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PIGS PUT ON A RIGHT ROYAL SHOW

Patting piglets, guessing the weights of baconers and porkers and even visiting the homes of the ‘three little pigs’ was all part of the fun for children and adults visiting the Tom Wilding Pavilion at the 2007 Perth Royal Show.

Courtesy of dedicated WA pig breeders, Bill Scott of Kookaburra Stud, Doodlakine and Alan and Josephine Webse of Kangaroo Creek Stud, Narrikup, an interactive display of Berkshires, Large Whites and Landrace boars, sows and piglets educated the public about how today’s pigs are cared for and raised in friendly environments.

Although Mr Scott, who is also a Councillor with the Royal Agricultural Society of WA, will soon retire to Australind and leave his piggery in the capable hands of son Robert, he believes the industry needs to continue to promote its product and the fact that the great majority of producers and breeders care for and nurture their pigs.

“I reckon I’ve been privileged to work with such intelligent, curious and engaging animals for the last 30 or so years and I now want to share some of those positive experiences with the general public, especially young people.

“Pigs have often been maligned over the years as dirty animals, but that is not correct.

“Given the opportunity, they love to wallow in water to keep cool on a hot day, but who can blame them for that,” Mr Scott asked.

WA Pork Producers’ Association (WAPPA) President and Cuballing pig producer, Graeme Dent, congratulated the Scott and Webse families on their efforts to educate and inform the public at the Royal Show.

“Our industry sometimes suffers because the public don’t understand how the industry self-manages and self-regulates to ensure the highest possible standards of production and animal welfare,” Mr Dent said.

“We don’t tolerate cruelty or irresponsible animal welfare practices which may lead to unnecessary suffering by pigs and condemn the actions of anyone neglecting their responsibilities to the animals in their care,” he said.

“The great majority of the half a million pigs processed in WA each year are raised in animal friendly indoor and outdoor environments, while enjoying unrestricted access to abundant high quality feed and water.

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“Unhappy, unhealthy, uncomfortable pigs don’t breed effectively or produce quality meat, so the well-being, safety and health of our pigs is of utmost concern to piggery owners, operators and staff,” Mr Dent said.

WAPPA represents about 250 producers at the front end of an industry with a farm-gate value of \$100 million a year and directly and indirectly employs 3000 people in more than 60 shires across 300,000 square kilometres of WA’s agricultural zone.

www.wappa.com.au

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Enjoying 'pat a pig' at the Perth Royal Show were five year olds Jake Chipper (left) of York and Owen Craig of Perth. Looking on are organisers Alan Webse (left) of Kangaroo Creek Stud, Narrikup and Bill Scott of Kookaburra Stud, Doodlakine.



Visiting the homes of 'the three little pigs' at the Perth Royal Show were the Ray family of Gingin, Angela, Shane and Edison, with pig display organisers Bill and Jessica Scott of Kookaburra Stud, Doodlakine.