

# SHEEPO'



Issue 10 - May 2007

Journal of The Shearing Contractors' Association of Australia

## 80 YEARS OF SUPPORT

In 2007 The Shearing Contractor's Association of Australia (SCAA), is celebrating 80 years of support to the shearing industry. It is a momentous achievement for the association and all current and past members should be congratulated on their efforts in 'looking out' for their industry.

The role of the Association over the decades has varied depending on the environmental, economic and industrial climate of the day however the primary focus has been based around using the power of a combined and 'loud' voice to make some significant achievements for the industry in the areas of arbitration and facilitation on the industrial front (award setting), lobbying State and Federal governments. More recently the industry has required attention around training, OH&S standards, workers compensation reforms, as well as the attraction of new workers to the industry. In addition, the Association has always aimed to provide direct financial benefits and genuine savings for members.

To celebrate this great milestone and to look at securing the future of the Association, the SCAA committee is looking to bolster the membership ranks with a member-get-member campaign:

### Member-get-member campaign

The SCAA committee is aware of the effort current members undertake to encourage other shearing contractors to join the Association. To support this process, any member who is able to assist in signing up a new member will receive 25 FREE sheets of Heiniger brown emery paper with any emery order of 25 sheets or more. As a further incentive, the new member will also receive 25 FREE sheets of Heiniger brown emery paper with any emery order of 25 sheets or more.

To complete the process, simply let the secretary know of any contractors who have expressed interest in finding out the benefits of SCAA membership and provide their details. The contractor will be contacted and a membership application pack will be sent out to the member with details of why it pays to belong.

### Event Dates:

#### SCAA Regional Meetings

**Ballarat:** Friday 25 May 2007 - Ballarat Golf Club

**Moama:** Saturday 26 May 2007 - Border Inn Hotel

**Narrandera:** Saturday 16 June 2007 - Ex- Serviceman's club

**Adelaide:** Saturday 23 June 2007 - Earl of Aberdeen Hotel

#### Wool Harvesting Forum

13 June 07 (see story) Dubbo TAFE campus Narromine Rd

#### OH&S Workshops for the shearing industry (Victoria)

##### Golburn Valley Region:

Dookie Wed 2nd May 2007 9am-4pm "DOOKIE COLLEGE" Dookie- Nalinga Road

##### North West Region:

Elmore Wed 13th June 2007 9am-4pm "MIRNEE" Lockington Road, Elmore

##### South West Region

Strathdownie / Casterton Wed 20th June 2007 9am-4pm "SELKIRK EAST" Doughboy Road, Strathdownie

To register for the Victorian Workshops Contact: Bindi Bowman asap on 0400 673 949

**New Zealand SCA AGM Conference - Christchurch NZ 14 & 15 May 2007**

## News In Brief

### Award update – 1 Dec Rates of Pay are now official

Both the Pastoral Industry Award (for Shearers and shed staff) and the Woolclassers Award have now been ratified by the AIRC. The AIRC has heard the Australian Workers Union (AWU)'s November 06 application to vary the Pastoral Industry Award. The application was based on the Fair Pay Commission's \$27.36 per week minimum wage increase. The "new" rates (\$220.76 for shearing), which were sent to you in December, are effective as at 1 December. Any workers who were not being paid the new rates from 1 December will need to be back paid the difference. If you have any questions contact the Secretary.

### ShearHarvest 07 Workshops

The ShearHarvest 07 workshops were a huge success with more than 100 people attending the days. The open days were the perfect opportunity for Shearing Contractors, their customers and staff to update their knowledge on the latest developments and standards in the shearing industry.

The SCAA would like to thank our partners Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Western Institute of TAFE NSW, AWEX and Prime Super whose contributions made the days such a success. The SCAA is looking for funding to roll out the programme into other states.

### Workers Compensation

- National: Workers Comp Cross border rules were updated in March ( see story)
- NSW Workcover announces a further 5% reduction in NSW premiums to take effect from 1 July 2007.
- NSW Workcover is offering rebates of up to \$500 when businesses attend Workcover safety workshops and then invest in workplace improvements as part of their safety plan
- SA WorkCover's unfunded liability has increased to \$722.7 million after a loss of \$28.6 million for the half-year to 31 December, 2006. The Scheme is 66.1 per cent funded. The average levy rate for 2007-08 will remain at 3.0 per cent.

### New Zealand Shearing Contractors Association AGM Conference

Several of the SCAA committee will be attending the New Zealand Shearing Contractors Association AGM Conference on the 14th and 15th of May. The SCAA committee has been invited to talk at the conference around the topic of "issues and problems faced by Australian Shearing Contractors" (there is plenty of material). The goal of attending is to discover common issues and see if better solutions can be found.

## Workers Comp Cross border rules – State of Connection

As you would be aware, workers compensation laws are state based laws which in the past have caused confusion and inequities for employers who operate interstate, near state boundaries or in a state with higher workers compensation costs than neighboring states.

Workers compensation laws that were amended in March 2007 have resulted in employers only being required to maintain a workers compensation insurance policy in the state where their workers have a 'State of Connection'.

A workers state of connection is established by 3 tests:

- Test A The State in which the worker **usually works (see below)** in your employment.
- Test B If no State is identified by test A, the State in which the worker is usually based for the purposes of that employment.
- Test C If no State is identified by test A or B, the State in which the **employer's principal place of business** in Australia is located.

### Usually works

A worker **usually works** in the State where they spend the greatest proportion of their working time. Many workers are required to travel temporarily to other States in the course of their duties.

However, if a worker spends the greatest proportion of their time working in one State, for the term of their contract, they are considered to usually work in that State.

In determining whether a worker usually works in a particular State an employer should consider:

- What is the worker's history of employment with the employer?
- How long is the arrangement intended to last? Temporary arrangements of not longer than six months are not to be taken into account.
- What are the intentions of the employer and worker?

### So is there a still a need for more than one policy any more?

**Yes.** - If you travel with your usual shearing team interstate for a period of less than six months, you will not need a second policy as your workers state of connection is with your 'home' state. However, if you engage local workers from the state in which you have traveled to, you are required to insure those workers in their state of connection i.e. the state you have traveled into.

### Notification of injuries

In the event of serious incidents involving a fatality or a serious injury or illness you must immediately notify the Workcover authority of the state you are working in along with your workers compensation insurer/Scheme agent.

For other non-emergency incidents involving an injury or illness to workers, notify your workers compensation insurer/Scheme Agent within 48 hours. They will advise the state's Workcover authority in the state where the injury occurred

## Shearing Back Harness Rebate Project- Back Harness now \$100 (incl GST)

As mentioned in the February 07 Sheepo, through Frank Sutherland, the SCAA is involved with the \$200,000 Victorian Workcover authority's Workplace Injury Insurance Fund - Wool Harvesting Improvement Program. Part of the program is to encourage shearing shed owners to take up the opportunity to permanently install Shearing Back Harnesses above all shearing stands in their shearing shed.

In order to meet the goal of having 1,000 additional back harnesses permanently installed in Victorian shearing sheds. The price of the harnesses has dropped to \$100 incl GST).

So if you are working in a Victorian shearing shed without permanent back harnesses installed, encourage the grower to take up the offer. Permanent back harnesses in every shed will result in reduced back injury for the shearer, reduced electrocution and 'fall from heights' risk when temporarily installing back harnesses each time a shearer works in a shed. Furthermore, the programme will also reduce Workers Compensation costs for the contractor and growers as well as reducing productivity losses that result from injured workers.

### AWI DVD – Shearing and Woolhandling training DVD's

The latest in the AWI's series of training DVD's has been released. All DVD are considered to be very useful back up information for all those working in the sheds to improve their skills and performance. The icing on the cake is that they are all FREE.

To ORDER simply call 1800 070 099 The other 6 titles are:

- Novice Shearing DVD
- Improver/Professional Shearing DVD
- Wool Industry Workouts DVD
- Wool Handling and Shed Skills DVD
- Crutching Techniques DVD
- Experting and Grinding DVD

## Wool Harvesting Forum – Dubbo NSW

Following the success of the SCAA's ShearHarvest 07, Australian Wool Innovations (AWI) has invited the SCAA, along with AWEX and TAFE (NSW Western Institute) to be partners in a wool harvesting forum. The forum will be held at the Western Institute of TAFE NSW - Rural skills Centre, Dubbo on Wednesday 13th June 2007.

The forum promises to be a worthwhile day for wool growers, SCAA contactors and their staff, along with any potential newcomers to the industry. The centre piece of the day will be one of the best team of shearers and wool handlers ever assembled: Several members of the AWI national mentoring team who have represented Australia on the international stage will be in full swing over a two hour run. The aim is to highlight where AWI is heading in respect of training, establishing a training culture and lifting the overall quality of wool harvesting.

World champion Shannon Warnest will head the team of shearers while Eileen Philipson who has represented Australia in wool handling will head the wool handling team.

AWEX will be participating and promoting the recently revised Code of Practice for the preparation of the clip as well as Peak Hill Industries latest model of the ShearEzy UPSP will be on display and demonstrated throughout the day.

All SCAA members and their staff are welcome on the day however this day is largely aimed at the Woolgrowers. One of the overwhelming 'findings' of the ShearHarvest 07 workshops was the lack of understanding from many wool growers, as to the importance of clip preparation and the returns it can bring to the woolgrower through higher sale prices when the clip is sold. The ShearHarvest 07 workshops saw woolgrowers testifying that the cost of their shearing was covered by superior clip preparation.

It is this message that we are trying to have heard amongst the wool growing community. It is from this message that the wool grower can then see the value in engaging quality shearing contractors, who will deliver them a higher income from better sale prices. So if you have customers (or potential customers) in the region, encourage them to get along to the day.

SCAA is proudly  
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