

Junior Judging Hunter Group 3 Zone Finals & Merriwa Show Competition

Congratulations to all the local youth participating in the junior judging events at Merriwa Show and hats off to Rob Tindall and the wonderful volunteers who give up their time to judge, steward and support the event every year.

Clubs NSW is the major sponsor of the Agricultural Societies of NSW Group 3 Zone Finals and once again there are students representing the Hunter at the Sydney Royal in 2018. Merriwa RSL Club manager, Mathew Morgan was on hand to present the broad ribbons to the successful finalists.

Local Land Services supported the event which provides important education and hands-on experience through workshops and judging experience to the next generation of youth involved in the sheep, wool and grain industries.

Coolah's James Williams put in a sterling all-round effort taking out first place in all four junior judging events. Cameron Ninness put in a consistent effort to place second in the Meat Breeds Sheep and Merino Fleece, and third in the Grains and Merino Sheep. Mathew Porter matched recent excellent cattle ring results to impress judges with a third in Meat Sheep and second in Merinos. Baerami Creek competitor, Kristy Walker topped off her second and third placed performances in Grain and Fleece by taking home the champion steer title of Merriwa Show on the Saturday. The committee was very proud of all the seniors and look forward to supporting the local finalists in the State Finals in Sydney next year. The judges encouraged all students to follow their passion for agriculture and were particularly impressed by excellent speeches from Corey Nairne and Harry Inder.

The Merriwa Show Under-15 competitors put on an outstanding display of knowledge and ability. Jimi Studdy collected three blue ribbons and Montana and Matilda Cronin, Caitlin and Clayton Porter, Sean and Lanni Ryan, and Grace Inder, all displayed judging capabilities well beyond their years. Merino Sheep results: Jimi Studdy 1; Matilda Cronin 2; Lanni Ryan 3. Merino Fleece: Jimi Studdy 1; Montana Cronin and Caitlin Porter 2; Clayton Porter 3. Grains: Jimi Studdy 1; Lanni Ryan 2; Sean Ryan 3. Meat Sheep: Matilda Cronin 1; Lanni Ryan 2; Sean Ryan 3.

Many thanks to Landmark's agronomist, Tim Sawley, Australian Wool Network, senior territory manager, John Croake, local producers, Olivia Knof, Trevor Pike, Peter Campbell, Georgie Fairfull, Paddy and Jack Carrigan for your valuable assistance staging this worthwhile event. Olivia is the backbone of the behind-the-scenes office every year and the event could not continue without her support.

Thanks to Merriwa Central School students, Nicholas Thorburn and Lachlan Walker, who were both great assets volunteering to assist the committee run the sheep judging events.

Regards

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