



AUSTRALIAN WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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AWGA Releases Its Gender Equality Statement

The Australian Wool Growers' Association has released its statement on gender equality in the wool industry ahead of the United Nations International Day of Rural Women on 15 October. AWGA has appointed four women to the skills-based AWGA board in recent months; Sabrina Lomax, Emily Riggs, Monica Ley and Angela Byron.

"We each bring unique capability and interests that reflect the many roles women play in the wool industry today," says Angela Byron. "These range from production, wool classing, textile and fashion to animal science, communications and governance. These complement the skillset of the rest of the AWGA board and ensures that AWGA is diverse, and well prepared to tackle any issue faced by the wool industry."

"This year's International Women's Day theme was 'Choose to Challenge'" says Monica Ley, who was recently appointed to the AWGA board. "I'm a fifth-generation farmer who grew up on a dairy farm in Victoria and managed a cattle station at age 24, but after working as a sheep and wool extension officer, I knew I wanted my future to be in the wool industry."

"That was a challenge I chose for myself, and I am fortunate now to work at Canowie Poll Merino where my opinion, skills and knowledge are valued regardless of my gender. That is something I would like all women in the industry to have access to".

Monica says "Achieving equality in representation is something that has long been important to me. I was asked to join the AWGA board for my skills, but it is with pride that I join my fellow female directors at AWGA to also represent all the amazing women in our industry. While celebrating International Women's Day in March this year, Robyn Clubb, Chair of AWEX encouraged women in the wool industry to 'choose to challenge' and that is something I intend to continue to do".

Rob McBride, AWGA Chair says "the board was very pleased to support the development of a gender equality statement for AWGA, and as the father of a brilliant young female wool grower, I owe it to all our industry's women to take this important step in the right direction. With women like Monica, Emily, Sabrina, Angela and my daughter Kate McBride, I am confident our industry will be in very good hands for decades to come".

ENDS

- Angela Byron 0400 526 608
- Monica Ley – 0473 022 891