

2018 Annual Report Bruce Abbott Executive Officer/Registrar

Another year has passed and I am very pleased to report we have made progress on a number of fronts.

The association has a higher profile due to our heavy involvement in the promotion and securing of a Certificate of Wool at Taratahi Agricultural College. Our thanks go to our Deputy Chairman, Allan Frazer for his untiring work in this field. The profile of our stencil number has been lifted to the wool industry due to the increase in accountability and traceability requirements for the wool clip.

During the year we held 5 field days for our members and included senior wool handlers and pressers. Overall we had an average attendance of 34 and a survey approval rating of 9.2 out of 10. We received many comments stating that the time they spent at the day was very worthwhile and participants went away knowing a lot more about what happens to wool after it leaves the shearing shed. In 2018 we plan to hold 7 days and have already held one in Blenheim and today's one in Christchurch.

Our big advancement this year has been the increase in membership. 18 months ago we initiated an approach to the fine wool farmers and other sections in the wool industry and now have 56 associate members. With their support the association has been able to increase its involvement in the wool harvesting industry by increasing field days, promotion of a wool course and general contact with the industry. It is also pleasing to see former members re-joining the association.

The association has produced a Power Point Presentation (PPP) that gives an outline of where the association has come from what it doing now and where it would like to go in the future. We are very pleased to be invited to present this PPP at the conferences of the Federation of Wool Merchants and N Z Shearing Contractors Association. Arrangements have also been made to present to the wool broker's wool staff.

The web site has been given a much needed revamp and I believe it much more user friendly. The main change has given access to the wool trade to be able to search for a classer by stencil number so they can see who the person is that classed/prepared the clip. It's now important for members to update their details on their site profile.

We had intentions to increase the number of newsletters from 2 to 4, however we can now email the majority of members and we have been able to communicate on a more regular basis. We now intend to produce a newsletter after our AGM and one at the end of the season.

You will have received a survey from the association the object of which is to find out from our members what they expect from their association and what direction it should be taking. Your feedback will assist the board and me in the future management of your association.

This year the Merit award has been given a higher profile thus increasing the number of recommendations for these awards. We have also changed what the recipients receive with the intention that they are able to be more recognisable as award recipients.

Our involvement with the Primary ITO through the IPG group has been a very frustrating due to the failure of different trainers for the wool harvesting industry. The fact is our industry does not fit the mould that is set by government and unless there is more input from the wool industry we can only see the problem reoccurring. A solution needs to be found because as classers if we do not have well trained wool harvesting staff it will make our task of preparing the wool for market very difficult.

In conclusion I would like to thank our Secretary, Annette for her contribution in the last year, our Chairman, Bill for the unpaid time spent on the association business, Deputy Chairman, Allan for the work on reinstating the wool course and promotion to attract people into our industry. Lastly I thank the board for the support given to me over the past three years.

Bruce Abbott