

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS BILL DOWLE D1076



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NZWCA REGISTRAR'S REPORT BRUCE ABBOTT A1457



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NZWCA Annual General Meeting 25th June at 7.30 pm

Due to Covid-19 we have cancelled our face to face AGM. We will now hold this online through the ZOOM

If you wish to be on the ZOOM call,
please email your intention to the registrar
eo@woolclassers.org.nz



Metal Stencil and Clothing Orders

Orders will be placed **very soon** for the metal stencils and clothing items so get your orders in.

Metal Stencil: Please transfer \$25 in the NZWCA account:



02 0828 0036732 00,
with **your name** in the particulars, and **registration number** in the reference boxes, by the end of this week **June 14th**.

Clothing: Now includes a crew neck top for \$35.

You will need to go to the web site www.woolclassers.org.nz, and under **Members Area**, click on **Branded Clothing** to check out the range, delivery, payment details and to place an order by the **end of June**.

**WOOL PREPARATION
MARKET UPDATE
ROGER FULER
CP WOOL**



[click here to read article](#)

Contamination issue

The coloured wool contamination issue is still very much out there.

Remove it!



A recent reminder for the coming shearing season from Segard Masurel NZ

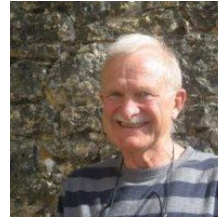
Avoid Spray marker in Wool

As winter shearing and scanning progresses, please ensure all brands are removed and, if possible, take into consideration where your scanning marker is placed.

At this stage there are NO scour able scanning and livestock markers on the market that we can recommend. Removing or eliminating all spray-marked wool puts you in a position to at least achieve a wool price, as opposed to your wool having no monetary value at all.

**UPDATE ON REFORM OF
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
(RoVE)**

ALLAN FRAZER



"A focus will be on people gaining an education that is more directly relevant to the changing needs of the workplace"

[click here to read article](#)



**NZWCA CLASSER PROFILE
TRACEY HILL
A1722**

Her proudest achievement in the wool industry to date was when she was classing just three clips at the time and received a merit and two commendations in the same season

[click here to read article](#)

Tahi Ngatahi Online Health & Safety Programme



Tahi Ngatahi is an online platform that uses video clips to pass on skills and safety tips to all working in the wool harvesting industry.

This is a joint initiative between the NZ Shearing Contractors Association, Federated Farmers, Worksafe and ACC.

It is very important that you have some record of doing an H&S programme.

NZWCA have joined the Tahi Ngatahi programme to give our members **FREE** access to this online training programme.

This course now replaces the previous option

The programme is a great tool for our members to ensure their workplace is not only safe for them, but also the entire wool harvesting team. Guidance is provided through informative and instructional videos, skills and safety tips to run a safe and productive wool harvesting team, followed by multiple choice questions.

Topics covered include:

- **Why H & S is so very important.**
- **Shearing shed preparation prior to shearing.**
- **Who is responsible?**
- **Handling of sheep and equipment.**
- **Personal health & fitness.**
- **Ensuring you look after yourself and the people who you are working with.**



Accessing the course

For your **FREE** access you need to go to the NZWCA web site: woolclassers.org.nz, click on **Members Area** in the menu, then go to **News**, click on **Health & Safety Programme**- read more, learn more.

To get underway follow the procedure to connect and **SIGN UP**

Then once Bruce has received and accepted your request he will reply and let you access the programme



**NATIONAL WOOL COUNCIL
CRAIG SMITH
CHAIRMAN**



"Wool, not only the best fibre in the world it is also the best fibre for the world"

[click here to read article](#)

COVID-19 Masks

Almost overnight, masks of all shapes, colours and styles have appeared on the faces around us. Remember by covering your face in public, you are helping others to stay safe from anything you may be carrying. It's more about their protection than your own. *"I care for me; I care for you"*

At this time of the global COVID19 pandemic Lanaco, a deep science technology start-up based in Auckland has spent a decade developing its organic/hybrid Helix™ Filter Media based on the science of DNA genetics from specially selected sheep flocks that have been bred in NZ to produce a truly unique and high performing wool fibre optimised for filtration. Helix™ Filter Media is manufactured at Lanaco's Auckland facility and is forms the core elements of a range of manufactured/sourced PPE masks.



**TELLING IT HOW IT IS
DAVE BURRIDGE
PGG WRIGHTSON WOOL**



"As we are all part of the first stage wool handling community in NZ, our roles in the "new world" after lockdown are going to be even more important to protect the lofty reputation and provenance of NZ branded wool".

[click here to read article](#)

**UPDATE FROM
NEW ZEALAND SHEARING
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
MARKET UPDATE
PHIL HOLDEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Feedback I have had about the way our members managed the communication and safety protocols with farmers and on site were extremely positive.



[click here to read article](#)

A wool handler throws a merino fleece at the woolshed on Otematata Station



NZWCA Chairman's Comments

I write this just after the announcement of the staggered entry to Covid-19 Level 2. How this will actually work in the sheds I await with interest as for one of my sheds I could not see it possible to operate under Level 3. Due to the shed design with a closed board and tight wool room.

These are just another challenge we are going to have to work through with contractors and growers. Look on it as a way to get rid of some boring always the same and a new challenge as we don't want our industry to be branded as the one that caused issues with the virus.

The season is most likely going to be challenging for all of us in the wool industry, whatever our role. In the shed we have new challenges; growers are having challenges with drought in some areas, and hopefully not a hard winter. Sales are still a bit unsettled with a few cancelled due to Covid and the market being very weak. Storage has got very tight for the brokers and some (I'd guess soon to be all) are going to start charging for storage after a period if wool isn't sold. This was inevitable but perhaps reinforces the need to do a good job of preparing a clip, so it has a better chance of selling and moving through the system. This is our job. Make the best of a clip to maximise the opportunity for the grower so the processor has better/more options and more might want it. All good for the industry.

Take a look at the new website (if you haven't already). Look at some of the new information there. It's your web site so use it.

There has been a lot of effort go into the new grading qualification (Bruce and Allan have a report on that) so encourage people to upgrade their skills so we can all help improve the New Zealand clip and Wool industry. It is an incredible product. Make it as good as you can where you can and help promote it.

Some will be well into their early classing run now, others like me a few weeks away. Hopefully it all goes well and there are great clips presented to their best. This might be the year your effort gets noticed and you get a merit award.

Do you best and be careful of virus bugs and all the other hazards out there.

Cheers

Bill Dowle

D1076

Chairman NZWCA.



Executive Officer/Registrar Report

For all of us the past couple of months have been something none of us has experienced before. This period has not been as bad as what our fore fathers experienced during two world wars, the depression and the Spanish flu. So far, our country has got off very lightly but it's not time to lower our defenses. So keep up the social distancing, washing your hands and we may deflect a second wave of the Covid-19 virus.

Revamped web site

During the time of lockdown we have been working with a web builder and have completely revamped our web site www.woolclassers.co.nz the site now is more user friendly particularly for those who use their phone. We have added an education section and upgraded the member's area that has made it a lot easier to add in your profile and photo. Access the site and make yourself familiar with the changes.

Safety in the shed

Later in this newsletter there is information on Tahi Ngatahi the Health & Safety programme for the wool harvesting sector and how to access it. Your association joined Tahi Ngatahi to provide our members the opportunity to complete a course that would give you a certificate to indicate you have completed a H & S programme. We have been disappointed by the response (just 19 have signed up) and encourage all members to take a couple of hours of your time to complete this online programme which can be completed in stages. This replaces the NZWCA H & S programme which we will not be supporting from now.

Industry day

It was a big disappointment that we had to cancel our Industry Day in Oamaru as we had completed a lot of the work in arranging this. It is planned to hold this day in November at the same venue, we will keep you informed on progress.

Over the past few years we have been holding field days that have included all from the wool harvesting industry. At this time we have no days planned due to the uncertainty of the pandemic crisis but hope to progress this in the coming weeks.

High Standards

My congratulations to the recipients of the 2019 Merit awards, and to those who received Commendation Certificates. In my time this is the largest number of classers being nominated (28) and that indicates you are presenting clips to the wool trade that are not only classed but also prepared to a high standard. We must recognise the high standard of workmanship put in by the wool handlers.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is being held on Thursday 25th June on ZOOM. Once again, the Covid-19 virus has made us cancel the planned face to face meeting and we moved to a virtual meeting. You need to register for this so please send an email to eo@woolclassers.co.nz of your intentions to be on the call. Once that's received, we will send the codes to connect to the meeting. To those who do not have access to a computer you will be able to attend the meeting by phone.

Education

On the education front we are still working with the Southern Institute of Technology to deliver a Wool Grading course. Once again this has been delayed by the pandemic. Progress is being made now that we are in Level 2 and a meeting has been arranged to finalise the course content.

The present Wool Technology Course has 30 students, and unfortunately the planned course starting in July has been cancelled. The next course will start in February 2021.

Pre-lamb

The Classing/Grading season is now upon us and we can expect a few problems in organising our time table due to some of the requirements shearing contractor have to put in place. If you are having trouble with time constraints for classing a shed and need a person to fill in, if advised we can put out an email to all our members to find a replacement for you.

That's all for now, have a good season and look forward to you being on the ZOOM call for the AGM.

Bruce Abbott

A1452

Executive Officer



TELLING IT HOW IT IS

“As we are all part of the first stage wool handling community in NZ, our roles in the “new world” after lockdown are going to be even more important to protect the lofty reputation and provenance of NZ branded wool”.

With many of our major off shore wool markets and trading partners being significantly affected by Covid-19 outcomes, demand for all wool breeds and types right along the wool pipeline have in turn dramatically fallen.

With the major disruption and drop off of consumer confidence, early indications would have it that wool markets will be lean and will need some time to recover before full trading can recommence.

It is interesting however that as we have seen in the past when large scale adverse global events have occurred, the value of a non-essential agriculture commodity like wool can drop very quickly, but can surprise everyone by bouncing back just as quickly against all expectations. Here's hoping again.....

Importance of role to play in quality control cannot be overstated.

As we are all part of the first stage wool handling community in NZ, our roles in the “new World” after lock down are going to be even more important to protect the lofty reputation and provenance of NZ branded wool.

Overseas manufacturers and customers of NZ wool post Covid-19, will more than ever expect deliveries of wool to conform to specification.

The importance of that first and only stage opportunity to get it right in terms of quality control is the transitioning the fleece from the sheep's back to the wool press at the time of harvest.

It must be said however, that with wool prices sinking below production costs and some farmers resorting to austerity measures regarding wool handling teams, maintaining best practice at times can be no mean feat!

It is a credit and testament to all dedicated and passionate “woollies” working in the sheds that they haven't let their standards drop!

In my role as valuer for all PGG wool in the South Island, I count myself as very fortunate to continue to handle and value lots for sale that have meet excellent industry standards despite the troubles head winds, especially in the Xbd market.

Ensure wool specifications are correctly filled out.

Of the many challenges that face wool handling preparation and maintaining best practice, I would like to highlight the key and ongoing requirement to ensure wool specification documentation is correctly filled out at the completion of shearing.

All brokers experience at times significant down time and cost having to sort out the following documentation issues:

- 1) Incorrectly labelled bales, with wrong descriptions and wrong bale numbers.
- 2) No specifications.
- 3) Specifications not matching what is on the bale labels.
- 4) Overweight bales.

All the best for the new season and will look forward to sunnier skies and in engaging with you all at the next refresher.

Best wishes

Dave BurrIDGE

South Island Auction Manager

PGG Wrightson Wool



Wool not only the best fibre in the world it is also the best fibre for the world

Ki Ora everyone and thanks Bruce for giving me the opportunity to contribute to your newsletter.

For those of you that don't know me my name is Craig (Smithy) Smith and I have just been appointed the Chairman of the New Zealand Wool Council, and have been in the wool industry for the past 30 years. To a lot of you the NZWC will not mean a lot but put simply the NZ Wool council is made up and funded by the Exporters, Brokers, Merchants, test houses and wool scours and is a member country of the IWTO. The council is in place to foster Wool Production and promote the interests of the Wool Textile Trade and Industry in New Zealand and to preserve and improve its reputation locally and internationally.

As the new Chairman I feel it's so important that we grow our organisation so as the entire NZ wool industry is included. Over the past year the classer association has been welcomed and is now a strong contributor and advocate for you all which is fantastic. I am keen to work closely with Bruce to make sure the great work and further education you are doing is recognised and understood not only nationally but internationally. We all understand and appreciate that the price of NZ wool is at the lowest it has been for many years but we must make sure we keep the quality at the highest level we can.

I am currently working with the Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor to get the backing for our industry that is desperately lacking which trust me is no easy task even though wool is not only the best fibre in the world it is also the best fibre for the world.

During the day I am the General Manager for Devold Wool Direct and I buy wool for our parent company Devold of Norway which makes active outdoor wool clothing and has been in business since 1853. Hopefully I get to see many of you in the coming months as pre-lamb is fast approaching.

As the Chairman of our wonderful wool industry can I please say thank you to you all for all the great work you do and the critical part you play.

If you are ever looking for wool information please see this NZ Wool website as it has many great facts and information. www.nzwool.co.nz

Keep up the great work and please say hi if you see me out and about.

Ka kite ano

Craig Smith
Chairman
NZ Wool Council





Update from the NZ Shearing Contractors Association

Phil Holden
Executive Officer
NZSCA

The Covid-19 pandemic was an unprecedented time for NZSCA and us all. The value and strength of the relationships with Federated Farmers and MPI delivered real benefits to the Association and our members. Feedback I have had about the way our members managed the communication and safety protocols with farmers and on site were extremely positive.

There is no doubt that the delivery of work for both NZSCA and NZWCA and our respective farmer clients will be challenging in the foreseeable future. We will collectively need to invest energy and time into planning ahead, as the likelihood is that shearing, and classing will not be on the same dates as every other year and the work will take longer to achieve. This may not be convenient, will undoubtedly be frustrating but it is the new reality.

Training or the lack of it has dominated the landscape since I started with NZSCA. I know this has been a big focus of NZWCA as well and together we need a solution. To this end, you may not be aware but NZSCA applied to the Provincial Growth Fund for support to establish a pilot training program. NZSCA have put the training needs of the sector firmly in the line of sight of Government.

The focus of our application is to establish two wool harvesting (shearing and wool handling) pilot training centres – one in the Gisborne/Hawkes Bay region and one in the Otago/Southland region. The funding support we are targeting will enable the delivery of 1-4 training courses reaching approx. 270 students with 150 of those being new people and new jobs.

There are a lot of moving parts involved in industry training particularly in the primary industry sector given the scale of the changes being considered within the RoVe initiative. But we are doing our best to remain involved and in touch to ensure the needs of the wool harvesting sector are being considered within this process and we remain hopeful that MBIE will look favourably on our application.

Tahi Ngatahi

Tahi Ngatahi has also been a key focus over the last period.

We have decided to move away from having a separate governance structure for Tahi Ngatahi and that role is taken on by the NZSCA Executive Committee.

This will take a degree of governance complexity out of the mix and make the overall operation more effective and timelier.

In addition we have also begun to explore how we grow our connections with the Farmer sector and the wider wool sector so the partnership Tahi Ngatahi has with NZWCA delivers to our mandate to increase the reach of Tahi Ngatahi across the sector. We have also recently established a new relationship with Farmstrong, whose wellbeing messages are complimentary to Tahi Ngatahi's and we have also begun linking in with Rural Women New Zealand to leverage their reach to grow Tahi Ngatahi profile to the important grower network through this influential network.

Lastly, I believe that the Wool Harvesting elements of the sector need to engage and collaborate more effectively than we may have done in the past so I have made sure that NZSCA has kept NZWCA in formed and across what we have been doing in response to Covid-19 and the ability to operate under the various alert levels. I have been grateful for Bruce reciprocating, and have really enjoyed the engagement we have had. As a newbie it's been great to have some wise counsel and support over this period.



Classer Profile - Tracey Hill A1722



Tracey in her happy place

We all strive to work towards for that dream job to come along at some point in our chosen career.

Well for Tracey Hill that may have just occurred having recently started as a classer for a wool broker drawing on the knowledge and experience from her shed classing and shearing contracting background.

After leaving school, at age 16 to work as a land girl Tracey quickly discovered for her that the best part of the farming year was at shearing time. Consequently she contacted local shearing contractor Ron Davis and started with him on her 18th birthday, working locally in the South Otago area for many years.

In the early 1990's she headed over the ditch in the off season to work in New South Wales of Australia, each year returning home to New Zealand for pre-lamb to work with Ron Hills blade gang.

It was while working in Australia with Les & Sue Dunn in Broken Hill that Tracey decided that she wanted to learn a bit more about wool and become a wool classer. Sue was a classer, and she inspired her to obtain her classing stencil. In 1995 Tracey attended Lincoln to do the wool course.

1995 was an auspicious year, attending Lincoln, and marrying the bosses' son, Ronny Hill.

She has classed sheds in the high country in regions from Glenorchy to Tekapo, and became fully registered

(A1722) in two years. Her proudest achievement in the wool industry to date was when she was classing just three clips at the time and received a merit and two commendations in the same season.

Once Tracey and Ronny took over the shearing contracting business in 1997 her skills and duties expanded to include; wool handling and cooking when required, and of course the bookwork and paying wages.

After 20+ years involved in the business, and with two adult children she decided it was time for a change and a move from Balclutha to enable her to spend more time with family in Dunedin was in order.

Late last year a job opportunity came up with PGG Wrightson Wool in Mosgiel, Dunedin enabling this to occur.

She freely admits the experience of moving out of her comfort zone has been scary but exciting at the same time.

Her position offers a wide variety of work post wool harvesting not only with the huge range of wool breeds (Drysdale to Merino) and types handled a daily basis from the wider Otago region, but is now adding to her repertoire of skills with forklift driving, grab & core machine operation, as well as helping with pressing and data entry.

She is also learning firsthand the importance of accurately completed legible specifications!

With the added benefit of regular working hours and days off, Tracey is able to enjoy her reading, walking, following her children with their interests and sports, and is able to relish her new environment by the sea in the picturesque suburb of St Clair.

Update on Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE)

A focus will be on people gaining an education that is more directly relevant to the changing needs of the workplace.

The Government is undertaking a reform of Vocational Education.

Their aim is to create a strong, unified, sustainable system for all vocational education that is fit for the future of work and delivers the skills that learners, employers and communities need to thrive.

The change will progressively take place over the next 2 ½ years.

Learners will receive more support while they are training, and it will be more relevant to work. They will be able to move more easily between regions and between work-based and provider-based training, and will be able to continue training more easily if their employment situation changes. This is particularly relevant for an industry like wool harvesting.

The new system will have a stronger focus on employers, delivering the skills they need, providing more support for their employees, and ensuring greater consistency in vocational education across the country.

A focus will be on people gaining an education that is more directly relevant to the changing needs of the workplace.

A number of new organisations will be established. In this Newsletter we refer to two of these.

Workforce Development Councils

A small number of industry-governed bodies are to be established to allow for industry giving greater leadership across vocational education. One of these will be a Primary Industry Workforce Development Council and the wool industry has been actively involved in bringing this into being.

Centres for Vocational Excellence

Another initiative is for the establishment of a small number of Centre's for Vocational Excellence which will bring together providers, workforce development councils, industry experts, and leading researchers to grow excellent vocational education provision and share high-quality curriculum and programme design across the system. An application has been made to establish a Primary Industry Centre of Excellence. Again the wool industry has contributed to this approach.

Your Association has been a participant and a contributor to these collaborative initiatives.

Allan Frazer
Independent Director
NZWCA Board

WOOL MARKET UPDATE By Roger Fuller CP Wool

As we manoeuvre through these uncertain times, the wool industry is not escaping any of the issues the world economies are experiencing.

At the time of writing, the first wool sale in 8 weeks took place in the North Island and the results were not good. 37% of the offering was passed in and the market was generally up to 25% cheaper. Exporters are going through some extremely difficult times with delayed shipments, delayed payments and renegotiating of contracts from overseas clients, which is putting huge pressure on prices going forward.

Wool build up is becoming an issue, with broker's stores being stretched with unsold wool. Approximately 70,000 bales was rostered for sale over the lockdown period, of which is just coming on to the market now. As we head to pre lamb shearing volumes will increase dramatically and with poor prices and uncertain markets the stockpile of unsold wool will increase very quickly.

The Australian wool auctions continued over the lockdown period with prices taking a severe check in most micron categories. Currently there is approximately 300,000 bales of wool unsold or held in broker's stores.

Italian and European mills were closed for a time during this period and when they began functioning it was only at much reduced levels, until such time they can clear stocks and get a clearer picture of demand going forward. With the retail spending severely checked this has had a major effect on the wool pipeline.

Going forward the industry is heading into very rough waters, and it is important that when we are in woolsheds we are all aware of the issues that will be affecting everyone and that we are all in this together.

We are working in a fantastic industry and it is important we all do our bit for its survival going into the new season.

Apologies for the not so positive news, but this is reality of which we should all be aware of.

