



South West Blue Light Shearing Program

The South West Blue Light Shearing Program is well underway in 2017, with two weeks of off site training and attendance at a shearing exhibition already completed.

Yes, we are training young people to shear sheep! We are fortunate to have a Guinness World Record holding shearer in the form of Police Liaison Officer Laurie Batement on our team at Cunnamulla. Each year a group of interested young people will be selected to train with Laurie, and achieve a Certificate II in Rural Operations. This will qualify them to work on one of the many sheep stations in south west Queensland.

For one week each term, Laurie and the team travel to Tinnenburra, a property about an hour and a half's drive from Cunnamulla.

Local property owner of Tinnenburra Pastoral Company, Carol Godfrey allows the team to stay in her shearing quarters, and practice their skills under Laurie's guidance. Shearing is not a skill you can learn out of a book, and this hands on experience is essential.



Cunnamulla State School allows for some of the written components of the course to be completed in school time.

Laurie also plans to take the group to several of the shearing exhibitions held throughout the area each year. This is a terrific chance for them to gain further hands on experience, and also to be noticed by the many land holders that attend these events. If you are looking to hire farm hands and shearers, where better to go than a shearing exhibition event!

A multi agency approach has allowed this program to succeed, through the support of the following stakeholders:

Qld Police Service - PLO Laurie Bateman to run the hands on training.

Qld Blue Light - Supply of refurbished trailer, camping & training equipment.

Tinnenburra Pastoral Co - Use of shearers quarters & facilities, purchase & preparation of meals for team while on site.

Cunnamulla State School - In school support of program components, supply of shearing gear through grant.

Qld Agricultural Training College - Coordinate assessment and issuance of Certificate II in Agriculture to successful course participants.

SkillCentred - Supply of bus & fuel for travel to property and shearing exhibitions, participant administration.

Australian Wool Innovations - Cover the cost of meals for the 4 x 1 weeks that participants are staying at Tinnenburra.



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