

# HORSHAM AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY INC



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## OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW FACILITIES COMBINED WITH THE RETURN OF THE WIMMERA AUTUMN MERINO SHEEP SHOW.

The official opening of new facilities at Maydale Reserve will be held on Sunday, March 20 at 11.30am by Dr. Anne Webster MP. The federal government provided \$124,999 funding for these projects in 2021 which are now completed.

The opening coincides with the upcoming Wimmera Merino Sheep Show which is the first opportunity where Horsham Ag Society members and the public can gather together to celebrate the finish of the projects. This Merino sheep show has quickly become a burgeoning and highly regarded sheep show for Western Victoria and is an opportunity for professional and social interaction between studmasters, wool classers, wool growers, working dog breeders and young Merino enthusiasts.

The Horsham Agricultural Society is hosting the show with the support of several organising committees specific to each of the feature events including their own volunteers who are managing the Wimmera Fleece Show section. Local wool growers have been entering fleeces from the current shearing season, with some donating fleeces as part of a Wimmera Legacy annual fleece fundraiser, now managed by the Horsham Ag Society.

The Wimmera Yard Dog Trial is a two-day event which begins on Saturday, 19 March at 12.30pm with day one focussing on local/encourage yard dog classes then begins again early Sunday morning for the maiden/novice and improver/open classes. This event is run under the Victorian Yard Dog Utility Farm Dog Association by local delegates.

The volunteer organising committee of passionate merino sheep breeders for the UTF Australia Wimmera Autumn Merino Sheep Show come from as far as Ouyen to the north and Nurrabil to the south. Now in its second year after its inaugural event in 2021, dodging lockdowns and managing restrictions sees this show return on March 20.

Organisers are expecting more than 20 studs will be represented with entries coming in already from South Australia.

“The impact of the pandemic affected the Horsham Ag Society's traditional agricultural show with the event cancelling two years running, so we are

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pleased to have this 'add on' show for exhibitors across the southern parts of Australia” society Executive Officer, Andrea Cross said.

Andrea said “With seventeen exhibitors participating in the 2021 show, we look forward to increased numbers with no border restrictions as we welcome exhibitors from NSW, SA and of course from across Victoria.”

Judges for the UTF Australia Wimmera Autumn Merino Sheep Show include two young women taking on the role of judging - possibly a first for a sheep show. Claire McGauchie will be judging the strong and medium classes and Nicole Crawford will be judging the fine and superfine classes.

Students from Longerenong Agricultural College have once again been invited to help steward and also try their hand at competing in the junior sheep judging section.

The Wimmera Merino Sheep Show provides families with an opportunity to engage directly with rural life and food & fibre production. While being an integral part of Australian culture, our UTF Australia Wimmera Autumn Merino Sheep Show provides a visual exhibition for the public and enables growers to compare stock and showcase their best produce. It is also the most authentic and accessible display of Australian farming and regional life while bringing the community together.

Public admission is \$5 for non-members of the Horsham Ag Society. The show is fully catered on Sunday 20 March from 7am for breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea.

Show schedules and entry forms are available online for all features of the show at [horshamshow.com.au](http://horshamshow.com.au) but entries will be accepted up til show day. More details can be found on the Horsham Show Facebook page.