



## ► IVAN SOLOMON

**The first sheep dog trials were held in New Zealand in 1867 with Australia close on the heels of the Long White Cloud in 1871.**

Since that time the two countries have been fighting for supremacy. And for the past two decades Ivan Solomon has been topping the list in his quest to reign supreme locally, nationally and internationally - giving the kiwis no room to maneuver in the sport, nor his Aussie counterparts for that matter!

But Ivan is no stranger to building success - be it training sheep dogs, winning trials, or farm enterprises.

Having diversified when times were tough to growing the family's Perangery station from 32000 to 40000, Ivan is well suited to adjusting to economic and climatic conditions.

And having faced adversity many times over, Ivan has no fear of change.

Home schooled by his ex teacher mother, Ivan went on to Geraldton High School, leaving formal education behind just before his 13th birthday to help on the station.

Droughts came and went - with Ivan having to subsidise the income by driving trucks, as a contractor harvester, crop spraying, pulling sandalwood and mining gypsum on the property - a mine that is still in effect.

A committed community volunteer Ivan was the president of the local tennis and golf clubs, P & C as well as the RAS.

Ivan's connection with the RAS goes back a long way - and not just on the volunteering side. As a seasoned showjumper Ivan competed in 22 Perth

Royal Show events and the Sydney Royal Easter Show. When he retired from the circuit after 28 years Ivan was asked to judge at a number of PRS events.

Nominated for council in 1983, Ivan became the Show's ringmaster for 15 years and sat on a number of committees including fibre and goat, alpaca, equestrian, sheep dog, prime lamb and more...

It was Ivan who established a Show farm day the Youth Advisory Council and introduced the farm skills competition.

In 2003 Ivan was elected as vice president before going on to serve as president.

Having spent more than half a century farming, Ivan turned the property over to his sons and bought what he calls a 'hobby farm' in Brookton where he divides his time between the RAS activities, sheep dog trials and claiming triumphs in all areas - something he is looking forward to with regard to the future of the RAS.

A man who welcomes change Ivan points out many changes and improvements have taken place at the RAS and to the PRS over the years and he feels his organisational skills and agricultural background will be of use as the RAS seeks advancement.