



Winter is well and truly upon us! We've had a very exciting few months at the PWS, from Abby's Italy trip to our Annual Ball, the 2025 Scholarship Announcement, the announcement of a pilot program for the PWS Finalists, and the recent Training Weekend at Wyvern Station, which was another fantastic event.

Abby Byrnes' Italy Recap

'As part of my Scholarship and thanks to the generous support of Endeavour Wool and Reda, I spent two incredible weeks at the Reda Wool Mills just outside of Biella, Italy. Fabrizio, Francesco, and the entire team were incredibly welcoming, making sure I felt settled and truly enjoyed my experience. I spent the two weeks alongside two others- Abigail, an intern partnered with AWI, and Lily, an intern partnered with NZ Merino — who are both completing a six-month internship called "From Sheep to Shop."

Throughout my time, I was introduced to multiple departments including Purchasing, R&D, and Sustainability, but spent most of my time in Processing. I also had the opportunity to visit the Romagnano combing mill, where I was taken through the process of transforming greasy wool into scoured and combed wool. A real highlight was spotting some wool grown in Barmedman and being able to pass that message back to the grower. While I had exposure to many areas, I dedicated most of my time to the Processing departments, spending quality time in each — from combing right through to Quality Control, where fabric is checked before moving on in the supply chain.

Beyond the technical side, my time at Reda gave me a deeper appreciation for the global wool supply chain, the importance of traceability, and the innovative work they're so proud of. Outside of work, we also had time to soak in some of Italy's culture as well as adventures to Biella, Turin, and Milan.

This experience was both professionally enriching and personally unforgettable. A huge thank you to the PWS, Endeavour Wool Exports and everyone at Reda for your time, knowledge, and kindness!

- Abby Byrnes, 2024 Peter Westblade Scholar

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The PWS extends a very big thank you to Endeavour Wool Exports and REDA for this incredible opportunity for the Peter Westblade Scholarship.

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The PWS Annual Ball

The 2025 Peter Westblade Scholarship Ball, held on Saturday, 10th May in Wagga Wagga, was great night, bringing together the PWS community to celebrate another successful year of the Scholarship. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear from our 2024 Scholars Abby and Doug who certainly achieved a lot over their scholarship journey! Thank you very much to everyone who joined us on the night, we really appreciate your support!



2025 Scholarship Recipients



A very big congratulations to our 2025 Peter Westblade Scholarship Recipients
Grace Kaveney and **Scott Macpherson**.



Grace works as a livestock manager near Thuddungra. She applied for the scholarship to connect with PWS committee members for mentorship, skill development, and to be challenged with her career aspirations. During her time as a scholar, Grace



Scott is as an overseer near Yass and is particularly interested in consumer-level marketing of the industry and driving demand. Scott will use the scholarship to broaden his knowledge and understanding in the industry by

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foundational skills within industry. Grace also hopes to be challenged by new concepts, to broaden her horizons.

knowledge of wool and surrounding himself with good mentors to carry him into the future.



2025 Scholars completing their scholarship goal setting with Carol Huggins at Wyvern, with guidance from 2024 Scholar Abby Byrnes

2025 PWS Finalist Program

The PWS are thrilled to announce an exciting new initiative:
the **2025 PWS Finalist Program**.

This innovative program was conceptualised at the PWS committee strategy day in early May, in a bid to provide opportunities to all six of the exceptional 2025 scholarship finalists. The finalists will partake in a five-month journey of industry immersion, completing a business tour that visits high performing sheep enterprises and taking part in a structured mentoring program, designed to broaden their horizons and expand their public speaking and business skills.

The PWS committee would like to thank David Sackett, who, together with Sally Martin, has been a pivotal in the development of the program.

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*The announcement of the 2025 PWS Finalist Program at the 2025 PWS Ball.
L-R: Joe Walden (Chairman), Jack Waters, Toby Haylock, Grace Kaveney, Nicholas Ryan and Scott Macpherson. Absent: Annaliese Spark*

PWS Training Weekend at Wyvern Station



success, bringing together passionate young sheep industry professionals for a weekend packed with practical education, invaluable networking and expert-led sessions. The attendees engaged in a wide range of sessions focused on core industry skills including animal health and assessment, sheep selection, stockmanship, working with wool, communication skills, mental health awareness and goal setting. The presenters were all outstanding and ensured that every session was insightful and engaging. A particular highlight of the weekend was the energy and curiosity shown by attendees, who posed thoughtful, relevant questions across all sessions.

A very big thank you to the brilliant presenters:

‘Hands on Health’ **Tim Gole** (*For Flocks Sake*)

‘Ram 101’ **Tom Graham and Jock Munro** (*Coolac Vet Services*)

‘Sheep Selection’ **Craig Wilson** (*Redgum River Pastoral*), **Pat Drew** (*Anunaka*) and **Austin Grace** (*Bogo Merinos*)

‘Stockmanship’ and ‘Working Dogs’ **Ed McFarland** (*Puzzle Stockdogs*), **Boyd Avejard** (*Plevna Merinos*)

‘Goal Setting’ and ‘Communication Skills’- **Carol Huggins** (*Woodpark Poll Merinos*)

‘Working with Wool’ **Marty Moses and Abby Byrnes** (*Moses and Son*), **Stuart Greenshields** (*Endeavour Wool Exports*)

‘Mental Health’- **Chris Wilson** (*Riverina Bluebell*)



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The PWS extends sincere thanks to **TA Field Estates** hosting us at their outstanding facilities, and to all of the brilliant staff at Wyvern Station for their hard work and support throughout the weekend.



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*It was wonderful to enjoy lunch outside on the Saturday. A big thank you to **Kilcoy Global Foods** for donating the meat and Brett Stockings for organising.*



A very big thank you to the fabulous SheepMetriX catering duo- Sally Martin and Bridget Parkman.

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contributions made the 2025 Training Weekend at Wyvern Station possible.



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