

Media Release



21 December 2021

RENEWED FOCUS ON WOOL HANDLING TRAINING

Primary Employers Tasmania and Australian Wool Innovation are encouraging Tasmanian woolgrowers to reach out to a new wool handling trainer to upskill existing and new employees.

As part of Primary Employers Tasmania's commitment to recruiting, training and retaining shearers and shed hands, Petrisse Leckie has just been employed as a Wool Handling Trainer.

Petrisse has more than a decade of experience in shearing sheds and judging wool handling around Australia and is now locking in appointments to visit Tasmanian shearing sheds to share her knowledge.

"I started out as a wool handler about 10 years ago, I achieved my Australian Wool Classer stencil in 2017 and started competing in wool handling shows where I won a senior national wool handling award," she said.

"I am incredibly excited and honoured to take on this role with Primary Employers Tasmania and Australian Wool Innovation, and can't wait to share my knowledge to inspire other people to learn more about the wool industry."

Petrisse's role will primarily focus on providing introductory level knowledge of the wool harvesting process, such as how to prepare a fleece, parts of the fleece, paddle work and the importance of why we separate the different types of wool.

"This is an amazing opportunity for Tasmanian farmers to contact me to come into their sheds, work with their employees and family members, and ensure we maintain high levels of interest and training amongst the next generation of wool industry workers," Petrisse said.

"There is a shortage of shearing shed workers across the country, so it is essential that we provide practical training in sheds to attract and retain employees."

Primary Employers Tasmania President Ben Grubb welcomed Petrisse to the team and also encouraged Tasmanian farmers to connect with Petrisse to access this industry-led training.

"There has never been a more important time for farmers to offer new training opportunities to their workers to ensure they remain committed, challenged and engaged in continuous learning," Ben said.

"This wool handling training is ideal for busy farmers as Petrisse can travel to their properties and deliver training as part of their everyday work."

Any farmer wanting to inquire about this shearing or wool handling training should call 1800 SHEARS (1800 743277).

For more information, please contact:

-Sarah Hirst

0448 906021

sarah@sarahhirststrategy.com.au