



From cyclones and drought to champions

Last year, 10-year-old Claudia Kirton from Walcha decided she wanted to enter the annual Tamworth Livestock Selling Agents Association (TLSAA) Spring Lamb Show on the first Monday of Spring.

Today, after one of the worst droughts on record and a devastating cyclone that smashed their property just days before Christmas last year, 11 year old Claudia took centre stage at Tamworth Regional Livestock Exchange (TRLX), surrounded by some of the industry's best producers, buyers and livestock agents, as she and her father Angus received the JV Goodwin Memorial Shield for the Champion pen of lambs on behalf of their family business Kirton Partnership.

TLSAA award the JV Goodwin Memorial Shield each year in memory of the late Jason Goodwin who was a great sheep man and agent, and the shield documents a who's who of the district's top producers.

Angus Kirton says that the 90-100 kg winning lambs were specifically targeted at the show and on feed all year, adding that "they were very different to a commercial enterprise, at a considerable cost to produce, but it was really a project for Claudia and something to focus on in the drought."

Some of that cost was recouped when the champion pen was sold by their agents, Davidson Cameron for \$346. As part of their prize, the family also pocketed cash and product prizes from various sponsors and, in a remarkable display of generosity, then turned around and donated \$1000 to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

Agent, Simon Burke says that it was a fantastic result given what the Walcha family have been through with a cyclone ripping through their property just days before Christmas, creating wide scale destruction.

Congratulations to the Kirton family – Claudia, Henry, Angus and Lisa. We hope winning makes up for Claudia missing a day at Walcha Central School.

OFF THE RAILS | TRLX Market Highlight
Monday 26th September 2019 | Sheep and lambs
Spring Lamb Show and feature sale



The medium trade category (45 - 49.5kg) was won by Bernard, Courtney, Paul and Elaine McCulloch, Ripley Pastoral Co, Garoo. Bernie and Paul (pictured left) said that although the 9 inches of rain they've had this year is well below their annual their average of 28 inches, some storms in early March meant they could get some crop out of the ground. Their winning pen of 1st cross lambs were weaned onto Lucerne and then oats and haven't seen any grain. They made \$224.



Janet Anderson, Bobby Byrne, Garoo won the light trade (40-44.5kg) category with her lambs sold through RWL making \$188 . Special mention to Lily, Cooper and Harriet Rule (pictured) whose lambs made \$170 through ELD.

Andrew Jackson, Thomas Foods International was one of three judges and said that the drought "has taught people how to feed - and that is the biggest by-product of the drought."

Thank you to our fantastic sponsors: TLSAA, the Goodwin family, Abalene Park, North West Direct Sales, TRLX and Corey's Catering



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Lamb wrap

Young lambs sold to \$237 (\$230 last sale); older lambs sold to \$346 (\$300 last sale); the best Dorpers made \$212 (\$248 last sale); and hoggets sold to \$180 (\$185 last sale).

Sheep wrap

Ewes sold to \$207 (\$210 last sale); wethers to \$163 (\$193 last sale); and rams to \$129 (\$110 last sale).

Agent codes: CP (Chris Paterson Livestock) | DC (Davidson Cameron) | ELD (Elders) | G&C (Garvin & Cousens) | IML (Ian Morgan Livestock) | MCA (McCulloch Agencies) | LMK (Landmark) | Pitt (Pitt Sons) | PPA (Purtle Plevy Agencies) | RWL (Ray White Livestock)

