

RiST

RURAL INDUSTRIES SKILL TRAINING



20 22

ANNUAL REPORT



Jeremy Upton
11/02/1961 – 16/01/2023

The RIST Board, Staff and Community will remember Jeremy for his outstanding commitment to and leadership of RIST, his kindness, wise counsel and his advocacy for primary producers.

He gave generous and unequivocal support to growing the potential of young people in agriculture and to opportunities for lifelong learning.

We extend our sincerest condolences to Jenny, Tom, Georgie and families for your loss.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this very sad and challenging time.



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Acting Chairperson's Report

While this year will remain one of sadness it is also important to reflect on the challenges and success of the past year. 2022 was another year filled with achievements and progress across the organisation. The unexpected death of our Chairman, Jeremy Upton in January of this year was a shock to us all, and in writing the Chairman's Report for 2022, I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution Jeremy made to RIST as a Board Member and Chairman. His passion and commitment to agriculture was an inspiration to us all and will be permanently remembered through the Jeremy Upton scholarship program.

One of the highlights of 2022 was the strong performance of the agriculture industry. Commodity prices continued to exceed expectations in all markets, and favorable climatic conditions provided a boost to landholders in areas that had previously faced challenges.

I'm proud to share that RIST continued to maintain its position as one of the largest non-public agricultural training providers in Australia. In 2022, we delivered over 200,000 hours of training to 545 students across the country. Since 2006, we have graduated more than 2650 young people in vocational education programs, and these graduates have made a major contribution as they continued to pursue a range of careers in the agricultural sector. The demand for our graduates from employers has been unprecedented and continues to grow.

The Lifetime Ewe Management program has continued to be the most successful sheep extension program ever delivered in Australia, directly impacting on 36% of the ewe flock in Australia. The program has been delivered to over 5,000 sheep producers in Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia. This program has been instrumental in improving the

productivity and sustainability of the sheep industry in Australia and a contributor to the national sheep flock increase in 2022. The Heifers for Profit and Weaners for Profit programs were launched in 2022, and we are seeing growers enrolling in these courses in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

Furthermore, our strong relationships with the school network across Victoria's southwest region, as well as Agriculture Victoria, AWI, MLA, ACFE, and Dairy Australia, have been significant contributors to RIST's ongoing success. These partnerships have allowed us to provide comprehensive and integrated education pathways for our students, from preaccredited education and traineeships in agriculture to higher education. This unique offering, combined with our national nonaccredited fee-for-service short course programs, sets RIST apart as a leading agricultural college in Australia.

I would like to express my appreciation to my fellow Board members for their support and sound guidance throughout 2022. I would also like to thank our dedicated staff and CEO Bill Hamill for their competence and resilience in navigating the challenges of the past year.

Lastly, I would like to extend the Board's gratitude to the entire RIST community, including our students, parents, employers, schools, and trainers, for their enthusiasm and support during the volatility of the past year. Together, we have overcome challenges through the COVID period and achieved significant milestones, and we are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead in the coming years.

Barbara Young
Acting Chairperson



**Diploma student Rachael McGrath
& Acting Chairperson Barbara Young**

CEOs Report

As we celebrate RIST's 30th year, I am proud to present my CEO Report for 2022, highlighting some of our achievements and the unique education model that sets RIST apart in Australia's education sector.

At RIST, we have always aimed to provide the best education pathways for our students, and we have modelled our approach on the renowned international models of education, providing students with seamless pathways from school to vocational education and higher education, ensuring that our students receive a holistic and comprehensive education experience, regardless of their learning styles. This has been particularly beneficial for students who are considered "practical learners" in the traditional education model.

In addition to our innovative education pathways, RIST stands out in the Australian education landscape through our national delivery of non-accredited short course training programs. These programs, such as Lifetime Ewe Management, Heifers for Profit, Weaners for Profit, and the Victorian Livestock Loading Scheme, have positioned RIST as a training provider, offering unique and specialised training to fill skills gaps across a wide spectrum of the industry.

As a Learn Local education provider of pre-accredited training, we can provide education and training pathways for a wide range of learners who may not necessarily fit into mainstream education systems. The highly specialised training in shearing and wool handling is aimed at meeting the high industry demand in the sheep and wool industries across Australia. These initiatives have contributed to RIST's long-term success as a leading provider of agricultural education in Australia.

As we embrace the rapid advancement of Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Artificial Intelligence in our society, RIST remains at the forefront of innovation in education. While some in the education sector may push back on these technological advancements, we believe that they can enhance the learning experiences and career progression of our students. We are committed to incorporating these ground-breaking innovations into our curriculum to prepare our students for the

future of work.

I am pleased to report that in 2022, RIST was successful in obtaining grants through the Victorian Government RSTF and Clean Energy programs. The grants were awarded to advance shearing training in Victoria, support the attraction and retention of young people through the Certificate II in Agriculture program, and develop a training program and App to assist sheep producers in reducing CO2 intensity in their flocks through better management practices. These grants reflect RIST's commitment to driving innovation in the agricultural education sector and our ability to secure funding to support our initiatives.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution of Jeremy Upton, our Chairman in 2022, who has been a pillar of support for RIST over the past 16 years, 7 years as Chairman. Jeremy's leadership, communication skills, and passion for young people in agriculture have been instrumental in our success, and he will be greatly missed by the entire RIST team. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.

I am grateful for the unwavering support of the RIST Board, whose guidance and commitment have fostered a positive and innovative culture within our organisation. I also extend my gratitude to the RIST staff and our trainers for their enthusiastic dedication to their duties and, most importantly, for always putting our students at the centre of their world. The positive feedback we receive from students, parents, and employers is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

I acknowledge the financial support from both the Victorian and Federal Governments, AWI, MLA, the Australian Wool Education Trust, and other stakeholders, which has enabled us to continue delivering high-quality affordable education and training to our students.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to our students, employers, parents, and partner schools for trusting RIST with their education and training.

Bill Hamill
CEO



Certificate II in Agriculture student, Hamish Murrhly & RIST's CEO Bill Hamill.

Director Profiles



Jeremy Upton

Chairperson
2017 - 2022

Jeremy was elected as Chairman in 2017. Jeremy manages Yarram Park, a 9,750 ha mixed grazing property in western Victoria. Jeremy spent several years working with pastoral companies in NSW before graduating with Honours from Marcus Oldham Agricultural College. After this he worked for the Rural Finance Commission in property development and lending. He was a Churchill Fellowship recipient in 2000 studying Quality Assurance and Marketing of livestock. He is currently a Panel member for the Victorian Churchill Fellowship and Past President RASV Support Council, Western District and Southern Victoria Hereford Groups. He had a strong interest in rural education and training of young people in agriculture.



Barbara Young

Deputy Chairperson

Barbara joined the Board of RIST in 2015. She has a degree in law and is a member of the Law Institute in Victoria. She has chaired the boards of the Warrnambool and District Base Hospital and South West Healthcare. She has had many years' involvement in the higher education sector in a number of roles at Deakin University. Barbara is a strong advocate of education in the agribusiness sector and its importance for rural communities.



Bruce Keely

Bruce was raised on a mixed dairy and beef farm and currently has dairy farming interests in New Zealand and Australia. He has an MBA in strategic alliances and an extensive background in commercial financing with institutions in Australia, UK and New Zealand.

He is currently the General Manager of Bade Ness Rural, Warrnambool.



Tony Gregson

AM FRACI FTSE

Tony has a distinguished academic career having held academic appointments at the Universities of Melbourne, Oxford, New England and North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Currently he is Chairman of the Melbourne University Botany Foundation and the Victorian Committee of the Crawford Fund, a Board Member of the Crawford Fund and of FAR (Field Applied Research) Australia. He was elected to the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering in 2003 and made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2009 for his contribution to agricultural research. Tony operates a 3500 hectare property in Western Victoria.



John Stewien

John is a director of ZSA Pty Ltd and an accredited mediator by the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators. His past positions include a Conciliator with the ACCS Victoria, Commissioner ERC Victoria, Advisor to the Federal Public Service Merit Protection Commission, General Manager Industry/Teaching Services at the Melbourne Institute of Textiles and National General Manager Personnel Operations Kmart Australia, Officer Royal Australian Navy including Commanding Officer HMAS ADVANCE and a Master Mariner – Foreign Ongoing.



John Diprose

OAM

John has had a long association with RIST having been a RIST Board member since 1991 and Chairman from 1996 to 2001 and 2003 to 2009. John brings a wealth of experience to his role with extensive involvement in agripolitics and community organisations at district and national levels. He has also held the position of President at the Hamilton Base Hospital and was the Chairman of the Board of The Hamilton and Alexandra College. He is well versed in the practicalities and challenges of day to day farming as the owner of rural enterprises involving cropping, prime lambs, forestry, dairying, beef and sheep. John was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2016 Australia Day Honours for his services to the community, and to the Uniting Church in Australia.



Tony Fleetwood

Tony Fleetwood is a past President of the Grassland Society and has been involved in a number of rural industry associations. He owns and operates a prime lamb operation in Western Victoria and is a strong advocate for training and education in agriculture. Tony was Chairman of the Board from July 2009 to July 2017.

RIST recognises the contribution of all past and present directors

Staff Profiles



Bill Hamill
Chief Executive Officer

Bill is passionate ambassador for rural Australia and delivering affordable access to quality and industry aligned education to the agricultural sector and young people interested in agriculture. Bill has held a number of board and senior management positions in national companies focusing on rural and regional Australia. He has successfully overseen significant growth and diversification for RIST over the past nineteen years. Bill was appointed to the newly established Victorian Skills Authority Advisory Board in 2021. Bill also holds positions on the Victorian committee of the Independent Tertiary Education Council of Australia (ITECA) and is a member of ITECA's national VET committee.



Helen Read
Operations Manager

Helen has been with RIST since 2015 and oversees the student management and compliance systems for the organisation. Helen manages administration support for the Vocational Training program, quality management systems, statistical reports and works closely with the Chief Executive Officer in operations, marketing and promotion of RIST programs.



Raelene Laidlaw
Program Coordinator
– Wool Classing and Shearing

Raelene joined the organisation in 2012 to assist with the Wool Classing program. Raelene has had extensive experience in the wool industry both as a wool classer and trainer. She completed a Master Classer in 2009. Raelene coordinates the Certificate IV in Wool Classing, the Certificate III in Clip Preparation and administers RIST Shearing and Wool Overview Programs. Raelene is a National Wool Handler judge



Gaye Cameron
Curriculum Developer

For more than two decades, Gaye has worked with RIST providing expert industry knowledge and training delivery. She assumed the role of RIST Curriculum Developer in 2014 and brings a lifetime of knowledge and practical experience in the development and implementation of course materials, assessment tools and MyAg compliance onto RIST's technology platform. Gaye has extensive experience in the livestock and pasture sectors, in beef, sheep and dairy and in writing course materials and developing assessment tools.



Bec Malseed
National Program Manager

Bec joined the RIST team in February 2017 as our Certificate IV and Diploma Coordinator in the Grazing and Dairy sectors. Prior to this she worked as administration support in the livestock veterinarian industry. In 2019 Bec accepted a new challenge to manage the Lifetime Ewe Management Program. Bec has further grown her position at RIST becoming the National Program Manager and releasing additional training courses Heifers for Profit and Weaners for Profit. Bec is passionate about assisting farmers to achieve best practice skills through our training programs at RIST and building networking opportunities that bring industry wide benefits to producers.



Tamara Hardy
Program Coordinator
Certificate II & III in Agriculture

Tamara joined the organisation in 2017 and is a Program Coordinator in the traineeship Team, where she coordinates Certificate II and III in Agriculture students. Tamara has an Advanced Diploma in Farm Management as well as extensive industry experience. This includes working for many years in red meat and pasture research with the DPI in Hamilton as well as operating the family farm. Tamara is passionate about the Agricultural Industry and is keen to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with the students. Tamara and her family have a small acreage in Macarthur as well as a cropping property in the Wimmera.



Esther Glasgow
Program Coordinator
Certificate II & III in Agriculture

Esther re-joined the staff at RIST in January 2018. Esther coordinates the Certificate II and III in Agriculture program in Hamilton and Terang including the VLLS course. Esther was a past student of RIST completing a Certificate III and Diploma of Agriculture. She has extensive experience in the sheep and beef industry and runs her own sheep stud. Esther is also a Red Meat Ambassador for the MLA.



Samantha Dridan
Compliance Officer

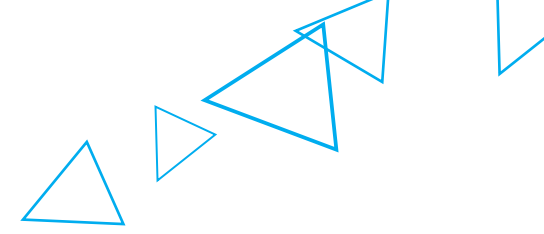
Samantha joined RIST in September 2018 to provide administration assistance in the curriculum and compliance functions within the operations. Samantha has an Advanced Diploma of Agriculture and has been working in the wool and sheep industry for a number of years.



Yvonne Linke
Accountant

Yvonne joined the team at RIST in July 2019 in the position of Accountant. Her role is to administer the financial management systems within RIST and she is responsible for financial compliance and reporting. Yvonne has worked locally in various finance roles for over 35 years for private business, local government and state government.

Staff Profiles



Priscilla Cuming
Social Media Officer

After a stint at home working on the farm Priscilla returned to RIST in August 2019 to fill the new role of Social Media Officer. Priscilla has worked for RIST for the past 23 years in various capacities. She brings to her role an in-depth knowledge of rural issues and the workings of the various social media platforms which are integral to businesses in the current era of connectivity and the need for an active online presence.



Melissa McDonald
Program Coordinator
Certificate IV & Diploma of Agriculture

Melissa, along with her husband and three children, is a fourth generation dairy farmer from Bessiebelle, South West Victoria. 'Boldrewood Dairies' has a milking herd of 600 mostly Friesian cows, employs two full time and one-part time labour units, and focuses on a best practice farming system. Melissa holds an Advanced Diploma of Agriculture, a Diploma of Hospitality Management and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Melissa's knowledge strengths focus around staffing, work health safety, budgeting, presentations and animal health and welfare.



Alison Read
Project Officer
– Agribusiness
Entrepreneurship

This role provides an excellent opportunity to combine my love of Agriculture with sharing knowledge with students. I am currently studying a Master of Applied Learning and Teaching at Deakin and the role provided a medium in which I could put into practice the theory behind applied learning. With an agricultural background I am able to share alternative perspectives around agricultural enterprises not familiar to students of the Hamilton area.



Bella Wilson
Administration Officer

Bella joined the Administration staff at RIST in 2021. Bella provides assistance and support across all aspects from office administration to course resources and student files. She completed her Certificate III in Business whilst working at RIST.



Evangeline Close
Program Coordinator
Certificate II & III in Agriculture

Evangeline joined the team at RIST in August 2022 as a program coordinator. She is a past student of RIST completing a Certificate III and IV in Agriculture. Evangeline has been working in the beef and sheep industry for a number of years and is passionate about livestock nutrition, genetics and pasture management. On her property she runs Corriedale and Merino ewes as well as Speckle Park and Angus cattle.



John Byron
Program Coordinator
Certificate II & III in Agriculture

John joined RIST as a Program Coordinator in April 2022 prior to this he worked in agricultural research for 20 years as a Technical Officer for Agriculture Victoria at the Hamilton research centre working across a wide range of research projects which included pasture, wool, lamb, beef, and cropping. John also operated a dairy farm at Hawkesdale for 15 years before moving to Hamilton he's been involved in agriculture since leaving school he has knowledge in pasture management from working in the dairy industry and years of experience working with livestock and a wide range of farm machinery.



Kellan Sander
Media & Administration Assistant

Kellan joined the Administration & media staff at RIST in 2022. Kellan provides assistance and support across all aspects from office administration to media & technology.



Kate Carmody
Project Officer
– Agribusiness
Entrepreneurship Program

Kate joined RIST in 2022 as an Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Coordinator and now supports the Certificate IV and Diploma students in their studies. Kate has a background in Accounting and Finance and joined the RIST Team after an extended time working from home alongside her husband and 6 children in a Shearing Contracting Business. Kate holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Business majoring in Financial Planning. Her knowledge and strengths focus around Budgeting, Staffing, Work Health and Safety and Business Planning.



Jasmine Craddock
Administration Assistant - National Programs

Jasmine joined the National Program staff at RIST in 2022. Jasmine provides assistance and support in National Programs with group enrolments, manuals and session reports.

The RIST team would like to acknowledge and thank the staff current and past who contributed to the organisations success in 2022

Vocational Education & Training

A core component of RIST's success in agricultural education is its innovative and expansive Vocational Education Training (VET) Program.

In 2022, RIST had over 280 enrolments across accredited qualifications, pre-accredited courses and fee for service short course programs.

VET offers students a clear pathway for studies in agriculture, with Certificates II and III in Shearing; Certificate II in Wool Handling; Certificate IV in Wool Classing; Certificates II, III, IV in Agriculture, the Diploma of Agriculture and the Bachelor of Agriculture.

In 2022, VET students were drawn from Eastern Gippsland, the Wimmera, Northern Victoria and Western Victoria.

The comprehensive VET programs delivered by RIST including accredited and non-accredited courses offers broad, hands-on, practical training to meet industry demand and deliver workplace ready graduates.

The flexible and innovative delivery of studies also enhances the uptake of skills, with all learning resources for VET courses available online. The state-of-the-art platform allows a range of learning styles to be catered for, including learning via instructional videos, interactive activities such as drop and drags, quizzes and formative activities.

RIST's VET is strengthened by its engagement and working relationships with grassroots industry, the public and private sector and three tier government input. Wool industry body, AWI continues to be an important partner in delivering courses such as Lifetime Ewe Management and shearing/wool handling courses. Our dairy and beef industry employers provide invaluable feedback, support and solid relationships with dozens of schools across Victoria's southwest which assist RIST's VET program.

In total, approximately 122,000 scheduled training hours were delivered across all vocational programs throughout the calendar year.



Student Profile

Glenn Batchelder



Glenn Batchelder undertook his Certificate IV in Agriculture qualification during 2022. In previous years Glenn has also completed Certificate II & III through RIST after making the career switch from hospitality. We interviewed Glenn about his time with RIST:

Interviewer: What interested you in studying agriculture?

Glenn: Well, I was brand new to the industry with absolutely no experience, and I felt I should learn something about it to help further my career.

Interviewer: What enticed you to switch industries?

Glenn: Work/life balance mainly. Living on a farm and not having to travel an hour on the road each day made sense, and I also enjoyed doing casual work on the farm.

Interviewer: How has RIST helped you in transitioning from hospitality to agriculture?

Glenn: RIST helped by giving me an idea of what I needed to do. They helped me understand why I do the things I do on the farm, instead of just doing them without understanding the reasoning behind them.

Interviewer: How have your qualifications assisted you within your job?

Glenn: They have helped me gain the practical skills and knowledge required. I have been able to slowly move up within the farm hierarchy, with hopefully more to come.

Interviewer: Were the RIST staff supportive with your studies?

Glenn: Yes, very much so. They were always available day or night and happy to give out their phone numbers if we ever needed anything. The support from the RIST staff was excellent.

Interviewer: Did you enjoy the blend of practical and theory components throughout your qualification?

Glenn: Yes, I did. Especially after the pandemic when we had some zoom classes for theory and more practical classes on campus, I looked forward to every one of them. The blend of practical and theory components provided a well-rounded learning experience.

Interviewer: Would you recommend RIST to another potential student looking to change careers? Why?

Glenn: Absolutely! I loved my time at RIST, from everything that I learned to the students and teachers. It was just a great experience overall, and I would highly recommend it to anyone looking to change careers and enter the agriculture industry.

Trainer Profile

Andrea Roberts is an accomplished Agronomist with over 25 years of experience in the Agricultural Industry.

Starting from humble beginnings on a horse property in Seymour, Andrea pursued her passion for agriculture and went on to attend a study camp at Dookie College during her high school years. This pivotal experience led Andrea to pursue a Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture) degree at the University of Melbourne, where she specialised in the dairy sector.

Fast forward to today, Andrea has been with Webber and Chivell Fertilisers for 14 ½ years, where she continues to excel in her role as an Agronomist. Andrea's dedication to her work and commitment to achieving positive outcomes for her clients are evident in every project she undertakes.

In addition to her work at Webber and Chivell Fertilisers, Andrea also enjoys training at RIST. She has a passion for sharing her knowledge and experience with learners and finds it incredibly rewarding to engage with like-minded individuals. At RIST, Andrea has the opportunity to train in a practical environment, which allows her to demonstrate and engage with learners, making for a truly enriching experience for all involved.

With a passion for training and a wealth of experience in both the dairy and agronomy sectors, Andrea is a true asset to the agricultural community. She appreciates the support and development that RIST has provided and is always eager to learn and grow in her field.



Andrea Roberts

Agribusiness Experience Program



Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program is designed to provide a unique and exciting learning opportunity for our future leaders to establish the mindset, skillset, and toolset of an entrepreneur within a safe, educational environment.

RIST's Agribusiness program is committed to equipping our students with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the world of agribusiness entrepreneurship. Through our partnership with Young Change Agents, our students had the opportunity to participate in the codesign workshop for the "Digital Boss" program, which provided them with valuable experience in working with other entrepreneurs to create innovative solutions to real-world problems.

In addition, our program included several exciting projects for 2023, including the construction of bee boxes, the pallet project (which involves designing and constructing a usable item from a pallet and limited resources), and the design and creation of a market garden using glass vertical gardens. Our students also had the opportunity to market and sell these items, giving them invaluable experience in entrepreneurship and business.

Our program also encouraged creativity and innovation, with students creating their own video advertising campaigns and websites using a variety of alternative information, communications,

and technology for presentations. This helped to develop their communication and marketing skills, which are essential in the world of entrepreneurship.

Our program provides with the necessary skills, knowledge, and mindset to succeed in this dynamic and rapidly evolving industry.



Australian Wool Education Trust

The Australian Wool Education Trust in 2022 generously provided scholarships to the value of \$15,000.00 to students undertaking studies in merino wool production at RIST.

The beneficiaries of these scholarships were:

Evangeline Close – Certificate IV in Agriculture	Kirsten Claringbold – Certificate IV in Wool Classing
Casey Jackson – Certificate IV in Wool Classing	Robert Chapman – Certificate IV in Wool Classing
Christopher Connley – Certificate IV in Wool Classing	Samuel Moore – Certificate IV in Wool Classing
Clinton Pendergast – Certificate IV in Wool Classing	Shelley King – Certificate IV in Wool Classing
Emily Mulholland – Certificate IV in Wool Classing	Harrison Rees – Diploma of Agriculture
Harry Dawson – Certificate IV in Wool Classing	

We sincerely thank the Wool Education Trust for these very generous scholarships which have enabled students to undertake education and training in merino wool production and handling, enhancing their ongoing career opportunities in this sector.

Victorian Livestock Loading Scheme



RIST is a provider of short courses, including the Victorian Livestock Loading Scheme – an important and popular course which aims to train participants about safe transportation of livestock, including reducing the chances of animals being injured, increasing the productivity of livestock transport, protecting road and bridge infrastructure and reducing the chances of vehicles rolling over.

In 2022, RIST enrolled 35 participants via partner Livestock & Rural Transporters Association of Victoria (LTRAV), all of whom successfully completed the course.

Participants came from across Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales for training online via Zoom, run from 8am – 3pm every two months on the last Friday of that month.

2022 courses ran from February to December.



Shearing and Wool Programs

The Shearing and Wool programs were a resounding success in 2022, with a range of workshops, schools, and competitions taking place throughout the year. These events provided comprehensive training and practical experience to students, ensuring they acquired the necessary skills and knowledge to become skilled professionals in the shearing and wool industry.

The Certificate II in Agriculture Crutching and Grinding elective provided hands-on training in essential skills for the shearing industry. Two workshops were conducted, each spanning three days, and students had the opportunity to learn crutching and grinding techniques, which are crucial to their success in the industry.

The Shearing Schools were held at multiple locations throughout 2022, with 22 students participating in the program. They gained practical experience and honed their shearing skills, ensuring they were well-prepared for a successful career in the industry. Additionally, the 'come and try' shearing and wool demonstrations at Sheepvention provided interested individuals with an opportunity to experience shearing and wool handling firsthand.

The Wool Overview Program targeted high school Year 9 and 10 students with the aim to educate them about the wool industry. The program was a great success, with 45 students from various

schools participating in the program. They visited different locations and gained insights into various aspects of the wool industry, ensuring they acquired a comprehensive understanding of the industry.

The Wool Classing program had students across the Hamilton and Sale areas. The blended delivery, which included both online and face-to-face sessions, ensured that all students received comprehensive training in the necessary skills and knowledge.

RIST students and trainers participated in competitions and achieved notable success in 2022. Rosina Te Maipi represented RIST at the Graduate Wool Classer Competition at the Royal Sydney Easter Show, showcasing the high level of training provided by RIST. Additionally, Mark Purcell, a wool trainer with RIST, became the Australian Champion at the National Shearing and Wool Handling Championships held in Bendigo, demonstrating the calibre of trainers and students associated with RIST.

Overall, the Shearing and Wool Program at RIST in 2022 were a great success. The programs continued to contribute to the development of skilled and knowledgeable professionals in the shearing and wool industry. We are proud of our students and trainers.



National Programs



2022 saw the continued growth and expansion of the national programs, with over 350 wool growers enrolling in the Lifetime Ewe Management (LTEM) course and the successful launch of the Heifers for Profit (HFP) course with 29 producers enrolling across Australia.

Despite facing challenges such as La Nina weather patterns, which caused excessive rain and flooding in some regions, RIST's programs have continued to thrive. While some LTEM groups in New South Wales and Victoria have been delayed due to flooding, RIST remains committed to supporting producers as they deal with potential challenges such as flystrike and wet ground for yarding sheep or cattle during training days.

RIST is also pleased to acknowledge the ongoing support from Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) with the signing of another three-year contract that subsidizes wool growers to undertake LTEM. AWI and RIST's collaboration has been a crucial part of the success of LTEM over the last 15 years, and RIST looks forward to many more years of partnership. Furthermore, RIST has secured funding from Limestone Coast Landscape Board in South Australia to support wool growers to continue training in weaner management and sustainability, with the pilot course Weaners for Profit set to be delivered in the Lower South East of South Australia in 2023, exclusively for groups who have completed LTEM.

RIST and AWI held LTEM Regional Trainer Forums in three states, including New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria, with the majority of trainers attending. Trainers welcomed updates in industry research and participated in condition scoring collaboration and pasture assessment activities, which are relevant to the ongoing success and knowledge of the LTEM course.

Another highlight in 2022 was the support from Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) with the acceptance of RIST's HFP course under the Profitable Grazing Systems program. This allows red meat producers to access subsidies to undertake the course, which focuses on key concepts in heifer reproduction in the southern beef industry. With new trainers joining the team and the establishment of groups in South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria, RIST is excited about the future of the HFP course, with continued interest still being received for training in 2023.

Once again, RIST's national programs have been strongly sought after throughout 2022, with the continued support from AWI and now MLA with Heifers for Profit. RIST remains committed to providing quality training and support to wool growers and red meat producers across Australia, and looks forward to another successful year in 2023.



Graduation

RIST was delighted to see 80 students graduate from their courses in 2022. Our DUX in Wool Classing was awarded to Jamie Pepper. The recipient of the John Dawson award was Cameron Templeton. The Acting Chairperson announced the establishment of the Jeremy Upton Scholarship Fund in recognition of his contribution to RIST and the agricultural industry.

Certificate IV in Wool Classing



(L-R) Brooke Peel & Jamie Pepper

Diploma of Agriculture



(L-R) Nicholas Cole, Scott Addinsall, Rachael McGrath & Cameron Templeton

Certificate III in Agriculture



(L-R) Jayne McCosh & Hamish Gleeson

Certificate IV in Agriculture



Front row (L-R) Nathan Dinning & Evangeline Close
Back Row (L-R) Brad Ewing & Harry Turnham

Certificate II in Agriculture



Front (L-R) Emily Pearce, Hannah Lewis, Landon Walkenhorst, James Tonissen, Benjamin Vallance, Oliver Neumann, Amelia Rowett, Ava Nicholson
Middle (L-R) Samuel Price, Rhys Daffey, Lachlan Page, Thomas Linke, Joshua Grant, Charles Wettenhall, Maddox Blake, Lachlan Walker
Back (L-R) Jake Tonissen, Hamish Murrhly, Rylan McConachy, Kade McCallum, David Taylor

Certificate II in Agriculture

In 2022, we welcomed a record number of students into our re-designed Certificate II in Agriculture Program to our Hamilton and Terang campuses, where they embarked on a journey of discovery and hands-on learning.

Our students started the year by diving into the fundamentals of livestock feeding and familiarising themselves with industry terminology. They also gained a deep understanding of workplace health and safety (WHS) and how it applies to all aspects of agricultural work.

One of the highlights of the program was a tour of local dairy farms, where students had the opportunity to observe heavily pregnant and calving cows as part of their birthing duties unit. We are grateful to our generous producers who opened their farms to our students, providing them with invaluable real-world insights into farming life.

Our students also had numerous practical days, including machinery operation and fencing where they learned various techniques, along with lamb and calf marking days. These practical sessions were kept to small group sizes to ensure maximum learning and practice opportunities.

In addition to the core units, students were able to choose from a range of electives that matched their interests, such as milk livestock, crutching and grinding, wool handling, and agronomy. This allowed them to delve deeper into areas

they were passionate about and expand their knowledge.

Stock handling techniques were also covered in the program, with students enjoying fun and challenging days working with cattle and sheep alongside industry experts. As part of their WHS unit, students also undertook the important task of cleaning and maintaining an old set of yards for the Agriculture Victoria Research Farm, restoring them to comply with WHS standards.



Certificate III in Agriculture



Our Certificate III in Agriculture program had an exciting year in Hamilton and Terang, with a record number of enthusiastic students enrolling. This program runs over 18 months, with the current cohort set to complete their training in late June 2023.

The program covered a wide range of units, including core units on workplace health and safety and machinery, as well as agronomy, feeding plans, chemicals, and livestock units. Students had the opportunity to participate in mini field trips to farms and industry-related sites, as well as try their hand at simulators for a unique learning experience.

One of the program's highlights was a field day at Weeran Angus, where students had a chance to explore trial setups by Upper Valley and gain insights into agronomy practices. Inspired by this experience, RIST will be creating its own trial plot on campus in 2023.

We also reintroduced our popular Dog School unit in 2022, where students learned valuable skills in managing their own dogs and

livestock from industry expert Ian O'Connell. An Introduction to Welding unit was introduced into the program, which was a big hit amongst our students. This practical-based unit allowed them to get hands-on and create functional bag trolleys by the end of the unit.

Throughout the program, students engaged with industry specialists, expanding their knowledge and gaining insights into different units. We are proud of our students' achievements and look forward to seeing them thrive in the agricultural industry!



Certificate IV in Agriculture

The Certificate IV in Agriculture is designed to equip students with the skills and expertise necessary to take on a leadership position in the agricultural industry. With multiple areas of study, students became well-prepared to manage a farm and work towards their agricultural career goals.

Over the course of 12 months, students had the opportunity to develop their knowledge and practical skills in Livestock Production, Agronomy, Agribusiness, Work Health and Safety, and Entrepreneurship. The program has been designed to challenge students and provide them with a comprehensive understanding of the industry.

One of the unique benefits of this qualification is the flexibility it offers. The Certificate IV in Agriculture was delivered in both our Terang &

Hamilton campuses, allowing students to choose the location that best suits their needs. This allowed for greater accessibility and convenience for those who are already working in the industry or have other commitments.

Kate Carmody, one of the Certificate IV & Diploma Program Coordinators, is thrilled with the quality of work submitted by the co-hort, stating that it was “exceptional and outstanding”. This is a testament to the high standard of education and training that is provided at RIST.

Upon completion of this program, students have gained the skills and expertise to step up to a supervisor or team leader position in an agricultural enterprise.



Diploma of Agriculture

The Diploma of Agriculture course is a qualification designed to develop managerial-level skills within the agricultural industry. The course content is structured to provide students with a solid foundation in all key components of the agricultural industry including business management, whole farm planning, budgeting, livestock production, agronomy, work health safety, and staffing.

Students can complete the course in one or two years, with the program delivered across both Terang and Hamilton campuses to offer flexibility to students. The program allowed students to delve deeper into their studies, gaining an in-depth understanding of all key components of the agricultural industry.

The 2022 academic year allowed students to consolidate their learning and develop their skills, resulting in the production of excellent farm managers, farm owners, and agribusiness professionals.



Pre Accredited Training

RIST, a leading educational institution in the agricultural industry, offered a diverse range of pre-accredited training courses in 2022. These courses were designed to provide students with essential skills and knowledge to excel in their chosen field, whether it be for further accredited training or as an upskilling tool for the workplace. The courses covered various areas of agriculture and technology, catering to different age groups and skill levels.

Animal Nutrition

The Animal Nutrition course aimed to equip learners with basic skills and knowledge in animal nutrition, focusing on maximising animal health and performance in agriculture. Participants learned how to analyse livestock condition and health, assess pastures for a balanced and nutritious diet, introduce feed supplements, and ensure the composition and quality of feed for optimal livestock health and performance. The course also emphasised safe work practices when feeding animals, ensuring the well-being of both the animals and the learners.



Chainsaw Operations

The Chainsaw Operations course provided learners with fundamental skills and practical experience in operating and maintaining a chainsaw safely. Participants were instructed on how to perform tasks in a safe manner, including complying with Australian Standards for personal protective equipment and understanding workplace health and safety principles. The course focused on experiential learning, allowing learners to gain hands-on experience in basic branch and limb trimming and timber handling on the ground.

Digital Literacy

The Digital Literacy course targeted potential RIST students aged 15-55 with limited understanding of new-age technology, particularly in accessing web-based learning management systems and communication and collaborative platforms used in the education sector. The course aimed to improve the digital literacy skills of learners, preparing them for vocational education and training at RIST.



Mobile Digital Technology

The Mobile Digital Technology course targeted potential RIST students aged 15-55 who had limited understanding of the use of mobile digital technology. The course aimed to address the lack of initiative in utilising technology for maximum benefit. Learners gained knowledge and skills in using mobile devices to enhance their learning experience in the classroom and workplace.

Introduction to Excel

The Introduction to Excel course was designed for young people aged 15-23 who had enrolled in Certificate II, Certificate III, or Certificate IV in Agriculture at RIST but lacked basic skills in Microsoft Excel. The course aimed to provide learners with the necessary skills in Excel, ensuring their readiness to undertake accredited training with confidence.



ATV/SBS

The ATV/SBS course aimed to provide learners with basic skills and practical experience in operating and maintaining a quad bike/side by side safely. Learners gained an understanding of the importance of safety and the risks associated with quad bike operation, while also acquiring the skills, knowledge, and experience sought by employers in the agricultural sector.

Soil Chemistry

The Soil Chemistry course was designed for individuals wishing to enter accredited agricultural training but lacked the basic knowledge in chemistry. This course catered to early school leavers or those who did not choose STEM skills in their education. Learners gained foundational knowledge in basic chemistry, preparing them to successfully engage in accredited agricultural training.



Tractor/FEL

The Tractor/FEL course provided learners with basic skills and practical experience in operating a tractor and front-end loader safely. Participants gained an understanding of safety and risks associated with tractor operation, while also acquiring the skills, knowledge, and experience sought by employers in the agricultural sector.

Working Dog School

The Working Dog School course was designed for participants to develop skills and knowledge in selecting, training, and caring for working dogs in the agricultural industry. Understanding the natural instincts of working dogs and training them to care for livestock are essential skills sought by employers in the agricultural industry.



Introduction to Welding

Introduction to Welding is a pre-accredited training course offered by RIST, designed to provide learners with a hands-on experience in welding and equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for employment in the engineering and agricultural sectors. This course focuses on practical-based experiential learning, giving learners a taste of welding and preparing them for further career opportunities.



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