***2020 New Zealand Wool Classers Association Annual Report***

***By Bruce Abbott Executive Officer/Registrar***

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 l 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.

At present the future does not look to rosie 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 l 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