



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

# CAREER SNAPSHOT

With the alarm sounding at 6.30am woolclasser Caitlin Heppner downs a cup of coffee and is into a shearing shed by 7am. She looks over the sheep to be shorn and makes mental notes on what wool to expect and prepares the relevant wool bins, and then the shearers are in action.

At 9.30am the smell of smoko wafts through the shed, making stomachs grumble. Caitlin has a quick chat to the boss Tappy about how many sheep there are to shear and then finds the cocky Joe who is out in the yards drafting and back-lining his sheep. She asks if there is anything in particular he wants done with the wool and what other sheep are coming through in the week ahead. She'll have to be on her toes because some whethers are coming through that have recently been in a study for virtual fencing - and they are painted all different colours!

As the shearing continues Caitlin classes the wool according to length, strength, quality and condition. Halfway through the next run there is a mob cut out and Caitlin and her wool staff efficiently change over the wool packs and create a new line to reflect the different wool.

During the lunch break Caitlin catches up on phone messages and emails (if there is service!) There is a call from her Mum saying Caitlin's pets are driving her insane and 12 goat kids have escaped from their paddock. The local newspaper wants an interview about her win at the national fleece judging finals, and she sends a message to the Mt Pleasant Show Society about the next committee meeting.

The shearing concludes at 5pm and Caitlin drives home to muster all those goat kids back into their paddock. Maybe she should have turned on the electric fence!

This is Caitlin's career in agriculture. What will yours be?



Photo by Emma Clarke

## CAITLIN HEPPNER

AWARD WINNING  
WOOLCLASSER CAITLIN  
HEPPNER IS AT HOME IN  
THE SHEARING SHEDS  
OF AUSTRALIA.