



Board Report March 24



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

What is happening in the MerinoLink community

MERINOLINK CONFERENCE

Update on conference preparations

PROJECT UPDATES

Sire Evaluation

MerinoLink held its quarterly Board Meeting on 5 February 2024, find out the latest news from the meeting and what has been happening in our MerinoLink community over the last few months.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

We have created a new calendar of events which will be regularly updated on our website and social media platforms. If you have any events that you would like captured in the calendar for members and the wider industry network, please do not hesitate to email us at: admin@merinolink.com.au

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

We want to learn all about you, our members. In the coming weeks, we will be sending out a Membership Survey for you to complete, which will help us gain a better understanding of the demographics of our members and help us plan future events. We ask that you take the time to complete the survey and let us know if there is anything specific you'd like to see MerinoLink provide.

SHEEP HANDLER FIELD DAY

Our first Sheep Handler field day unfortunately had to be postponed due to unseasonably wet weather closing roads and making access to properties difficult.

Thankfully, the sun was shining on our rescheduled field day 22 February 2024, where we saw an amazing turnout of participants travelling from all over the state and representatives travel from all over the country, we thank each and every one of you!

It was a fantastic day where we got to see how different handlers operated in a real working environment.. There was something for everyone with BreedELITE, Clipex, Pratley and TePari handlers all showcased on the day and a representative from Shearwell answering questions about eID. There were great conversations and questions which made it a very informative day. Having the farmers on hand to explain how they used their setups was also extremely beneficial. We collected a survey at the end of the day for our sponsors which included comments and feedback from our attendees on the day "Great range of options", "Really interesting day, especially hearing from Producers who had them", "Was a great day", "Keep doing what you are doing".

We would like to extend a big thankyou to the Ross, Osborne and Kelly families who hosted the Field Day on their properties as well as our sponsors; BreedELITE, Clipex, Pratley, TePari and Shearwell for their involvement on the day. Also to Nutrien Ag in Bathurst, for sponsoring the morning tea and lunch and to Cliff and Andrew Kelly for your BBQ skills, it was a day enjoyed by all.

You know it's a good day, when you are asked when the next one will be, so keep your eyes peeled for information on when and where we will run another sheep handler field day later in the year.



2024 MERINOLINK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Preparations for the 2024 MerinoLink conference are well underway with a program full of presenters that will have something for everyone. Tickets will go on sale shortly so make sure you have Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th June 2024 locked into diaries and bookmark our conference page on our website to keep up to date: <https://www.merinolink.com.au/conference24/>

There are still some places available for sponsorship and we have some fantastic packages available. We can also tailor a package to suit your needs if you have something specific in mind. If you are interested in finding out more please reach out to admin@merinolink.com

2024 MerinoLink Conference Sponsorship Packages

CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP				
Package Inclusions	Platinum (2 available) \$10,000 (ex GST)	Gold \$5,500 (ex GST)	Silver \$3,000 (ex GST)	Bronze \$1,000 (ex GST)
Full Conference Package tickets	7	5	3	1
Conference Trade Display	Naming rights at conference dinner/lunch, banner on main stage, double display in trade hall with option for additional demo display in the Pit Garage	Double display in trade hall with option for additional demo display in Pit Garage	Single display upstairs in trade hall	Single display upstairs in trade hall
Conference Handbook advertising Content inclusion in conference pack	Full page Unlimited	Half page Unlimited	Quarter page 1 item	Logo -
Social media marketing	1 x featured individual post	1 logo/business individual post	Group acknowledgement post	-

MerinoLink invites all of industry to join us again in Bathurst, NSW for our annual conference.

The conference will feature the latest research presented by a broad spectrum of key industry presenters all hosted at the Mount Panorama Pit Complex, overlooking the famous Conrod Straight. There will be a brand new program of topics and line-up of speakers, plus the opportunity to attend the MerinoLink Sire Evaluation Field Day on-farm the following day. The 2024 conference will be held on **Wednesday, June 5th** commencing at approximately 8am. Dinner at the Rydges will follow the day's proceedings featuring an exciting key-note speaker.

Check out a program snapshot below. Don't miss this opportunity to surround yourself with like-minded people who are passionate about the sheep industry and hear the latest industry updates and innovations in an exciting one-day format. For more information as well as sponsorship packages, check out our website at <http://www.merinolink.com.au/conference24/>

Opening Session	Genetics
Hear about DPI's Farms of the Future Tech program and AWI's investment in shearing and wool processing	Get an update on MLP as it nears project completion, MLA's New Indexes and genetic udder health traits
Grazing and feeding for improved soil management	Tech Time
How can we optimise soil carbon and soil health using grazing and containment feeding?	Drone tech, the use of AI to measure heat stress & on farm fibre diameter measurement
Post-farm wool processing	People planning: onfarm and into the future
Hear the latest from AWI, AWTA and producers themselves on wool processing innovation & the Wool Sustainability Hub	Hear from a panel made up of producers, industry professionals and Nuffield scholars on all things succession, staff training and human resources
	Bar open at Rydges from 5:45pm for pre-dinner drinks
	Dinner at the Rydges

PROJECT UPDATES

SIRE EVALUATION

We are excited to have locked in the Owens family from Nanena Merinos as hosts of our 2024 Sire Evaluation Trial. They run a merino enterprise on 3250ha South-West of Bathurst. Their objective is to breed sheep that produce heavy cutting fine wool fleeces (15.5 to 17.5 micron) on a moderate frame size with high reproduction rates whilst ensuring quality fleeces that are lustrous white with good length and strength that are resistant to fleece rot and dust penetration. Importance is placed on traits such as fleece weight, fibre diameter, body weight and weaning rates to produce highly profitable progeny whilst also focusing on poll genetics, plainer skin types and body types to assist with the move to a non mulesed flock.

15 Merino sires have been selected which will be joined by AI on 24th and 25th March 2024. If you are interested in Sire Evaluation, how it runs or you may like to host a site one day down the track, come along and volunteer for a day. There are several opportunities to volunteer over the course of the trial to view the process and gain an understanding of what the trial entails.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Owens family for being hosts of our 2024 Sire Evaluation. For more information or to express your interest in being involved, contact us as: admin@merinolink.com.au

FEEDBACK

As always we value your input, if you have any feedback or ideas, you'd like to share with us on where you see the value in a MerinoLink membership, please get in touch with Mel Kelly on 0437 661 058 or email: admin@merinolink.com.au