trophy acknowledges the important contribution that the college and trainer play in woolclasser education and the pursuit of excellence.

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“This is an outstanding and deserved achievement for BRIT and Jim Field. The Bendigo region has a rich heritage in wool and it is a fruitful area for well trained and skilled people in the wool industry,” says Mr. Grave

The 2012 National Graduate Woolclasser finalists were:

- Sarah Artery, Oberon, NSW
- Thornall Burey, Guyra, NSW
- Holly Byrne, Bagshot, VIC
- Carmen-Lee Campbell, Dubbo, NSW
- Sophie Cameron, Hawkesdale, VIC
- Matthew Chambers, Boyup Brook, WA
- Marcelle Cheetham, Cooma, NSW
- Grace Cornish, Pawtella, TAS
- Andrew Hughes, Baldry, NSW
- Bernadette McRae, Morangarell, NSW
- Andrew Robertson, Skipton, VIC
- Tara Smith, Poolajelo, VIC

“Woolclassing remains a valuable asset in today’s wool industry and this skill will only increase in its importance to wool growers as the wool industry progresses. The wool industry today is a professional industry and one where wool growers should be using trained woolclassers to maximise their returns,” says Mr Grave.

“This event will now be a permanent fixture in the Australian wool calendar and one that all graduate woolclassers can aspire to.”

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