



## NZWCA CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2019.

Once again we get to the end of the year and I feel I have to congratulate our Registrar/Executive Officer on the great work he has done in promoting our organisation to not only the members but to the wider wool industry.

The extensive work by Bruce, and Allan in the wool education restructuring has been ongoing and taken a lot of effort. Hopefully with the uptake of the training by Southern Institute of Technology we will now see a long period where the education actually happens and we can focus on other matters, and get a break. More information on these matters will be in the appropriate reports.

There have again been numerous field days around the country, some have had a very good turnout and some a bit disappointing, however the feedback from them all has shown that those who attended were very pleased with the days and felt them to be worthwhile. Bruce will elaborate on these issues in his report. The ongoing support we get from the wider wool industry for these days tells me that days such as these are felt to be important by others involved in the wool industry. This is also shown by the hearing we have had from these groups, and individuals on other matters.

Recently Bruce and I attended a meeting of the NZ Council Of Wool Interests to make a presentation on an issue to be discussed at our Industry Day/AGM which if adopted should help us improve our brand as a wool preparation quality control group, and help to improve, or at least maintain, the reputation of New Zealand wool as being well grown (the growers job) and well prepared, the harvesting teams job under the supervision of our members, the classers and graders.

To get such a good response from a group as important and influential to the wool industry, due to the fact that they have representation from all aspects of the wool industry, is gratifying. We are intending to further our relationship with this body.

We have again continued to try to cut our costs, but again unfortunately our expenses have exceeded the income. This has been a feature for the last few years and was a conscious decision made that we would use some of our savings to grow NZWCA, the alternative was to cut costs to our income, but we would be on a slippery downward spiral that would see us lose membership and relevance. With the widening of support we are seeing, and hopefully we can soon get growth in membership and turn our finances around. This may happen if the growers decide in a possible referendum to reinstate some form of levy, that our quality control position within the industry might see us get the small amount of help we need.

To assist Bruce with his job, and reduce the toll on him, as he intended to only be in the EO position for a couple of years it is great that Barbara Newton has come on board to take some of the weight. Barbara being responsible for much of the publicity, Shearing magazine articles, web site, Facebook etc. Any ideas for articles are still needed from our members. 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.

The website has again had a bit of a review. Hopefully it is being found to be useful by members. If you haven't had a look at it for a while, do so. There are some useful links, forms and such things as Code of Conduct, Clip Preparation guides and our rules on the resources tab. Have a look, use your web site, and if you think we are missing something

ask for it, sometimes adding something is very simple, and if it is more complicated it can happen when we do the next tweak.

I have often 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 but some interesting things are happening. Wool coffins have been around for several years, but Wool Surfboards are a new development. There are new ideas coming out all the time. We do need to keep promoting wool as the environmentally friendly product rather than Micro Plastics. The world is wound up about plastics getting into all parts of the environment and causing issues, if wool got even a small part of the fabric market, we wouldn't be producing enough.

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

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors. We have sponsors contributing to the field days and to our merit awards. I see these two things as vital to us. Spreading the word on trends, changes or other issues that affect us and our work in the shed and celebrating those that have done a particularly good job. Also a special thanks to Tony Cunningham, NZ Wool Scourers who provide us with the conference call facility for nearly all our board meetings, which is a great saving of money for the association, and board members time as we have a phone conference call in the evening rather than having to all travel to a central place to meet face to face.

Two years ago we welcomed Rob Cochrane as a Brokers Representative. Rob has indicated he wishes to step down and we will be welcoming Roger Fuller from CP Wool to put forward the views and opinions of the wool brokers at our future meetings. I take this opportunity to thank Rob for his contribution to our discussions. Having representation from Wool brokers on our board is vital as they are the people that have to deal with our output, and interpret the occasional poorly filled out specifications.

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. Bruce is still signalling his intention to finally retire (to the bowling green I understand) so finding someone to step up to the position is something we need to place some urgency on. To have some time working with him would make the changeover much smoother. This 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 work is invaluable, and she keeps the finances tidy and up to date. Thank you Annette.

I would also like to thank the rest of the board for their contribution. Especially the members who are representing other sectors of the industry. Having a wider industry input can only help us to get the message correct for the wool classers and wider wool harvesting industry. We must keep the wider industry satisfied or we risk losing more market share for wool than we already have. All 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.