

Executive Officer/Registrar 2016 Annual Report

It is now 14 months since I assumed this position and over that time the Association has been very active in promoting the awareness of the importance of training for the wool industry and endeavouring to keep our membership informed of our activities.

Your association was the instigator of the establishment of Wool Industry Education Group (WIEG) that has had Lincoln University re-instate training for the wool industry through Lincoln/Telford First.

Vice Chairman, Allan Fraser has been the facilitator for this group and I am on the committee.

As there has been a lack of training and trained staff for persons wishing to enter the industry in the past this offers exciting and positive progress for the future.

Dave Carr and I have been on the advisory group to Primary I T O for training for wool harvesting and progress is being made to reorganise this sector as it is so important for our classers to have well trained wool handlers.

Other areas we been active in are: formulating a Health and Safety programme for our membership, launching our new web site and Facebook page to enable us to keep our membership better informed, establishing a dedicated page in the shearing magazine for the association, increasing our newsletter from two to three per year and holding field days in co-operation with other sectors in the wool trade that attract a wider participation.

Where to in the future? If this association is to carry on these activities it has to be able to increase its funding and we are exploring avenues that could contribute rather than raising subscriptions. The most obvious path is to increase membership from not only classers who chose not to support us but wool handlers, shearing contractor's (we do have 4 currently) and from the wider wool industry. As you will see from the balance sheet we cannot carry on without additional funding and if we only maintain the present funding stream the association will not be able to survive in the near future.

While we do receive funding from a couple of industry groups for which we are very grateful, the wool industry as a whole must consider, does it value having the N Z Wool Classers Association in existence? I believe this association has an important role to play in the wool harvesting area and if it does not get support from the industry in the future it will slowly disappear from the scene.

I would like to acknowledge the support I have received from our Chairman Bill Dowle, Secretary Annette Gamble for putting up with me and handling the increased work load over the year, Allan Fraser for his work with WIEG and his advice on a number of different issues, and lastly Pat my wife for editing all my articles and reports.

Bruce Abbott

Executive Officer/Registrar

N Z Wool Classers Association