

Q&A with Charlie Brumpton

By Michael Allpass, Agforce, QLD

Charlie was the 2015 Winner of National Merino Sheep Young Judges Championship and Winner of the Federal Council of Ag Societies National Merino Sheep Young Judges Championship at the Sydney Royal in April 2016

1. What are your plans once you finish year 12?

Once I finish year 12 I am looking at taking a gap year or two before commencing study at University/Marcus Oldham and doing a course involved in agriculture. Next year I am going up north to the territory to work on a cattle station, and then the following year, I am keen to go to work on a sheep property in New South Wales or South Australia.

2. What does an award like the National Junior Judging Competition and individual regional show competitions mean to you? What have you learnt from your experiences in the showing?

Ever since I can remember I have been going around to sheep shows with our sheep and have entered in Junior judging competitions, so finally to have won this award means a lot to me that I have achieved one of my goals. Junior judging really helps you learn about how to class sheep by examination the main characteristics that a sheep should have and then picking up on the little points that aren't so visible. We are so lucky to have regional shows to learn and compete at, at any age and to watch and listen to the experts and learn and ask questions from the studmasters.

3. Are you the youngest to ever receive this title; and what does this mean to you competing in the future?

I'm not sure who is the youngest to win this but it has been a great opportunity and privilege to compete in such a competition. Winning the final really gave me encouragement and determination to stay within the merino sheep industry and hopefully get the privilege to judge at shows in the future.

4. You came 2nd in the National Wool Judging competition. Does this mean you will concentrate on this title?

In future I will keep trying to win this title but I am still happy with second place in this competition.

5. The sheep and wool industry is clearly something you are passionate about and something that you and your family have been actively involved in for a long time. As a young person, what do you think are the biggest issues facing the sheep and wool industry at the moment and do you have any thoughts or insights into what is needed in the industry moving forward?

As a young and inexperienced person in the sheep industry and coming from a family that has been in the industry for over 100 years, I think there is a big future for me and other young people within the sheep industry. There are many issues facing the industry but I think the biggest ones are the problems that mainly Queensland faces with feral pests like dingos and kangaroos. There is really no quick fix but I think cattle and sheep producers, and governments have to work together to somehow solve this devastating problem so we can build up the numbers of sheep back in Queensland. Also I think there is a lack of young people that are keen to have success in the industry. I think more young people should be encouraged by their parents or the sheep industry to give it a go and become involved on the land, it is such a rewarding occupation and a profitable one. I also feel education is a big issue which is why I want to further my studies to enhance the practical knowledge I have, and still learning. We have to be up with the latest technologies, ideas and easier ways of running our properties in this 21st century.