

Oh What a Year!

The man in the red suit will be coming down the chimney and celebrations will start for the New Year 2009.

Time to reflect on this years achievements for BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB.

Funding for another three years was secured after a successful program proposal was developed and forwarded to DPI and AWI. BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB group structure is to continue with each group paying \$2,000 for the services of a paid coordinator who facilitates the group to achieve its decided outcome for the year. There are 35 groups across the state facilitated by 20 BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB coordinators. These groups have conducted over 200 activities which have covered such areas as pastures, animal health, business management, carbon/climate change, marketing, nutrition, genetics and grazing just to name a few. Free Associate membership which enables members to hear about the program and the latest in research shall also continue, already there are 538 members gaining the benefits from this type of membership.

Phone seminars are a highlight of the BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB program and five have been conducted over the year. Issues covered were Carbon Neutral Wool with Bruce McDonald and Claire from TMC, Fertiliser Use with Lisa Warn from MacKinnon, Agricultural Chemicals with Lachie McKinnon from Nufarm, Lime with Jim Shovelton from Mike Stephens & Associates and The Future of Wool with Brian van Rooyen from AWI. An average of 47 participants per seminar took advantage of being involved with this type of seminar.

Tried for the first time this year was an Industry Update conference called FEWETURE Farming. Over 140 people attended this inaugural conference. Feedback from those who attended was excellent and a similar conference will be held next year in late June or early July.

Together with work on updating the BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB website to make it more interactive, monthly stories in the Stock & Land which feature group/individual activities, bimonthly Information Exchange BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsletter and the fortnightly email Newsflash with the latest workshops, research and news items it has been a very busy year.

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB management congratulates its members and associates on a very successful year and looks forward to an exciting 2009.