

# QUEENSLAND INNOVATIVE SHEEP NETWORK

EDITION 1 - AUGUST 2015

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first edition of the QLD Innovative Sheep Network's (QISN) monthly newsletter!

The last couple of months has seen QISN hold two events, with the first being a **Young Sheep Producers Forum** which was held in conjunction the QLD State Sheep Show in Goondiwindi on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Panel members at the forum included Roger Fletcher of Fletchers International; Kat Giles of the Sheepmeat Council & Bruce McLeish from Elders Wool. Held in a Q&A style format, with Brett Smith as facilitator, saw numerous questions from the crowd with the main focus being that young entrants to the industry need to know what effects profitability which included having sound infrastructure, knowing which enterprise worked for you & as always getting on top of wild dogs!

In late June Stu Hodgson from AWI travelled up to Wilgunya at Dirranbandi where two **Visual Sheep Classing Days** were held which took participants through the basic elements of selecting maiden ewes in balanced manner to optimise wool cut & lamb production. Stu imparted some of the important aspects regarding the history of the Merino in terms of where it has come from to the magnificent animal that it is today. Nine participants on the first day & seven on the second day took away a lot of new knowledge as well as enthusiasm for the potential of the Merino particularly when compared to other enterprises.

As all members of the Committee will take turns in publishing the newsletter, it gives an opportunity to gradually introduce all members. This month's editor is **Brett Smith**, the newly elected President of QISN, who hails from St George, growing up on his parent's sheep & mixed cropping enterprise which ignited his passion for Merinos, in particular wool. Brett currently works for Elders as a District Wool Manager which allows him to work with producers in Southern QLD & Northern NSW, helping them improve all facets of their business. After attending Downlands he went on to study Ag Economics at UNE in Armidale & then also completed a Master of Agriculture focussing on sheep and wool. Having the opportunity to facilitate programs like **Lifetime Ewe Management** and be involved with groups like QISN and Ag Force really make it an exciting time to be involved with Sheep and Wool in QLD!

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

QISN has been operating for around 12 months now & held its first AGM on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July which saw a new executive elected & as well as welcomed new members to the committee.

PRESIDENT – Brett Smith  
VICE PRESIDENT – Allcyia Bennett  
SECRETARY – Alex Stirton  
TREASURER – Chantahl Stedman  
COMMITTEE: Holly Hawkes, Anna-Marie Moffat, Douglas Rodgers, Zaretta Stedman, Josh Fittler  
Want to be involved with QISN? Contact us!  
FACEBOOK PAGE "Qld Innovative Sheep Network"  
EMAIL [qisn.committee@gmail.com](mailto:qisn.committee@gmail.com)

## HELP US NAME THE NEWSLETTER!!

We are looking for a fantastic title for the newsletter, so please send in any inventive titles to our email. There will be a prize for the best name!!

## QISN STRUCTURE

An updated structure for organising QISN activities was also introduced at the AGM and accepted as the best way to progress the networks objectives. This is based around having **regional hubs** for the network centred on where the committee members live & work with the aim of engaging of the younger part of the industry in those areas by offering activities tailored to each regions needs as well as helping to overcome the spread of members across the state. This will also allow for the committee to become incorporated as the network has moved on from being just a steering committee.

## EVENTS

Here at QISN – we encourage all young sheep and wool enthusiasts to get involved with producer events in their region. Know of a sheep event coming up? Let us know @ QISN via email or Facebook.

**"Financing the Future" Webinar on Monday 24th August @ 8PM with Brad Sewell**  
Investigating alternative enterprise structures to benefit new generations.

**To register please use the following link:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/115272068035907586>

