

# Shirlee Downs shows supreme SAMM

By JODIE RINTOUL

VERY little separated the ribbon winners in this year's Prime SAMM judging at the Perth Royal show last week.

In both the ram and ewe line-ups judge Tim Oldfield, Toldu stud, Keith, South Australia, found it difficult to separate the champions praising all exhibitors on the quality on display.

In the end it was the Squiers family's Quairading-based Shirlee Downs stud which stood out the most and took out the champion ram and ewe double.

The ram line-up was first into the ring and it was from here that judge Tim Oldfield selected the upstanding and very square Shirlee Downs ram for the champion ram ribbon.

When sashing the Shirlee Downs ram as champion, Mr Oldfield said it was a very difficult decision to make as there was some extremely good rams in the championship line-up.

"But in the end I went for the Shirlee Downs ram because he stands very square and is straight up and down - a trait needed in the breed," Mr Oldfield said.

"He has very good conformation and is a very well balanced sheep."

The May 2006-drop Shirlee Downs ram, which was a grandson of South African sire JVB 2093, won his class for autumn-shorn rams under 1.5 years showing no more than two permanent teeth to earn the right to compete for the champion ribbon.

Standing in reserve to the

Shirlee Downs ram and being sashed the reserve champion ram was a well grown ram from the Edwards family Dumbleyung-based Rockdale stud.

The ram which won the same award at last year's Perth Royal show was described by Mr Oldfield as a very good ram with a good eye muscle and hindquarter.

"He is a very solid, upstanding, big-framed sheep," Mr Oldfield said.

The June 2005-drop ram based on Rockdale breeding initially won his class for rams over 1.5 years showing a minimum of four permanent teeth ahead of three other rams.

The Shirlee Downs stud completed its championship double when a well-balanced ewe from the stud was sashed the champion ewe.

When announcing his champion Mr Oldfield said it was a very good line-up of ewes and there was not much in it.

"I would be happy to have any of these ewes in my flock, but in the end I have gone for the Shirlee Downs ewe," Mr Oldfield said.

"She shows excellent conformation, stands square, is well balanced and has exceptional wool."

"It is very hard to get a Prime SAMM ewe with that much wool to look that good."

The May 2006-drop ewe based on Gracefield bloodlines is no stranger to winning broad ribbons after being sashed the supreme Prime SAMM exhibit at this year's Wagin Woolorama.

The ewe progressed to the

championship judging after winning the autumn-shorn class for ewes under 1.5 years showing no more than two permanent teeth.

Standing in reserve to the Shirlee Downs ewe and being sashed the reserve champion ewe was a two-tooth ewe from the Lake Grace-based Tiarri stud, who was from the stud's winning pair.

Mr Oldfield said the Tiarri ewe was a well-balanced, good framed ewe, who showed good depth of body.

The ewe was ET bred and by Rockdale 08.

The Tiarri stud's winning run didn't end there it also won the prestigious ram and ewe lamb classes.

After taking home both the champion ram and champion ewe ribbons it was always going to be hard to go past the Shirlee Downs team in the group class for one ram and two ewes and Mr Oldfield couldn't, placing them in the number one position in front of Tiarri (second) and Sandown stud, Badgingarra, (third).

Mr Oldfield said the Shirlee Downs team was a very even and consistent team.

However in the class for a group of three rams, where the eventual winner would go on to represent the breed in the interbreed competition Mr Oldfield found it a little harder to make a decision but in the end went for a team from the Rockdale stud.

Mr Oldfield said it was hard decision but he chose the Rockdale team because they were a very consistent team, which contained three magnificent rams.

"They are a big framed, meaty, easy care style Prime SAMM which will throw good lambs," Mr Oldfield said.

Second place in the class was awarded to Shirlee Downs while Sandown placed third.



With the reserve champion ram exhibited by the Dumbleyung-based Rockdale stud was stud principal Haydn Edwards (left), and judge Tim Oldfield, Keith, South Australia.



Tiarri stud principal Ross Taylor (left), Lake Grace, and judge Tim Oldfield, Keith, South Australia with the Tiarri's reserve champion ewe.



Roy Addis (left), Nyabing, and Rockdale stud principals Mark and Haydn Edwards, Dumbleyung, with the winning group of three rams from the Rockdale stud.



With the winning group of one ram and two ewes from the Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading, are stud principals Sascha (left), Chris and Adrian Squiers.



Exhibiting the champion ram in the Prime SAMM breed was the Quairading-based Shirlee Downs stud. With the ram was stud principal Chris Squiers (left), and judge Tim Oldfield, Keith, South Australia.



The champion ewe ribbon was awarded to this ewe from the Shirlee Downs stud, Quairading. With the ewe were Shirlee Downs stud principals Adrian (left), and Chris Squiers and judge Tim Oldfield, Keith, South Australia.

## Prime SAMM champions

- Exhibitors:** 5
- Entries:** 38 (45)
- Judge:** Tim Oldfield, Toldu Prime SAMM stud, Keith, South Australia
- Champion ram:** Shirlee Downs, Quairading
- Reserve:** Rockdale, Dumbleyung
- Champion ewe:** Shirlee Downs
- Reserve:** Tiarri, Lake Grace
- Group of one ram and two ewes:** Shirlee Downs
- Group of three rams:** Rockdale