

# NEWSLETTER



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## HEALTH & SAFETY REFORM BILL

Next year it will be a requirement that individual contractors (such as Wool classers) have in place a Health & Safety programme; this will require classers who charge their clients and pay their own taxes to have a H & S programme in place.

The N Z Wool Classers Association contracted D'Arcy Palmer of "FARMERS FOR FARM SAFETY" to produce a document that our members could use. These programmes can cost between \$1200 to \$2500. Your Association is making this document available to our financial members at no cost. If you wish to make use of this H & S programme, contact the Registrar.

## CLASSER PROFILE TRACEY HILL

A perfectionist eye and the backing of a great team, these have been the essential ingredients for my success during the 2014 - 2015 classing season.

Back in May this year I received a letter from NZWCA to say I had been nominated for an award to be announced at the annual refresher day being held in Christchurch on May 26<sup>th</sup>. I was totally thrilled just to receive that letter, I had no idea that I was to be awarded the Merino Merit award for classing Glen Lyon near Twizel and also a certificate of Commendation for both Huxley Gorge near Ohau and Rees Valley at Glenorchy.

I only class three sheds per season and that was an award for all three of them. I had a sense of disbelief combined with excitement at receiving these awards.

At the beginning of each shed, each year, I stick to pretty much the same routine, I set the shed up and then run through a demonstration fleece with my team of wool handlers, starting with the board work following through to the level of preparation on the wool table, that way we're all on the same page, also keeping a close eye on the level of



NZWCA AGM Tracey Hill (A1722) receiving her Merino Merit Award from Life Member Bruce Tinnock (A98) for Classing clip Glen Lyon

oddments coming through as the day progresses, I keep things simple, if the 2<sup>nd</sup> pcs don't look well enough sorted we simply don't keep them separate, sometimes you have to make adjustments for the level of experience you have in your team. Keep things simple and consistent, that's my theory.

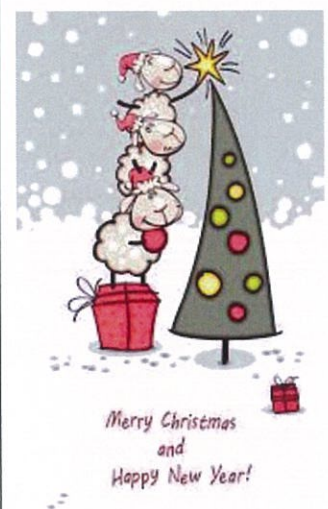
I have to mention that I have been extremely lucky to work in with just one Shearing team, Hill Shearing Services owned and operated by my husband Ronny, who shear's in the shed with us

every day, and maybe best of all, all three sheds are shorn with Blades, so nice and quiet on the ears.

I must also thank my Farmers, Ken & Jane Wigley Glen Lyon and Huxley Gorge, Iris & Kate Scott Rees Valley Station; they've spent 12 months growing this wonderful fibre, and Jackie Donald and Shaun O'Docherty for their invaluable guidance and support.

These three awards are a reflection of the skills and hard work of the entire team; I'm very proud and privileged to work with them.





## PGG WRIGHTSON WOOL

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, woolclassers 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 top making 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' oddments at pre-sale stage at the woolstores.

**Dave BurrIDGE**  
South Island Sales Manager

## AN UPDATE FROM THE REGISTRAR

I have been in this position for 8 months, and what a busy time it has been. We have organized and held 3 field days, attended many meetings regarding the

establishment of wool training with Lincoln University, made a number of visits to classers in their working environment, plus other tasks such as facebook, classers registration and most importantly keeping in touch with different factions within

the wool trade.

Over my period in office we have been endeavouring to expand our organization to a wider group and have been including senior wool handlers in our field days. As a result of their involvement Wool Handlers that pass their level 4 Wool Harvesting Certificate, automatically qualify for a "Q" stencil providing they become members of the NZWCA. Also a Merit Award has been

established for the Q stencil and will be presented at the next AGM. We are planning to hold field days in Invercargill, Christchurch, North Island (location to be advised), Central Otago and a full classer's day in Timaru which will include our AGM. No dates have been confirmed and will be advised in our next newsletter due to come out in Feb/March.

**Bruce Abbott**  
Registrar A1457



## WOOL INDUSTRY EDUCATION GROUP (WIEG)

The Wool Industry Education Advisory Group (WIEG) has been established by the wool industry to:

"Define and periodically review wool industry education and training needs; provide industry input and feedback on courses run by education providers; engage with providers to increase their capacity and capability to deliver wool industry related research, education and training and promote careers in the wool industry"

The Group was established at a meeting of representatives of wide ranging wool industry interests in February 2015. Those attending recognised that the availability of quality wool industry education in NZ at levels ranging from certificate through to post graduate had declined over the years and industry was struggling to

recruit people at all levels who had good wool knowledge. NZWCA directors have been active in the Groups work with Bill Dowle chairing the initial February meeting and Bruce Abbott and Allan Frazer have been involved in sub-committee deliberations. In the 10 months of its existence the Group has had some success.

It has played a supporting role in the transfer of the CWT course to Lincoln University. It has documented all current wool industry programmes and made this report widely available.

It has linked with the Primary Industry Capability Alliance (PICA) <http://pica.org.nz/about-pica/> to better present career opportunities in the wool industry.

It has established some initial

core attributes desired from industry employees at all levels especially relating to breadth of wool industry knowledge sought as well as attitude and communication skills of course graduates. The members of the sub-committee that has driven the above are passionate about what we are endeavouring to achieve, knowledgeable with significant industry experience and all have undertaken some form formal training related to wool at NZ universities.

One of the significant achievements of the group has been to build the groundwork for the formation of an Advisory Group on research, education and training to Lincoln University.

Allan Frazer

FACEBOOK POST—My name is Bruce Mason and I have been Shearing in NZ for 28 years. This may sound like a whiny removed smoker but I am disgusted in the way that some of my fellow workers treat the no smoking in the work place rule. I have no problem with people smoking it's their choice, you are your own boss you do with your body as you please. Please show some respect and give the non smoking people a chance. Recently while working in a fine wool shearing shed I was disgusted to see how many people were actually smoking while we were working. I found butts on the floor on a number of occasions and even found one in a fleece which had been placed in a bin. There were people smoking on the table, on the board, and while shearing. Come on guys take it outside and give us non smokers a break. There is no smoking in work places in NZ that includes the Wool Shed. Get with the times and show some bloody respect for your mates.

## THE CWT COURSE

Lincoln University have now completed all necessary formalities to take over delivery of this Certificate level programme for existing students. The programme is administered out of the Lincoln - Telford

Division campus along with other Lincoln certificate and diploma programmes.

The now 14 trainees (started with 19 in Jan '15) under the former Tectra programme have continued to be supported by Laurie with some industry financial assistance and will now go on to complete under the Lincoln - Telford Division administration; in addition some 18 people that had previously registered to start the course have been offered placements in the current CWT.

Wool industry representatives will participate in a full review of course content and the delivery approach, commencing in January 2016. The review's aim is to develop a new Lincoln University programme (based on the CWT) that will be delivered from 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2016. Lincoln is currently making arrangements for the opportunity for study towards selected CWT courses during 2016 ahead of the new Lincoln programme start date. Details of these arrangements will be communicated to the industry by late January 2016.

Laurie Boniface, who was the Tutor during the Tectra administration, has been employed by the university on a part time -basis to undertake delivery of the programme and will continue to work from Palmerston North. Tutorials for students will be provided twice a week and on request through a 0800 number whereby trainees will have the opportunity to consult on their progress with Laurie; he advises that the one week block practical component of the course will continue to be at locations where there is a strong centre of wool industry experience e.g. Christchurch and Napier.

The specific wool classer programmes associated with the CWTC course formerly delivered by Tectra will not be delivered as these were not registered with NZQA in the first instance and Lincoln can only deliver approved programmes; this does not mean that these programmes cannot be approved by NZQA in the future. Nevertheless the Lincoln -Telford Division delivered CWT course is still appropriate for people wishing to become wool classers.

The in-shed mentoring component, previously overseen by Tectra, will still be available for trainees wishing to proceed to classer registration; in future potential classers will need to find an appropriate mentor with NZWCA being available to suggest a mentor where required.

Allan Frazer

**The shed  
classer strand  
recognises the specific  
skills required of  
people for classing wool  
in the shed, and  
preparing and  
grading fine, short,  
and full fleece wool.**



CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND



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Classers Association



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Together we are  
strong

## FORMATION OF A WOOL INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP ON RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO LINCOLN UNIVERSITY.

A Terms of Reference has been drafted for industry and university approval which when agreed will provide for industry representatives to influence the future university approach to wool education. It could well be that over time this initiative results in Lincoln becoming a "Centre for Excellence in Wool" albeit with recognition being given to the important work being done at other universities eg in textile and design, research and education.

The aim of the Lincoln University Wool Industry Advisory Committee is 'to provide strategic advice and to seek ways to maintain and improve the delivery of research, education and training programmes, in relation to the wool industry, at Lincoln University'.

This reflects Lincoln University's recognition of the importance of industry engagement as a key contributor to ensuring responsive and relevant research, education and training. WIEG has agreed to nominate representatives to this newly formed Wool Industry Advisory Committee to provide Lincoln University with a formal and structured engagement mechanism with the wool industry.

It is intended that this 3 person Industry Advisory Group include as wide as representation as possible from the sectors comprising research; wool harvesting, brokering, scouring, testing, manufacturing and exporting.

A workplan for the next 12 months is in the process of being developed.

Written reports produced by the Committee will be provided to Lincoln University, WIEG members and relevant wool industry representative organisations.

Industry representatives that have been nominated for the Advisory Group are:

Bruce Abbott - NZWCA and prior scouring industry experience

Craig Smith - PGG Wrightson with brokering and exporting experience

Derrick Millton - Chair of WRONZ and passionate farmer

Nigel Hales/Tony Cunningham - Cavalier with scouring and manufacturing experience - Alternate

Allan Frazer, who is the Convener of WIEG and is Deputy Chairman of NZWCA, has agreed to act as the chair of the Committee.

**Allan Frazer**

## AND FINALLY FROM THE CHAIR

As the year screams to a close and the wool industry moves, or probably has moved, from one part of the season to another, fine wool is in the store (or sold) and the start of the main crossbred shear is well under way in many areas, and many lambs being lined up, it is timely to communicate where we are at on what's been happening, and some of what is in the planning process. Some will be taking a well-earned break. Our executive officer is one that is taking a well-earned break. Since taking up the role in at the beginning of April he has made huge progress on lifting our activities to a new level. A very successful day was held in Napier and there are plans to further build on this. Support from the wider industry is imperative to run these days as they do have a cost and have normally run on a "shoe string budget". It

would also be great to see the demand for these days grow so we can look at having more than one in the North Island.

Days are also being planned for the South Island which is great. I hope all our members support these days when they come around and contribute, both on the day and if you have any ideas pass them on to Bruce or any board member. Getting the ideas can be the hard part as without input from our members it is a guessing game as to what you want. On the Classer Training front there has been a lot more going on than may be evident. Allan Frazer has been doing a lot in the background working with a committee made up from the wider wool industry and has a report in this newsletter so no need for me to repeat the message, we just hope progress continues to be made and good classer

training happens in the future.

I was at the PGG Wool store last week on sale day and it was good to hear of the high clearance rate, but also when I think back to what I was paid in the late 1980's and early 1990's for wool, when inflation is taken into account the price could move up a long way to assist growers returns. If the grower is being paid well they will be more inclined to fully staff sheds and pay good wages. thankless.

In closing I hope everyone has a good Christmas and New Year and if you are working through, as many will be, still take care and keep the high standards we all like to promote up there.

Merry Christmas, and hopefully the man in the red suit is kind.

**Bill Dowle**  
Chairman D1076