



## International *Back to Back* Wool Challenge

Media Release

### World Results

Sunday 14th June 2009

#### **Australia wins back the Back to Back Trophy**

The **Spinning Knitwits** team competing at Tocal Agricultural College, Paterson, NSW handspun and knitted a jumper from sheep's back to theirs in *just over six hours* to win this years *International Back to Back Wool Challenge*.

**Only Five minutes and Five Seconds** separated them from the **Toronto Spiders** competing in Canada but not enough to break the Guinness world record time of **4 hours, 51 minutes and 14 seconds**, held by the **Merriwa Jumbucks**  
Toronto had a five minute penalty so in reality, the margin was just **five seconds**.

**Fourteen** teams of blade shearers, handspunners and knitters entered at **twelve different venues** around the world in the *fifteenth* Challenge, completed on Saturday 13th June 2009.

Each team consisted of a **blade shearer**, a country of origin **sheep** and **seven handspunners** (with spinning wheels) and **knitters** who follow the identical Challenge rules and pattern to knit **the adult size jumper**.

The teams were from six different countries, South Africa competing for the very first time with a team at Bloemfontein, Free State.

Each team not only promoted wool world wide but raised substantial funds for Cancer Research.

Countries competing with **Australia** this year included **Canada, Japan, UK, South Africa and the Czech Republic**.

#### **Results:-**

First :- Newcastle Spinning Knitwits, Tocal, NSW            6 hours 3 minutes 20 seconds.

Second:- Toronto Spiders, Toronto, Ontario, Canada            6 hours 8 minutes 25 seconds.

Third:- Kurrajong Handspun Crafts, NSW, Australia            7 hours 6minutes 55seconds.

#### **Guinness World Record Time :-**

**4 hours 51 minutes 14 seconds ~ Merriwa Jumbucks ~ Merriwa ~ NSW ~ 2004**

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