



NEW ZEALAND WOOL CLASSERS ASSOCIATION

Executive Officer/Registrar 2017 Annual Report

It does not seem like 12 months since I gave my last annual report. They say "time goes quicker as you get older" I was originally only carrying out this position for 2 years and that time is up. In consultation with our very able Secretary/Treasurer Annette Gamble and the board, they the board have consented to Annette and myself continuing for another 12 months.

The last 12 months has been very busy with changes on how we operated this association and more importantly how we connect with our members. To this end we now have 95% of members email address's which enables us to keep in touch on a more regular basis.

In the past two years we have had a number of field days, not only for our classers but also for senior shed hands and pressers. We have included this last group as they are very important to how classers can achieve a very good result on the preparation of a wool clip. These day have had attendances of 40 plus and very positive feedback. These days would not be possible without the co-operation from the many factions within the wool industry. So my thanks to All Wool Brokers, Wool Merchants, Wool Scour and Shearing Contractors for assistance in holding these field days.

Your Association has been part of the Industry Partnership Group (I P G) which is the advisory group from the Wool Harvesting Industry to Primary I T O. Our contribution has been largely on the wool side and we have made a number of suggestions on the re- evaluation of Level 2, 3 and 4 Wool Harvesting work books. I consider that our involvement is important and have encouraged others from the wool sector to join this group. I am pleased to advise that Straun Hulme from Canterbury Wool Scour and Philippa Wright of Wright's Wool have recently joined.

Over the past 18 months we have regularly been supplying articles and photos for the Shearing Magazine. It is good to be able to have a forum to not only connect with our members but the whole Wool Harvesting Industry. I actively encourage contributions from you all.

Health & Safety is an area that we all must be aware of and ensure we have the correct documentation in place to cover you personally. Your Association does have that material and for a very small cost it can be supplied to our financial members.

Our involvement with Wool Industry Education Group has been massive in terms of time and effort. It pleasing that firm progress has been made on re-establishing training for the wool industry through Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre in Masterton. The re-establishment of training has

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had its high and lows with originally having a course started by Lincoln/Telford, only for Lincoln to pull the course after some 6 months. Our thanks go to Vice Chairman Allan Frazer (also facilitator of WIEG) for his sterling work in progressing training for our industry. The group also convened a workshop to promote and attract young people into the wool industry. The workshop was attended by all the major players in the industry and it is hoped that some of the initiatives from this workshop will bear fruit in the future.

My major concern for the future of this association is can it survive, when in the past two years we have made losses (2015 - \$14,104 & 2016 - \$8,362). To try and correct these losses we can reduce what we provide our members and the Wool Harvesting Industry or alternatively increase our membership fee which I am sure would not meet with general approval. I feel this would be a backward step and to try and increase our funding last year we did a trial of approaching Fine Wool Farmers to join our association as associate members. This had a success rate of 24% and we intend to extend our approach to all fine wool farmers in New Zealand. I ask you, our members to please encourage your clients (farmers) to support us so that the work we have started can carry on.

This journey I have been on for the past two years has been fulfilling in more ways than one but the progress that I feel has been made would not of happen without the support of your board, the very able support given to me by our Secretary/Treasurer Annette Gamble and the general support from the wider Wool Industry, to all, thank you.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the help my wife Pat has given me in producing articles, correcting spelling and grammar mistakes and putting up with the time I spend carrying out work for the association when we are supposed to be in retirement.

Bruce Abbott

Executive Officer/Registrar

New Zealand Woolclassers Association