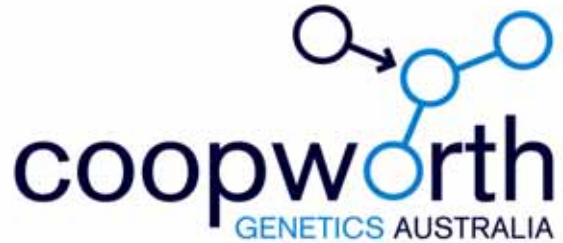


Media Release: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010



## Coopworth breeder awarded life membership

Coopworth breeder Dick Wigan was recently awarded with a Life Membership of Coopworth Genetics Australia (CGA) by fellow CGA Councilors.

Principal of the Barakee Coopworth Stud Dick first started breeding Coopworths in the early eighties and was the first to import Coopworths from New Zealand where they were originally developed in the 1950's.

CGA councillor Don Pegler acknowledged the contribution Dick had made to the contribution to the development of Coopworths in Australia. "Dick has worked tirelessly for the good of the industry in bringing Coopworths to the forefront of prime lamb production in Australia. He has also been a valuable mentor for many younger breeders entering the industry."

Fellow CGA councillor John Marriot noted "Not only has Dick made an enormous contribution to CGA and the Coopworth breed but also to the broader Australian sheep industry."

Dick orchestrated the first National Multivendor Coopworth Ram Sale in 1987 at Glenormiston College, where he was also a lecturer. For 23 years Dick has been and still is the driving force behind this sale. Now held at Hamilton in November each year, this sale offers the best Coopworth genetics available in Australia to discerning prime lamb producers.

In responding to his Life Membership Dick was humbled, "It has given me great pleasure to witness Coopworths evolve into a highly profitable prime lamb breed in Australia. It is comforting to see a younger generation of breeders coming into the industry that value the measured genetic gains that Coopworths offer prime lamb producers."

Coopworth Genetics Australia will have a display at Hamilton Sheepvention and will offer 60 rams at the Multivendor sale in Hamilton on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

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