

New Zealand Wool Classers Association

NZWCA New Website

Special points of interest:

- Annual General Meeting
- 2016 Field Days
- Board Nomination Form



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Extra
WIEG Update &

This last 12 months for NZWCA has seen a lot happen. With us directly contracting our Executive officer and Secretary there was a bedding in process which soon saw a lot of activity.

Bruce has coordinated refreshers in Christchurch and Napier as well as a lot of time spent with the Wool Education Industry Group on sorting the Certificate in Wool course that has also had a huge input from Allan to whom we are extremely grateful for his efforts, I don't hesitate to say that the outcome

of getting Lincoln to take this up has had a lot to do with Allan's Chairing and co-ordination of this group, his report in this newsletter gives a good summary of the tremendous progress which at times has been frustratingly slow but the final outcomes are looking good.

It is great to see our new Website up and running, although there is a bit more development to do here we launched early as the old web site hosting people were

wanting more money to continue and we felt we were at a stage where we might as well go with the new as it was. It is great to see some members have gone in and uploaded a profile photo, the next thing will be for members to add some additional Information about themselves. If we use this site it can be a useful tool.

I will finish by saying I hope to see a good turnout for the AGM and day at Timaru on May 10th.

Stencil Number on Specification and Bales

At times the information from a stencil holder overseeing a clip is not being handled in the correct manner. The stencil number should be put onto the bale in the space provided on the label and most importantly be included on the Wool Specification with the stencil holder's name (e.g. Q 1984- Mary James).

Providing the stencil holder fills out the Wool Specification, it is their job to fill in those details. If it the farmer is filling out the specification the stencil holder must advise the

farmer of their details and request they be added to the specification.

NZWCA operate a Merit award system and well classed and prepared clips are nominated by Wool Brokers/Merchants. If the details of stencil holder are not on the specification these clips could miss out on a nomination.

Whilst we are referring to specifications could I point out there are a significant number of clip with poorly filled out or no specifications that arrive with the wool.

Incorrect or insufficient documentation causes difficulty and expense to the receiver of the clip with time spent on sorting out the problems.

One of the jobs of the person in charge of the clip is to oversee that the correct detail are put into press book and on the bale. If that is done correctly it's only a matter of transferring those details onto the specification.

Providing this documentation is done correctly it will help the flow



The show room is where buyers can take a look at the sample wool before they buy the bales at the auction.

2016 Field Days

Your Association has arranged days with shearing contactors and brokers to inform not only classers but senior wool handlers, pressers, farmers and other persons interested in wool.

The following has been arranged in conjunction with the Central Otago Shearing Contractors to be held in **Omakau on the 16th June (XB & Half Bred) and 8th**

August (Fine Wool).

In conjunction with PGG Wrightson a field day at their store in **Christchurch on the 2nd June** which will include a visit to a wool sale

In conjunction with CP Wools a field day in Invercargill to be held in November (date to be confirmed).

After the very successful

day last year in Napier we are going to hold a field day again in **Napier on the 31st May 2016.**

If these field days are in your area keep it free so you can attend. Programme details for all these field days will be on our web site

www.woolclassers.co.nz

and face book

Health and Safety Document

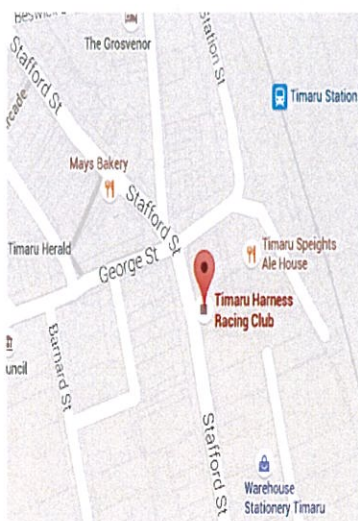
Legislation is being passed this year Legislation is being passed this year that requires all independent contractors (Wool Classers fit into this category) to have a Health & Safety policy in place. The NZWCA Board deliberated and decided that due to the high cost of producing such a document for an individual classer they would commission D'Arcy Palmer of Farmers for

Safety Ltd to produce a document that would cover a Wool Classer in the work place. The cost of producing this document is considerable and the Association needs to recover some of it cost. We are making the document available on request to the secretary for current financial members at a very reduce rate of \$25. This is a one off charge as the following years all that needs to



be replaced is the covering letter. The document is contained in a folder which includes other relevant

Legislation is being passed this year that requires all independent contractors to have a Health & Safety policy in place.



Annual General Meeting

The 2016 A G M is being held in Timaru at the Grey Way room at the Phar Lap Raceway **Washdyke on the 10th May 2016.**

In conjunction with the AGM we will be holding a field day which will consist of a tour through Canterbury Wool Scour, Speakers from N Z Merino on Specification/ Documents which includes

their online specification; also they will also be covering preparation for this season and contract requirements. A presentations by D'Arcy Palmer on the Health & Safety document, Grant Murdoch a Shearing contractor from Kurow, Malcolm Ching of N Z Wool Services and an update on the progress of establishing wool training at Lincoln/

Telford.

Registration will commence at 8.30 pm and tour of scour 9.00 am. The full details of the programme will be on our web page and Face-book in April so please keep this day available.

As a light lunch will be supplied it will help us with arrangements if can you advise by email

My Observations by Bruce Abbott

The content in this article is my personal view (Bruce Abbott) and does not represent the view of your association

WHAT SHOULD WOOL CLASSERS CHARGE

Last season I was approached on a number occasions about what we should charge for our services. My view is the training we go through as Wool Classers qualifies us as trade people and you do not get a trade person for under \$50 per hour. So that is my bench mark. Therefore my min rate per day would be \$400, so taking that a shed is doing 800 sheep per day, that relates to 0.50c per sheep so that set the bench mark for charging on a per sheep rate. If the shed is doing 1000 per day the charge would be \$500. You adjust this formula if you consider the

hourly rate should be up or down of \$50. There are other charges to be considered such as ACC, I add a small percentage (6.5%) to my overall charges to cover this expense (Note; the Shearing Contractors do this). Other considerations include, do they supply accommodation, cover mileage and there may be others areas to be considered but that is on a case per case basis.

The main point I would like to emphasise is don't undervalue your services, charge a reasonable amount.

PROFESSIONALISM FOR WOOLCLASSERS

Last season going around a number of sheds and meeting you also gave me an opportunity to connect with our members. It was a pleasure going into some sheds that were well organized and the classer was very much in charge. These classers stood

out partly due to their presentation of working in a dust coat or overalls and their work place was well presented with wool stacked in bins and very good documentation procedures in place. Unfortunately in a couple of shed this was not to be the case, wool in bins all over the place, not a strict control on documentation and the classers just one of the shed hands working in ordinary clothes. The point I wish to make is if the classer is wearing a dust coat/overalls, to the shed hands and any person coming into the shed it identifies them as "this is the person in charge". It also saves a lot of washing as these garments protect your ordinary clothes (Please note, this year the NZWCA will have available dust coats with our logo for purchase at a very reasonable cost).



A message from Otago Merino

To NZ Wool classers -

Currently we have many of you on our database, so you currently receive our newsletters and invitations to our Merino Excellence Awards evening.

We would prefer to email these

in future, if possible. Please send me an email so I can add your email to our emailing list. Also, if you no longer wish to receive our communications, please also let me know.

If you are not receiving anything from us, and would like to, please send an email to me at

lesley@administrationhq.co.nz and we would be very happy to Include you in future.

Our next Merino Excellence Awards evening is Friday 20th May, at the Skyline, Queenstown. It would be great to see many of you there.

Lesley Muir

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Nzwca

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and

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This article was in our last newsletter but I believed the points made about strength, length, fine micron and small lot is very relevant for this coming season.
Bruce Abbott Registrar.

As the season for harvesting and selling of fine wool is starting to draw to a close for what has been another difficult year for the super fine micron wool growers, there are several reoccurring market signals that can be drawn upon to highlight buying patterns.

As first stage service providers at the greasy wool harvest stage, wool classers and senior wool handlers have significant impact and influence on the final return for their Farmer clients.

While style, colour, VM content and fibre fineness are important features when preparing wool for market, the key drivers however continue to be uniformity of length and strength almost regardless of fibre fineness. The market has been more sensitive to variations of tensile strength and length, especially with the current buyers' market.

In the past, fibre diameter (or the lack of it) was the main driver in achieving premiums in the market place and consequently the national flock of merinos became finer as a result of Growers wishing to meet that demand. This strong market signal and demand at the time for the limited supply, rewarded Growers almost regardless of other processing fundamentals (mainly tensile strength).

With the desire to achieve ever increasing finer lines of wool for the market, Classers focused on classing out finer lines to the point where one to two bale lines became the norm and not the exception. This more than paid for extra testing and selling costs to meet the demand at the time.

The challenge became that as the clip became finer over time, it

became more difficult to achieve significant micron distinctions under 16 microns to justify the extra cost, the effort and the reward to do so. The reality, however was that there is more variation for fibre diameter along the strand of wool fibres than what can be achieved subjectively classed out lines for fibre diameter. By classing for fibre diameter, in fact only spitted out the average fibre diameter for the whole of the wool clip.

The market for the super fine was always, and still is today, a very select and niche market.

With limited super fine wool markets now being well supplied due to the finer micron national flock on both sides of the Tasman, this market now demands very high standards of entry (as with most fine wool markets today). The balance of the national clip being average to best topmaking styles, the price difference this season, based on micron only has been approximately only 200c/kg clean from 14 to 22 microns.

Bigger lines of wool uniformed for style and, more importantly, for good length and tensile strength (>38NKT) have achieved optimum returns for growers these last few seasons, reducing extra testing and selling costs. There have been up to 200 to 1000c/kg clean discounts for wool testing under 32NKT, especially for the super fine lots which unfortunately have been more common this year due to the difficult growing conditions.

It would be our view also that due to much lower premiums being paid for finer micron wools, Growers would save further costs and optimize their return by interlotting their below 3 bales of oddments with other similar Growers'



An Overview for training for the wool Industry at Lincoln/Telford Division



Over the past 12 months your Association and other industry groups in the wool industry have been working with Lincoln to establish training for our sector.

The Certificate in Wool Technology that was run by Tectra was in danger of disappearing with their closure. Lincoln took over the students and Tutor (Lauire Boniface) to enable the course to continue in the short term.

Since that time the group established by the wool industry (Wool Industry Education Group) to negotiate with Lincoln have been able to establish two courses for the future.

Certificate in Wool Technology (CWT): this course will provide individuals wishing to acquire a broad and theoretical knowledge of the wool industry with the opportunity to acquire and/or develop the requisite knowledge, skills and values.

Diploma in Wool Technology: this will provide individuals wishing to advance to a managerial or a specialist role in a specific aspect of the wool industry with the opportunity to acquire and/or develop the requisite knowledge, skill and values.

At the present time these courses are proceeding through the process for achieving approval by the different sections that oversee training in the universities. It is hoped that this will be completed by August 2016 and courses could begin delivery in September 2016.

This process has taken some time but the end result is that we will have training for our industry with a highly respected deliverer of courses, something that has not been present for over 20 years.

Meanwhile in addition to the former 14 Tectra trainees who are continuing their studies, eight people that had previously registered to start CWT course have been accepted into the current course.

Also the Lincoln- Telford Division has made arrangements for study towards one of the papers in the upcoming new Certificate in Wool Technology. They are endeavouring to have the Computing and Communications course (COMP 021) available by the end of May.

People wishing to take up study in this course need to contact Donna Osborne at donna.osbourne@telford.ac.nz by the end of April to register their interest.

Fuller details of the process and courses content will shortly be available on our NZWCA web site.



New Zealand Wool Classers Association
PO Box 16231, Hornby, Christchurch 8441

CLOTHING

Once again we are able to offer a small range of NZWCA branded clothing. Bruce will have some available for viewing at the AGM or you can visit

<http://www.inview.co.nz/services>

Click onto Online Catalogues

- [Home](#)
- [Services](#)
 - [Screen Printing](#)
 - [Embroidery](#)
 - [Signwriting](#)
 - [Graphic Design](#)
 - [Apparel Supply](#)
 - [Promotional Merchandise](#)
 - [Gallery](#)
- [Online Catalogues](#)

You can then search by item.

These are the following items available, price includes GST, NzWCA logo and shipping to you;

| | | |
|--------|--|----------|
| EGMSP | Mens Short Sleeve Merino Polo, black | \$ 82.00 |
| WEGMSP | Ladies Short Sleeve Merino Polo, black | \$ 82.00 |
| P210 | Classic Polo, black | \$ 29.00 |
| 4167 | Cap, black/white/grey | \$ 21.50 |
| EGAB | Merino Artic Beanie, black/charcoal | \$ 38.50 |
| 4367 | Wool Beanie, black | \$ 30.50 |
| H132ML | Unisex Lab Coat, white | \$ 55.00 |

If you would like to purchase any item/s please contact the Secretary secretary@woolclassers.org.nz to arrange.

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL ONLY BE PLACING ORDERS ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR DEPENDING ON DEMAND



New Zealand Wool Classers Association

Nomination Form for Election of Board Member 2016.

I nominate _____ for a position as Board Representative as a Board member of the New Zealand Wool Classers Association for the election to be held by Ballot.

Proposer: _____ Seconders: _____

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Nominee:

I consent to my nomination going forward for the election of board members of the NZWCA.

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Note:

Nominee, Proposer and seconder must all be current financial members of NZWCA for a nomination to be valid.

**Nominations close with the Registrar NZWCA by 5pm, Friday 6th May 2016.
Please post or email your nomination**