



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, 13th May 2021
Meeting commenced at 4.00pm

Board Members Present: Bill Dowle (Chairman), Bruce Abbott (Executive Officer), Marg Forde (Registrar), Don Urquhart, Allan Frazer, Roger Fuller, Sonya Johansen and Terrance Mulcahy

Classers Members Present: Karen Wilkins-Duff, Janet Hackshaw, Tegan Caves, Hillary Tahere, Nigel Cossar, Ian Kofoed, Sarah Lewis, Juliet Jones, Cassie Johnson, Eric Laurenson, Dave Carr and David York.

Associate Members Present: None

Guests Present: None

Apologies Received: Struan Hulme (Board Member), Tracey Paterson (Board Member), Tony Cunningham (Board Member), Robyne Murray, Aileen Bishop, Dawn Aramoana, Hayden Hickey (Associate), Pip McConway, Ann Johnstone, Christine Forsythe, Donald Aubrey, Andrew Paterson, Tina Elers and Jenna McLellan

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

Moved: Terrance Mulcahy

Seconded: Roger Fuller

CARRIED ALL

CHAIRMANS WELCOME

Chairman welcomed us to the 2021 AGM. He remarked on a successful Professional Classer Day today with nearly 90 people attending. Pointed out it would be nice if more people stayed for the AGM.

Chairman called for one minutes silence for the passing of our Patron David Daunton who died tragically in a farming accident and other classers that have passed in the last year.

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

Last year due to Covid-19 we held our AGM via Zoom on the 25th of June 2020

Minutes circulated via email and taken as read

Matters arising from last AGM minutes: None

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

MOVED: Don Urquhart

SECONDED: Roger Fuller

CARRIED ALL



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FINANCIAL REPORT (01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020)

Annual accounts circulated via email and taken as read

Question: Eric Laurenson asked if this is what we would be typically spending annually on the website.

Bill Dowle explained this was a completely new website platform so in short No, but it is important for us to be updating this. We should have to do anything major again for 10 o 15 years.

Move that the Association's Financial Annual report be accepted

MOVED: Don Urquhart

SECONDED: Allan Frazer

CARRIED ALL

SETTING OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2022

Motion

That yearly subscription fee for all membership types remain the same for next year.

MOVED: Roger Fuller

SECONDED: Marg Forde

CARRIED ALL

CHAIRMANS REPORT **APPENDIGE A**

Circulated via email and taken as read

Bill made a formal acknowledgement of Bruce Abbott's commitment to the Association over the last seven years. He will be stepping back with his duties concentrating on the Education with Marg Forde taking over as Registrar.

Bill Dowle moved that the Chairman's report be accepted

SECONDED: Don Urquhart

CARRIED ALL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT **APPENDIGE B**

Circulated via email and taken as read

Bill Dowle moved that the Executive Officers report be accepted

SECONDED: Roger Fuller

CARRIED ALL



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ELECTION OF DIRECTORS MOTION

The NZWCA Board recommends that the board membership increases from 10 to a maximum of 12. This will continue to allow the board to have a cross section of members with the emphasis on predominately classers.

Current structure;

Chair, Vice Chair, Classers & Owner Classer – 7

Industry Representation: Wool Scour, Broker*, Wool Merchant* & NZSCA - 4

Independent - 1

** Are also registered Classers

MOVED: Bill Dowle
SECONDED: Bruce Abbott
CARRIED ALL

There are 3 vacancies for the board.

Tracy Paterson and Struan Hulme stand down by rotation and seek re-election, and Marg Forde (Vice Chairman) has taken over as Registrar.

We have one nomination for Karen Wilkins-Duff (A871).

Marg Forde nominated Karen Wilkins-Duff (A871), seconded by Bill Dowle.

Bill Dowle moved that Karen Wilkins-Duff's nomination be accepted to the NZWCA Board as a replacement for Marg Forde & for the re-election of current board members Tracy Paterson & Struan Hulme.

SECONDED: Terrance Mulcahy
CARRIED ALL

ELECTION OF PATRON

With the passing of our Patron David Daunton (FX1136), Bill Dowle nominated Allan Frazer as our new Patron

Although our Patron has traditionally been a classer Bill cannot think of a better person to nominate as our Patron. Allan is the only existing board member of the NZWCA since its inception and has worked tirelessly on anything given to him. He is well respected in the Industry as a whole and we would be very honoured to have him as our Patron.

MOTION to nominate Allan Frazer as our new Patron

MOVED: Bill Dowle
SECONDED: Bruce Abbott
CARRIED ALL

Allan very graciously accepted the nomination and would be honoured to fulfil the role.



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GENERAL BUSINESS

Eric Laurenson

- On behalf of the Mid-Micron group which was established 20 years ago at the closure of the Wool Board. They would like to donate their remaining funds of around 30-40k to the Association. They would like to see the funds used in the Mid-Micron area but are happy to discuss options for use of this money
- Bill Dowle formally thanked Eric & the group for the generosity of the Mid-Micron group

Allan Frazer

- Thanked the Boards Chairman Bill Dowle for continuing to lead the Association.

MEETING CLOSED 4.30PM

APPENDIGE A

NZWCA CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Another year has gone by and we are still in existence as an organisation and an industry, but I feel I have to say as an organisation we have strengthened even more in the last 12 months, despite various obstacles that have come up. 2020 will go down in history as a year we don't want to repeat for reasons we all know but as an organisation we have moved on, our membership is growing, our respect in the wider industry has continued to strengthen and hopefully the light in the wool tunnel isn't a train but a strong glimmer of hope for the future.

Some may wonder why I feel this way. I recently attended a field day where the Chairman of WRONZ made a presentation and I was intrigued by some of the developments that they are funding to the pilot stage, this being one stage of developing a full commercial production. They only go to pilot stage if the process can give growers \$10.00 per kg, not that they will as buyers only pay what they have to, a message also received when visiting exporters with Bruce late last year. It was interesting to hear that their customers could pay more for the raw wool, but they don't have to so they pay as little as they need. However if some new uses can be developed that could use large amounts of fibre that will increase demand and hopefully flow through to prices and once again make the industry sustainable. You may wonder why a classer would be worried about the long term financial viability of growers; it is the financial viability that makes them interested in better preparation of the clip and wanting to have preparation supervised by classers, or graders, that ensures consistent quality of the clip preparation, and less contamination.

This gets back to the progress that Bruce as Executive Officer/Registrar has made with his drive to get the grading course developed and actually happening. It has been a long road and Bruce deserves a medal for his perseverance and drive to get this developed. Maybe the frustrations he had from ensuring the Wool Technology course continued was good training for this but it has been an extremely worthy and frequently frustrating time for Bruce, and he has been very well supported by Allan Frazer. Numbers doing the Wool Technology course are good, and I understand another course will again begin in mid-year. A call has gone out to shearing contractors to host grading courses. Improving the qualifications of wool handlers can only benefit the industry as a whole. This is probably best illustrated by the reducing amount of contamination in lines of wool particularly in the South Island where most wool handlers experience working under qualified classers who have received the message and passed it on to others.

This reflects the NZWCA vision *Fostering and supporting quality education, harvesting and presentation standards in the wool industry*".

Our improved website has had very good feedback, being able to fund this was helped by the fact we couldn't have field-days during the covid restrictions.



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Headway is being made with classer registration numbers in Wool Auction Catalogues; hopefully an announcement can be made soon on this. We had hoped for something on the testing certificate to indicate wool handling had been overseen by a qualified registered person, but this was too much for the wider industry at this stage, we never know what might happen in the future.

After Bruce trying to step back for several years it was great that when he put the pressure on and we really started to look for a replacement for part of his job. We had some good interest in the position and were able to appoint Marg Forde to the Registrars position; Bruce retaining the education (mainly grading and Wool Technology input) so a new era begins.

Marg moving to this position has however created a vacancy on the board. Filling vacancies on the board is always hard but once people get interested and then get involved, they get keener. I remember the reluctance of Marg when she reluctantly stood for the board, she became a very strong member and I'm pleased to say we haven't lost her but I'm sure if she was asked if she would take on the Registrars position then the answer would have been "Stop Dreaming". The personal development that you can get from taking up the challenge is tremendous.

Although we will still have input from Bruce, due to his stepping back I feel we must give him the acknowledgement that he deserves for what he has done to our Association. He has moved us into a much more professional light within the wider industry. We now have a much better ear from others in the wool pipeline. Some may question the value of this but getting recognition of the efforts put into clip preparation in the shed is more likely if we are recognised as a key part of the process.

The help and support of Bruce's wife Pat also must be acknowledged, she has been his sounding board, proof reader and supporter. He shifted to Mosgiel to retire; NZWCA has kept him "tired" he deserves some rest and more time at the bowling green. Although as Executive officer with the education portfolio he will still be vital to us for a while yet.

Marg has moved from vice chair to now Registrar she will take a more prominent role in NZWCA and may even shift the focus in some areas but with her experience in the sheds, as a business woman and journalist I am confident the association will benefit from Marg's greater involvement.

Allan Frazer also deserves acknowledgment as an appointed director, who has never been a classer but came from the background of the Wool Board and then Meat & Wool and being on the CRAIG Committee he was instrumental in forming the Association and has helped guide us as well as having many great contacts around Wellington. He is always a reliable advisor and sounding board.

The other board members have also been involved and helpful throughout the year. This is simpler now with the era of Zoom calls, maybe the only good outcome from Covid 19 being making us take this up, we don't meet face to face very often so have been able to pull in more support to the board from others in the wool industry. Zoom calls are a lot better than conference phone calls.

Annette our ever-steady secretary/treasurer has kept us on track, financially and keeping us in line as well as keeping the website up to date. Now when subs are paid the website is updated so it is a true record of who is a paid financial member so able to use their registration number on a line of wool. This can help if a broker or merchant or anyone else wants to check someone out.

I also need to acknowledge my wife for me being on the phone, or mentally absent from home when dealing with Association meetings and discussions.

There are also many others that have continued to support us in ways they may not imagine, our associate members and sponsors are now a vital part of our structure and success.

Thank you all.

Bill

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

Bill Dowle D1076

Chairman

NZWCA

New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.



APPENDIGE B

NZWCA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT 2021

At the end of 2020 I had intended to retire from this position, but due to the late appointment of a successor I felt that I should continue for a while to make the transfer to the new appointee as smooth as possible. I therefore consented to carry on as your Executive Officer for a period of time. Margaret Forde was appointed late February 2021 to take over the role as Registrar and I was asked to remain as Executive Officer for a short period of time to enable Margaret to grow into the position and take over the full role of EO/R in due time. I produced a report in December last year which I reflected on what this association has achieved over the past few years. I do not intend to go over this again but just to highlight to you all that this association has made major progress as an organisation and is leading the industry in a number of areas. One particular area is education, the review of the Wool Technology Course and the increase in numbers attending this course, the work to compile a Wool Clip Grading Course and your association helping to deliver this course. We as classers must remember that we need highly trained wool handlers to enable us to prepare a clip to a high standard and this is the reason we promoted the wool clip grading course thus enabling senior wool handlers to not only achieve a qualification but also have an understanding of the requirement to prepare a clip to a high standard. The other area I will mention is communication. We have vastly increased our contact with you by regular emails, Web site, Facebook notifications and newsletters. Communication with the wider wool industry has also increased which has resulted in increasing the association profile.

It is time I move on and let other people carry on the work the association is doing not only for its members but the wider wool industry.

Before I sign off I would like to thank the following for their help and support over the past years, Chairman Bill Dowle, Secretary Annette Gamble and Board member Allan Frazer who all have been on the board throughout my tenure, the board members over the past 10 years that have supported me in all of my initiatives. There are many in the wool industry that I need to thank but you know who you are and my sincere thanks to you all for the help and support given to me. Most importantly my thanks to the members of this association for your support and the encouraging words I have received. Without you there would not be an association.

I wish the new management team all the best for the future and will follow the association progress with interest.

All the best for the future

Bruce Abbott A1457

Executive Officer/Registrar

NZ Wool Classers Association