

Rare breeds that go back

KAROLIN MacGREGOR

TAKING a step back into yesteryear will be easy at next month's Steam Spectacular and Heritage Weekend at Westbury.

The three-day event will be held at Pearn's Steamworld on November 5-7.

Included this year for the first time will be a rare

breeds animal display on Sunday, November 6.

Participating will be the French family from Whitmore who breed Ryeland sheep and Berkshire pigs.

Steven French said while the family originally started breeding Ryelands in the 1930s, they had re-established the breed on

the family's property about nine years ago. They now have about 40 sheep in their Glenalan Farm Ryeland stud.

Mr French's grandson, two-year-old William, is the seventh generation of Frenchs on the property and is already showing a keen interest in the sheep.

When sourcing the sheep for their stud, the family managed to find some Ryelands that had descended from the family's original bloodlines.

Mr French said that as well as the strong family connection with Ryelands, they liked the easy-care characteristics as well as their excellent carcass qualities and flavour.

The Frenchs finish their lambs on farm and supply most directly to customers and some restaurants.

With only about 600 breeding ewes left in the country, Ryelands are truly a rare breed, but Mr French said they were becoming more popular and were especially good in cross-breeding programs with leaner sheep including merinos.

He said the best way to save the Ryeland breed



LONG TRADITION: Melanie French, her father-in-law Steven French and her son William, 2, with Ryeland sheep.

Improved grass flowed to cows

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pastures they have healthier animals.

The Lillicos also installed Tasmania's first automatic dipping and flushing system. The system dips the cows' teats immediately after milking and then disinfects the liners, reducing mastitis and antibiotic use.

Developing the conservation values, while maintaining a commercial sheep-grazing property, won John and Sue Wardle, along with their farm manager Conrad Daniels, the Primary Producer Award.

The Wardles' Waterview property on North Bruny Island, not only has commercial producing value, but is habitat for a range of bird species, particularly sea eagles and swift parrots.

Other award winners are landcare hero Gwen Egg, who won Individual Landcarer Award for being a guiding force within the Southern Beaches

Landcare/Coastcare group.

Graeme Stevenson won the Local Landcare Facilitator/Co-ordinator Award for his leadership in developing Landcare and production groups that participate in sustainable farming practices and on-farm natural resource management.

Award winners included Cradle Coast NRM for natural resource management, Rubicon Coast and Landcare Group for coastcare, Hobart City Council for local government landcare partnership, Friends of Adventure Bay won the community group award, and Bellerive Bluff Land and Coastcare Group won the urban landcare award.

Youngtown Primary School took out the education award, Marty Bower the young landcarer award, and the indigenous award went to Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation.

would actually be for more people to develop a taste for them.

Other rare breeds of poultry, rabbits, guinea pigs, cows and horses also will be on display.

Anne Heazlewood is one

of the volunteers helping to put together the event.

"We really want to bring the museum to life so that people can come along and see all the animals that you would have once found on farms," she said.

"A lot of these breeds have been superseded now, so people may not have seen them before."

There will also be blacksmith, felting and weaving displays.

On Saturday, November

5 the event's vintage tractor day will see enthusiasts out in force.

And on Monday, November 7 the motorbike mania day will be held.

The gates are open 9am-4.30pm on all three days.

Gourmet snags best bar none

ROGER HANSON

THERE are no snags about Tasmanian beef hitting the supermarket shelves.

Cape Grim Natural Beef has launched a joint marketing venture with well-known smallgoods manufacturer Tibaldi to produce gourmet sausages.

The sausages, launched into 50 Coles supermarkets Australia-wide, are made using beef from the premium Greenham Cape Grim grass-fed natural program in the state's North-West.

The sausages are manufactured at the Tibaldi plant in Melbourne.

The five selected Tasmanian Coles stores stocking the sausages are Devonport, Glenorchy, Kingston, Launceston and Meadow Mews.

"We have started small but plan to branch out," Greenham Tasmania managing director Peter Greenham said.

Tasmanians have sunk their teeth into the sausages, made from natural lamb casing, by supporting the home-grown product.

"They are selling well, especially in Tasmania, and we are introducing them into Victoria," Mr Greenham said.

The gluten-free sausages, made from GMO-free beef, are also hormone- and antibiotic-free.

Greenham's is also ahead of the pack in using a traceability code, so customers can trace back each

pack to its origins. Each pack is tagged with QR bar codes, which are printed square labels similar in appearance to a crossword puzzle, and with smartphone technology the codes can be read.

Using a camera-equipped smart phone loaded with the right application, the user is taken to a website carrying further information about the product.

Consumers can identify the owner of the property,

its location and management practices, and even view photos of the farm.

The codes will also be used on a Cape Grim/Tibaldi pre-cooked roast beef, being launched into 300 Coles supermarkets.

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