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Together we are strong

New Zealand Merino Classing Site

I have been in the wool industry for over 50 years and have attended many workshops and seminars. At all of them one of the themes discussed is communication. In the past 10 years we, as wool classers, have had available to us the **NZ MERINO Wool Classers Gate Way site**. To my surprise I recently found out that not many classers use this very informative site. I, for one, use this site every day during the classing season and I have listed below the reasons I have found this site very helpful in carrying out my job as a wool classer.

Once you are logged onto the site there are a number of areas where you can access;

Merino News. This has articles that have been published about the wool industry.

Tools. Gives you access to historical pricing and wool values of the merino clip.

Links. Gives you access to other sites related to the wool industry.

Perfect sheep. This gives you an insight into the work being carried out to improve the merino breed.

Calendar. List of events being held within the wool industry.

But for me the most important areas of use are;

Auctions. This option gives you information about wool sold by NZ Merino on prices and buyers of all the clips, and gives you the ability

to look at previous sales held at either Melbourne or Christchurch.

Forms. There have been times that I have arrived at a shed and there are no Specification or Consignment books available. You have the ability to download the pages you require from this option.

Wool Details. This option is the most important to me as it gives me access to the clips I do that trade through N Z Merino (please note, you have to have your clients permission to access this information). This site is updated as the information is received by NZ Merino. There are four areas in this option you have access to;

- * Lot Details, list sales, line number, description, bales, nett kilos, and test detail when available.
- * Test details, testing results for lines that are completed
- * Receival Details, list when wool is received into the wool store.
- * Wool Contracts, Give details of wool contracted from the clip. This information is available before shearing and is helpful to prepare the classing lines of the clip.

You may ask why I need this information, in a word "communication". This information gives me the ability to talk to my client (farmer) and

Up and Coming Events: to add to your calendar:

26th May

NZWCA AGM at PGG Wrightsons Wool Store, 503 Blenheim Road, Christchurch at 1.30pm followed by a tour of the Wool Store

1st July

Tour at the PGG Wrightsons Wool Stores, 176 Dukes Road, North, Mosgiel, and then onto Dunedin Wool Dump Store, in Timaru Street, Dunedin. All Wool Classers, Senior Wool Handlers & Pressers welcome, starting at 10.30am

If you would like to be added to the current registered members on the website, please email the secretary for a Permission form.

the broker representative about all facets of the clip. I can check that the number of bales consigned has arrived. When the wool is lotted you can check against your records to ensure that what you have instructed corresponds with these lots. The option most helpful to me is the test results, once again I can check against my estimated yield, V/M, micron and length & strength (I presume you all keep a record of the clips you do!!!). If I find an obvious variation, I can contact my client and advise them to get the result checked. This testing information gives me the ability to talk to the client and or wool broker and discuss areas of concern or good points about their clip.

This is what I call good communication.

My advice to classers that do not use this site is to have a look. You will be surprised how much useful information you are able to obtain.

How do you get access to the site? Talk to a N Z Merino representative and they will be able to arrange it for you.

NEWS HOT OFF THE PRESS:

N Z Merino is in the process of developing wool specification on line.

This is being trialled at the moment and should be available for the coming season.

BRUCE ABBOTT A1457
Registrar

MAY 2015
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NZ Federated Wool Merchants

NEW ZEALAND WOOL CLASSER ASSOCIATION



CLASSING ASSOCIATIONS NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Bruce Abbott (A1457) has taken over the role as from the 1st April 2015.

Bruce lives in Millers Flat, is 69 and has been married to Pat for 47 years, has two children and 5 grandchildren

Bruce holds a Diploma in Wool & Woolclassing from Massey University and has been awarded a number of Merit Awards from the NZWCA. He has been involved in the wool industry for many years and has worked in a range of sectors within the industry.

They include, pressing and wool classing in a wool

store, one year working in the shearing sheds in Australia, works manager of wool scours in Dunedin and Wellington, Manager of a wool testing branch in Dunedin, and since 1990 has had a classing run in the Central Otago area.

While Bruce has been shed classing he and his wife Pat have operated student accommodation for the YMCA in Dunedin and the Otago Polytechnic in Cromwell, they were also owner/operators of the Millers Flat 4 Square for 5 years.

Bruce has reduced his classing run from 100 day to 45 day to be able to devote time to this position and has made a commitment to remain in this position for 2 years.



Read more on extra sheet (yellow sheet)

FACEBOOK PAGE— Modernizing the Association

Kristal Wilson (Q156)
Site - **A NEW LOOK**

Face book page for the N Z Woolclassers Association

This is a new look for our Association, with the up and coming trends especially with telecommunications evolving so must we.

Nzwca@facebook is a great tool for our members, keeping us up to date with relevant news, topics industry issues and up and coming events. Files are added for research and development, if you have a Facebook page please add and share tag.

Your support will be greatly appreciated

Kristal Wilson Site Builder and Manager

Editor's note: Kristal & Rebekah Nelson have carried out an excellent job of creating this Facebook page. Well done to both of you.

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Accompanying the Newsletter

- New Executive Officer, my first few weeks
- Nomination Form for Election of Board Member s2015
- Updating your details form.
- AGM Notice (green sheet)

Our Chairman's thoughts

For the last 7 or 8 months your organisation has been slowed down by not having a registrar and being focussed on the issue of the demise of Tectra and the resulting training issues. With the appointment of Bruce Abbott as Registrar/Executive officer for NZWCA there appears to be some progress with the training issues, so we can get back on track and progress. We have also made some good progress on the wider training issues but that will be reported on separately when it is able to be released, but rest assured we have been trying to help get basic and continuing educational needs for the whole wool industry improved from where they got to following the loss of the wool board and lack of interest from our educational institutions.

NZWCA has been served very well by Dave Carr as Registrar since he took over the role; he was involved with the association during the evolution from the old CRAIG committee that was part of the Wool Board structure, then on the board until becoming registrar. It is due to the efforts of Dave and some others

that a body to represent the wool classers of NZ even exists and all wool classers should be grateful for that effort. Much of the time and cost was not rewarded sufficiently, or at all, but it was the dedication to an industry that made them do it. We all have a debit to them. I hope that we continue to see Dave in the Association in the future as he has a lot to offer us. It was his passion for the Wool Classing and wider wool harvesting industry and the training of participants in it that saw him have to leave the position due to a perceived conflict of interest, he couldn't be involved with both Tectra and Primary ITO.

Our new Registrar is looking to perform the duties slightly differently and will have a different focus. It will be a good way to refresh our delivery to members, and most likely non-members who may then decide that it would be worth supporting us as an organisation. We are there to serve wool classers and by giving feedback to the Registrar or any board member you can get action on an issue if needed or help with a problem. That is what we are here for, among other

Health and Safety

This is becoming a major issue with all industries and the shearing industry is not immune from its powers.

How many times you have started a shed with holes in the floor, protruding nail, slats broken on wool tables, lights not going, I could go on but I am sure you know what I am talking about.

What as classers can we do about it? Not much unless you have a

tool kit with you, and is not our job. However our job is to point out these problems to the owner so they can attend to the problem. I have found in most cases that farmers are very willing to make repairs once it has been brought to their attention.

I understand that there is going to be a clamp down on overweight bales. The maximum bale weight is 200 Kg and in most contracts it is between 160 kg and max of 190 kg.

things. Perhaps we should be looking to represent more in the wool harvesting industry than wool classers.

Mentioning Board members may hopefully prompt some to consider standing for the board. We desperately need new members to guide our direction. Looking round the board table there is room for younger faces, or even some new but well experienced people that now may be able to give something back to the industry. New ideas and a new approach will come better from new input. We have had one nomination come in but there is room for more, and if there is enough interest we I am sure they will not be turned away.

At the AGM in Christchurch on 26 May it would be great to see new faces as well as the old. Come along, have YOUR say. Push some of us crusty old guys out and forge a new dynamic association for the future. It is YOUR association, become involved.

Bill Dowle
Charman

This is going to be enforced this year and any overweight bales will cost the farmer a substantial repacking fee.

This means when the final press up takes place you need to be organised to ensure that all bales are between 100 kg to 200 kg and not be left with wool over that would cost the farmer by going through the binning system.

Vigilance on Contamination

Continued vigilance on Contamination within wool bales is required both in shed and at Wool Scours

Analysing the contamination poster campaign effectiveness from reported problems and client claims indicates an improvement in the shearing shed awareness. Now that's a good outcome.

Canterbury Wool Scour CWS figures indicate a slight increase in numbers recorded at 6.6 finds per week on average since 1st July 2014, while this could be seen as disappointing I think deeper analysis would signal the scour teams focus on ensuring any contamination is

removed and recorded.

Hawkes Bay Woolscourers reports 172 finds for the same period, which is slightly down on the previous year to date.

The most common finds continue to be press bars, stock feed bags, plastics and clothing.

Top of the most unusual list is a brick, rocks, clip board from a fellmongery, yard rattles, shearing boot, hand piece and screwdriver.

Both sites operate a metal detector in line as well which removes anything metal.

I have noticed a shift of contamination

finds changing from the shearing shed to perhaps a few more slupe bales and general rubbish being left in lowest types of wools.

We encourage all sectors of the wool harvesting industry to be pro active in reducing this issue.

Struan Hulme
Production Coordinator
Canterbury Wool Scour
Timaru site
A525

