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Letter to the Editor

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Sheepvention a great success

Sheepvention has again proved it is the icon event for Western Victoria by showcasing the region's sheep and wool industries. Some 26,000 visitors poured through the gates to explore a record number of attractions. Many have commented on the wide range and variety of exhibits and opportunities to pick up some great Sheepvention bargains.

I looked forward to speaking in Parliament this week about the ongoing success of Hamilton's Sheepvention and praise the immense contribution of primary producers in Western Victoria who pursue ongoing improvements within the wool industry.

The crowning of the Hamilton Spectator's 2007 Sheepvention Wool Monarch recognises the contribution of individuals who are passionate about excellence in wool production.

This year the honour and privilege of Wool Monarch went to Robert Plush of *Kerrsville* Fine Wool Merino Stud, Konongwootong. Robert's impressive involvement in the superfine wool industry for over 35 years makes him a most worthy recipient of this accolade.

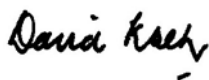
Robert's commitment to promoting the wool industry is second to none. His extensive industry leadership involves many accomplishments which has few peers. His support of the Victorian Stud Merino Breeders at many wool industry meetings and conferences and involvement in numerous industry groups is well recognised.

Robert's optimism for wool reflects a man who his wife Judy has described as having "sheep on the brain".

I congratulate Robert Plush of the Plush family's *Kerrsville* partnership on his successful nomination and acceptance of this premier wool industry award and I know he will enjoy fulfilling the important role of Wool Monarch and the promotion of Sheepvention over the next two years. The Wool Monarch award is a valuable endorsement of Sheepvention sponsored by Hamilton's Spectator Newspaper Group.

My congratulations also to the organising committee and all those involved in making Sheepvention 2007 a great success.

Yours sincerely



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