



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, 5th May 2022
Meeting commenced at 12.37pm

Board Members Present: Bill Dowle (Chair), Sonya Johansen (Vice Chair), Marg Forde (Registrar), Don Urquhart, Allan Frazer, Tracy Paterson, Karen Wilkins-Duff and Terrance Mulcahy

Classers Members Present: Claire Mullholland, Peter Hore, Rose Barnett, Rebecca Braddick, Mecacla Lynch, Ian Shaw, Graeme Bell, Tina Elers, Borgia Daniels, Nathan Daniels, Martin Paterson, Barbara Newton, Bruce Abbott, Marilyn Dalzell, Hope Duncan, Bridget Speight, Sindee Beecroft, Brent Cole, Donald McKenzie, Graeme Goodger, Allan Paterson, Ian Kofeod, Diane Webster, Ken Gillespie, Lavene Paul, Jenna McLellan, Samantha Harmer, Emily Jones, Tracy Hill, Janet Hackshaw and Cassie Johnston

Associate Members Present: Mitchell Young and Cameron Young

Guests Present: Andrew McNeil, Holly Brown, Maiden Elers, Vorne Wheki, Pat Abbott, Gregory Abbott, Nic Ruddenklau, Craig Dalzell, Gerrard Waata, Hani Ropata, Debbie Maguire, Mere Ngamoki, Mike Maguire, Jade Fletcher, Rosstan Mazey, Kelvin Webster, Olga Kuiti, Yula Island, John McWhirter and Richie Hurring

Apologies Received: Struan Hulme (Board Member), Tony Cunningham (Board Member), Roger Fuller (Board Member), Sarah Hewson, Mary Satterthwaite, Ian McKenzie, Te Moore, Ingrid Neera, John McKenzie, Jason Nahona, Alastair Eckhoff, Guy Palmer and Rob Cochrane

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

Moved: Terrance Mulcahy

Seconded: Tracy Paterson

CARRIED ALL

CHAIRMANS WELCOME

Chairman welcomed us to the 2022 AGM. Trying something new this year having the AGM in the middle of the Classer Professional Day, so it is great to see so many people here.

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

Minutes circulated via email and taken as read

Matters arising from last AGM minutes: Amendment to attendance to add Dave Carr

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

MOVED: Ian Kofeod

SECONDED: Sonya Johansen

CARRIED ALL



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

FINANCIAL REPORT (01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021)

Annual accounts circulated via email and taken as read

Chairman confirmed that we have just received the money from the Mid micron group that Eric Laurensen spoke of at last year's AGM due to the group disbanding. The final amount was 54k.

Martin Paterson - This money originally came from the Wool Board, and he was instrumental in making sure this money was given to the NZWCA.

Move that the Association's Financial Annual report be accepted

MOVED: Don Urquhart
SECONDED: Tracy Paterson
CARRIED ALL

SETTING OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2023

Motion:

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

MOVED: Don Urquhart
SECONDED: Terrance Mulchay
CARRIED ALL

CHAIRMANS REPORT **APPENDIGE A**

Circulated via email and taken as read

One change to Report, last years AGM was held in Ashburton not Oamaru

Bill Dowle moved that the Chairman's report be accepted
SECONDED: Marg Forde
CARRIED ALL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT **APPENDIGE B**

Circulated via email and taken as read

Bill Dowle moved that the Registrars report be accepted
SECONDED: Sonya Johansen
CARRIED ALL



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

ADDRESS FROM OUT PATRON ALLAN FRAZER

Well, a year has passed since I was appointed as your Patron. I continue as a member of your board and we have for the first time developed a job description for the position; that includes attending the AGM and give a 2-minute address, so here I am.

It is indeed an honour to be your Patron, I trust that over the past 12 months I have delivered in my role and will continue to work to support you and the Association, especially in:

- Keeping abreast of your needs as members
- In undertaking initiatives to encourage new people to enter the profession
- To ensure that best practice training, professional development and education is available for members
- And above all to ensure relevant quality standards are maintained

It was indeed a most unexpected invitation from your chairman to become the Association's Patron.

I had been of the view that this role was one for a person who had demonstrated outstanding competence as a classer, someone you successfully mentored new hands, attracted new members, and had given strong leadership in the industry. I was assured that while these are all great qualifications, I had made some other contributions which have been values.

So for a change you have someone who spent most of his career working in the meat industry,

But I did grow up on a farm running Corriedales, I shored a few sheep and did lots of wool handling. Also, I undertook an introduction to wool classing at Lincoln university 60 years ago.

However, for the past 20 years I have been significantly involved in matters relating to the wool industry; particularly training, professional development, and education and more recently career promotion.

While working for Meat and Wool NZ back in 2006 I was asked to help set up your Wool Classers Association and its formation I was invited to become a director and have been ever since. I think I have attended every AGM and Professional Development Day since then.

I have been privileged to work with great people who give of their knowledge and time to support wool classers and graders and the wider industry, and I have made some very good friends.

Thank you

New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.



PRESENTATION OF LIFE MEMEBERSHIP

Awarded to Bruce Abbott
Stencil Registration A1457

In appreciation of the exemplary service that you have provided to the Association and to the wider wool industry over many decades.

In particular we wish to record your contribution through 4 years as a member of the NZWCA board and 6 years as Registrar and Executive Officer. In this latter position you have lifted the status of the Association enormously especially in relation to your many initiatives and in undertaking this role we have greatly appreciated the significant support from your wife, Pat.

These have included pursuing industry recognition of member classer stencil numbers; strongly supporting education and training both through achieving on-going delivery of the Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing and introducing the Wool Grader qualification; managing comprehensive Professional Development Days; supporting career promotion; increasing Full Membership numbers and introducing the Associate Member category and in achieving a significant lift in sponsor funding.

The board looks forward to continuing a close association with you in the future.

***Bruce** thanked the Brokers Roger Fuller & Rob Cochrane, Federation of Wool Merchants Don Urquhart & Wool Scour (now WoolWorks) Tony Cunningham.*

He also thanked the NZWCA members, Secretary Annette Gamble, Chair Bill Dowle and Allan Frazer.

He also went on to thank his family (son Gregory & wife Pat in attendance) and lastly his lovely wife Pat. Without their support he could not have done any of this.

***Martin Paterson** as past Chair of the Association also thanked Bruce for his past service to the Association.*

New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.



GENERAL BUSINESS

Changes to the P stencil

It is recognised that the “P” stencil is a provisional short-term starting step, pending full classer registration.

From Jan 1st, 2025, all **new** “P” stencil holders will have to submit their required clips within 3 years of their stencil registration number being granted.

Failure to complete these requirements, may result in a suspension of their classer stencil at the discretion of the NZWCA Registrar.

All **existing** “P” stencil registrations granted prior to Jan 1st, 2025 will have three years from this date to submit their required clips.

The time frame for completion will be by December 31st, 2027

Failure to complete these requirements, may result in a suspension of their classer stencil at the discretion of the NZWCA Registrar.

Motion:

To adopt new P Stencil requirements

MOVED: Marilyn Dalzell
SECONDED: Allan Patterson
CARRIED ALL

ACTION: Put information onto the website along with guidelines on what to do if your P stencil is suspended – Marg Forde (Registrar)

Board fees – At last night’s Board meeting it was again agreed unanimously that the board will not receive any fees for their time on the NZWCA board. This represents a saving to the Association of \$200.00 per board member per annum

MEETING CLOSED 1.17PM



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

APPENDIGE A

NZWCA CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

As another year for the association rolls over we reach the anniversary of the tenure of Marg Ford as Registrar. Marg was a bit reticent about taking the position on and didn't have as much faith in her ability as myself and the rest of the appointment's subcommittee.

She has done a marvellous job in what can only be described at times as trying times with the movement restrictions of Covid coinciding with the fine wool main shear last spring so protocols and other things like essential worker travel documentation had to be developed, quickly.

Covid has affected other parts of our operations as well with the North Island Professional Development Day being organised, postponed, twice and now still on hold. We will get there.

There have been developments in the wider wool industry with the release of the SAWG report and that now moving on to what is now referred to as Wool Impact. We all hope it has the Impact that is proposed so that the strong wool industry can revive and perhaps even boom.

It was a privilege to be invited to the WRONZ release of the developments that they have funded which hopefully with time will contribute strongly to more demand for the fibre. It is strong demand that will drive prices up and improve the chances of a sustainable industry so that the wool harvesting industry can survive and thrive, and the workers be paid for the hard work they put in.

We have recently become brand partners of Campaign For wool. We had Tom O'Sullivan Chairman for Campaign For Wool (NZ) speak to us last year in Ashburton at the AGM and our relationship has strengthened.

Our relationship with National Council Of New Zealand Wool Interests has also strengthened, we are members and the newly appointed Chairman (Rostan Mazey) is supportive of our work in trying to get stronger recognition of the stencil and perhaps more teeth in the problem of Non-Financial member classers putting a classer number on lines of wool. It is a condition of use of the registration number that you are a financial member to use it. Unfortunately, we see non paying member piggy backing on the hard work put in by those that do pay. It is possible that with the inclusion of Wool in FAP (Farm Assurance Program) that was set up to cover meat that to include a registration number will mean that it has to be checked that the number is being used by a financial member of the Association. Having Rostan speak at the AGM is a privilege as this body represents the whole wool industry from growers, harvesters, processors, brokers, merchants, traders and exporters. To be include with such a body is a privilege.

To me the main function of NZWCA is the preparation standards quality control, to get this recognised is great, the training we are involved with is to ensure the standards are followed and kept up to date with any changes the wider industry wants.

Marg and I spent a day late in January visiting various industry organisations as has been the practice for some years, although it has grown from being just the brokers to include others in the wool industry. Karen accompanied us in the afternoon. These visits are good in several ways. Sitting down around the table chatting with people who have so much passion for wool that their life is dedicated to getting as much for the product as possible and helping develop new uses for the fibre is interesting and encouraging.



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

Marg has lifted our social media profile somewhat as well which has been great.

Trying to keep the formal Wool Certificate course going has been successful with good numbers doing the course, and we are grateful to WRONZ for their scholarships that help 5 students every year with the expenses involved with doing the course.

The Wool Grading course has been an issue, but we have been assured it will happen, we await the action. I hope SIT are true to their word. There is a great need for this course and the wider industry wants it as it gives assurance of preparation standards, which is the guts of what the association is about.

I would like to conclude by thanking Marg for her huge dedication to Wool and the Association. Annette for her administrative oversight and the rest of the board. Particularly Sonya as Vice Chair, who is ready to pick up if I fade due to health treatment I am under and Allan who as Patron is a very wise advisor as well as board member. The rest of the board have continued to do what is asked of them, so we manage to function as a serious body in the wool industry.

Thank you all

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

Bill Dowle D1076

Chairman

NZWCA



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

APPENDIGE B

NZWCA REGISTRARS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

I began in the role of Registrar in late February 2021, taking it on when Bruce Abbott stepped down. Bruce initially stayed on as Executive Officer and I am indebted to him for his knowledge passed on and time freely given, which allowed a functional transition.

Heartfelt thanks for all the support I have received from NZWCA Board members in this, my first year. Special mention to Chairman Bill Dowle and Secretary Annette Gamble for their wisdom and commitment, at times on a daily basis. It is a pleasure to work with you all on our shared purpose of ensuring there is a solid platform to enable achieving highest quality standards of wool preparation and presentation.

Appreciation is also due to our Classers, Graders and Associate Members, and our Sponsors, for recognising the value of a wool classer registration system and putting their money where their mouth is to do so. Administering the NZ Wool Classers Registration system and our advocacy for quality in wool preparation/presentation and wool education simply would not be possible without this support.

Registrar is not a role I had ever aspired to, however I have always felt strongly about the importance of maintaining a New Zealand classer registration system that is robust and respected, so it is an honour to find myself here. **Thanks to the work of others and those who have gone before me I believe NZWCA has a positive profile in the industry. This has been forefront in my mind with all I have done as Registrar this past year and maintaining this will continue to drive me.**

What we do, what we stand for, our part in the quality wool chain, is on the radar in a world where wool's place in a global groundswell of demand for sustainable products is increasingly evident.

Multiple times since I have become Registrar, I have heard across a wide variety of platforms **acknowledgement of the value in and necessity of quality in wool preparation and classing.** One example sums this up neatly: At the NZ Shearing Contractors Assn annual conference in New Plymouth in May 2021, Bruce Abbott gave a presentation for NZWCA. The NZ Merino Co speaker who followed began by endorsing what Bruce spoke of and said: "It can't be overstated how important wool preparation is, our contracts depend on it".

Formal quality assurance and traceability programmes are now firmly part of the NZ wool pathway landscape. Wool was last September added into the NZ Farm Assurance Programme (which had previously been just for red meat) and the NZ Merino Company's ZQ system is long established and widely respected. Ensuring that wool that passes through and qualifies for ZQ and NZFAP endorsement can be traced to a qualified, registered classer or grader is surely a given. And yet, we are aware there is a complacency amongst some. **This goes to the heart of the value of classers and graders keeping their NZWCA membership current, and the NZ wool sector placing value on having engaged and informed wool classers and graders overseeing wool preparation and presentation. A proportion of my time since becoming Registrar has been getting an awareness on this raised.** Members, you can help. If you know a classer or grader is using a stencil with a registration number that is not valid, or worse, not theirs, speak up. To the person or anonymously to NZWCA.



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

Another area upon which I have spent a lot of time and focus in 2021 has been supporting and endorsing wool education and training. There is a shortage of funding and a historic lack of recognition from some sectors of the importance of this. Gone are the days when farmer Wool Board levies funded shearer and wool handling training and Massey and Lincoln Universities had wool chairs. Today, the framework that the NZWCA registration system rests upon are two qualifications; Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing, a two-year distance learning course, and the Grading course, developed by Bruce Abbott, distance learning backed by a three day block practical unit. These are delivered via Southern Institute of Technology and our association wholeheartedly endorses the wool tutors, Laurie (the legend) Boniface and Richard Gavigan. At times wool education like this sits uneasily within the current tertiary education framework and funding channels. In November I met with SIT management for the first time. I was able to ensure they understood how much our registration system depended upon quality delivery of the two qualifications and made the point that if NZWCA (and so the wider wool industry) didn't support what was being delivered by SIT the viability and credibility of the courses could be at risk. The dialogue continues and with the new Wool Impact body being created, opportunity may be there to stake out some ground for stability in and support for more wool harvesting training.

Classer and Grader registration upgrade Before Bruce Abbott resigned altogether from his NZWCA roles last year, he and I worked together to formalise and refresh the process for the upgrading of classer and grader registration. This was a complex job and we ended up with a system we were both happy with. The rewritten processes are now on our website and a summary was published in the August edition of the Shearing magazine. I flagged the changes when I emailed all this information to NZWCA members as well as wool brokers, merchants, shearing contractors and other relevant wool industry people. We have had a number of classers submit for shed management/classing or grading reports so far under this new system and it is working well.

Our AGM/Industry Professional Development Day in May 2021 in Ashburton was successful and well attended. Bruce had laid the framework down for this and I picked it up and continued when I became Registrar. I was grateful to Bruce for creating the wool exercises for the day. We had a range of speakers and a visit to the NZ Sock Factory and the day was attracted positive feedback.

Staging a North Island Industry Day in 2021 was not so successful. Set for August 20 in Napier it had to be hastily postponed due to the whole country being put into Covid Alert Level 4 a couple of days prior. This was a big disappointment for Sonya Johansen and I, and I place on record my great gratitude to Sonya for her help in all aspects of putting the day together. It was the first time we had organised an Industry Day between us, and it was the first North Island one since 2019. We had over 40 people registered to attend (excluding speakers) and we were particularly pleased at the range of people. They included a contractor bringing a van load from Gisborne and a group of Smedley Station trainees and their tutors. Initially we postponed the day to October 6, however that had to be passed over as it was not possible to use the woolstore as our base while still in Alert Level 2. We had another go in March, but Covid alert level restrictions at the wool store got in the way again. We will get there in 2022!

Essential worker travel documentation for Classers in Covid Level 3 and 4 Given the August/September timing of the most recent Alert Level 4 and 3, smack bang in the busy pre-lamb shearing season time, it was obvious a strong 2021 version of a Classers essential worker pass was



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

going to be needed and well used. I used the Shearing Contractors and Beef and Lamb farm workers versions as a starting point then added in relevant wording specific to Classers. It included a section pointing to our website as a way to verify that the classer using it was a registered member going about essential work. Chairman Bill gave it the go ahead, once I had made sure it ticked the boxes with MPI and MBIE. The availability of the travel document was advertised via email to members and on our website and Facebook. Then I tested it out myself by driving in Level 4 all the way from home in the Waikato to my annual classing work in Central Otago.

NZWCA are now live as a Brand Partner with Campaign for Wool NZ. See here:

<https://www.nzwool.co.nz/partners/> [Much respect for the work being done for wool by chairman Tom O'sullivan and his small team.](#)

NZWCA newsletters and email communications with members These have also exercised my time.

The June and December newsletters and August mini-newsletter last year appeared to be widely read, a lot of good feedback was received. I have shared selected content from the newsletters via Facebook and email. Content has also been reprinted in Shearing magazine, thanks to Des Williams (Shearing mag editor and publisher) for the ongoing collaboration.

Social media The ability to spread awareness of what we are about via this channel is remarkable, given that it costs us nothing except a little bit of time. The association's online profile continues to grow positively, I am posting relevant information regularly. Stats tell us a post and photos on the NZWCA Facebook page summarising our Industry PD Day/AGM and thanking people the day after the 2021 Ashburton event had, at time of writing, reached 46,854 people and had 2,429 engagements. An NZWCA Facebook post at the end of April 2021, sharing an email warning from PGG Wrightson about not using Econopak wool packs has, at time of writing, reached 23,094 people and had 3963 engagements. In March 2021 I saw an Instagram post put up by Icebreaker noting Peter Burling's Icebreaker jocks waistband as he hoisted the America's Cup trophy high. I screenshot the Icebreaker post and used it in a post on NZWCA Facebook where I made the point that the Italians might have had the Woolmark on their sail but we had Pete Burling's wool undies. That post was shared multiple times and Facebook stats tell me it reached 7,843 people. Our Facebook page, at time of writing, now has 1016 likers and 1077 followers.

In closing I would like to reiterate what I wrote in my first report to the NZWCA Board, back in May 2021. **I see a juggle between doing the role of Registrar justice, whilst being mindful of what can be realistically achieved with the resources NZWCA has.** I need to place on record that I am consciously attempting to stick to what I see as core business, to ensure the role of Registrar that I ultimately will pass on to someone else (always the goal) will be one that does not rely on goodwill and voluntary hours to function. Passion for wool is a driver, the struggle is real!

Ngā mihi, nā

Marg Forde A1260

NZWCA Registrar