



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
VIA ZOOM – due to Covid-19
Thursday, 25th June 2020
Meeting commenced at 7.34pm

Board Members Present: Bill Dowle (Chairman), Bruce Abbott (Executive Officer), Struan Hulme (Vice Chairman), Don Urquhart, Allan Frazer, Tony Cunningham, Marg Forde, Roger Fuller and John Sanders

Classers Members Present: Sharlene Adamson, Pagan Karauria, Sonya Johansen, Graeme Bell, Claire Mulholland, Jenna McLellan, Hope Duncan, Karen Wilkins-Duff, Cassie Johnson and Christine Forsythe

Associate Members Present: Emily Shields

Guests Present: Mark Barrowcliffe (NZSCA) and Barbara Newton (NZWCA Publicity Officer)

Apologies Received: Laurie Boniface (S.I.T Wool Technology Tutor), Tracey Paterson (Board Member), Terrance Mulcahy (Board Member), David Daunton (Patron), Nigel Cossar, David Greer, Cathy Scurr, Sarah Higgins, Angela Scott, Vanessa Te Whata, Maria Bamford, Richard Montgomery, Ken Gillespie, Stewart Francis (Associate), Richard Subtil (Associate), Hayden Hickey (Associate)

Move that the apologies be accepted and leave of absence be granted

Moved: Don Urquhart
Seconded: Christine Forsythe
CARRIED ALL

CHAIRMANS WELCOME

Chairman welcomed us to our first Zoom AGM. Great we could use technology to hold our meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic and thank you Tony Cunningham & NZ Wool Scouring Limited for paying for this Meeting and our annual Zoom subscription.

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

Meeting was held at Pharlap Raceway, Pleasant Point Highway, Timaru on the 9th of May 2019.

Minutes circulated via email and taken as read

Matters arising from last AGM minutes: Correction to Motion 3 on page 4 – correction to Accountants Name & registered office address.

Move that the minutes represent a true and correct record of the Annual General Meeting.

MOVED: Marg Forde
SECONDED: Roger Fuller
CARRIED ALL



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FINANCIAL REPORT (01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019)

Annual accounts circulated via email and taken as read

*Question: Allan Frazer asked if we remind our members of their obligation to attend refresher days.
Bruce responded: We do remind our members through, emails, newsletters & website. We also know keep an up to date register of attendance.*

- Special thanks to all our Sponsors for their generosity and support last year. The Association appreciates the support.

Move that the Association's Financial Annual report be accepted

MOVED: Roger Fuller

SECONDED: Don Urquhart

CARRIED ALL

SETTING OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2021

Motion - that yearly subscription fee be set at \$140 for Full registration, \$80 Q registration, \$40 Wool Handler and \$120 Associate. (Present fees Full \$130, Q \$75, Wool Handler \$40 & Associate \$110)

Due to an increase in providing services to our members such as field days, newsletters, maintaining our web and face book sites, the fee to join Tahī Ngatahi (Health & Safety programme) and staff have not received an increase in remuneration for 5 years. It is necessary to request this increase of the subscription to ensure that the association covers its costs.

Move that Annual Classer Registration fee for Full, Q-Stencil & Associate members be increased next year (2021)

Full Membership	From \$130.00	To \$140.00
Q Stencil	From \$75.00	To \$80.00
Associate Member	From \$110.00	To \$120.00

MOVED: Roger Fuller

SECONDED: Don Urquhart

CARRIED ALL



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CHAIRMANS REPORT

Circulated via email and taken as read

APPENDIGE A

Bill made special thanks to Bruce's wife Pat for all the work she does in supporting Bruce behind the scenes, we appreciate the time she also gives the Association.

Bill Dowle moved that the Chairman's report be accepted

SECONDED: Roger Fuller

CARRIED ALL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

Circulated via email and taken as read

APPENDIGE B

In addition to the report Bruce brought up about the new Wool Grading course being approved and progress was being made to have it delivered through Southern Institute of Technology. NZWCA was assisting SIT to formulate the content for the course. I also brought up about the Prefix proposal and the delay in furthering this proposal.

Bill Dowle moved that the Chairman's report be accepted

SECONDED: Roger Fuller

CARRIED ALL

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

There are 3 vacancies for the board.

John Sanders and Terrance Mulcahy stand down by rotation and seek re-election, and Trudi Landreth resigned during the year due to personal reasons.

We have one nomination for Sonya Johansen A1099.

Don Urquhart nominated Sonya Johansen (A1099), seconded by Tracy Hill

Bill Dowle moved that Sonya Johansen's nomination be accepted to the NZWCA Board as a replacement for exited board member Trudi Landreth & for the re-election of current board members John Sanders & Terrance Mulcahy

SECONDED: Don Urquhart

CARRIED ALL

ELECTION OF PATRON

MOTION to re-elect David Daunton (FX1136) as our Patron

MOVED: Bill Dowle

SECONDED: Bruce Abbott

CARRIED ALL



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GENERAL BUSINESS

Bill invited Roger Fuller, NZ Wool Broker Representative, CP Wool to comment on the current state of the Industry:

- Third sale today since Covid-19 hit. Wool is slowly being moved through the system. There was 4 exporters buying today and wool quality still playing a large part of sale price
- Promotion of Preparation & Fibre extremely important
- World Market – Crossbred sale price is down 66% from exactly 12 months ago (\$3.20 down to \$1.90 clean)
- Pre-lamb wool (best we produce) selling at \$2.30 clean
- We should definitely be selling wool to move it on and not holding onto wool as it may be a while before prices increase and more overseas exporters start buying due to boarder closures.
- Not a lot of passivity in the market but we as an Association should still continue to be producing wool to a high standard.

Bill invited Graeme Bell, PGG Wrightson Wool's Central Otago Rep for further comment:

- Graeme agreed Rogers comments were a very accurate representation of the industry
- There are 4 exporters currently driving the market and until we get more exporters on board we remain in very uncertain times

Bill invited Mark Barrowcliffe, President of the New Zealand Shearing Contractors Association for comment:

- Mark thanked Bruce & Allan for their support and the promotional work the Association has been doing
- Training still a top priority to us all and it will be good to get NZ back to being the world leader
- A lot of staff around in the North Island at present & they are actively trying to get them to come to the South Island for our season

Bill invited Tony Cunningham, Chief Operating Officer of New Zealand Woolscouring Ltd for comment:

- Tony congratulated Bruce and the NZWCA team for a successful year, their new website & for being forefront of getting training back on track for the industry
- Tony introduced their new employee Emily Shields based in Timaru. Fabulous to have her on board as part of their tem with her experience in fine wool.
- North Island Scour will be stopping processing next week for the first time ever as they have no wool.
- The North Island store is full and orders are low
- South Island is ticking along nicely but they are normally about a month behind North Island so they are expecting them to start showing down turn shortly
- Rough months ahead but looking forward to better times

MEETING CLOSED 8.26PM

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APPENDIGE A

NZWCA CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2020

This year we really do need to thank the Registrar and Secretary for the tremendous job they have done. Managing to get the financial result that they have achieved this year is truly due to the tremendous effort that has gone into getting sponsors and the associate members on board. As is shown in the financial report a profit has been achieved for the first time since the funding from Meat & Wool levies stopped coming in, which was about when I joined the Board.

Some have questioned the amount of effort that has gone into the training side of the work that has been done, particularly by Bruce and Allan, but as I see it much of the support from the sponsors and possibly to a lesser extent but with some of the associate members seeing us try to improve the training of shed staff as well as classers, new classers generally come from shed staff is leading us to a better more united team to get the clip from the board to the market in a better state. This is well illustrated by the progress that has been made with contamination. The south Island has made better progress than the North Island presumable due to more of the shed staff working with trained & registered classers during the season and getting the contamination message, which is carried on to the clips that may not have a classer but the influence continues to be there. We need to keep this work up and hopefully with the coming soon of the course for graders we will see further progress.

The Grading course will hopefully see better recognition for those that are prepared to do a bit of training and show leadership in the shed which should get recognition in the pay packet for qualified and Registered Graders and hopefully the proposal for the new prefixes in the catalogue will be adopted and flow on to better results for growers who pay the wee bit extra for a grader to give recognition of supervision and quality control of clip preparation. (this was mentioned last year and was in the early stages, but has progressed, albeit slowly).

The board has functioned well and has managed to have a few phone conference calls as well as Zoom meetings. We need to give extra gratitude to New Zealand Wool Scouring Ltd for picking up the tab for the conference calls and when we were discussing the paid Zoom capability immediately said he would pay, which has enabled us to have our AGM via Zoom, which hopefully works well and allows more members to “attend” the AGM that the usual turnout.

I wish to thank all the Board members who have all contributed well. Some have been hesitant initially but have grown into the action and contribute better with time.

We were sorry to see Trudi Landreth resign earlier in the year due to other commitments but she has always contributed well and her perspective as a store worker as well as from the North Island sheds has been very good to have. It is great to see Sonya Johansen express interest and being nominated to the Board so we could continue to have input from the North Island, but other nominations can still be accepted up until 24th June.



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THE CONTRIBUTION WE HAVE HAD FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FROM THE WIDER INDUSTRY HAS ALSO HELPED A LOT. WHILE IT MAY BE SAID THAT WE ARE HERE TO REPRESENT WOOL CLASSERS, WHICH IS PROBABLY OUR PRINCIPLE FOCUS AS STATED IN OUR VISION WHICH THE BOARD ADOPTED SOME TIME AGO IT STATES:

“FOSTERING AND SUPPORTING QUALITY EDUCATION, HARVESTING AND PRESENTATION STANDARDS IN THE WOOL INDUSTRY.”

To meet that vision we need to take the rest of the shed team with us and also meet what the industry wants from us as preparers of the raw material for them in the further processing so having scourers as well as brokers gets direct feedback from the next step in the process.

Now that we have become involved with WRONZ and The National Council of Wool Interests we can get direct input from the entire industry, as well as send our message directly to the people that we try to impress with our presentation of each clip and hopefully take the New Zealand clip to a better future. It is a battle out there and we have to be united to survive, let alone thrive.

The new website has been created and hopefully many of you will have been on and had a look. It looks better and is simple for members to update their details and put up that they are available for work. Also with the members being able to do the Tahj Ngatahi safety course as part of the membership of NZWCA will see more doing this simple online course which all will learn a bit and hopefully we can make everyone safer out in the sheds.

Hopefully this season comes out all right. As I write this the market seems to be in a bit of turmoil, it wasn't strong for much of the clip before the turmoil of Covid-19. Under Level 3 and 2 much inconvenience in the shed. Hopefully we move on to level 1 and sheds can function as we always have. And we all hope that we don't see a resurgence of the virus to put us back to level 3, or perish the thought a full level 4 shut down of the country, or even parts of the country. This may not have directly affected us as far as ill people in our industry, nor having the huge numbers of sick or deaths predicted in New Zealand but the turmoil in much of the world has caused havoc in worldwide industry (not just wool) so the market is particularly weak, we hope for a speedy recovery worldwide.

Having Barbara Newton doing the newsletters and Social Media has been a great help for Bruce as well as her helping with some of the detail with other matters as he can easily meet with Barbara face to face, both being in (or near Dunedin) as sometimes face to face is a lot better and more productive.

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 again want to thank Bruce for his efforts. He has worked tirelessly for our association and put in a lot more time and effort than should be expected for the financial rewards he receives. The time and effort planning and putting the field days together is a big job, although we are working on strategies to reduce and streamline this.



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Pat (Bruce's wife) also needs special thanks as I know she does a lot of proof reading and helping him as well as putting up with him being on phone calls, away on Association business and no doubt just mentally not doing what he should be doing at home. He took the position on I think 6 years ago, for 2 years. He is still doing a sterling job but has frequently talked about retiring as originally planned. We desperately need someone to at least start to help him and learn the ropes, maybe job share and I think they would find they get a lot of satisfaction from it. I'm sure that is why Bruce has persevered. Thank you again Bruce.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Bill Dowle'.

Bill Dowle
Chairman
NZWCA

Draft

New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.



APPENDIGE B

NZWCA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT 2020

It that time of the year to reflect on what has happened in the past year. And what a year it been.

We started off with a very successful field day in Timaru with over 90 attending, held 4 other field days around the country with an average of 45 attending. These days were not only for our members but all who are involved in the wool harvesting industry.

Your association subscribed to the Tahi Ngatahi Health & Safety (H&S) programme so members can have free access to a creditable H & S programme. This is a very important certificate to have to ensure you are up to-date on the requirements set down by such Government organisation as Worksafe ACC etc.

We now have a seat at the table of the National Council of NZ Wool Interest (NCoNZWI) and Wool Research Organisation of NZ (WRONZ). Being involved with these bodies ensures your association has an opportunity to voice any suggestion or concerns our members have.

As advised last year we have been promoting to all sections of the wool industry to gain better recognition of the NZWCA Registration number by ensuring that wool prepared by our members is noted in the Wool Sale Catalogue and by a prefix change on Wool Testing Certificates. We had meeting with all section of the wool trade and are in a position to present our final proposal to the NCoNZWI. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic meetings have cancelled and we will present our findings to the next face to face meeting of the council.

Our membership is starting to increase and we are very thankful to the 62 associate members we have. Without them our finances would be in a very poor state. The 2019 financial accounts have produced a surplus of \$182, this is the first surplus for over 10 years and we thank our sponsors who contributed \$12,250 toward our running cost. Once again I ask classers to encourage your clients (farmers) to join the association as Associate members so are able to carry on the work we do, not only on behalf of our members but farmers as well.

Once again, your association has been promoting training with the wool course attracting 30 students this year, unfortunately due to the Covid-19 virus the July course was cancelled. Work is still progressing on the Wool Grading course and it is anticipated this will be available in the near future. Unfortunately once again no major announcement on the training for wool harvesting but there is work going on in the back ground but progress is very slow.

Due to our website platform being old and costly to maintain we sifted to a new platform and at the same time updated the site and the information on it. With the changes the site is much easier to navigate and a load more information particularly on the education page. It also very much easier for members to put details on their profile.

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At present the future does not look to rosy for the future of the wool market, particularly crossbred wool. It going to take some time for the market to correct but we all must be positive as the fibre we are dealing with is in the long term more sustainable and environmentally acceptable than fossil fuel.

Once again, my thanks to Bill Dowle Chairman and the board for their support over the past year. Barbara Newton for editing the newsletters and putting relevant information on Facebook. To Annette our long serving Secretary, my thanks to her for the many hours she has put into this association and the guidance she has given to me. As also my thanks to my wife and long-time partner Pat for all her help keeping me positive and ensuring that the communication I put out are correct for spelling and grammar.

Lastly thanks to our membership for your support not only the past year but the past 5 ½ years. I always tried to keep you informed with up to date information. Special mention to our associate members and sponsors for without your contribution this association would not been able to carry out all it has achieved in the past few years, so a big, big thank you to you all.

Bruce Abbott
Executive Officer/Registrar
NZ Wool Classing Association