

BWBL review of 2009

Every year BWBL groups get together around this time to celebrate their achievements for the year and plan for the next year.

What a successful year it has been for BWBL. There have been many highlights throughout the year, including winning the inaugural Department of Primary Industries Samuel Wadham Practice Change Award in late November this year. The main story on this page covers the details of the award however the main congratulations should go to the producers who have supported BWBL and shared their experiences in evaluation.

There are 38 groups working across the state with 1,241 producers listed on the database – 604 group members and 637 associate members. These groups were managed by 22 coordinators and have conducted 190 meetings which covered activities such as pasture and grazing management, farm business reviews, animal health and nutrition, soil health, fertiliser decisions, marketing lambs and enterprise mix.

Phone seminars are a highlight of the BWBL program and five have been conducted over the year. Over 194 members have been involved in issues such as the: sheep genetics website, opportunities using nitrogen and gibberellic acid, annual control of weeds, animal health issues, cutting crops for hay or silage, and feed and water for sheep over summer.

The annual F'EWETURE Farming conference was another success with over 210 producers and service providers attending. The aim of the event is to provide sheep producers and agribusinesses with an update on the latest research for the sheep industry. The conference targeted the most current and topical issues. Findings from the evaluation concluded that the conference provided participants with an excellent balance of both presentations and hands on practical session covering highly relevant issues.

A forum has now been developed for the BWBL website to involve discussion about industry issues. Our coordinator's resumes are being added and groups now have the ability to develop their own page.

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB management congratulates its members and associates on a very successful year and looks forward to an exciting 2010.