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August 2016

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Health & Safety Document

As advised previously your association has produced a Health & Safety document in conjunction with D'Arcy Palmer of Farmers for Farm Safety Ltd.

The present legislation requires all contractors (classers can fall into this category) have an H & S policy. This document will cover you and is available to current financial members at a small cost of \$25. This is a one off cost to cover printing, folder and postage and in future years once you pay your subscription the cover page of the document will be sent (at no additional cost) to verify your use of the document.

To obtain a copy please deposit \$25 into NZWCA bank account number:

02 0828 0036732 00

Ref: You're Name

Code: H & S



[2015/16 Financial Statement and Reports](#)
These are now available on our web site under the heading "Resources". These will give you an indication what your association has been achieving over the past year and the effect it has had on our financial reserves.

Email Address

For your association to be cost efficient and keep in touch with all our members we now require your email address?

In future this newsletter will be sent by email where possible. The present cost of printing, collating and posting a newsletter is considerable. Using the website will enable your association to be more cost efficient and gives it the ability to pass on important messages such as wool preparation, up and coming events and generally give us the opportunity to contact you.

If you are having issues logging into the website please contact either Bruce or Annette and we can email you a user manual guide.

eo@woolclassers.org.nz OR secretary@woolclassers.org.nz



Maryburn Station's Martin Murray is the supreme winner of the fine fleece at this year's National Golden Fleece Exhibition.

The wining fleece was from a hogget and was the first time a hogget fleece had won the award.

*To read more go too:
NZFarmer.co.nz*

N Z Golden Fleece Awards 2017 & 2018

The Golden Fleece awards for the winter of 2017 & 2018 are to be held in Wanaka and it is intended by the Upper Clutha A & P Association to lift the profile of this exhibition of New Zealand's top fleeces and create a 3 day "Wool Expo". The organising committee are campaigning for fleeces for this event. To this end we need the co-operation of 'Wool Classers' to take out the top fleeces at shearing, talking to the 'Farmers' to enter them in their local Show and then the local show 'Wool Stewards' to enter the top fleeces in the respective classes in the 'Golden Fleece Awards'. Many farmers are not in the woolshed at shearing time, so it the best person to identify the wool-clips best fleeces are Wool Classers in the case of Fine-wool clips or wool-graders in the case of Crossbred clips. So this appeal is to you Wool Classers and Wool-graders during this year's shearing, to identify those top fleeces and appeal to the farmers to enter them in their local Show.

Convener, Martin Paterson.

REGISTRAR NOTES

Some of us have already started our classing run; the start of the season is getting earlier every year. There is an article in this newsletter by Blair Davies from N Z Merino. I would like to highlight a few points. LENGTH & STRENGTH – please note the comment on how much of a staple you should test (pencil width), this season there are contracts that require a strength of 40 NK. There is a push about over weight bales (max 200kg), don't forget light bales also cause problems with loads on trucks and coring machines, so please endeavor when you are pressing out the last couple of bales in a line that they are 140 kg each not 180 and 100 kg. Please note that Loxs are now described as A M PCS for N Z Merino.

Doing the field days and getting around scours and wool stores I now have an appreciation of the problems within the industry due to contamination in our wool. Please ensure you instruct your teams about the importance of ensuring that foreign objects such as clothing (including towels), plastic bottles, spray cans and metal objects such as press bars, bale clips & bottle tops do not get into the wool. Contamination has the potential to cost the industry considerable expense, not only financially but to our reputation for well-prepared wool. When you have to make a bin bale (hopefully not too often), the partition should only be newspaper, if you don't have any do not put anything, the experts in the store should sort it out.

My congratulations to all the Merit Awards and Commendation Certificates recipients, keep up with the good preparation and I look forward to receiving nominations for the coming season.

Lastly, have a good season and keep looking at our web and face book pages for updates during the year.

Bruce Abbott Registrar



Above: shows items of found in Wool Bales.

Below: Classer: Cedric Aramoana & Dawn Ratana at the Canterbury Wool Scour



Field Days

We have held 4 field days this year, Timaru, Napier, Christchurch and Omakau. Timaru was for Wool Classers and members. This was combined with our Annual General Meeting and the presentation of Merit Awards. An article about this day by Margaret Forde is reproduced in this newsletter. We had positive feedback on these days and have put on our web site and in this newsletter a letter received from Ha Taunoa giving you an insight what the Napier field day meant for her. Due to the formation of a new training provider for Wool Harvesting that are providing training session in Central Otago over the next few week we have Cancelled the wool day on the 8th August in Omakau. The date for the crossbred day in Invercargill is still to be confirmed. More information will be on our website.

From New Zealand Merino by Blair Davies Area Manager for Marlborough

The shearing shed is the very important first stage of the supply chain

A wool classer is a professional and the work in the wool shed should reflect that professionalism.

Remember the contractor, shearers, leading shed hands, and shed hands are your team, gain their trust and build a team culture, you will get better results and everyone will enjoy the experience.

It is **critical** that the preparation and classing of the best style clips of 19m and finer needs to be of the highest standard that allows those clips to achieve the highest possible style grade and receive the premiums they deserve. Make sure the lines are even for Micron, Style, and Length (soundness). This applies for both contracts and auction.

The aim of preparation and classing is to maximise the returns to the grower.

As you are in charge of the shed you must do your homework before the first day of shearing. Check the shed prior to starting. Are there enough bins to cover the lines you expect to make? Is the shed clean and there are enough extra bins for skin, Blood, Stain and rubbish etc.?

Get the previous seasons test results from the owner of the property. This helps with the shed set up and also allows you to plan for any contracts that need to be filled. Ask the owner if there are any dramatic changes either climatic or genetic that may have affected the make-up of the clip, as this may affect the way you class wool.

What contracts are there and what are the specs of those contracts?

Example: if you are classing a spinners clip with contracts what are the length requirements both minimum and maximum in MM? What is the strength requirement? Missing contract specs for micron, length and strength, style and VM could be very costly financially for your grower client.

All Branded Contracts are **FIT FOR PURPOSE (FFP)**. This means we know the end product so therefore we know the manufacturing process to achieve that end product, and we can inform you of the preparation and classing that will achieve the specification required. A super fine woven fabric for high end suiting will have a totally different requirement in both preparation and classing along with the manufacturing process when we compare it to a knitted product whether that be a next to skin product or socks.

Understand your contracts: If you are not sure ask the owner of the property or phone us. A spinner's clip must have the absolute best prep and classing irrespective of whether a contract is in place. If a spinner's contract is in place then the specs of that contract must also be adhered to. If a clip has an Icebreaker contract then that also needs an FFP prep and classing. This is different from a spinner's prep and classing as a light skirt is allowed but all short and tender wool along with grass/hay etc. must be removed. **If in doubt take it out.**

If there are no contracts a full prep is required.

Always get one of the shearers to shear a sheep prior to starting on the first morning so you can explain to the shed hands and prep that is required. If this is a contracted shed explain to everyone in the shed what the contract is.

Grass and seed content is a major contamination for all types and must be removed as this may lie parallel to the fibre and will not comb out. With light skirted contracts we need to be very conscious of this and this contamination must be removed. If this contamination is evident skirting needs to be heavier and this includes those light skirted contracts. **If in doubt take it out.**

Hogget Shearing: Be aware that greasy staple length and degrees of tenderness are the biggest price determinant. Getting evenness of length and making sure you identify the tender fleeces has to be your main focus ahead of micron.

Super and extra fines are no longer a niche market because of the big increase in supply. You get a niche when you have a good demand and a limited selective supply base and unfortunately that is no longer the case when using micron as a barometer. In Australia in the last 12 months 16mic supply has increased by 12.5% to 51,000 bales while finer than 15.6% is now 13,500 bales, a 12 month increase of 62%, when compared to the 5 years average of these two micron groups increase is even higher.

New Zealand Merino contd...

Understanding subjective testing for staple strength when classing:

- This is influenced by the size or width/thickness of the staple chosen, if it is too big then any existing break could be missed.
- Use a smaller staple width/thickness (e.g. pencil thickness)
- Make sure you hold the staple as close as possible to the tip and butt before testing to ensure any break at either end of the staple is not missed.
- Pull hard on the staple don't just flick it.
- Have a MM on the classing table or know the MM length of the joints of your index finger.

Usual markets conditions will discount heavily for tender wool particularly mid staple break. It is the length that is available after any fibre break that determines its processing capability not the initial greasy staple length.

- 2nd Pieces should be removed but make sure there is a very good visual difference

- Lox: please describe these as A M PCS. This enables us to add more value on the bulkier lox.

Breed descriptions:

AAA M (M means merino). In some cases this can also be used for ¼, Polwarth or comeback genetics. All other breeds should use a traditional description e.g. AA EX F ½. Describe your wool correctly as we check all this along with AWEX who verify our catalogue for Description and wool type.

Mid micron classing should be to a two micron shift, with any colour, tender and short wool removed. We have some very good contracts for the best pre lamb shorn mid micron wools in the 27.5 to 29.5 micron bracket but these must be low VM 0.3 max, so prepare your good half bred clips to the best possible standard.

Line Numbers: Make sure you understand the system that identifies breed groups and separates out ewes, hogs and wethers, mainly for statistical use.

If you are doing more than one shed **consider using the same line numbers** e.g. line 150 is always AAAM PCS (1st Pieces).

Tally book: who is in charge- classer or presser? Always check it. A classer should always have a good relationship with the presser, making sure bales are branded correctly and no over weights or under weights occur.

Bale Weights:

- This is a health and safety issue.
- It also presents problems with dumping and then packaging of containers. This is our biggest complaint from AWEX as they identify all overweight and underweight bales that we offer Australia.
- Your target is 180kgs with a max of 190kgs. If you press too heavy they will be repacked at the owner's expense. For auction you can press as low as 110kgs with a little more discretion allowed on the minimum weight if super fine.

Partitioned bales use newspaper. We see a lot of binned bales with no partition. Write on the specie the wool type that is in each in bale.

Don't forget your stencil number on both Specie and bales.

Lincoln course, this is great news and NZM fully supports this initiative.

Farm accidents happen on a far too regular basis, be careful

A Classers review on the NZWCA Field Day and AGM at Timaru 10 May 2016 by Marg Forde A1260

I've been asked to write about how I as a classer found the above day and what I got out of it, so here goes, off the top of my head only! Had the message request got through to me before the day I'd have taken some notes, sorry Bruce, don't know what happened there?

First, some background: Although my sheds are fine wool and in either Canterbury or Central Otago, I have lived in the Waikato, North Island, for the past 16 years. This home place is what best suits my family and the generation of my other income streams but obviously means I have a greater time and financial burden around travel than most classers. Despite this I have always made the commitment in the off-season to attend classer refresher, field days and, if possible the NZWCA AGM. In my opinion, attendance is a no-brainer both from a professional and personal perspective. The bonus is, being GST registered and self-employed, travel cost is tax-deductible.

All of the above means I turned up for this year's event on 10 May, as always, keen to gain as much as possible from the day. Unfortunately, due to flight availability, I couldn't stay until the end. (In hindsight, based on the programme for the day, I should have opted to stay in Timaru the night of the event, not the night before.)

So the day began with a visit to the Canterbury Wool Scour on the outskirts of Timaru. I'd been before, but was pleased for the prompt to do so again – you never stop learning. The scoured end product of a 22 micron oddment and dag wool blend never ceases to amaze me. (photo below). Kudos to the guys from the scour who showed us around; witnessing the passion, knowledge and commitment to such a declining (in NZ) sector of our industry is appreciated.

Next stop the Grey Way Room at Phar Lap Raceway, Timaru. NZWCA AGM was first up. As I mentioned above, I always aim to coincide any off-season trips south with the field day that includes the AGM. I'm not sure if the long-term responsibility for administering and overseeing the registration of wool classing in New Zealand is necessarily in the best place with a peer body such as NZWCA, however, I do acknowledge and support the undoubted effort by the do-ers in the Association (you know who you are, thank you!) who have literally kept the registration capacity and recognition alive and valid for us all. Hence, my ongoing attendance, support and active interest in the AGM process.

No need for me to detail the meeting – that's what the minutes are for – except to express my personal thanks to those who put great time into the Association; Bruce Abbott and Bill Dowle your commitment stands out. And to add my congratulations to peers who were announced merit and commendation award winners for their work. Sadly, only Karen Wilkins-Duff on hand to receive a shed classer award (merit, merino), a huge credit to you Karen given you now squeeze classing this property in amongst a very busy other business life outside of the shed.

And so to the speakers pulled in for the afternoon. A great range on offer: Malcolm Ching, Wools of NZ (wool trends); Brenna Sharland and Blair Davies (NZ Merino); D'Arcy Palmer (Health and Safety); Grant Murdoch (shearing contractor view) and Allan Fraser (wool industry training). Without a doubt, totally worth the time and the expense of my travel from the Waikato, thanks NZWCA and hope to see more classers there next year.



At the Canterbury Wool Scour

NZWCA Refresher Day Napier Review 31st May 2016

*Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi
(With my kete and your kete we will feed the multitudes).*

Symbolising teamwork, encouragement, corroboration and utilising resources to inform and verify.

Such an appropriate way to describe the Refresher Day hosted at the Wrightson Wool Store in Napier, by the NZWCA.

A 5.30am start saw a group of 10 enthusiastic MSL (Mackintosh Shearing Ltd) Taihape workers travelling to Napier, consumed with excitement and anticipation as to what the day ahead may offer.

Not only a first time experience for many of them, but also for workers, with no more than a main shear season to their credit.

On arrival we were greeted by cheerful, friendly and familiar smiles as well as a much-welcomed odour of food and hot coffee.

A few moments were taken to greet everyone, a mixture of personal and work related friends from various sectors of the industry and then the days programme was revealed.

This comprised of 4 Workshops:

1. Grading and Description of Wool exercises – Trudi Landreth & Laurie Boniface (Lincoln/Telford)
2. Manufacturing and Dyeing – Gary Raison (Cavalier Bremworth)
3. Core / Grab sampling & Length / Strength in Manufacturing – Phil Cranswick (NZWTA) and Philippa Wright (Wright Wool)
4. Pressing, Documentation & Contamination – Bruce Abbott.

There were also 4 presentations:

1. Health & Safety – Mark Barrowcliffe & Brendan Mahon (Shearing contractors)
2. PGG Wrightson – Alan Jones.
3. Lincoln /Telford Wool Technology course – Laurie Boniface
4. NZWCA Achievement Awards – Bruce Abbott and Dave McPherson (Patron)

Interwoven amongst this busy schedule were breaks to recharge the brain and refuel the puku. Aspects of the new Health & Safety policy were talked about by Mark, emphasising the importance of recognising hazards, being alert to safety procedures and having tolerance for the farmer who is gradually realising his role as a responsible employer of shearing staff working on his property.

Alan Jones spoke of PGG Wrightson and their involvement on the world scene with marketing and selling of wool, maximising its value with minimal risk therefore gaining confidence amongst many of their national and international clients. 'A huge undertaking.'

Our 1st workshop with Bruce held special interest amongst our 3 young pressers. Many handy tips given, from placing the wool pack into the press to pinning and branding, emphasising awareness of contamination and the huge financial impact it triggers throughout the industry, ultimately resulting in a well presented package, with a lot of pride attached. Added attention also to branding and recording bales correctly and with the ease of technology, informed us that Specification forms can now be accessed, completed and submitted online.

We then shifted to the Core and Grab sampling area where Philippa and Phil eagerly explained the importance of this process and how information was gathered to confidently fulfil contracts with clients, catering for specific end usages. We were especially surprised with the amount of information gathered from a small percentage of fibre. All this determines its value and reiterates the importance of our job at ground level. However, terminology used i.e. JCSY, CF, SD, was beyond many of us, but we understood its importance.

Lunch was a welcome break by now which gave us a chance to mix and mingle and share anything we had learnt.

The food was so well presented and tasty, that many of our team went up for seconds.

Staying with time frames we were quickly shuffled off to our next workshop facilitated by Laurie and Trudi, which was probably the most entertaining for our girls. A 'hands on' exercise that tested their knowledge of Recognition, Describing, Separating, and Grouping of wool types. From this, many of us realised how rusty we were and others, how little we knew. An entertaining exercise, amusing each other with wrong answers and making excuses for them. A talking point amongst us on our trip home.

One could only imagine the sudden growth of expertise and advice given, blended with comments of scepticism however, laughter and light heartedness prevailed.

Napier Refresher Day review contd...

Our last workshop for the day was with Gary sharing his expertise in Wool Processing Systems, clarifying differences between Woollen, SemiWorsted and Worsted fibres and what end use they would be most suited for. He also touched on VM and how that affects the dyeing process, again reiterating the importance of our job at ground level.

He compared wool fibre to synthetics and demonstrated its sustainability to heat and endurance to wear and tear, confirming it's true value as a commodity. It was also 'Kool' to see how two fibres reacted differently when dyed the same colour.

Absolutely Kool!!!!

Another welcomed break with afternoon tea and then the final formalities of the day begun.

Laurie Boniface, talked about the Wool Technology Course for those who are eager to up-grade their knowledge and gain certification accordingly.

A user-friendly online course with specific dates for practical sessions. His spiel motivated interest amongst 2 of our team, loving the concept of 'Opportunity by means of Convenience'.

This was the highpoint of the day for our team.

Members of the industry were presented with achievement awards for their outstanding work with selected wool clips.

Aneta Muir, a team leader, mentor, highly respected work mate and close friend gained the NZWCA Q Stencil Merit Award 2016.

A very proud moment not only for Aneta, but also for all of us, her shearing whānau. Certainly a reason to celebrate.

And so our day ended, all feeling satisfied and content with what the day offered.

A huge 'hi 5' to Alan, Trudi, Bruce, Laurie, Phil, Philippa, Gary, Mark, Brendon and Dave and any others that I may have missed for hosting such an informative, enlightening and enjoyable day. Last but not least, thanks to you all for the beautiful kai.



Ngā mihi nui.

Ha Taunoa (MSL Taihape)

Christchurch Refresher Day 2nd of June



Peter McCusker from PGG Wrightson's describing the merits of a show fleece

Bruce Tinnock discussing wool samples



Wool Industry Education Group (WIEG) Update July 2016

Last month members of WIEG participated in a meeting of the Lincoln University Wool Industry Advisory Committee and matters discussed included:

Update on progress of teaching in the current CWT programme

- Lincoln took over 18 students who were at various stages through the Tectra programme
- Four have completed and the rest are continuing their studies with Laurie Boniface as Tutor
- Eight more trainees were enrolled in the old Tectra programme in November 2015
- Twenty nine people have expressed interest in participating in the Lincoln revised CWT Programme although final approval by national educational authorities is still a couple of months away
- Of these fourteen have enrolled in the Computer course that commenced at the beginning of July (this course is already in existence being taken by students studying for other qualifications) even though final approval for the CWT programme has not yet been granted
- Promotion of the new CWT programme will commence as soon as approved with courses on offer in the first term in 2017.

The Lincoln Diploma in Wool Technology

- This is following the same approval process as that for the CWT course and will also be promoted once approval is finalised and again courses will be on offer in the first term in 2017.
- The first year of the Diploma is the same as the CWT course so CWT graduates can, if they wish, go on to enroll in the Diploma programme

Boosting wool industry career promotion

At the initial Workshop that lead to the formation of WIEG the focus was on improving availability of educational and training programmes but emphasis was also placed on the need to attract the right people into education and training which in turn required some change in perception about the industry as a place to work.

It was agreed that a better coordinated approach was highly desirable and that a workshop will be convened later this year to develop wool industry and educational input as to how best deliver on this.

By Allan Frazer

NZWCA Branded Clothing

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

Mens Short Sleeve Merino Polo, black	\$ 80.00
Ladies Short Sleeve Merino Polo, black	\$ 80.00
Classic Polo, black	\$ 27.00
Cap, black/white/grey	\$ 20.50
Merino Artic Beanie, black/charcoal	\$ 37.00
Wool Beanie, black	\$ 38.00
Unisex Lab Coat, white	\$ 53.00



*Please note orders are only placed when we have a minimum number.
Go to our website to download the order form*

Goodbye Ecky and thanks

The AGM in Timaru in May saw the end of an era for the NZWCA board with the retirement of Alistair Eckhoff. Usually known as “Ecky” he served the association on the board not from the inception of the Association following the demise of the Wool Board and CRAIG committee but soon after.

Always cheerful and helpful, especially to young classers his happy approach will be missed from our meetings. He always had a contribution to make to discussion and thought of things from the members point of view. No doubt Ecky will be around the wool sheds and shearing competitions for a while yet as well as keeping the horses honest at the track.

Cheers Ecky (A216)

Bill Dowle

Chairman



Alastair Eckhoff with Bill Dowle

Board Member Profile Trudi Landreth

My name is Trudi Landreth and I have been in the Wool Industry for over 25 years. I started wool-handling with Harry Ainsley and worked around Central Otago, where I was fortunate enough to meet classer Ken Urqhart. He mentored and encouraged me to do the Diploma in Wool Technology at Massey University, which I did, and was then offered a position with Wrightson Wool in Napier, when there were a large number of Merinos brought to the North Island.

Since then, I have been involved in Wool Harvesting training with a couple of providers, and still do training for brokers. Training is my real passion- passing on knowledge to our up and coming wool Industry people, and offering real hands-on support and advice.

I have also been working at local wool brokers over the mainshear season in the Hawke's Bay.

Trudi Landreth
A2137 (Shed) A286 (Broker)



New Board Member Vivienne Lewis

I am Vivienne Lewis from Taihape, married to Rudy for 30 years and we have 3 children, James a lawyer, he resides in Auckland, Savannah married to Faith Esera they have 2 gorgeous girls and reside in Wanganui and our youngest girl, Rahera, my year 11 student at college in Auckland. My family has been in the shearing industry for 4 generations and Rudy and I have been contracting since 1997 and we formed our company in 2001 - Lewis Shearing & Fencing Ltd.

We are members of the NZ Shearing Contractors Association. We fence all year round with 2 teams of fencers, and in the mainshear season we peak to 50 wool handlers, pressers and shearers. Our run is local servicing the Taihape, Ohakune area. I gained my Wool Technology Certificate in 2008. In 2010 I decided that I needed a change from the shearing life. A position became available with one of the wool brokers as store supervisor. I worked there for 2 years, working in the Bin Room, Core & Grab, shipping and Office Administration. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the store and gained a lot of valuable experience and knowledge.

As Taihape is crossbred country, the demand for Wool classers is limited, but grading is required and the farms that do require our services have large sheep numbers. I am involved in classing and grading and being part of our teams doing the crossbred clips on our run.

As a new member on the NZWCA my experience as a shearing contractor, woolclasser and work in the wool brokers store, my contribution to the association will be positive and I look forward to serving our membership on the Board.

2015/16 Season's NZWCA Award Recipients

Merino Merit Award

Karen Wilkins-Duff

BLUFF STATION

Sponsored by N Z Merino

Mid Micron Merit Award

Hillary Tahere

MIDDLE ROCK

Sponsored by C P Wools

Crossbred Merit Award

Ena Kupa

OTUPAE

Sponsored by Canterbury Wool Scour

Farmer Merit Award

William Lacey

THE HAYCOCKS

Sponsored by PGG Wrightson Wool

Classers North Island Merit Award

Diane Chilcott

NGAMATEA

Sponsored by Brendan Mahoney Shearing

Q Stencil Merit Award

Aneta Terehia Muir

HIWINUI

Sponsored by Wools of N Z

Commendation Certificates

Merino

Nichola Fergusson

BEN OMAR

Ann-Marie Parcell

Mt St BATHANS

Pagan Kurauria

MERINO RIDGES & THE GORGE

Q Stencil

Carmen Smith

WAIMIRO

Mid Micron

Sarah Daizell

SEAVIEW

Phillippa McConway

TE RAPA

Nigel Cossar

WAIMIHI

Farmer

Ken Gillespie

GLEN EDEN

Mary-Anne Satterwaite

MULLER STATION

Annabel Tripp

SNOWDON



Above: Blair Davies from NZ Merino presenting Karen Wilkins-Duff with the NZ Merino Award

Below: NZWCA Patron Dave McPhearson presenting Diane Chilcot with the North Island Merit Award



Below: Aneta Terehia Muir receiving the Q stencil Merit Award from Dave McPhearson and Aneta with her friends and work mates

