

MEDIA RELEASE



The South Australian Sheep Industry Blueprint

– a plan for industry growth from 2015 to 2020

Media release

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

SA delegates celebrate industry at LambEx 2016

MORE than 120 South Australians headed across the border to the first-ever New South Wales held LambEx 2016 last week in Albury.

The two-and-a-half-day event welcomed more than 1050 delegates, with international and Australian speakers discussing the latest outcomes and research on lamb, sharing their vision, and empowering and inspiring participants to all champion their passion.

Champion marathon runner Robert de Castella, Riverina Bluebell's Chris Wilson and former National RIRDC Rural Woman of the Year Pip Job were standouts in the Survive and Thrive session, along with information delivered by local producers Vicky Geddes, Holbrook, NSW; Matt Browning, Borambil, NSW; and Jason Trompf, JT Consulting, Victoria, in the Bringing the Paddock to Life session. Meat Science session speakers Murdoch University's Professor Graham Gardner and Prof David Pethick, NSW Department of Primary Industries' Dr David Hopkins and Meat & Livestock Australia's Doug Piper and Sam Burke were also exceptional.

Thanks to sponsorship from SheepConnect SA, Spence Dix & Co, Pinkerton Palm Hamlyn & Steen and the SA Sheep Industry Fund, as well as support from Livestock SA, two LambEx SA buses headed across to the event from Naracoorte and Nuriootpa, with 73 people onboard, including some who had travelled from as far afield as Kimba.

Participants ranged in age from 16 to 70, with producers and stakeholders from PIRSA, Livestock SA, University of Adelaide, Elders, Farmer Johns, and an inaugural 2014 LambEx Young Gun making the trip across. The buses were coordinated by Solly Business Services' Ken Solly, Naracoorte; SA Sheep Industry Blueprint Manager Stephen Lee and Rural Solutions SA: PIRSA's Bruce Hancock.

"Following the success of LambEx 2014 it was excellent to be able to ensure strong SA participation at LambEx 2016," Dr Lee said.

"The buses allowed old friends to catch up and new friendships to be made. Importantly each person on the bus has indicated what on-farm and community based actions they will be pursuing to support the SA sheep industry. It highlights the value of LambEx and travelling together."

Mr Hancock said the engagement and active participation of everyone in the Nuriootpa bus in the numerous bus workshops/discussions led by other participants was extremely fruitful.

"Eleven hours just seemed to race by, both ways," Mr Hancock said.

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Mr Solly said he had organised a bus trip last year to the BestWool/Best Lamb Conference in Victoria, and afterwards participants had asked if he would organise a similar trip to LambEx.

“I see enormous value in the quality of networking,” he said.

“There were so many people on the bus that did not know each other prior to the trip. The networking on the bus, and at LambEx was invaluable. In particular the importance of keeping good quality data and using it to make decisions was one message that was highlighted.

“We’re very appreciative of the sponsors who allowed us to undertake the trip, and make it an affordable experience for those who may otherwise have been unable to make the journey.”

Mr Solly said the trip to Jason Trompf’s property at Greta East as part of a Pre-Conference Tour was “fantastic in more ways than one”.

“We couldn’t allocate enough time to it,” he said. “There was so much to take in from the maternal trials, to eID tags and the importance of recording good quality data.”

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, Farmer Johns and the Angaston Agricultural Bureau directly supported 13 producers from the Barossa and surrounding districts to attend.

SheepConnect SA’s Coordinator, Ian McFarland said his program saw it as a great opportunity to support farmers to attend the event.

“It meant they could hear about the latest research, marketing and productive opportunities, as well as to network with a wide range of industry stakeholders,” he said.

“It was a great opportunity for South Australian farmers.”

SA Sheep Advisory Group Chair Leonie Mills, which administers the SA Sheep Industry Fund, said it was an excellent opportunity to assist an enthusiastic group to attend this event and have access to really current information and contacts within our industry.

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For a high resolution photo of all of the South Australians at LambEx [click here](#)

For a photo of PIRSA’s Michael Blake, Meat & Livestock Australia Lambassador Sam Kekovich, University of Adelaide’s Wayne Pitchford and Solly Business Services’ Ken Solly, Naracoorte, [click here](#)

For a photo of LambEx Young Guns finalists, including South Australians Octavia Kelly, Bianca Agenbag and Mary Chirgwin, and JBS Australia’s Jose Webb and Laura Wishart [click here](#)