



# Black Sheep Rising

The Official Newsletter of the  
**Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.**

Founded 1978 – Incorporated 1987

## 19<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL FLEECE COMPETITION

The 19<sup>th</sup> National Fleece Competition conducted by the Hawkesbury Regional Branch of the Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of Australia (NSW) Inc was a great success with the judging of 66 fleeces from 26 competitors from all over southeast Australia by John Gray from Schute Bell in Sydney. Members from our region worked hard to ensure that it was well supported and smoothly run. Because of the drought conditions throughout our States many competitors found themselves not feeling that their entries were up to their usual standards. Despite this, many lovely fleeces of every colour and description were presented providing a high standard of competition with many close calls. The results show that the money was widely spread. Our Region was blessed with generosity from many sponsors that enabled us to provide a full range of classes. The only one not contested was the rug wool ram class and so this enabled us to apply that sponsorship to split the 50-56s class (on fleece count lines) into 2 as it had the largest number of entries.

The judging was carried out on the Monday preceding the Hawkesbury Show, after stewards spent the best part of the previous day weighing and preparing fleeces. The fleeces were then transferred to the show grounds on the Thursday to be displayed to their best advantage. A catalogue was prepared showing all entrants in the various classes, including fleece weights, points, total points and place in class and finally if the fleece was for sale. As a result of the display and the information there was a keen interest from the public generally and spinners in particular and it resulted in a clearance of a third of the fleeces, many of which could have been sold several times over!



Prell's with their prizewinner – National Fleece Comp.

Our judge kindly made a report of his impressions of the competition.

*Thank you for the opportunity to judge the Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders' Association Of Australia 19th NATIONAL FLEECE COMPETITION. The judging was conducted at Virginia Farm Annangrove NSW on the 23rd April 2007.*

*Having had 36 years in the traditional wool industry I found it very interesting judging the 66 fleeces submitted for this*

*competition. One of the most pleasing facts was that each category was well supported. The condition of the fleeces presented displayed the passionate care taken by the owners during such a tough season.*

*Comments relating to the actual judging and points for future fleece presentation:*

*With the points system weighted heavily towards heavy fleeces for maximum points, some people tend to under skirt. Whilst gaining maximum points for fleece weight you will be penalised in the sections for Cleanliness - Length (uniformity) - Fibre Wastage and possibly Evenness of count as it is normal for the fleece to be finer on the belly or skirty edges. A lighter fleece well prepared can more than match a heavy poorly prepared fleece.*

*I wish all those who took part in this competition and all your other members well and I hope and pray that we can soon experience a season of some normality.*

*John Gray  
 Schute Bell, Sydney.*

*Anne White for the Subcommittee including Michael Dwyer, Chief Steward; Phillip Dunn; Caroline Collerson and Wendy van Raalte (Secretary).*

(Results on Page 5)

"Black Sheep Rising" is published by the  
Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.

<b>NSW Committee</b>		<b>Regional Branches &amp; Branch Secretaries</b>
<b>President</b>	Elaine Tracey 789 Sackville Road Ebenezer NSW 2756. Phone/Fax: (02) 4579 9436	<b>Central Tablelands Region</b> Kevin Brodie Phone: (02) 6373 8522
<b>Vice President</b>	Terri Barrell 33 Lloyds Way, Bargo NSW 2574. Email: kotarb@bigpond.com	<b>Hawkesbury Region</b> Wendy van Rallte 249 Grono Farm Road Ebenezer NSW 2756 Phone: (02) 4579 9661 Email: peter.vanraalte@bigpond.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Broni Jekyll P.O. Box 6181, Queanbeyan East NSW 2620 Email: draphyd@apex.net.au	<b>Monaro/S.W. Slopes Region</b> Mac Macdonald Phone: (02) 6227 1432 Email: draphyd@apex.net.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Ann Cassar 3350 Hill End Rd, Hill End NSW 2850 Phone: (02) 6337 8209. Email: silentdale@optusnet.com.au	<b>Northern Region</b> Veronica Taylor Phone: (02) 6783 0146 Email: vat@northnet.com.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tanya Watson "Rosedena", Cowra Road, Grenfell NSW 2810. Phone: (02) 6343 1166 Mobile: 0428 975 130 Email: coloured@bigpond.net.au	<b>South Coast &amp; Southern Tablelands Region</b> Terri Barrell 33 Lloyds Way, Bargo NSW 2574 Email: kotarb@bigpond
<b>Editor</b>	Ruth Bosma 'Lambing Downs' Bungarby NSW 2630 Phone: (02) 6453 6228 Email: woolleejumpa@lambing-downs.net	<b>Life Members of the Association</b>  Ms A Anderson Mrs J Baker Mr M Glennies-Holmes Mrs H Mitchell Mrs M Morris Mr R Munday Mr R Roach Ms G Suttor Mr E Sykes Mr N Symonds Mrs V Taylor
<b>Public Officer</b>	Phillip Dunn 122 Annangrove Road, Annangrove NSW 2156 Phone: (02) 9654 1069	
<b>Web Master</b>	Ron Barrell kotarb@bigpond.com	

MEMBERSHIP of the Association is open to any person interested in coloured sheep, their breeding, use or promotion of their products.

The 2007 membership subscription is \$35 per annum for full membership, \$55 for "Double" membership (2 votes, 1 magazine & notices), \$25 per annum for Associate membership (no voting right); \$10 for juniors 25 years or under. Membership is payable per calendar year and due in January. Cheques should be sent to the Treasurer at the address given above.

"Black Sheep Rising" is the newsletter of the Association and views expressed by advertisers or contributors are not necessarily those of its Officers or Members. The newsletter is published before General Meetings and contains minutes of the previous General Meeting.

ADVERTISING is available in "Black Sheep Rising" for Full page \$30 (members \$25); Half page \$18 (members \$15); Quarter page \$12 (members \$10). Advertising invoices will be sent with B.S.R.

Annual Website advertising is also available, contact the Webmaster.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This being my first report as State President, I would like to thank the members who have put their confidence in me by electing me and I will do my best to fulfil this job.

Congratulations to all new Office Bearers and many thanks to those who may have retired, for their effort, energy and time put into whichever office they held. Winter weather is on the way and with it the sale of our woollen products will increase.

I attended the Tocal Field Days first weekend in May as a helper on the Central Tablelands stall and display. Although it is almost winter, the days were really hot; however the stall did well. Hawkesbury Show was at the end of April with the weather more like winter, but the sheep section was well supported and Hawkesbury Region had a stall selling fleece and woollen articles.

The Hawkesbury Region hosted the National Fleece Competition in conjunction with Hawkesbury Show. By all reports, it was very successful. May I take this opportunity to thank the stewards – B&C members Anne White, Caroline Collerson, Wendy van Raalte, Betty Nash and Phillip Dunn for the many hours spent organising this event. Job well done guys.

Please feel free to drop me a line with any suggestions you think will help promote our coloured sheep and wool.

Before I sign off, a little about my background. My dad was a schoolteacher. My life commenced 3 June 1939 at the tiny town of Nymagee in the west. I spent most of my 6 years at Nymagee on a property that ran beside the school land, helping the owners feed poddy lambs and feeding various animals. I learned to ride a pushbike while there. Round about six my dad was transferred to a school at Mumbil –

again I spent lots of time on various properties helping with chores. As I got older, I joined the team helping with sowing and harvesting, also fighting bush fires.

I was in high school when my dad was transferred to Newport school, making it easier for me to attend high school. At Mumbil I had to catch the 6.00am train to Wellington and return on the 7.00pm train. On leaving school I worked in the ANZ Bank, learning all positions. I left the bank to marry, then later accepted a position managing three building companys.

In 1975 I won a Charity Quest that took me to New Zealand. I joined the staff of the NSW Society for Crippled Children as quest organiser. This position took me to Fiji, Melbourne, Queensland and South Australia. In 1985, a 60-year-old gentleman and I took 17 disabled adults for a month tour of America.

I have spent many years with Brookvale Show Society and Mackellar Theatrical Society before moving to the Hawkesbury in 1994, at which time I joined the Hawkesbury Show Society. A little later I joined B&CSBAA Hawkesbury Region. After breeding and showing Saanen goats, followed by chihuahuas, I now breed and show coloured sheep.

I look forward to meeting our members and please let me know of any activities your region will be involved with and if I can help in any way.

Our next State meeting is Saturday 11 August at the Penrith Golf Club, 1939 Northern Road, Penrith (Tel: (02) 4736 1633). See you there.

*Elaine Tracey,  
President.*



## ACCOMODATION DIRECTORY

Would you like to attend an event somewhere, but don't have a place to stay?

Do you have a spare bed for out-of-area members, that you are prepared to list in our Accomodation Directory?

Please contact the Editor (see Page 2) if you would like to be included.

**Wilberforce:** Elaine Tracey has 5 spare beds available if you would like to go to a meeting, enter a show or just spend a weekend away. Tel: (02) 4579 9436.

## DIARY DATES 2007/08

Date	Event	Region
13-14 July	Mudgee Small Farm Field Days. An annual event that attracts close to 30,000 people to the town. The group has a 9m X 9m marquee set up with sheep displays and sale items of fleeces to garments made of natural coloured wool.	Central Tablelands
20-22 July	130 <sup>th</sup> Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Bendigo VIC. Sheep, fleece & handcraft classes. Contact ASBA Secretary Mr Andrew Ternouth, Tel: (03) 5439 5094; Fax: (03) 5439 3801. Email: <a href="mailto:aternouth@bigpond.net.au">aternouth@bigpond.net.au</a> , Website: <a href="http://www.sheepshow.com">www.sheepshow.com</a> Entries close 4.30 pm on Friday 15th June 2007	National
11 August	State Meeting, contact President, 02 4579 9436	Hawkesbury
12 August	Mudgee Wine and Food Fair at Balmoral Beach, Sydney. The Central Tablelands Region has a special invitation from the organisers, the only non food or wine oriented group	Central Tablelands
31 August - 1 September	Grenfell Show – sheep, fleece and craft classes. Contact Pauline Blake, PO Box 47, Grenfell 2810. Tel/Fax, 02 6343 1513, ah phone, 02 6343 2091	Monaro/S.W Slopes
29 September	Bribbaree Show – Sheep classes. Contact Mrs Margaret Burstal, 'Mountain View' 1116 Bribbaree Rd YOUNG 2594 Tel: (02) 6383 3306, Fax: (02) 6383 3336	Monaro/S.W Slopes
30 September	Boorowa Irish Woolfest. Web site: <a href="http://www.irishwoolfest.boorowa.net/">http://www.irishwoolfest.boorowa.net/</a>	Monaro/S.W Slopes
13 October	Illabo Show	
13-14 October	Picton Show - Sheep and Craft, contact sec. Diane Ford, PO Box 34 Picton NSW 2571, <a href="mailto:robson@ispdr.net.au">robson@ispdr.net.au</a>	South Coast & Southern Tablelands
13-14 October	Murrumbateman Field Days Web site: <a href="http://www.murrumbateman.org.au/">http://www.murrumbateman.org.au/</a>	Monaro/S.W Slopes
17-18 November	Queanbeyan Show – Fleece, Sheep and Handicraft classes. Contact Mrs Dawn Mayne, P O Box 31 QUEANBEYAN 2620 Tel: (02) 6297 3324, Fax: (02) 6297 1294 Email: <a href="mailto:queanbeyanshow@yahoo.com.au">queanbeyanshow@yahoo.com.au</a>	Monaro/S.W Slopes
2 February 2008	Nimmitabel Show. 2008 first time with Black & Coloured sheep and fleece classes.	Monaro/SW Slopes
8-9 March 2008	Yass Show – Black & coloured sheep & fleece classes.	Monaro/SW Slopes
4-9 September 2009	The World Congress of Natural Coloured Sheep and Their Products in Brazil. So far we know of six people who are planning to attend.	International

To have your local show, meeting or other event listed here, please contact the Editor (see Page 2).



Preparing for judging at the National Fleece Competition.

# 19<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL FLEECE COMPETITION

## Section A Ewe or Wether Fleece

### Class 1--70s & Finer — superfine Merino

- 1<sup>st</sup> J Thomas, Dubbo NSW;  
2<sup>nd</sup> R Bosma, Bungarby NSW;  
3<sup>rd</sup> M Marshall, Cattai NSW

### Class 2--64s – medium/fine Merino

- 1<sup>st</sup> R & M Northam, Mudgee NSW;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bennett & Gregor, Gawler SA;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bennett & Gregor, Gawler SA

### Class 3—58-60s—Polwarth & fine Merino

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bennett & Gregor, Gawler SA;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bennett & Gregor, Gawler SA;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Kan-B Colours, Glenlofty Vic

### Class 4A—56s & finer—Corriedale & Crossbred

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bennett & Gregor, Gawler SA;  
2<sup>nd</sup> R & M Northam, Mudgee NSW;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nagle College, Blacktown NSW

### Class 4B—56s Corriedale & Crossbred

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nagle College, Blacktown NSW;  
2<sup>nd</sup> J M Prell, Crookwell NSW;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bennett & Gregor, Gawler SA

### Class 5—44-46s English longwools & strong crossbreds

- 1<sup>st</sup> B Nash, Kurmond NSW;  
2<sup>nd</sup> B Nash Kurmond NSW;  
3<sup>rd</sup> R Taylor, Cattai NSW

### Class 6—40s & stronger Lincoln & rugwools

- 1<sup>st</sup> T Barrell, Picton NSW;  
2<sup>nd</sup> T Barrell, Picton NSW;  
3<sup>rd</sup> E Tracey, Ebenezer NSW

## Section B Ram Fleece

### Class 7—70s & finer

- 1<sup>st</sup> Drap'hyd Merino Stud, Queanbeyan NSW;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Drap'hyd Merino Stud, Queanbeyan NSW;  
3<sup>rd</sup> E. Barry, Silent Dale, Hill End, NSW

### Class 8—58-64s

- 1<sup>st</sup> B Nash, Kurmond NSW;  
2<sup>nd</sup> J Thomas, Dubbo NSW;  
3<sup>rd</sup> E Taylor, Coonabarabran NSW

### Class 9—46-56s

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kan-B Colours, Glenlofty Vic;  
2<sup>nd</sup> J M Prell, Crookwell NSW;  
3<sup>rd</sup> T Barrell, Picton NSW

### Supreme Champion Fleece:

**R & M Northam, Mudgee NSW - (Winner Class 2)**

### Reserve Champion Fleece:

**Bennett & Gregor, Gawler SA - (Winner Class 3)**

### Most Successful Exhibitor:

**Bennett & Gregor, Gawler SA**



Caroline Collerson spinning at the National Fleece Competition.

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### Central Tablelands Region

The Central Tablelands branch of the Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association organised the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wool and Natural Fibre Muster in Mudgee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June. The Muster is an annual event started up 22 years ago by the local craft group in West Wyalong. The ladies never imagined how successful their venture would turn out. After almost one hundred people turned up for the first Muster, they decided to make it an annual event to be organised by craft groups within a hundred mile radius of West Wyalong. Over the years the Muster grew both in size and in distance. This year was the third time it was held in Mudgee, each time with a different theme for a competition from vests to beanies and now the "Great Western Sock Challenge: Sock it to Me!"

There were forty pairs of socks entered in three categories: The best in the Open category, 'The Most Colourful' one, and the 'Most Outrageous' pair of socks. Entries came in from far and wide, from Bundaberg in Queensland, from Castle Hill, Epping, Thornleigh in Sydney, Scone in the North, Shoalhaven in the South and Dubbo in the West. One look at the photos will prove without a doubt that our knitters do not lack skill and imagination. To further encourage them, prize monies totalling \$380 were distributed amongst the winners of the competition.

The Muster was officially opened by Gay Epstein of Ashford Australia who treated the gathered crowd to a great collection of facts and photographs about historical events involving socks, both funny and factual. She created quite some excitement with our reporter for the local paper when she showed a photo from the National Archives depicting some young

Mudgee schoolboys knitting socks for the troops fighting overseas in World War I, wondering, where are they now?

We were delighted to welcome the Harrison family all the way from Oregon in the USA. Marilyn and John with their two daughters were in Mudgee for the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of John's mum and decided to have a look at our Muster. They are interested in craft and wool and run a small flock of Romney sheep back home near Banks in Oregon. Marilyn was very much at home amongst all the crafts people and I'd swear that she visited every stand in the place proudly showing off her hand knitted cardigan with the lovely brown wool trim from her flock. She asked if a copy of BSR could be sent to her.

The Muster provided a great opportunity for our members to showcase their products made from natural coloured wool and at the same time generated some welcome funds for the group for future events. The Muster attracted a lot of publicity from interviews on ABC radio to full-page stories in the local papers.

We learned during the Muster that 2009 is going to be the International Year of Natural Fibres. With the World Congress for Natural Coloured Sheep and their Products scheduled for September 2009 this will create the ideal environment to promote our Association. Now is the time to come forward with ideas and proposals.

*Janos (John) Farkas,  
President.*



Display area at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wool & Natural Fibre Muster, Mudgee NSW.

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### Monaro/SW Slopes

We held our AGM last month and re-elected almost the same Committee and Office Bearers; we welcome Ruth Bosma (BSR editor) as our new Promotions Officer.

By targeting specific markets our income from sales of wool products and sheep has continued to grow. We have re-invested some of that income in upgrading our display stands and tables.

On the show scene there has not been quite as much activity as in the past since feeding stock has been

the main activity for most of us. We have managed to get fleeces into one new local show, and a display of both wool and sheep into another new show for next year.

Members of our region were delighted that in the National Fleece Competition all competitors from our region won ribbons.

*Mac Macdonald,  
Secretary.*

### Northern Region

Firstly, congratulations to all the 'new look' incoming executives of the state association. Whilst we are on congrats, congratulations to the Hawkesbury Branch for conducting the 19<sup>th</sup> National Fleece Competition. It appears that all classes were well supported.

Following are the results (for the sections as sponsored by Northern Regional Group) from Tamworth Show that was held during March. Sponsoring of this show is the only activity that our now meager branch carries out annually. The judge was Trudy Newman, a renowned weaver.

Best article/garment from 'Handspun classes' was won by Max Brady with a lovely handspun knitted scarf. (Some of the longer serving members of BCSBAA (NSW) Inc may remember Max and his wife, Velma as earlier members of our northern branch. Both spin & knit and Max had been doing blade shearing exhibitions for many years within NNSW.

Perpetual Trophy: Presented for originality, creativity and ingenuity and drawn from any class was won by Nancy Russell with a lovely \*shibori woven purple

scarf. Nancy is a well-known & extremely talented craftswoman from Tamworth.

(\***Shibori** is a [Japanese](#) term for several methods of [dyeing](#) cloth with a pattern by binding, stitching, folding, twisting, or compressing it. Some of these methods are known in the [west](#) as [tie-dye](#). In [Japan](#), the earliest known example of cloth dyed with a shibori technique dates from the [eighth century](#); it is among the goods donated by the [Emperor Shōmu](#) to the [Tōdai-ji](#) in [Nara](#). Until the [twentieth century](#), not many [fabrics](#) and dyes were in widespread use in Japan. The main fabrics were [silk](#) and [hemp](#), and later [cotton](#). The main dye was [indigo](#) and, to a lesser extent, [madder](#) and [purple root](#). Shibori and other textile arts, such as [tsutsugaki](#), were applied to all of these fabrics and dyes. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.)

Regards and best wishes to all.

*Veronica Taylor,  
Secretary*

### South Coast & Southern Tablelands Region

On the 21<sup>st</sup> April our region hosted our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Wool Fest at Robertson. This is an opportunity for our regions' members to sell their wonderful fleece and demonstrate the many uses of our natural coloured wool.

The crowds were excellent with many people travelling great distances to visit us. The winner of our giant raffle of craft goodies came from Taree.

The speed knitting competition went off well, and the fashion parade was a great hit with the crowd, always interesting to see what wonderful and imaginative ideas that people have for producing garments.

The creative garment competition was won by Deb McGuire for her hand spun alpaca vest. Carol Hamilton won second place, with a hand woven scarf and matching shoulder bag, the judge Sue Burford

described it as "very now", and third place went to Audrey Bird with a beautiful geometric design jumper.

This year for the first time we had a colouring craft competition for the children, this was a great success with some very colourful sheep entries.



The weather was once again kind to us and we all had a wonderful day, with our hard working gang of associate members providing tea and coffee for the masses.

Well done to all involved.

Terri Barrell  
Secretary.

Also newflash from Delco Stud. Delco Crossfire our three-year-old stud ram, winner of many supreme champion awards at various shows has been sold to Cherrybrook High School for breeding purposes. We will be showing one of his sons Delco Calypso, or Delco Fire fox and hope they can do as well as their dad.

Terri Barrell, Delco Stud.

## SHOW RESULTS

### Hawkesbury Show - 27 - 29 April 2007

<b>Black &amp; Coloured Sheep</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>
Ewe or Ram Lamb - Fine	B. Nash	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep
Ewe or Ram Lamb - Medium	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep
Ewe or Ram lamb - Strong	Delco Stud	Anne Cassar	Delco Stud
Wether lamb	Nagle College	Nagle College	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep
Wether 2 tooth & over	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep
Ram 2 tooth & over	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep		
Ewe 2 tooth & over - Fine	B. Nash	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep
Ewe 2 tooth & over - Medium	M. Henry	C Collerson	C Collerson
Ewe 2 tooth & over - Strong	Delco Stud	Delco Stud	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep
Ewe or Wether - Rug wool	Nil entries		
Pen of 3 sheep	Delco Stud	Nagle College	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep
<b>Champion Ram</b>	<b>J.S.J. Coloured Sheep (Elaine Tracey)</b>		
<b>Champion Ewe</b>	<b>Delco Stud</b>	<b>Reserve Champion Ewe</b>	<b>M. Henry</b>
<b>Supreme Champion B&amp;C Exhibit</b>	<b>Delco Stud</b>		
<b>Best Coloured Wether</b>	<b>J.S.J. Coloured Sheep (Elaine Tracey)</b>		
<b>Best B&amp;C sheep exhibited by a school</b>	<b>Nagle College</b>		
<b>Meat Breeds</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>
Ewe or Ram Lamb	Elizabeth MacArthur High School	St Pauls Grammar School	Elizabeth MacArthur High School
Wether lamb	St Pauls Grammar School	St Pauls Grammar School	St Pauls Grammar School
Ram 2 tooth & over	St Pauls Grammar School	Elizabeth MacArthur High School	
Ewe 2 tooth & over	St Pauls Grammar School	Elizabeth MacArthur High School	J. Sant
Wether 2 tooth & over	L. Beaumont		
<b>Champion Meat Breed Sheep</b>	<b>St Pauls Grammar School</b>		
<b>Reserve Champion Meat Breed Sheep</b>	<b>Elizabeth MacArthur High School</b>		
<b>Wool Breeds</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>
Ewe or Ram lamb	C Collerson	L Beaumont	L Beaumont
Wether - any age	L Beaumont	J.S.J. Coloured Sheep	
Ewe 2 tooth & over - fine	C. Collerson	L Beaumont	Menai High School
Ewe 2 tooth & over - Medium	C. Collerson	Menai High School	Menai High School
Ewe 2 tooth & over - strong wool	C. Collerson	R. Taylor	Menai High School
<b>Champion Wool Breed Sheep</b>	<b>C. Collerson</b>		
<b>Reserve Champion Wool Breed Sheep</b>	<b>C. Collerson</b>		
<b>Best Interbreed Sheep</b>	<b>St Pauls Grammar School</b>		

**MINUTES OF BLACK & COLOURED SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) INC.****HELD SATURDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 2007 AT GOULBURN.**

Meeting opened at 1.30pm by the President, Eric Barry.

**Present:** Elaine Tracey, Broni Jeckyll, Craig Watson, Denise Munday, Terri Barrell, Fay Webb, Wendy Norris, Ann Anderson, Katherine Wood, Audrey Bird, Jenny Dunn, Phillip Dunn, Ann Cassar, Christine Parkes, Bob Munday, Marianne Farkas, Janos Farkas, Eric Barry, Tanya Watson, Mac Macdonald, Ruth Bosma.

**Apologies:** Melissa Henry, Anne Hazell, Jacki Waugh, and Chris Bird.

**Visitors:** Ron Barrell, Brian Care.

**Minutes:** It was moved B. Jeckyll, seconded R. Bosma that the minutes of the meeting held 28 Oct 2006 at Yass be taken as read. Carried.

**Business Arising:** Nil. Moved B. Jeckyll, seconded T. Barrell that the minutes be confirmed as a true record. Carried.

**Correspondence:**

In: BCSBAA (Vic) notification of change of Secretary.

Out: B.S.R. Moved B. Munday, seconded M. Farkas. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer circulated the report. Moved T. Watson, seconded J. Farkas. Carried.

**President's Report:** As printed in "B.S.R."

**Regional Reports****Southern Tablelands:**

**Hawkesbury:** Not a lot of activity since our last meeting. The National Fleece Competition is still on our work list. The region is going to continue our "Wrapt in Wool" market day 1st Sunday of each month starting March through to October to be held at Phillip and Jenny Dunn's property, 122 Annangrove Rd, Annangrove. Members are also preparing for the show season. Some members attended Bungendore Show. Member Melissa Henry was guest speaker at the Cumberland group November meeting along with John Bennett who attended the Calgary Stampede as Ambassador for A.S.C. Both spoke of their learning experience.

**Central Tablelands:** 2006 was a year best forgotten, however, it will be remembered for a long time to come. I am talking about the drought that, if possible, got even worse during the year. There is not a blade of grass left anywhere and we are all hand feeding our sheep. We must have the most expensive sheep in the country if you add up the cost of all the feed and labour expended just to keep them alive. The bright side to it is that it has to end soon.

As an organisation we did not do much during the year either.

The Small Farm Field Days were cold, wet and poorly attended, especially on the second day when we all expected great things. After all, one should be able to sell lovely, warm woollen stuff in the cold. No such luck. Everybody was wearing so much clothing already that they did not want any more. Our marquee was well set up and the "drought proof sheep" displayed in the corals outside attracted a lot of attention. We even got onto the ABC radio for an interview.

We attended the wine and food festival on Balmoral Beach and all had a good time. At least I think we did. Everybody was too busy selling to really be sure. It was a great success and we made a handsome profit for the group. Thanks to all the helpers.

Buoyed by the success at Balmoral we attended the Wine Fair at Manly for the first time. Not so good. In fact it was a total loss. We spent more than our total turnover on food and snacks, not to mention accommodation and travel costs. The venue is not suitable for our goods. It is too far out of the way and people only go for a snack and a drink.

And that wraps up the year for activities.

We have more extensive plans for the coming year that includes the Wool and Natural Fibre Muster in Mudgee in June, the Tocal Field Days, the Small Farm Field Days, Balmoral Fair, the Mudgee Wine and Food Fair at Birkenhead Point. We are also investigating attending the St Ives show in Sydney. Hope we will do well and make those sheep at least partly pay for their keep. I am optimistic.

I wish to thank you all for your support and wish you all a much improved and more fruitful 2007.

Janos (John) Farkas, President, Central Tablelands Region; 4 February 2007.

**Northern Region:** no report available.

**Monaro/SW Slopes:** As often happens during our summer break, many of our members (and their families) have been involved in fighting fires. Fortunately this year, no-one's property or stock was damaged.

Since our last get together at Murrumbateman, members have taken sheep to Queanbeyan Show (November 2006), Bungendore Show (January 2007), and by invitation, mounted a display at Nimmitabel Show (February 2007). We are pleased to say that at Nimmitabel, all our association membership forms were collected by interested people, and at least one white wool producer spoke with us about pooling his coloured fleeces in a sale lot.

The show, market and display calendar continues with Gunning Show and Markets (with regional members manning a stall) on 17/18th February, members stewarding the Sheep events and providing sheep for the Animal Nursery at Canberra Royal (23rd-25th February), Cooma Show (10th March), Yass Show (17/18th March) and finally the National Fleece Competition at Hawkesbury Show (27-29th April).

The drought has shown no sign of abating for our region; many members have been purchasing feed and water for too long now. The effect is demonstrated in the quantity and quality of fleeces on the show circuit and presented for sale. At sheep shows, judges have been heard to comment about the condition of some animals exhibited. This is an unfortunate result of hard times and owners need to make some difficult decisions before publicly showing their product, be it animal or fibre.

Now is the time to look to each other and be alert for the signs of depression and anxiety amongst friends. This is an insidious condition that can destroy the emotional and mental resilience of many of our strongest friends and family members. Please be aware, be supportive and do something different and off-farm at least once a week.

B. A. Jeckyll, President; 10 February 2007

Moved C. Watson, seconded T. Barrell that all reports be accepted. Carried.

**General Business:** Ann Cassar reported to the meeting that you can claim on the RP Board for cost of carting over 1 tonne of hay, moving sheep etc. to agistment or market, also water cartage. Ann suggested members check on the web.

Ron Barrell reported on the website. Because of a payment going astray the website was offline for about 24 hours. However, all is well now.

Southern Tablelands reported their office bearers for 2007 as follows; President - Bob Munday; Vice President - Faye Webb; Vice President - Christine Parkes; Secretary - Terri Barrell; Treasurer - Ann ?; Delegates: B. Munday, T. Barrell, C. Parkes.

Central Tablelands: office bearers same as last year.

**Next meeting:** Saturday 11th August 2007.

No further business: meeting closed 2.45pm.

## Review

### Black Sheep Newsletter Issue No. 131, Spring 2007.

The newsletter contains a good collection of articles. They mostly deal with the day-to-day events of 'Shepherds' in the US, yet they make interesting reading.

*The Company of Sheep by Lesley Hildreth*  
 "Something strange happened on my farm this past January. My lambing season seemed like it should have been someone else's."...

She describes the norm as: "Take a flock of livestock in late gestation – some first timers, some not – add the uncertainties of breeding times, multiple offspring, endemic bacteria and mix in rain or freezing temperatures and voila! a recipe for trouble. Ewes will drop lambs in mud and slush rather than in the barn, then will allow one twin to nurse but not the other. Some ewes have no milk; others have too much and get mastitis. Lambs get stuck and tangled on their short journey into the world; sometimes they can't make the trip. Pneumonia and other biological hazards lie in wait for small hosts. The possibilities are endless." However...

"This January, lambs burst out over a course of a few days, as if all my spring bulbs opened at once. No ewe lambed after 8pm or before 6am. No lambs were rejected, no lambs needed pulling, and all ewes had plenty of milk. I never opened my battered copy of The Veterinary Book for Sheep Farmers. I never turned my cold face to the sky at 2am to greet the summer constellations because my face was against a soft pillow at 2am."

#### **Vaguely familiar...**

*Musings of a Vermont Shepherd by Betty Berlenbach*

This is a different shearing experience from what we imagine, some even experience, as shearing. This describes a time when friends gather and neighbours drop in. There is coffee, cake and sandwiches to go

around and the fleeces are gathered into clear plastic bags. This could be fun.

*The View from Whitefish Bay by Dick Regnery*

Dick is a regular contributor. Here he describes the thought processes and consideration for choosing the type of sheep to breed. He deals with 'Breed Characteristics and Concerns' as well as 'Non-breed/Personal Concerns'. There are many references to New Zealand both in this and other articles in the Newsletter. It appears that the US breeders are taking a lot of their directions from the land of the long white cloud.

*Michigan Shepherding by Letty Klein*

A self-confessed fibre fanatic. This is an extensive and detailed article on the characteristics of 'Birthcoat fibers in lambs'. Gives definitions of a lot of the technical terms used to describe lambs wool fibres and shows a number of cute photos of various breeds of lambs. If you want to dazzle your friends with lamb wool descriptions this is a must. NB. Several of her references originated in Australia for a change.

There is a three-page directory of "Purebred" flocks that includes Angora Goats, Angora Rabbits and Alpacas.

The What's New column has a reprint from a website: fibre2fashion.com that reports on "New Fine Micron Record Set for China". It says that Xinjiang ultra fine wool set another new record in China. There is a flock of fine wool sheep that averages 17 microns. According to the report, the total number of Xinjiang fine wool sheep currently reaches eight million. The overall average wool is 21 micron with wool output amounts of 35,000 tons, accounting for one-third of the country's total output.

*Review by Janos Farkas.*

**BLACK & COLOURED SHEEP BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) INC.**

*If undelivered, return to:*

The Editor, 'Lambing Downs', Bungarby NSW 2630

***'Black Sheep Rising'***

**Closing date for articles, show results, upcoming events and any other gossip you would care to share in the next issue of 'Black Sheep Rising'**

**15 September 2007**

**Please forward to the Editor at address on Page 2, preferably by email, but will accept snail-mail!!**

**NEXT STATE MEETING - HOSTED BY HAWKESBURY REGION**

**Saturday 11 August 2007**

**Penrith Golf Club,  
1939 Northern Road, Penrith.  
Tel: (02) 4736 1633.**

**Lunch 12 midday - Meeting 1.00pm**