



NZWCA CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Last year I started by commenting that Marg had reached the end of her first year as Registrar and was starting to believe us that she was extremely capable and doing a great job. The last year she has really surged on and got even better. This is a good thing as some may have noticed at the AGM last year in Dunedin I wasn't at full capacity, in fact I wasn't even sure I would get there till 2 days before. The last 12 months have been very trying for me Healthwise and it is a good thing that we have such competent people as Marg and Annette in their positions and the other board members who have had to step up when I have been at times not even at "half-mast". I'm getting better by the day so probably getting back to being the old annoying self.

At least we haven't had to cope with the trials of the Covid lockdowns etc, even though many of you will have been through the issue of having the virus through the year. The North Island Professional Development Day was finally held as Marg has reported and many thanks to Marg & Sonja's persistence that the day was successful.

We have seen further developments from Wool Source, the commercialisation branch of WRONZ, as you will hear at our AGM and professional Development Day from Tom Hooper (CEO Wool Source). We are grateful to be able to offer the scholarship to students completing the Certificate of Wool Technology and Classing through SIT. Thanks to WRONZ, we wouldn't be able to do this without the WRONZ sponsorship.

Also there has been more development from Wool Impact, as we will hear on the same day. It will be great if we can get some traction for the Quality Assurance our registration system gives through the NZ Farm Assurance Programme, no one else has an independent Quality Assurance ability for wool harvesting in the shed, the industry is missing an opportunity if they don't take advantage of us with this. Making registration compulsory would help us, and assistance in policing those that use a stencil number but are not paying the sub to support the system or are fraudulently putting a number on clips undermine the rest of us.

If you studied the Financial Statements you may have noticed a donation from Incorporated Society on wind up. Some of you may recall from our AGM in Ashburton that the Mid Micron Group were in the process of winding up and wanted to donate their residual funds to us, expected to be about \$30,000. The receipt of \$54,000 was a very pleasant surprise and I hope that the money is used wisely and not wasted, as so much funding in our industry has in the past, but as Marg said in her report, again, *"NZWCA is a nimble industry-good organisation which operates on shoestring"*, I see no reason why that should change and any funds must be used wisely for the good of the industry.

This year apart from Marg & Allan visiting in Wellington the usual industry visits haven't happened, hopefully we can get back into these later this year or early next year as they are important in the process of maintain helpful contacts and our reputation and integrity in the industry.

Anyone that is involved in an Incorporated Society will be aware that the legislation covering Incorporated Societies has changed and we have to review our constitution. This is being looked at by the board, but at this stage I don't think we need to alter much to comply with the new legislation, although any healthy organisation needs to review the rules it works under periodically so this is not a problem but just part of being healthy.

There are other things that have happened and relationships that have continued to develop that I could comment on but they are covered in Marg's Registrar's report, so no use repeating.

In closing I would like to again thank Marg, Annette and Allan as Patron and our "Wise Counsel", as well as the other members of the Board who all give their time selflessly to the Association. Without this the association would not function and registration would disappear, and the industry would lose the only "Independent Quality Assurance System" for wool preparation, as well as wool preparation/handling education.

Bill Dowle D1075
Chairman NZWCA.