

## Breeders line up for the SNP

*Terry Sim* / January 2, 2013



***On the cards: National Merino Sire Evaluation Association chairman Tom Silcock, of Balmoral, with a DNA blood-test card.***

***FOR just \$50 Merino breeders can get a preview of their ram's genetic worth before lambs hit the ground.***

***Australian National Merino Sire Evaluation Association chairman Tom Silcock said the Sheep Co-operative Research Centre had committed to subsidising the genotyping of all 2013 sire evaluation trial sires at a cost to breeders of \$50. It is a special deal being offered nationally.***

***Mr Silcock said the first 19 appropriate sires entered in the 2013 Elders Balmoral sire evaluation trial would be eligible for the discounted \$50 deal; the rest will go on a waiting list.***

***"The local studs will take up a fair whack of the spots, so it will fill up relatively quickly, I think," he said.***

***Mr Silcock said the testing of a DNA sample from each of the sires would give their breeders a genomic-enhanced research breeding value, as well as a predictive poll-horn breeding value, before any progeny were born.***

***"People participating in this will be part of road-testing genomics and proofing the concept of predicting the future breeding value of rams for specific traits," he said.***

***Mr Silcock said ewe joining in the Balmoral trial would be in early April after rams had been blood tested for DNA testing and semen was collected.***

# *The* **WEEKLY TIMES**



***"We need all of that certainly by the end of February, and in an ideal world I would like to have entries finalised by the end of January," he said.***

***The 50K SNP testing of the 2013 sires was being subsidised by the Sheep CRC.***

***"In the past all the rams entered for sire evaluation have donated extra doses of semen for DNA analysis," Mr Silcock said.***

***The genomic test usually costs about \$150.***

***And it isn't normally available to breeders, unless they are members of Sheep Genetics.***

***Preference will be given to finer dual-purpose Merino sires for the Balmoral trial, to be run at Wannan in 2013-14.***

