

June 2023 Newsletter



SYSTEM INTEGRITY

- ✎ Maintain NZ's only register of qualified classers and graders
- ✎ A simple check on our website verifies stencil validity
- ✎ Convene standards review process, compliance, oversee professional development



QUALITY ASSURANCE



- ✎ NZWCA members who keep their registration valid are **engaged** and **informed**; their work carries quality assurance status
- ✎ Setting constantly high standards for classing, grading and preparation of wool

ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

- ✎ Industry-good organisation, annual awards, regular communication via website, email and social media
- ✎ Demonstrable history of commitment to ensuring quality wool education and training is available
- ✎ Maintain great relationships with wider wool industry as an independent organisation



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NZWCA CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT



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.

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Registrar's report NZ Wool Classers Association AGM 9th May 2023

As I collect my thoughts to write my second Registrar report for the NZWCA AGM I am conscious of one constant, and it is this: the goodwill and willingness to collaborate within the NZ wool industry that I have found in my first two years on the job is real, and something I am very grateful for.

Bringing it in closer, I once again place on record my appreciation to the members of the NZWCA Board. Our association is fortunate to have such a committed group of people who hail from across the wool sector giving their time and experience. Particular mention to chairman Bill Dowle and Secretary Annette Gamble who are always there for operational matters and always a pleasure to work alongside.

I also salute 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.

Provisional "P" prefix: At last year's AGM a motion was successfully passed to limit the time a classer could stay using the "P" Provisional prefix. The period was set at three years. However, it needs to be stated that anyone struggling to get sheds or for health or other life reasons they can see they may not be going get over the line within the three years, there could be room to move. Communication with NZWCA Registrar, well before your three years is up, is key.

In the past year the process of for shed management inspections was changed for Provisional Classers and Graders. Our system has been based on the assumption that wool broker reps would always have the experience and ability to undertake the inspections as part of visiting sheds at shearing time anyway. However, this is not always the case now, so the process has been tweaked. Instead of going directly to the farm's wool broker rep to get the inspection done, classers and graders requesting an inspection now need to do so directly to the NZWCA Registrar, who then allocates an Inspector. We have compiled a list of NZWCA members prepared to be contacted to do inspections if available. It should be noted that using people as Inspectors, other than wool brokers reps

who are going to shed anyway, is an extra cost, either to the volunteer inspector or NZWCA. On a personal note, I enjoyed being able to get out and do some shed visits to NZWCA members this past year that Covid restrictions in my first year on the job did not allow. As always being budget conscious, I fitted those visits around my own classing commitments to minimise travel costs to the association.

This past year we have also introduced in writing that NZWCA reserve the right to require a merino shed management inspection. Previously only one shed management inspection was required, so someone on P-prefix could just get their shed management inspection done on a crossbred shed. This change recognises the gap between competent running of a crossbred shed and a merino shed.

Wool Clip Grading education – "Q-Course" We can't underestimate the value to us as classers and to the wider wool industry, particularly the strong wool sector, of having experienced wool handlers upskilled and empowered by knowledge. The grading qualification, which is now known as the "Q-Course" (Q being the prefix for the NZWCA Grading stencil and Q for Quality) provides this. Accordingly, I have spent a lot of time in the past year attending online meetings, on the phone and by email lobbying for the Grading Q-Course which sits with the Southern Institute of Technology, underneath the Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing.

Due to SIT stating they don't have enough money, the grading courses stopped in October 2020. However, NZWCA's persistent advocacy, collaboration with the SIT wool tutors **Laurie Boniface and Richard Gavigan** and **NZ Shearing Contractors Assn** and support from **Wool Impact** has meant the grading course education resumed in November 2022. Mackintosh Shearing hosted a course in the King Country and McConachie Shearing in Southland. Another course is set for late April 2023, hosted by Colin Watson-Paul's shearingnz.co.nz in Hastings. Shearing contractor support providing venue, staff and tucker is key, thanks to those contractors involved so far.

Acknowledgement also to Wool Impact for understanding the value in this wool education targeted at experienced wool handlers. Wool Impact has made some money available to make the courses happen, provided other wool industry groups are also onboard and collaborating. **Ross McIsaac of Wool Impact** is particularly helpful and has made a point of getting a good understanding of the value of this level of wool training. It should be stated that the money from Wool Impact is being administered by Ross, none

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Registrars Report for AGM contd.

goes to SIT. Thanks Laurie, Richard, Mark Barrowcliffe and Phil Holden (NZSCA) and Ross.

NZWCA is now an associate member of the National Council of NZ Wool Interests. I believe the fee is money well spent by our association. We don't get any voting rights, but we do get a seat at the table. **Rosstan Mazey** is, in my opinion, doing a great job as new chairman of the NCNZWI. He's certainly made the effort to get to know about NZWCA. He has a good grasp on where NZWCA sits in the wool chain and the importance of the integrity of our registration system, especially in the face of increasing demand for traceability and quality assurance through programmes like NZFAP and ZQ. He also really gets how critical it is to support wool training and education. Thanks, Rosstan.

Traceability and Quality Assurance programmes and the association of these programmes with the world recognised Responsible Wool Standard "RWS": Worldwide, end users of wool are increasingly looking for quality assurance and that RWS tick gives them that. Producers of wool products and the consumers who buy them are looking for assurance around traceability, origin, environmental sustainability, biosecurity, animal health and welfare and system integrity.

Protecting the integrity of the NZWCA registration system is a core role of our association so there is a clear connection here to NZ's wool quality assurance programmes. We have an ongoing concern about invalid NZWCA stencils being applied to bales and invalid registration numbers used in bale specifications. Keeping NZWCA membership current is considered a professional obligation for NZ classers and graders, but at present the onus is on the individual and their honesty. Therefore, NZWCA time and resource is being committed to raising awareness and working with the various wool industry sectors on a solution. We consider it is reasonable that, in order to fulfil integrity, origin and traceability assurances within these QA programmes, that any classer or grader registration number associated with any clip is proven to be valid. This is a work in progress, but I would point out that NZWCA has already gone to extra expense and trouble with our website to ensure there is a simple search capacity, so ascertaining if a classer or grader's stencil is a valid registration is an easy push of a couple of buttons.

Last October we had the first NZWCA North Island Industry Day since 2019. NZWCA vice chair Sonya Johansen and I ran the day with great support from the PGGW Napier wool store team (the venue), NZWTA (where our attendees did a facility tour), a great range

of speakers and the SIT wool tutors. Thanks to all of the above and also to the shearing contractors who sent staff along. Sonya and I worked hard to get the word around about the day and if we had a disappointment, it was that more local contractors didn't see the value in having their staff attend. We hope to hold another one in the Hawkes Bay this coming October but that will depend on the ongoing effect of the flood damage in the region.

In March NZWCA made our debut at the Wanaka A&P Show! Thanks to an invitation from the chief wool steward (and his team) and NZWCA member Martin Paterson, we had space in the wool marquee between the fleece judging building and the sheep judging pen. Board member Terence Mulcahy and I manned the stand over the two days of the show and enjoyed talking to a range of people about our association, what we stand for, who we are, what classers do and, of course, wool. We did have three pre-determined aims though and they were to speak to as many wool growers as we could about 1) Associate membership as a way to recognise the value of maintaining NZ's classer registration system 2) The search facility on our website to ascertain validity of a classer or grader's stencil number 3) How Owner Classer registration works.

Through the past year I have taken part in numerous meetings, mostly online, with a range of people and groups but mostly in the wool work force, training, education and funding spaces. I have found there are a lot of initiatives, consultations, reports, talking, and a lot of well-meaning busy people. Regardless of what does or doesn't come out the other end, I do think it is valuable for a representative from an independent industry-good organisation such as NZWCA to be involved.

In June I was invited, as NZWCA Registrar, to a face-to-face all-day meeting for **Primary ITO's Industry Partnership Group (IPG) for wool** in Wellington. I requested the flight that was purchased for me by the Wool IPG allow me two days in Wellington instead of one. This gave me the opportunity, with just a one-night hotel cost to NZWCA, to join with NZWCA Patron and Board member Allan Frazer, to fly the flag for our association with two visits. We called into **Segard Masurel** and had a good discussion with wool buyers John Robinson and Michael Yan Zhu.

Allan and I then got a very comprehensive insight into the **SGS Wool Testing Services facility** with Jeremy Wear. Jeremy said his message to wool classers was that they were "welcome here". He underlined the

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Registrars Report for AGM contd.

absolute importance of uniform wool lines in order for accurate test results to be achieved. Therefore, consistent preparation and classing was vital for wool “all the way to end use” he said. I relate this because it illustrates my experience consistently since taking on the job of Registrar. Everyone in the NZ wool trade sings from the same song sheet; across all wool types, and despite the especially low prices for strong wool, quality is crucial. Therefore, what we as classers and graders do, the standard of our work and our vigilance to upholding that quality is key.

In closing, I repeat what I wrote in my report last year; NZWCA is a nimble industry-good organisation which operates on shoestring. I see a balancing act between doing the role of Registrar justice, whilst being mindful of what can be realistically achieved with the limited resources NZWCA has. 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.

Ngā mihi, nā

Marq Forde A1260

NZWCA Registrar



Whereas once there were more than 100 wool science academics and researchers just in NZ:

“We are thin on the ground these days” – Prof Hickford

New Zealand's Lincoln University is likely the only tertiary institution in the Western world that has at least eight academics, research scientists, technologists and engineers in wool science, technology and production.

They include Professor Jon Hickford (AGLS Faculty), Dr David Scobie (AGLS Faculty), Principal Research Officer Dr Huitong Zhou (AGLS Faculty), Dr Robert Kelly (Lincoln Agritech), Dr Amy Cruickshank (Lincoln Agritech), Gail Krsinic (Lincoln Agritech) Shahin Saleh (Lincoln Agritech) and Max Butler (Lincoln Agritech).

One or more of these wool champions will be speakers at the 2024 NZWCA Industry Professional Development Day/AGM – date and venue to be advised.



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Kevin Waldron

D984

Brokers Rep

Hi, I am Kevin Waldron. I live in Fairfield, Dunedin with my partner Catherine and we have two adult sons. I left school at the end of 1977 with no idea of where or what my future employment would be. Until I was given a job opportunity as a Junior Wool Classer at my father's work Christmas function by Dave Studholme (a well-known Classer/Manager for Wrightson NMA Wool in those days).

The condition of employment was that I worked six months in the shearing sheds to get enough understanding of wool before I started as a Junior Wool Classer for Wrightson NMA. I started my own classing run in 1982. I have now worked over 45 years in the Wool Industry.

As the Broker rep on the NZWCA I would like to help younger Classers get a better understanding of how to prepare lines for sale, either contracts or auction. I also look forward to working with other NZWCA Board members to achieve all goals that NZWCA have.



Welcome to our new NZWCA Board members

*and thank you to our retiring
members Roger Fuller (Broker Rep),
Grant Murdoch M2147 (NZ
Shearing Contractors Assn Rep) and
John Sanders (Owner Classer)
M1577*



Ratapu Moore

D2188

NZSCA Rep

Kia ora koutou,

My name is Ratapu Moore. I am wife to Angus Moore and mother to our 6 children.

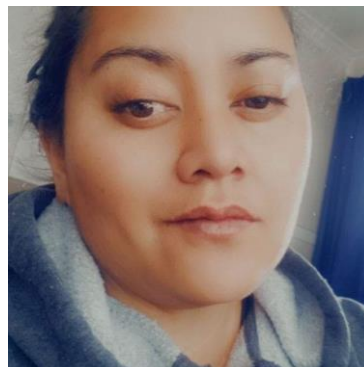
I am a current member of the NZ Shearing Contractors Association and Wool Classer where I class on our shearing run in Marlborough. I have been in the industry for nearly 18 years. The last 10 I haven't been heavily involved in but am trying to get back in it when and where I can help out.

I thoroughly enjoy meeting new people, sharing skills and learning new skills too.

As the newly elected representative for the NZSCA, I look forward to the future of our industries and working alongside passionate people.

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New NZWCA Board members contd...



Kristal Wilson A2142 Classer Rep

Kia Ora e hoa ma

A bit about myself, I am originally from Hawkes Bay, Live in Central Otago, born and raised in the shearing industry. When I was young, I would spend my school holidays in Central Otago, started when I was about 13 my first fine wool stay out was a station called Nokomai. The classer at that time was Willis Arbuckle, I became his bin runner. He drew pictures on paper and put them on the side of the bin and wherever he wanted the fleece to go he would just call out the picture and I'd take it to that bin. Then on to our next stay out was Cecil Peak, there I met a classer named Bruce Abbott, the man with the big lollies bag and dressed like a doctor. My cousin and I went together on that stay out. I remember looking at all his lines of wool and feeling confused and uncomfortable, I came back later that night when no one was around to have a look at this precious stuff. Our wool handlers at home never did this much to wool and we never had someone to take it and separate it before. It fascinated me. I pulled some out and this stuff was different not like Nokomai but bright, super soft and lovely. That was it I wanted to know more. A year later was my first real pre-lamb, for Barry Harrex. I tried to get on as many courses as I could. At the time wasn't very many and not available for someone my age so I just kept learning and growing. I'm so happy to say I have met and had so many wonderful mentors and teachers over the years, many of whom are members or past members of the classers association that I will for ever be grateful to. Thank you for having me here, I can't wait to learn even more.

Recent NZWCA Classer and Grader Registrations and Upgrades

Congratulations and welcome to the following:

Professional classer stencil prefix upgrades:

Pru Heaney P to A 2158

Lucas Broughton P to H 2205

Te Moore H to D 2188

Provisional stencil applications approved:

Taylor Harris P 2228

Josh Johanson P 2229

Sarah Graham P 2230

Alex Watt P 2231

Alex Watt P 2231

Katrise McDonald P 2232

Emma O'Sullivan P 2187 (moved from FM prefix)

Provisional Grader application approved: Aroha Allen QP 2227

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SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED AND PRESENTED TO WOOL STUDENTS

Three 2023/24 Wool Research Organisation of NZ (WRONZ) Scholarship recipients were announced at the recent NZWCA Industry PD Day/AGM in Christchurch.



Richanna Clarke WRONZ Scholarship recipient 2023 with Tom Hooper of Wool Source/WRONZ and NZWCA chair Bill Dowle

Congratulations to Kate Stewart, Thomas Dravitzki and Richanna Clarke.

The WRONZ scholarship is for Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing students. It was intended for all three to be presented, as students were attending the day as part of the Cert Wool Tech South Island block course. Unfortunately, due to illness, Kate couldn't be there for the presentation, which was made by Tom Hooper (CEO Wool Source) for WRONZ and Bill Dowle, NZWCA chairman (see photos).

The WRONZ scholarship is valued at \$1000 and is paid in four instalments as the recipient passes stages in the course.

But it represents more than cash to help with study and living costs for the two-year distance learning course.

It is suggested to recipients that they can maximise the scholarship by using it as an opportunity to network and connect with wool industry organisations and people. The presentation letter to the three 2023/24 recipients read: "One way you can do this is by communicating with WRONZ and NZWCA giving progress reports on your study, things you have enjoyed learning or aspects of the wool industry that particularly interest you, or you maybe have questions about how you are using the money, and how it is helping you."



Kate Stewart WRONZ Scholarship recipient 2023



Thomas Dravitzki WRONZ Scholarship recipient 2023 with Tom Hooper of Wool Source/WRONZ

Contact details for WRONZ and NZWCA are also supplied in the letter.

There are two more WRONZ scholarships available this year, for Cert Wool Tech students opting to begin the course in the mid-year 2023 intake. If you would like more information or to apply, here is the link:

[Scholarship](#)

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New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology & Classing (Level 4)

The New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing is a two-year, part-time, distance learning programme for people interested in the production, preparation, and processing of wool. You can study online at home and attend a one-week block course. Once you have successfully completed the Certificate you will be offered automatic entry into the New Zealand Wool Classers Association.

People working in the following wool industry sectors can all benefit from this NZQA approved qualification:

- Wool Handling
- Wool Classing
- Shearing Contracting
- Farming
- Wool Brokering
- Wool Buying
- Wool Exporting
- Wool Scouring
- Wool Processing
- Meat Processing
- Wool Testing
- Wool Marketing

"New Zealand wool is making a comeback, and our industry needs more people who have the training and qualifications to back their passion and proven practical skills. There are lots of opportunities out there, and this course is a must for anyone wanting to further their career in wool." - Marg Forde, Registrar, New Zealand Wool Classers Association

Apply online to start the course in July 2023
sit.ac.nz/Courses/Agriculture-Horticulture

Enquiries:

Laurie Boniface | 027 433 8925 | 0800 200 009 | laurie.boniface@sit.ac.nz

Richard Gavigan | 027 376 0005 | 06 376 6599 | richard.gavigan@sit.ac.nz

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NZWCA FLYING THE FLAG IN MARCH AT THE WANAKA A&P SHOW



Thanks to an invitation from the chief wool steward (and his team) and NZWCA member Martin Paterson, NZ Wool Classers Assn had space in the wool marquee between the fleece judging building and the sheep judging pen.

Board member Terence Mulcahy and Registrar Marg Forde (together in photo) manned the stand over the two days of the show and enjoyed talking to a range of people about our association, what we stand for, who we are, what classers do and, of course, wool. They did have three pre-determined aims though and they were to speak to as many wool growers as they could about 1) Associate membership as a way to recognise the value of maintaining NZ's classer registration system 2) The search facility on our website to ascertain validity of a classer or grader's stencil number 3) How Owner Classer registration works.

NZWCA has been invited back next year and the Board has accepted the invitation.



We had a new pull-up banner made in time for use on our debut at the Wanaka A&P Show in March. Doesn't it look great? One of the photos we got permission to use on the banner was of Allan Paterson FD 713 of Armidale Stud, a long-time owner classer and supporter of NZWCA. When we spotted him at the show, we couldn't resist the opportunity to get him to pose beside his photo. Being a humble man, he took a bit of convincing, but we got there in the end.

Cheers Allan aka "pin-up bloke"!



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Meet Sandy Morris, a wool man through and through

He's been associated with what is now known as the Wanaka A&P Show wool committee since 1958. Formerly of Ponty's Place, Mt Barker, Sandy popped in to say hello at the NZWCA stand at the Wanaka Show in March, which was next door to where Sandy was "on duty" in the fleece competition building.

Sandy said in his memory there was always a majority of fine wool amongst entries at this show.

He recalled the wool competition fleeces on display on trestle tables in a very basic tent. He said the fleeces came wrapped in newspapers from the wool stores, selected by store classers for the competition. The wool judges came from the stores and alternated between the firms each year. In the early 1960's, 1963 he thought, competition classes for fleeces selected on farm in wool sheds were introduced, paving the way for how things are done to the present day.

Sandy, who is a life member of Wanaka A&P Society, was clearly proud of how the fleece competition had evolved and grown into a permanent building which was packed to the rafters with entered fleeces - wool porn for the steady stream of visitors to the building during the two-day Wanaka Show.



Thanks to Sandy and all volunteers like him around the country, without whom rural events like fleece competitions simply wouldn't happen.



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Hawkes Bay Q-Course delayed but not stopped by Cyclone Gabrielle



Hastings contractor Colin Watson-Paul hosted the wool grading course which was originally scheduled for February but eventually happened in late April. Participants came from as far away as Dannevirke.

Those who pass this course are then eligible to apply to NZWCA for Wool Clip Grading registration, which has a “Q” prefix.

We can’t underestimate the value to us as classers and to the wider wool industry, particularly the strong wool sector, of having experienced wool handlers upskilled and empowered by knowledge. The grading qualification, which is now known as the “Q-Course” (Q being the prefix for the NZWCA Grading stencil and Q for Quality) provides this.

Contractors who can host a course or wool handlers who’d like to attend should contact SIT/Telford wool tutor Richard Gavigan ph. 06 376 6599. Some funding is available.



On the final afternoon of the two-day Q-Course, which was based at the Hastings Showgrounds, the participants and tutors Richard Gavigan and Marg Forde were hosted at the Wools of NZ wool store by Scott, Liam, Lennox and Tia.

The full tour of the store and the wool room underlined some the ongoing difficulties and wide-reaching affects of Cyclone Gabrielle. With the big Awatoto WoolWorks wool scour plant out of action, storage for wool bales is at a premium, as can be seen in this photo. Store manager Scott Small said they were battling but always working on “creative” logistic solutions for the steady flow of wool bales into the store.



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Large turnout for NZWCA AGM/Industry Professional Development Day in Christchurch

Prices for some wool may be very low but this field day on May 9 attracted one of the highest numbers of attendees for a NZ Wool Classers Association event for some time.

A range of wool industry members attended including classers, wool handlers, wool growers, wool trade staff, wool academics and all the Certificate of Wool Technology and Classing students there as part of their South Island block course that week. Feedback afterwards, both written and verbal, indicates it was successful and enjoyable day of upskilling and networking.

Included in the day's programme was a range of speakers including (pictured) Lucas Smith of WoolAid and Tom Hooper of Wool Source, and Ross McIsaac of Wool Impact and, in a joint presentation and discussion format for the first time, representatives from three wool brokers, PGG Wrightson, NZ Merino Co and Wools of NZ.



Lucas Smith from Wool Aid

The day began as always with time for practical wool exercises which this year included a contract classing category with spectacular whole fleeces chosen and brought to the event from Ranfurly by Allan Paterson of Armidale Stud. There was time set aside in the afternoon for discussion around the wool boxes led by Kevin Waldron who devised the classing exercise and Allan Paterson the contract classing.

Photos show earliest arrivals Maria Bamford (Hurunui) and Ann Johnston (Oturehua) getting amongst the wool as soon as they arrived.



**Maria Bamford (Hurunui)
and Ann Johnston (Oturehua)**

A much more crowded scene later



The NZWCA AGM was fully attended, being timetabled for straight after lunch.

The NZWCA Classer Awards were announced and presented following the AGM.

Commendation recipients received engraved insulated bottles. New and much-admired prizes this year were the embroidered woollen blankets received by the Classer Merit Award winners (see photo).



NZWCA Chairman Bill Dowle explained that this year and going forward judging for Merit Award winners takes into account demonstrable professional commitment of the classer or grader, including such things as attendance and engagement at NZWCA events and industry contribution. Last on the programme for the day was the optional tour of the [Untouched World](#) factory and retails premises.

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Wool Impact's work so far summarised in presentation at NZWCA AGM/Industry Professional Development Day in May

Ross McIsaac from Wool Impact provided an update on their work to-date since starting in July 2022, with the ultimate objective being to increase the demand and value for strong wool. Ross acknowledged the challenges being faced by farmers due to the poor returns but focused on the opportunities and positive insights that have been gained through their work.

"Wool Impact has engaged broadly across the wool value chain and with domestic and international brands, manufacturers, and organisations. A positive finding has been the projected growth in manufacturing of wool products domestically for traditional products like yarn and carpets, but more significantly in emerging product categories like acoustic panels. This could see domestic manufacturing of wool products more than double in the next 5 years for products that are either already commercialised or close to the point of commercialisation. This projected growth is also being reflected internationally.

"Working with brands is key to achieving their objective and Wool Impact's role is to help companies achieve these growth aspirations through supporting companies to realise opportunities and address barriers – noting that quite a few companies have referenced how challenging it is to use and innovate with wool. Work in this space includes:

- Delivering work to fight for wool's natural status through putting forward robust evidence for its carbon footprint and the broader and more holistic environmental story.
- Providing the compelling performance and wellbeing benefits of wool that are relevant to brands and their consumers.
- Supporting innovators and entrepreneurs to use and work with wool.
- Partnering with domestic and international brands on projects to make greater use of wool.

"Wool Impact is also working on a range of initiatives to help rejuvenate the strong wool sector and its reputation. Work to do these covers:

- Defining and promoting the value proposition for strong wool through its inclusion in the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme.
- Supporting better access to data to inform our value chain and farmers about what we produce and the value drivers for our wool.
- Establishing access to enduring funding for training for wool harvesting and supporting growth in the workforce.
- Developing an enduring structure and funding model for sector beyond their 3-year term."

Ross finished by emphasising the importance of the quality of our wool as the foundation to adding value, with financial support being provided by Wool Impact for the delivery of the Q-Course (Wool Clip Grading Course) to improve wool handling capability to improve wool quality.

To stay updated on Wool Impact's work, sign-up to their newsletter and updates at www.woolimpact.com

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Wool table recreated but not for work.

Most of us know all about hard work at the wool table, but how about a wool table to relax around? The team at Black Dog Furniture used recycled materials and a lot of skill to make this new dining table in the form of an old wool table. The creative juice for this project came from Black Dog Furniture founder Andy Macdonald, who is also the brains behind the original wool press bar leaners now known to many. The farm name "Kanohi" stencilled on the side of this table is a nod to his father's family farm. As with the bar leaners, the wool tables can be personalised with wool bale stencil type lettering, including farm names. This table pictured is on display, till sold at the Black Dog showroom at Bruntwood in the Waikato, where Andy also has a growing collection of old shearing machines, wool presses and other rustic rural relics that have caught his eye.

<https://www.blackdogfurniture.co.nz/>

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2022 Season NZWCA CLASSER AWARDS

MERINO MERIT AWARD

proudly sponsored by New Zealand Merino Company



WINNER A514 Ian Shaw for Nine Mile and Bendigo



Merino category Merit Award winner Ian Shaw, presented by Blair Davies of sponsor NZ Merino Company

COMMENDATIONS

- | | |
|-------|--|
| A644 | Jackie Donald for Grantleigh and (hoggets) Simons Hill |
| M2140 | Cedric Aramoana for Mt Florence |
| M1465 | Anne-Marie Parcell for Mt St Bathans and Riverrun |
| A2129 | Tina Elers for Ardgour |
| A1678 | Guy Palmer for Haldon |
| A984 | Kevin Waldron for The Bend |
| M1675 | Wendy Parsons for Longslip |
| M1563 | Sharon Lawton for Ben Omar and Westedge |
| A1565 | Rose Barnett for Moutere and Buscot |
| A1677 | Murray McLachlan for Nokomai and (ewes) Mt Nicholas |
| D1445 | Richard Moriarty for Barcaldine |

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OWNER CLASSER MERIT AWARD,
proudly sponsored by PGG Wrightsons Wool



WINNER FM2030 Maria Bamford for Hurunui Hills



*Owner Classer
category Merit Award
winner Maria
Bamford, presented
by Kevin Waldron of
PGG Wrightson
Wools.*

COMMENDATIONS

FM1187 William Stevenson for Upcot
FD713 Allan Paterson for Armidale
FA887 Juliet Jones for Matarae

**PROVISIONAL CLASSER OR GRADER ENCOURAGEMENT
AWARD**

proudly sponsored by Peter Lyon Shearing



WINNER P2214 Samantha Harmer for Castle Ridge



COMMENDATIONS

P2222 Charlotte Stuart for Craiglynn
P2226 Jeanine O'Neill for Long Gully

Encouragement category Merit Award winner (for Provisional Classer or Grader), sponsored by Peter Lyon Shearing, was won by Samantha Harmer, who was overseas so unable to be there to pick up her embroidered woolen rug.

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MID-MICRON MERIT AWARD,
proudly sponsored by Wools of New
Zealand

WINNER D1445 Richard Moriarty for Marble Point



Mid Micron category Merit Award winner Richard Moriarty, presented by Roger Fuller of sponsor Wools of NZ.

COMMENDATIONS

D2105 Kelly Paku-Taylor for The Archeron and Mt White
H2182 Cassie Johnson for Tokastone
A2181 Julie Waldron for Glenshee
A1796 Donna Gaskell for Seven Hills

A2086 Ian Kofoed for Ida Valley
A825 Janet Hackshaw for Emerald Hills
A1451 Bruce Abbott for Horseshoe

**NORTH ISLAND MERIT AWARD, proudly sponsored by
BJ Mahony Shearing**

WINNER FX2153 Fiona Ramsden for Ware Ware

**CROSSBRED CLASSER OR GRADER
MERIT AWARD,**

proudly sponsored by WoolWorks



WINNER FX2153 Fiona Ramsden for Ware Ware

Double Merit Award winner Fiona Ramsden, presented by Mitchell Young of sponsor WoolWorks. Fiona took out the BJ Mahony Shearing North Island and WoolWorks Crossbred Classer or Grader categories.



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KEEPING CROSSBRED WOOL QUALITY STANDARD HIGH PAYS OFF

“A lot of people are putting it all together; they mightn’t care but we do” – Fiona Ramsden FX2153

Recent double NZWCA Classer Merit Award winner Fiona Ramsden has a farm office which looks a little different to most wool growers.

Alongside all the expected communication equipment, administrative tools and paperwork like farm accounts and shearing tally books sit Fiona’s sewing machine, overlocker, an array of wool textiles, wool bale stencils and raw wool, the latter five items associated with her make-to-order business “Coast Road Interiors”.



Fiona, who lives on one of her family properties “Ware Ware” near the Tararua District’s eastern North Island coastline, has a passion for wool and a deep understanding of its value and uses. She has a Diploma in Fashion Design and Technology, a Diploma in Wool Technology and in addition to farming she has extensive experience in fashion and interior design.

Ware Ware, from the top of the boundary looking down to the wool shed and Coast Road Backpackers

“I’ve always been a textile person,” says Fiona, “and I have come to know you can’t get anything better than wool to make clothing, soft furnishings, carpet and so much more.”

She says she was “overwhelmed and thankful” to receive NZWCA Classer Merit Awards in the *WoolWorks Crossbred Classer or Grader category* and the *BJ Mahony Shearing North Island category*. “It makes all the hours of preparation on the farm, attention to detail and quality and hard work with the wool during shearing worth it,” says Fiona.

She travelled to Christchurch with her partner Matt to attend the NZWCA Industry Day/AGM on May 9 where the annual awards, for the 2022/23 season, were announced and presented.

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“My father Dan has always been very passionate with wool and passed down his knowledge to me over the years. Wool is such an amazing fibre that I love working with at all stages. I just wish it was more valuable to farmers.”

Fiona came home from travelling and working in 2012. Her parents, Dan and Barbara took on Ware Ware (1215ha effective) in 1971 and bought Barbara’s family out of Moanaroa (1450ha effective) in 1999. The senior Ramsdens retired last year leaving Fiona on Ware Ware and son Hugh and his wife Kate on Moanaroa. The two steep contoured Northern Wairarapa properties, which are 15 minutes apart, and a 400-ha finishing property near Pongaroa, are run as one entity, carrying 23,000 stock units with a 60/40 sheep to beef ratio.



***Fiona Ramsden on the job at Ware Ware.
Photo credit: Countrywide***

The sheep are proudly Romney however terminal sire rams are used over the older ewes.

The Ramsdens are regulars in the auction room when their wool is sold, always enjoying how the quality of their wool and its preparation makes it stand out in the sale boxes. “Even though the price is so low, we wouldn’t skimp on the preparation and the buyers seem to know that you can see them sit up when our lots come up,” says Fiona, whose stencil FX2153 goes on every bale.

Last year they topped the sale with a 17-bale line of hogget wool: Colour 0.9; vm 0.1; yield 80.7; micron 34.4, which sold for \$3.23 clean. A 15-bale line of hogget wool, 36.3 micron made \$3.19 clean.

Moanaroa stretches 11 km along the coastline while Ware Ware is 15 km inland, but Fiona says the difference in the wool between the properties is noticeable with “Moanaroa wool a lot brighter and cleaner”.

Fiona proudly admits to being “very hands on” at shearing time. Prior, she washes the floors in both wool sheds and makes sure there is no wool lying around. “So, when the shearing gang walks in, the standard is set, they will go the extra mile because we do.”

The gang, from Tararua Shearing, come knowing this explains Fiona. “They’ve got used to me,” she laughs, “it’s a busy time but I really enjoy it. I like that I have a great relationship with the gang, we are all chasing the same result.” She is aware that, in the face of extremely low Crossbred wool prices, the quality of preparation she is seeking is higher than many other places. Key, she has found, is being in the shed, working alongside the wool handlers, and being clear, “this is what I want”. Afterwards, Fiona makes a point of letting the wool handlers know how the wool has sold, giving credit where it’s due. “We really appreciate a quality job done.”

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The Ramsden's two coastal properties sadly suffered extensive damage in Cyclone Gabrielle. The Owango River runs through their land, out to sea at Akitio Beach. "We are trying to carry on as much as we can," says Fiona, "we had a bad drought in 2020 and now all the cyclone flooding in which we lost a lot of fences, land and access." What used to be a 20-minute drive to Pongaroa is currently taking an hour and getting to Dannevirke 1.5 hours instead of one hour.

For now, Fiona has closed the accommodation "Coast Road Backpackers" which she created on Ware Ware from the shearing quarters and a worker's cottage. The scenery on the Ramsden properties is not the same as it looks featured in the Big Save Furniture wool advertisements, made when the Ramsdens sold directly to the furniture company. "Going to the beach is not that attractive at the moment," says Fiona. "There's logs and slash and debris everywhere. Since the floods I've been picking up a lot of polystyrene, it is such a polluter. Wouldn't it be great if wool could be used for packaging instead."

Check out the farm accommodation on Ware Ware here: <http://www.coastroadbackpackers.co.nz/>

Wool promotional video filmed on Moanaroa for Big Save Furniture <https://youtu.be/XICltmiO0fA>



Interior of Fiona's Coast Road Backpackers, converted shearing quarters on Ware Ware, showing some of Fiona's work with wool bale stencils. She produces items like these cushions, and wall hangings, to order.



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Wools of NZ - Broker message

By Roger Fuller

With pre lamb shearing not far away it is important to continue to apply the basic principles.

Check with the farmer before shearing on how the weather may impact on the quality of wool. Also discuss with the owner what contracts are applicable. This information will give you a guide before arriving at the shed and not knowing.

SKIRTING

As we have seen over the Summer/Autumn months the quality of the wool coming forward has been very poor. This has been due to a number of factors including weather.

Hopefully the Pre Lamb quality improves. It is important to skirt the fleeces to a high standard removing sweaty points and shorter types across all breeds. Crossbred types of 12 months are exported greasy in some cases with emphasis on good skirting which may allow for a premium above other crossbred types.

VEGETABLE MATTER

Emphasis on crossbred clips to remove vegetable matter is important. The market draws a line of 0.1 to 0.2% so it is important to be vigilant removing thistles etc which can be a major issue in processing.

Mid micron and Merino types can take up to 1% maximum through the lines. It is still important to remove those seedy backs etc.

Your B line should take care of the Shorter and Tender types.

COLOUR

It is important not to confuse condition against colour caused by the weather. Pre lamb wools should contain more condition than colour.

Condition is scourable and if you are in any doubt wash a sample under the tap, where colour caused by climatic conditions will not wash white.

Correct bale numbers and descriptions on the **SPECIFICATION** sheet are very important. If this is done incorrectly it can cause issues within the wool stores for processing which causes delays with the farmer receiving weight notes and test results.

All the best for the forth coming season and let's hope we can get these wool prices up to a level that everyone is happy with.

Good Luck

Roger Fuller – Supply Relationship Manager/Auctioneer

Wools of New Zealand

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PGGW - Broker message

By Dave Burridge

As the next season is seemingly almost upon us, I know most of you will be eyeing up with eager anticipation to get your hands back onto the new season's pre-lamb shear.

I thought it might be useful to cast a few thoughts of what wool brokers have seen the season to date and possibly how the new season's wool is going to open up.

The summer and autumn shorn wools throughout all of New Zealand this year have posed some of the most wool quality challenges to the mid-micron and strong wool markets arguably ever seen in terms of seasonal colour deterioration. Some of the colour readings have been off the scale!

Whether that has been due to the wet spring, long grasses or as some commentators have pointed out towards climate change, it's just been too hard to quantify.

Adding to the woes of the stronger micron end of the market, we continue to see only selective demand from the Chinese powerhouse and just to throw another brick bat at the wounded industry, nature showed again who was boss when she decided to hit us with Cyclone Gabrielle earlier in the year, which completely knocked out major wool processing plants in the Hawkes Bay.

On the flipside however, like all wool companies and woollies that work within the wool trade, there is serious resilience and certainly no lack of amount of enthusiasm in looking forward to the upcoming pre-lamb shear for fine wools which correspondingly there has been wider global demand for the sub 25-micron wools.

Along with strong grass growth over the season, production should be up and by all accounts we should see on the majority, solid tensile strength readings.

As we have now seen some of the test data for the recent belly crutching wool being offered and sold, it very noticeable that vegetable matter contamination is again going to challenge all wool staff in the sheds in the coming season and careful thought will be required in endeavouring to minimise the amounts in main lines.

Please be vigilant when planning your lines at the start of shearing and making clear instructions to the wool handling staff on skirting removal, remember the decisions you make as professionals has significant bearing on the financial returns to the wool grower.

All the best for the new season to what is shaping up to be another dynamic season.

Dave Burridge

Sth Island Auction Manager

PGG Wrightson Wool

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Helping grow the country



June 2023 Newsletter



NZ Merino Company - Broker message

By Blair Davies

Bin bales

In the 2022/23 season we have reduced bin bales by 23 percent.

We challenge you all to reduce this figure by another 20 percent. The cost of processing and transporting bin bales continues to increase making this part of our industry even more expensive and inefficient. This cost goes directly onto the grower's bottom line.

To reduce bin bales, we ask you as the classer to take ownership and most importantly **have a plan**.

You will need to check last year's tally book to see how many bin bales there were and use that as a starting point.

Starting on the first day of shearing, be aware of part bales that are being accumulated. By pressing out bales in main lines slightly lighter (110kgs) or slightly heavier (195kgs) you will be able to eliminate some bin bales, but this will take planning.

There should be no main line types in bin bales, i.e., no fleece, necks, backs, PCS, Bellies or 2nd Pcs and or Lox. Configure your bale weights so this does not happen.

Its ok to combine certain types e.g., Hogget Necks and Backs and Hogget Bellies and Pcs. Many of you are already doing this.

Once again, we want to reduce the number of bin bales, we won't be able to eliminate them.

Pre shearing homework.

The key is communication before and during shearing.

Meet the owner and contractor prior to the start of shearing. This is very important if you haven't classed at that property before.

Check previous test results but use this as a guide only.

Are there any climatic or genetic changes that will affect the make-up of that clip.

Very important What contracts are in place, different contracts ~~at~~ a different prep/skirting level. Talk to the owner and or Broker rep.

Before you start check the shed, is it clean, number of bins, skirting/classing tables are they fit for purpose.

Organise and name your bins to suit you as the classer.

Always do a demo skirt before the first run starts. This makes sure the leading wool handler has everybody on the same wavelength and is very important when you are using two skirting tables.



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Shearing is the start of the supply chain and value add for the grower. By meeting the contract spec and/or gaining auction premiums that the commodity market is paying **to** good prep and good classing etc, **you the classer and your team in the shed are adding value.**

The classer plays a very important role in the supply chain by monitoring the preparation and ensuring an excellent classing standard.

A key ingredient in good classing is to class what is in front of you, **Like Wools with Like Wools. Don't worry if you are not hitting the contracted volumes, we will sort that out internally. We would rather have a shortfall for the contracted volume than have a whole line rejected because it doesn't meet the specs.**

Spinners contracts.

Some growers may have Reda and or Lora Piana contracts.

A full skirt is required. Flanks, full back and necks must be removed along with any shorter wool.

Classing must be specific for these contracts.

Micron must be even and be of traditional crimp, keep bold crimp wools separate. Lines must be 95mm ~~min~~ max, keep longer and shorter wool separate.

Absolutely no tender wool or degrees of tenderness will be accepted in Spinners contracts.

Watch VM, you may need to skirt deeper/heavier to remove Hore Hound as an example. VM max is 1.5%. Do not push the boundaries.

Other NZM Contracts

[A fit for purpose preparation is required, talk to the NZM Area Manager and the owner to understand the specification of the contracts for the particular property, most of the non-Spinners fleece contracts can have a length of 110mm max.](#)

Auction prep and classing

If you are classing a shed where the wool is going to auction, do the best prep and classing. This will allow for any premiums that are ~~at~~ **paid** at that time. You are not classing to the current market but classing to what is in front of you.

Once again Like Wools with Like Wools

VM

Most contracts have a VM max of 1.5%.

Hore Hound will be an issue in some areas this coming season. You may have to skirt heavier to remove as much as possible.

Grass e.g. **Barley Grass** lies parallel to the fibre and during the manufacturing process it is very difficult to remove. If there is any doubt this VM contamination must be removed.

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Other Contamination

Every year we see contamination from items that end up in wool bales, e.g., singlets, towels and last season masks. A towel or something similar can ruin a whole contract for the buyer. Be aware this is happening and put steps/checks in place to prevent it.

Docs

Tally book/Species

A classer's good rapport with the presser helps to eliminate mistakes.

The classer should always check the tally book. If there are no mistakes in the Tally Book, then there should be no mistakes in the Species.

If you as the classer are responsible for the species use the ~~N~~Electronic species, this prevents double up of bales numbers etc and allows traceability within NZM'S ZQ (ethical) brand. It is a requirement of ZQ that the speci is completed correctly and is accurate.

Blair Davies

Assistant Commercial Manager / Area Manager

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