

WHITE RIVER IN GROUND BREAKING WIN

The Daniell family of White River Merinos and Poll Merinos stud fame returned to the Adelaide Royal Show this year after an extended absence and came away with flying colours.

John and Margaret Daniell took 2 Merino rams down to the Royal in the Autumn Shorn classes, White River 'Kaldoonera' 9778 and the lot 1 ram from their recent sale that sold to Bill Carey, Parla Peak Pty Ltd, Streaky Bay.

The Carey ram went on to be the Reserve Champion Autumn shorn strong wool ram in a very good result, but it was 'Kaldoonera' that set the headlines.

He won through to be Grand Champion Autumn Shorn Merino or Poll Merino ram on the Wednesday. On the Thursday on completion of the full wool classes, the Grand Champion full wool Poll Merino ram & ewe and the Grand Champion Merino ram & ewe compete with the Grand Champion Autumn Shorn Merino or Poll Merino ram & ewe; 6 elite animals competing for the title of Supreme Champion Merino or Poll Merino ram or ewe.

No autumn Shorn hogget ram has ever won this title before, but against very strong competition from the other winners from Deloshanda, Glendonald, Old Ashrose, Nyowee and Bunyara studs, the White River ram got the nod from the 6 judges.

Already possessing the title of Riverina Wool Australian Champion Merino Hogget Ram of the Year from his win at Hay Sheep Show in July, the Daniells arguably had more to lose than gain by exposing him to more elite competition in Adelaide, unless he won, which he duly did.

John and Margaret Daniell were ecstatic with their win. "Considering it is such a ground breaking achievement with him being only a hogget and Autumn shorn, we rate this win as our proudest moment in competitive showing, Australian championships included," John said.

For their win the Daniells won a sheep feeder or comparative value product from Magnus, represented at the presentations by Brendon Loechel. Speaking on behalf of the judges, Warren McCrae, Victoria said the ram is such a complete and hard to fault ram, big, well fleshed, structurally wonderful and with such an even high quality fleece all over. "I first saw him at Hay and admired him and from there he has only got better; he was a clear winner," he said.

White River has collected semen from 'Kaldoonera', in fact the ram arrived at the show straight from the AI collection centre. This win can only enhance demand and his value to the industry.

Photo Caption: Brendon Loechel, Magnus, presents the Supreme Merino ribbon to John and Margaret Daniell after Kaldoonera's ground breaking win at Adelaide Royal last Thursday. They are in front of the Magnus feeder that was the prize for the win.

