

# Nerstane is supreme

By CARLA WIESE-SMITH

CONTINUING from its stellar run in the Merino classes, Nerstane's grand champion fine/medium ram cemented its place in history by winning the 2011 Sydney Royal supreme Merino exhibit for owners, the McLaren family, Woolbrook.

It provided the third supreme exhibit title for Nerstane, which has previously won the award in 1999 and 2005.

After being labelled "a real sire" by fine/medium judge, Steve Phillips, Yarrawonga, Harden, the 19-micron ram went on to claim the major gong under the five-judge panel, beating off stiff competition from the Merriman family, Boorowa, which exhibited the best Merino ewe.

"This ram is pretty hard to fault, a magnificent sheep," Mr Phillips said. Fellow judge, Tim Bower, Stanley Vale,

Uralla, said the decision was unanimous.

"This ram stands up very correct, just check out the feet and hind legs on this sheep, and I can assure you as you go under this sheep, I was happily surprised that the wool underneath carries right through," he said.

"Congratulations to this ram and to Nerstane, because it's certainly a ram of the future and today, what we should be heading towards with good structure, stands up correct and a good outlook."

The six-tooth, March-shorn ram was by Nerstane 4636 and from an artificial insemination (AI) bred ewe.

Nerstane 4636 was the winner of the production class at the Dubbo National show and sale in 2006, where it cut 16.1 kilograms of 18.6-micron wool.

Hamish McLaren, Nerstane, said their grand champion ram had been supreme exhibit at Tenterfield Show

earlier this year, and would now be used as a back-up sire over the stud's AI ewes.

The ram had a 2.9-micron standard deviation (SD), 15.3 per cent coefficient of variation (CV) and 99.6pc comfort factor (CF).

While the ram proved a dominant force in the supreme judging, the judges were also full of praise for Merryville's six-tooth, March-shorn ewe.

Rodney Kent, Kurrajong Park, Delungra, said the ewe was "absolutely magnificent" underneath.

"She's got a great wool cut, stands up square, is very broad from between the ears right back down – just a tremendous ewe," he said.

The ewe was from the Merryville Brilliant Example family – the original Brilliant Example ram having been grand champion at Sydney in 1958.

Merryville's ewe was champion superfine ewe at Canberra's Great Southern Supreme Merino show this year, as well as grand champion ewe at Boorowa Show.

The ewe measured 17.4-micron, 3.3-micron SD, 19pc CV and 99.6pc CF, and will now go into Merryville's embryo transfer program.



Nerstane's supreme Merino exhibit, with breeders, John McLaren and his sons, Hamish and Jock, Nerstane, Woolbrook.

## MERINO

**Grand ram and supreme:** Nerstane, Woolbrook.

**Grand ewe:** Merryville, Boorowa.

**Stonehaven Cup – best group of five March-shorn sheep:** Merryville.

**Bruce Merriman Memorial Trophy – best group of five August-shorn sheep:** Roseville Park, Dubbo.

**Otway Falkiner Cup – best group of five Poll Merinos:** Karoola Downs Poll, Adelong.

**Tom Culley award – best junior exhibit:** Grassy Creek, Reids Flat.

**Merino pairs – NSW finalist:** Roseville Park.

**RAS Merino pair of the year:** Nerstane, Mungadal Trophy – most successful in

medium and strong wool: One Oak, Jerilderie.

**Sir Walter Merriman Memorial Trophy – most successful superfine and fine wool:** Merryville.

**Sir Frederick McMaster Memorial Trophy – most successful March-shorn exhibitor:** Merryville.

**Schute Bell Badgery Lumby award – most successful August-shorn exhibitor:** Roseville Park.



## Grassy Creek wins Culley trophy

THE judges' final decision on this year's two-tooth March-shorn finewool champion ewe was unanimous.

Michael and Jane Corkhill's Grassy Creek exhibit was the winner, after impressing all six judges.

However, when it came to the selection of the best junior Merino for the Tom Culley award the judges were split.

Selected from the combination of all two-tooth August and March shorn Merino and Poll Merino champion rams and ewes, the ewe had to overcome some quality competition from Pemcaw's 19-micron August shorn medium Poll Merino ram shown by the Arm-

**LEFT:** Best junior Merino with RAS sheep and wool committee chairman, Tim Slack-Smith, presenting the ribbon to Michael and Jane Corkhill, Grassy Creek stud, Reids Flat, and their son, Toby, 13 months.

strong family, Dunedoo, to take the top gong.

"The length of staple and quality of wool right down the animal through to the point, and the great presence of the sheep, turned the decision to the Grassy Creek ewe," said judging panel spokesman and Poll Merino judge, Allan Dawson, Winyar stud, Canowindra.

The Tom Culley Memorial Award was presented by the NSW Stud Merino Breeders' Association to the Corkhills, who only registered their Grassy Creek stud, Ried's Flat, in 2005, although the family have been breeding Merinos on "Grassy Creek" for five generations.

The Corkhill's flock of 850 ewes of ultra, super and fine wool was based on Grathlyn ewes and Merryville sires until the introduction of an Alfoxton sire in recent years.

The ewe was reserve fine wool champion at the Great Southern Supreme Merino Show,

Canberra, earlier this year and a member of the winning pair at the Royal Canberra Show.

The ewe measured 16.7 micron with a 2.3-micron standard deviation (SD), 13.8 per cent coefficient of variation (CV) and 99.8pc comfort factor (CF).

Not only has the award been a tremendous boost to Grassy Creek, but also to the breeders of the ewe's sire, the Cox family of Langdene stud, Dunedoo, who sold the fine wool sire, Langdene 4530 at the Hamilton Ram Sales in 2008 for the top price of \$19,000 to the Corkhills in a syndicate with four other studs.

A son shown by Langdene stud gained reserve junior champion August shorn Merino ram and Langdene also exhibited the champion of that section by another sire, the 2009 Australian supreme Merino.

– MARK GRIGGS

## Grassy Creek Merinos



**Grand Champion  
Fine Wool Ram**



**Tom Culley Award  
Best Junior Merino**



**2nd Stonehaven Cup**

**17 Broad Ribbons from 11 Sheep**

**1st & 2nd Objective Ewe Class - Fleece Value of \$215.70 & \$186.21**

**2nd Objective Ram Class 2 tooth / 4 tooth - Fleece Value of \$191.42 & EMD of 45mm**

**Michael & Jane Corkhill  
Grassy Creek Merinos**

**"Dryburgh" Reids Flat NSW 2586  
Ph: (02) 6345 2201 Mob: 0428 272 889**

**Classer Craig Wilson  
0428 250 982**