



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.

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.

Bill Dowle D1075
Chairman NZWCA.