

## News Release

6 September 2007

# Never Mind The Width – Feel The Quality



Exactly 200 years ago, a young General Arthur Wellesley (later to become the first Duke of Wellington) successfully fought the second Battle of Copenhagen.

At the same time, Hainsworths, the Leeds woollen mill supplying the scarlet cloth for his troops rejected the first commercial package of Australian wool landed in England. The discerning mill owner at Farsley thought the wool was not of sufficient quality.

Farsley born church minister and pioneer wool grower Samuel Marsden had emigrated to Australia, where he swiftly became a very large sheep breeder. He brought wool back on his home visits, but got the knock-back for the first parcel, offered to the neighbouring Hainsworths mill. Undeterred, he returned to Australia, taking with him some Merino sheep from the royal flock. Australian wool quality improved and thrived to the stage of today's multi-million dollar industry, with Hainsworths among the customers.

Now, the eighth generation of Hainsworths is taking fine Australian Merino wool and producing a wide range of high quality products from their Farsley mill. Including the scarlet cloth for the Changing of the Guard ceremony in London.

Marking the 200-year link with the city, Leeds Council leader, Coun Andrew Carter visited Hainsworths to present Australian Wool Innovation's Charlotte Mills with the Leeds seal of approval – 200 years on.

Coun Carter commented: “The Hainsworths story is history in the making, with time-honoured traditional methods now blending with new technologies. It demonstrates the unique blend of enterprise and innovation that has enabled Leeds manufacturing companies to compete in modern markets. It was an honour to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary with this presentation.”

Managing director Tom Hainsworth added: “We’re pleased to have played our part in the history of the international wool industry and to have maintained our 200-year links with Australian growers. Australian Wool Innovation is celebrating the anniversary with an exhibition in Australia House and a presentation to the Bradford Textile Society, where I will shortly take over as president.”

## **Ends**

**Photography:** 200 years on - Australian Wool Innovation’s Charlotte Mills receives the Leeds seal of approval from Leeds City Council leader, Coun Andrew Carter, while Tom Hainsworth checks the latest consignment of Merino wool from Australia.