

14 April 2022

## 2022 “Golden Stencil”

### National Graduate Wool Classer Competition

The 2022 AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Wool Classer Competition was once again held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Tuesday 12 April, after a three-year COVID hiatus.

This is the premiere classing competition that brings together the best graduate wool classers from across Australia to compete for the major award and 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - “Golden Stencil”.

After the cancellation of the 2020 & 2021 competitions, due to COVID restrictions and State border closures, the competition was welcomed back by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and sponsors and organisers, the Australian Wool Exchange Limited and TAFE NSW.

This year competitors travelled from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. The 2022 winner of the “Golden Stencil” and \$500 prize money is Sarah Haynes from Naracoorte, SA. Sarah graduated from Registered Training Organisation SCAA and was trained by Alie Tuinder, Kingston SA. Second place and “Silver Stencil” (\$300 prize money) was won by Emma Pearson, Grenfell, NSW. Third place (\$200 prize money) and “Bronze Stencil” was won by Grace Jones, Ballarat, VIC.



2022 Place Getters (LtoR): Grace Jones, VIC (3<sup>rd</sup>), Sarah Haynes, SA (1<sup>st</sup>), Emma Pearson, NSW (2<sup>nd</sup>)

“This is the ninth 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 fine merino, medium merino and crossbred wool as well as exercises in AWEX-ID, valuation and an oral presentation to the judges. Sarah demonstrated her

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

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

“TAFE organisations across the country should be congratulated for training and nominating classers of such high calibre. To be nominated is an honour that has to be earned.” said Mark Grave “Each finalist gains valuable experience and in many ways this is as good as a job interview for prospective industry personnel”

SCAA, SA and trainer Alie Tuinder received the 14<sup>th</sup> Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy awarded to the training organisation and trainer of the competition winner.

Emma Pearson was the winner of the DAS Campbell prize for the top NSW graduate. This is the 48<sup>th</sup> year of the DAS Campbell award.

The judges of this year’s competition were Mr. Andrew Mills, MacDonald & Co Wool Brokers, Ms Evelyn Archer, TAS TAFE and Ms Fiona Raleigh, 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



LtoR: Lewis Abby, WA; Sarah Haynes, SA (1<sup>st</sup> place), Heather Walker, NSW; Helena Fischer, NSW; Jacquie Thompson, NSW; Darby Tremain, NSW; Emma Pearson (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), NSW, Grace Jones (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), VIC; Rosina Te Maipi, NSW

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

Fiona Raleigh,  
Mark Grave,

Wool Classer Registrar  
CEO

[fraleigh@awex.com.au](mailto:fraleigh@awex.com.au)  
[mgrave@awex.com.au](mailto:mgrave@awex.com.au)

p: 02 9428 6144  
p: 02 9428 6100