



▲ *Brad Honeysett, Lachie McCrae and Belinda during their round of mini golf*

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP MAKES CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

Members, sponsors and friends gathered for two days in Halls Gap, Victoria, in February for the annual White Suffolk National Conference.

An informative program was put together by Conference Convenor, Lachie McCrae, with presentations on carbon neutral farming, rural counselling and disaster planning, genetics, and cyber safety.

A highlight of the event was a tour of Frew Foods abattoir in Stawell led by Mark Inglis, Thomas Foods International.

Members were given a behind the scenes tour of the processing plant including a demonstration of the DEXA and MEQ probe to measure lamb eating quality.

Members enjoyed the relaxed and social atmosphere with opportunity to network and enjoy a few days off-farm.

The mini golf competition saw Dean Cameron putt a hole-in-one to help his team consisting of Paul Routley, John Jamieson and Ian Gilmore take out the Winner's Cup. There was debate whether the win was legitimate.

Junior member, Ben Bingham, attended the Conference and was awarded a prize for his efforts.

Tuesday afternoon enabled members to take some free time to explore the region.

A few members decided to conquer the Pinnacle, which proved easy for most and definitely not for one.

The reward for raising the White Suffolk banner at the top thankfully kept them going.

A number of members also headed out to support Ellie McDonald, Hopea Stud, with cleanup from the recent bushfires that affected her property in Dadswell Bridge, VIC.

The clean up included removing 5km of fencing in just over two hours in 32 degree heat.

"I can't thank the generosity of the White Suffolk members enough," said Ms McDonald.

"We really appreciate every one of your efforts."

Convenor Lachie McCrae said it was a pleasure to host members in Victoria.

"The Conference is always a fun event, and I look forward to catching up with breeders every year," he said.

"Thank you to our program speakers and sponsors for their support."

"The feedback has been great, and everyone enjoyed the time spent together."

The Conference was supported by Zoetis, Rural Bank and Meat & Livestock Australia.



▲ **Abattoir tour at Frews Stawell**



▲ **Bushfire cleanup at Hopea Stud**



▲ **Mini Golf Champions - Ian Gilmore, Dean Cameron, Paul Routley and John Jamieson**



▲ **Ben Bingham with Martin Beltrame from Zoetis presenting his prize**



▲ **Chris Parker, Austin Parker, Andrew Newell and Nathan Cleeland test out the Mini golf course**



▲ **Pulling down fences at Hopea Stud**



▲ **Getting ready for the abattoir tour at Frews Stawell**



▲ **Members assisting with bushfire cleanup at Hopea Stud**



▲ **Members at the mini golf course**



▲ **Rural Bank representatives Jason Chuck and Joe Boyle with President Ian Gilmore**



▲ **Nikki Ward, Damien Hawker and Tim Jorgensen at the Pinnacle**