



## NZWCA CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2017.

I began last years annual report with a comment that Bruce Abbott as Registrar/executive officer had done great work in promoting our association to people and organisations that may not have realised what we do in the wool harvesting industry, this year that great work has continued, and the results of his efforts since taking the position I feel are starting to come through. This is best reflected from the support he has managed to bring on board for the Field days that have been run under our banner and the support for them from other Wool Industry players as well as the Wool Harvesting side, who have themselves had plenty of issues to grapple with.

We have continued to look at cutting our costs and after a great effort from several people we have now got email addresses for all members (who have email) so can now communicate this way, saving a lot of time and expense by not having to print, fold, envelope stuff and post newsletters, only needing to post a handful. This also opens the way for having the communication more frequent and perhaps timely as information can be sent when relevant, not waiting until the next newsletter, when it may be too late.

Our message has also continued to be put in the Shearing Magazine, I'm confident in saying that ideas and articles for both would be appreciated. As I have frequently said it is the member's organisation, so if you have something that may be worth putting out there, information, story or just interesting send it to Bruce and it can go from there.

Our Facebook page, now a Group, is getting a bit more use, most of which is coming from Trudy and Kristal Wilson. If you have something "Wool" related put it up there.

Once again much of our effort has gone on the Training front. Our thanks again to Allan for his efforts with Wool Industry Education Group (WIEG). It was very disappointing after thinking that we had managed to get it going with Lincoln/Telford that they pulled out and they had to regroup and pick up the pieces. negotiations with Taratahi have been positive. Allan will be explaining the progress made in his address. Without education our industry will disappear, I sometimes fear this will happen anyway as the wool industry struggles to survive (especially in the cross bred sector) but the added value we can contribute by ensuring standards with proper preparation and presentation we must persist as wool is such a great fibre as we all know.

I do sometimes though wonder if we are going about this message the wrong way. Many growers (especially in crossbred) see wool as a by-product that is a cost to have but part of

animal health. Should we be pushing it as the “penalty” from poor preparation and presentation? If the difference between well prepared/presented wool is 10c per Kg, if the shearers are doing 200 an hour cutting 5 Kg per head that would be \$100 “Cost” for doing it wrong. Currently I understand that some poorly prepared wools are not selling, This equates to a 100% penalty, but the costs of shearing etc. are still there. I would like to think that with an educated Registered Classer/Q stencil holder on the job the preparation/presentation will be good. Growers sometimes won’t see a benefit but they hate seeing a cost.

This year sees the industry with the ongoing issue of poor returns for the crossbred sector but from what I read things are looking bright in the mid and fine ends. At least there is some positivity somewhere. The growing stockpile of stronger wools though is a worry.

Last year we said Goodbye to Ecky & Rose and welcomed Viv to the board. Having stronger representation from the North Island has been great and with the perspective from contracting side with Viv a bonus. During the year Dave decided he wanted to comment on Wool industry and training issues under his own banner so decided to resign from the board, sorry to see him go but he will always be contributing to the industry in a positive way. Sarah has unfortunately decided that her limited time she can no longer be on the board, but I’m sure we will still have her support and help in the industry.

We have also made a small change with our representation from the broking side. Don Urquhart had been on the board for what is normally recognised as the full term but his contribution as a Private Merchant has been such that we felt we should continue to have a merchant representative as well as a broker representative. It isn’t a cost to us but the extra contribution will only enhance us as it to both the Brokers and Merchants that we are preparing clips for.

Once again I would like to thank Bruce for his sterling work. He took on the job when we were in a position that we wondered if we had a future and has pushed us out to where I am sure we are seen as a vital part of the industry.

Annette has continued to keep us all in line and doing what we should. Her new job has made some things more difficult for us in some ways but we can always work around these small issues. Her work is invaluable and she keeps the finances tidy and up to date.

The rest of the Board have all made a vital contribution and as I have said before we need new blood on the board. I feel I have been here probably too long so would welcome someone keen to take over as chair.

Thank You  
Bill Dowle  
Chairman  
NZWCA.