



**WILLIE RETREAT MACQUARIE MARSHES**  
**WILLIE STATION**  
Cnr. Carinda Road/Gibson Way  
WARREN NSW 2824

**CWEEC 1997 ENVIRONMENT AWARD WINNER**

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Tuesday, 1st August 2006

**`BY GEORGE - WE DID IT!!!!!!`**

On March 19th 2005 there was a lot of excitement at Willie Retreat Macquarie Marshes for the local children from the Marra Creek School had been invited to attend George`s 21st Birthday Party. Not unusual - - George, our pet sheep was celebrating and the children were invited to celebrate with him.

Peter Black, OAM, MP was sent an invitation too - this was due to his statement in the press that `he had never heard of a sheep dying of old age` --and to our surprise, he accepted. This brought about a scatter as we then thought we best invite adults of the sheep world who could speak to Peter Black about sheep, and who more fitting than our ram supplier and neighbour of many years - George Thornton and his wife Lee, representation from Elders, Wayne Williams (Dubbo) and Greg Woodlock (Warren) with Ruby, his daughter, Frank & Roshelle McKillop, Councillor Julianne Campbell with her twin granddaughters, Alice Tolhurst and several neighbours who had known of George from a young lamb and Julie Lincoln -Editor, Warren Advocate who endorsed the occasion by submitting many terrific photographs of George and his guests as well as an excellent article for The Warren Advocate.

The party was a success for everyone who attended, but most of all for `George` who relished two iced buns as a gift from Peter Black, plus a personal nickname of `George, the Wonder Wether`, gifts from the Marra Creek School children who knew George personally, a bale of hay and gimmick pieces from Elders and, of course, his birthday cake with 21 candles.

The saga of this tale ends with the fantastic result that the **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS** has issued a certificate in acknowledgement of his long life and has the Status of being the **Oldest Merino Sheep in the World**. George will be featured in the Memorial Section of the Guinness Book of Records 2007. It is certainly a `notch in the wool` knowing that George was born and bred in Warren, NSW, at Willie Station.

George did a wonderful job of living for such a long time - many more years than the normal life-span for sheep - and died at the ripe old age of 21 years - 5 months and 3 days

**Myra & Phillip Tolhurst**

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