

# MEET THE MLP TEAM



It takes a collaborative team to manage, assess and measure 5,700 ewes – collecting almost two million data points across their lifetimes. The Merino Lifetime Productivity (MLP) team is based around the five sites, collectively looking after the 5,700 F1 ewes, their projected 25,000+ F2 progeny and the resulting, extensive research data set.

## FAST FACTS

The AWI-funded MLP project is a \$8 million (plus \$5 million from partners), 10-year partnership between AWI, the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA), nominating stud Merino breeders and site partners.

- **Balmoral, Vic**  
Partner: Tuloona Pastoral Committee; Balmoral Breeders Association
- **Pingelly, WA**  
Partner: Murdoch University / UWA  
Committee: Federation of Performance Sheep Breeders (WA Branch)
- **MerinoLink, Temora NSW**  
Partner: Moses & Son  
Committee: MerinoLink Inc.
- **Macquarie, Trangie NSW**  
Partner: NSW DPI  
Committee: Macquarie Sire Evaluation Association
- **New England, NSW**  
Partner: CSIRO  
Committee: New England Merino Sire Evaluation Association

The MLP project is tracking the lifetime performance of 5,700 ewes as they proceed through four to five joinings and annual shearings. For more information visit [wool.com/mlp](http://wool.com/mlp)

A full suite of assessments will be undertaken including visual trait scoring, classer gradings, objective assessment of a range of key traits and index evaluations.

A unique and extensive dataset will result and be used to enhance existing Merino breeding and selection strategies, for both ram sellers and buyers, to deliver greater lifetime productivity and woolgrower returns. **B**

**MORE INFORMATION**  
[wool.com/mlp](http://wool.com/mlp)



## MLP PROJECT MANAGER

### Anne Ramsay

After studies in Rural Science, Anne has gained experience across agricultural research and development, extension, service provision and project management in a number of industries. Anne's role is to provide oversight across the five sites, collating and reporting on the project's activities and generally assisting sites in keeping the MLP ewes tracking well to facilitate the collection of lifetime data.



## BALMORAL

### Site Manager: Tom Silcock, Balmoral Breeders

Tom brings 20+ years of site management experience to Balmoral after being the first Merino sire evaluation site host in 1998. Tom attended the Glenormiston Agricultural College, developed The Mountain Dam bloodline and has been the chair of both AMSEA and Balmoral Breeders. Tom brings a great mix of experience and enthusiasm to the team.

**MLP Highlights:** "Working with likeminded people to pursue better ways of breeding Merinos and observing early glimpses of research findings."



## PINGELLY

### Site Manager: Bronwyn Clarke, Murdoch University

Bronwyn holds a PhD in quantitative genetics, after completing a Wool and Pastoral Science degree. She has worked with WA's Dept of Ag. and as a private consultant in genetics, research and extension. Bronwyn holds a number of philanthropic board positions. Her current role is as a Research Fellow and lecturer with Murdoch University. Bronwyn's corporate and professional experience brings another skillset to the team.

**MLP Highlights:** "Observing the reproduction data first-hand and noting the industry interest in site field days and new results."



## MERINOLINK

### Site Manager: Lexi Cesnik, Moses & Son

Lexi brings another suite of impressive skills to the MLP team. Lexi holds a Bachelor of Ag Science and postgraduate qualifications in Ag Consulting. Lexi is now a Wool & Livestock Specialist with Moses & Son and sits on the MerinoLink Board. As the newest member of the team Lexi brings a fresh approach and energy.

**MLP Highlights:** "Staying sane through the drought, coordinating the myriad of organisations and the support of the MLP network."



## MACQUARIE

### Site Manager: Kathryn Egerton-Warburton, NSW DPI

Kathryn studied Wool and Pastoral Science plus a PhD on Fine Wool in non-traditional environments. Kathryn has worked in sheep, wool and genetics as a lecturer/supervisor, industry development officer and team leader. Her current role is Development Officer with NSW DPI in their Extensive Livestock Unit. A focus on education and extension is brought to the team by Kathryn.

**MLP Highlights:** "Hosting successful field days and observing the impact on attendees, plus working with great industry personalities and the teamwork."



## NEW ENGLAND

### Site Manager: Jen Smith, CSIRO

Jen is a CSIRO researcher in sheep and wool with previous projects including the Toward 13 Micron Project and the AWI/CSIRO Breech Strike Genetics Project. Jen studied Rural Science, then completed a PhD on Fine Wool Merino Sheep. Her family runs a mixed sheep farm in the New England. Jen's research skillset and her farmer's approach are especially valuable to the team.

**MLP Highlights:** "Positive field day feedback, especially from local commercial sheep producers."