



NZWCA CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2018.

I have begun the last 2 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 are coming through. This is 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 also begun to run more field days than has happened for some years, this adds to our costs but the up side is it spreads the message and improves our profile, which in turn improves our membership. The increasing number of associate members and support we are receiving from other wool industry players is very encouraging.

We have again continued to try to cut our costs. By this time last year we had managed, at great effort by some, got email addresses for all members (who have email) communicating this way saves a lot of time and expense by not having to print, fold, envelope stuff and post newsletters, only needing to post a handful. This has led to reducing the number of newsletters and having more frequent, and sometimes targeted emails going out so the message is delivered at a more appropriate time and sent to those that we want to send it to rather than the broad brush approach.

Again our message has also continued to be put in the Shearing Magazine, I'm confident in saying that ideas and articles 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.

In addition to our private Facebook page, we now have a public page. It is getting a wee bit more use, but the contributors are not as wide spread as hoped. If you have something "Wool" related put it up there.

Our Web Site has recently had an overhaul and is more user friendly with the added ability to search for members by inputting the Classers Registration number. It is hoped that by this the brokers can check who has put a number on a line of wool, and check that they are a member and hence allowed to use the number. Other enhancements were aimed at ease of use, especially for those using phones and smaller devices which can distort what we see on a computer. Some of us have difficulty seeing the small screen so don't appreciate the difference.

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). Last year I commented on the disappointment of Lincoln/Telford nearly getting underway then pulling out. To have Te Ako recently folding is another blow to our industry training. We desperately need someone to get this going and stay there for the long period. It is difficult enough getting some of our handlers to take up the theoretical side of training without the changes that keep happening. Allan's report will explain the progress made on this front. I am fully convinced that

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 have commented before that perhaps we should be talking more of the discount for poor preparation and presentation of wool rather than the bonus from the good. The cross bred side is still in the doldrums and to see that Dupont are joining with Wools of NZ is a new approach, maybe they are starting to see the positive of our fibre that does not pollute the environment with Micro Plastics.

Merino and Mid Micron still seem to be selling well, long may it last.

This year we have had a larger board than previously with the addition of Rob Cochrane as a Brokers Rep representative beside Don Urquhart as Merchants Representative and Tony Cunningham from the wool scouring sector. The added input has been good.

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. We recently put out a message asking for someone to take on a role assisting Bruce. It is disappointing to report that at this stage we have had no one put their hand up, nor anyone putting up someone else's hand. Tis would be an interesting position for someone to become involved in the industry outside the normal wool shed role. There must be someone out there with the interest that just needs a small push. Not only is it interesting but a great personal development opportunity as well.

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, multiple times, 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.