

## Coopworth Genetics Australia travels to Henty NSW

Members of Coopworth Genetics Australia (CGA) travelled to Henty NSW to run a field day and hold its AGM. The field Day was hosted by CGA Councillor and principal of Strathview Coopworths, Tim Lubke. About forty sheep breeders from the Southern Riverina and North East Victoria participated in a hands on workshop learning more about the use of objective measurement data through Australian Sheep breeding values (ASBV's). An excellent demonstration was conducted when renowned Poll Dorset stud Kentish Downs principal Rob Martin demonstrated the benefits of using ASBV's for selecting terminal sires to use over self-replacing maternal Coopworth dams. Waradgery Coopworth stud's Tim Johnston presented "The Coopworth Advantage" and Don Pegler from Cashmore Oaklea talked about his experiences with joining ewe lambs, and highlighted the benefits of selecting for early maturing ewes. The versatility of the Coopworth breed was exhibited when the field day toured local producer Matt Klemke's property. Running 2,500 Coopworth ewes on his sheep and wheat mixed enterprise farm, Matt sows a grazing wheat variety. This provided early feed for his ewes, which enabled pasture paddocks to build up feed before lambing. Matt then finishes his lambs in an on-farm feedlot.

An historic AGM was then held in Henty. John Marriott retired as president of CGA after serving for more than 30 years as either president or secretary. Tim Johnston was elected as the organisations new President. Tim has been breeding Coopworths for 10 years and runs the Waradgery Coopworth stud. Don Pegler was honoured for his long service to the Coopworth breed by being awarded Life Membership of CGA. Don is Co-Principal of Cashmore Oaklea stud and has made a significant contribution to the development of performance recording of maternal sheep over many years.



Don Pegler was awarded Life Membership of Coopworth Genetics Australia