



# December 2023



***Jody Salmon P2234 awarded top overall NZ Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing graduate in 2023 – details on Page 20***

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## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR



**NZWCA Chair**

**Bill Dowle**

**D1076**



Recently I represented the NZ Wool Classers Association at the Wool Research Organisation (WRONZ) AGM where we were presented with an update from Wool Source on the progress with the new product developments they are spearheading. This is slow process, taking an idea and getting it to work in the laboratory, then upscaling to enable production then on the pilot plant stage to ensure the product can be processed at a commercial volume. Of course, there is dissatisfaction about the slow pace but as the Cheese advert says “good things take time”. To get into the development stage the product has to be viable if the raw product of wool is at a very sustainable price for producers.

At the meeting there was also a discussion about the board structure for WRONZ and the idea that organisations like Wool Impact, Campaign For Wool and even the National Council of New Zealand Wool Interests evolve into one body. If this is done correctly and well-structured it could be good for the industry as a whole. If this does come about I can see the possibility of part or all of NZWCA’s roles being included in the organisation as maybe a subcommittee, rather like the classer registration committee was in the old NZ Wool Board days.

Having these new developments is great but all the industry needs to do its job and help. We have been informed by WoolWorks (New Zealand’s only wool scouring company) that contamination is becoming a worse problem than it ever has been. Contamination in the raw material for these new products is likely to create issues in the process, as it does with the current processing. The issue is that we are competing with synthetics, and much of the contamination probably has some synthetic content, or the number of metal contaminants that can cause very expensive damage to plant. It is up to us all to pull our weight and make it work for the industry. The results from the auctions I have been told are discounting poorly prepared wools to the extent that having the extra wool handlers on the job pays for itself. Cutting down on staff and simply “throwing the wool off the board into the press” makes the industry less viable, it also illustrates the “don’t care” attitude that results in more contamination and makes it slower to get the recovery that the industry needs.

As is noted elsewhere in this newsletter the planning for the AGM and Industry Professional Development Day on 13 May in Mosgiel is underway. There are also plans to hold an Industry Day in Marlborough which hasn’t happened for many years, the Marlborough one thanks to the enthusiasm of one of our newest Board members, Ratapu Moore. As was shown by the recent North Island Industry Day in Whanganui, these days are well supported and found to be very good by those that attend.

Hoping you all have an enjoyably and merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I presume many are very busy with mainshear, I hope it goes well. Prepare the clip to the highest standard and keep that CONTAMINATION OUT OF THE WOOL.

# From the Registrar

Kia ora tātou to us all, we've almost made it through 2023!

Thank you NZWCA members and supporters, welcome to another newsletter, and thank you for taking the time to read this.

I want to begin with an appreciation statement with three accompanying photos. Appreciation from myself, but also, I suspect this will resonate for many.

I have chosen these three photos as representative of the appreciation, and illustrating the acknowledgement I believe is very important to make to the priceless strands that not only hold our industry together, but give it enduring strength and pride, despite everything thrown at it.

**That is, the pressers, the wool handlers, the spirit and culture they bring to work every day, and overarching it all, that whanau connection.** The family factor, which sees multiple generations of wool harvesting whanau doing the mahi season after season is not just biologically related, it is also in the way workmates become like family as they live and work and sweat together. The capability of the wool harvesting workforce to deliver the wool for products consumers want to buy is huge and deserves to be honoured.

My chosen 3 photos:



PHOTO

*Soldiers of the press; if you know, you know! – Cameron Young and Tu Morehu sum up all that is priceless about pressers.*

*I first met Tu in 1987, he was an exceptional presser for many years. A bad car accident hasn't stopped him working and passing on his knowledge and hard-working approach. Cameron, what can I say, just a pressing baby compared to Tu, but a classer's dream colleague none the less, and a lovely human to boot.*

*Photo taken 2021.*



PHOTO

*Mother and daughter at morning smoko – Tash Hale and Oceiana McHardy 2023. Working with these two and Oceiana's sister Savalina is always a reminder of the power of work ethic and excellence passed between generations. And, of whanau love.*

**From our Registrar contd....**



**PHOTO**

*Keeping it real on the closed board – Te Whakapono Wilson, who with her husband Marley left their daughters cared for at home and worked 2023 pre-lamb many hours' drive away. That's tough, but Pono did it with bells on every day. (Robyne Murray photo 2023)*

**Since the last newsletter** I've completed my 37<sup>th</sup> pre-lamb season in the South Island and continued to try my best to do the Registrar role justice.

A recurring subject I've come across in my interactions with classers this year has been around the business of being a classer. Register for GST or not? Add extra for ACC or not? Charge \$40 an hour or \$1 per fleece for classing? Whilst NZWCA cannot set rates or how to operate, I do think it would be valuable to collect such information from classers anonymously and share it. If there are questions you have about the business of being a classer, please send them to me and if there is enough demand, I will put together an online survey giving everyone the opportunity to contribute anonymously. Then I will collate the information and make it available.

In September NZWCA Patron and Board member Allan Frazer and I attended an all-day online meeting run by Muka Tangata (People Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council) exploring the development of micro credentials for wool harvesting qualifications, aiming to have them set up and funded whilst avoiding the historic and ongoing frustration of forcing this kind of training and qualification into existing models.

Time will tell of course, but there does seem to be a small breakthrough in that realisation that shearing and wool handling training doesn't really fit into usual training pathways. In addition, NZQA did publish early this year new standards and aims for micro credentials (all industries, not just wool harvesting) with a stated recognition that industry need should be a crucial consideration.

It appeared to be felt by the Muka Tangata people that this gave the wool harvesting training some wriggle room, hence the micro credential initiative. The outcome of this is three groups have been formed: Feedback group, steering group and working group. Sonya Johansen (NZWCA Board member) and I are members of the working group at the pointy end of the project. Our group is tasked with the development of the technical part and delivery of the new micro credentials.

***From our Registrar contd....***

Why spend the time? It's simple. If we as an industry don't keep trying to have established, quality wool harvesting training widely and freely available the whole industry is at risk. Without the capability to deliver well-prepared, well-presented wool to the market, to manufacturers and ultimately to consumers, our industry can't function.

In October Sonya Johansen and I ran the successful 2023 North Island NZWCA Industry Day, this time in Whanganui. Our thoughts have already turned to the 2024 North Island Day, which is likely to be in or near Palmerston North.

In November chairman Bill Dowle and I took the time for some industry member visits in Christchurch. At the NZ Merino Company office, we introduced ourselves to the new CEO Angus Street when we met with him and Blair Davies. Next, we caught up with Al Boa who is Board Secretary / Group Financial Administration Manager for Wool Research Organisation of NZ (WRONZ). Al is a strong champion of the WRONZ scholarships for Certificate of Wool Technology and Classing that NZWCA administers, thanks Al.

And lastly, we went to the GS Schneider office where Steve Finnie and Helen Cameron gave us an insight into how things are for wool buyers and exporters and we filled them in on our association activities. Planning is also underway for 2024 South Island Industry Days.

All credit to one of our new Board members, Ratapu Moore (a classer and also the NZ Shearing Contractors rep on the Board) who is taking the initiative to organise a "Wool Day" in Blenheim, set for January 27<sup>th</sup>. Please support her if you are in the Marlborough area. Ratapu epitomises that old saying, "want something done, ask a busy person". In addition to classing, Ratapu is shearing contracting with her husband Angus, and mother to six young children. Thanks, Ratapu.

The confirmed date for our 2024 AGM/Industry Professional Development Day is May 13<sup>th</sup> and the venue is Mosgiel, where we were in 2022. See you there!

Meantime, wear wool, use wool, give wool for Christmas.  
and stay safe out there this summer.

Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me Te Tau Hou

*Marg Forde*

A1260  
NZWCA Registrar



# It's not just the Wool Scours that are finding contamination in the wool!



“This photo was taken in a smaller South Island wool store, amongst wool that came in from a commercial mid-micron sheep and beef farm.

The finder and photo-taker, and all the wool store staff who subsequently saw it and had to sort the mess said they were “totally bewildered as to how this could happen”. The finder wrote: “It was a tightly packed fadge of 1/2bd raddle etc. While this an extreme case we every week find some kind of contamination. Very annoying, time wasting and costly. Our greatest fear is that we miss something that has major repercussions further up the process line.”

## **NZWCA BACKING CALL FOR GREATER VIGILANCE**

### **WOOLSHED CHECKLIST CREATED TO REDUCE WOOL BALE CONTAMINATION AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM**

*An alarming increase in the amount of content that's not wool is being found in NZ wool bales by wool scourers, wool buyers, exporters and manufacturers locally and internationally.*

The cost to our NZ wool industry is damaging financially and to this country's reputation as a producer of quality wool. It has been suggested that low Crossbred wool prices are contributing to a quality complacency that undermines efforts to achieve higher prices.

The NZ Wool Classers Association is throwing its weight behind the call to raise awareness of the problem and has come up with a checklist (on the following Page 9) to remind wool growers and wool harvesting staff of practical measures to take to reduce the risk.

Says NZWCA Registrar Marg Forde: "Our classer and grader members work mainly with Merino and Mid Micron wool and we are told the contamination is predominately in Crossbred wool bales. However, our association firmly advocates for quality wool preparation and education, so we are backing the call for greater vigilance and ringing the alarm bells too. We have created a checklist that we hope will be put up in every woolshed in the country, and that every wool grower and wool harvester reads."

NZ's only wool scouring company, WoolWorks, tracks wool bale contamination at their facilities and the data makes sobering reading. Between July and October this year 955 items that weren't wool were discovered and documented in wool bales. They range from one tool to many rubber docking/tailing rings.

#### **The finds include the following items:**

**223 plastic,  
10 clothing,  
36 wood,  
80 metal,  
37 press bars,  
31 pieces of fabric and  
54 rope/string.**



## **NZ WOOL CLASSERS ASSOCIATION CHECKLIST: SUGGESTIONS TO AVOID WOOL BALE CONTAMINATION**

### *Prior to shearing:*

- *Wool growers consider how they are using wool shed for storage – ensure wool room is clear prior to shearing*
- *Shearing board and wool room washed and cleared prior to shearing*
- *Classers, pressers and woolhandlers check all fadges before putting wool in them, especially those that may have been sitting partially full before shearing begins*
- *Count press bars at the beginning and at end of each shearing – there should be four!*

### *During shearing:*

- *Rubbish bins provided and accessible*
  - *Designated storage area (hooks, shelves or large containers) for personal belongings of shed staff*
  - *Only work equipment (e.g.: fadges, brooms) in the wool room*
  - *No drink bottles, clothing or towels stored near oddment fadges*
  - *Remove all rubber rings and lambs purses from wool*
  - *No smoking in wool room*
  - *Personal hook for Presser close to wool press*
  - *Count press bars before pinning each bale, there should be four!*
  - *No food consumed in wool area – separate eating area is the ideal*
  - *Supply newspaper for Bin bales – don't use wool packs as bale dividers*
- Refer "Clip Preparation – Best Practice Guideline" <https://woolclassers.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NZWCA-2021-updated-Clip-preparation-document.pdf>*

**If anyone has any suggestions to improve this checklist please forward them :  
NZWCA Registrar Marg Forde [reg@woolclassers.org.nz](mailto:reg@woolclassers.org.nz).**

**We have a member with graphic design skills who has offered to turn the checklist into a poster once the list is finalised, which can then be reproduced and made available to be put up in woolsheds throughout New Zealand.**

# WOOL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMMES A CHANCE TO SAFEGUARD KIWI STENCIL AGAINST FRAUDULENT USE

**Administering the NZ Wool Classer and Grader Registration system, and protecting the integrity of that system, is a core role of the NZ Wool Classers Association (NZWCA).**

This year we have engaged with the administrators of the two main wool quality assurance programmes – ZQ for NZ Merino Company and the wool addition to the NZ Farm Assurance Programme – and suggested consideration be given to including a wool grower clause which could cover off ensuring wool classer and grader stencil validity into their programme audit/compliance systems.

The following wording we suggest would safeguard NZWCA stencil registration number use on wool bales and in wool specifications:

***APPLICABLE ONLY to farmers having their wool clip classed or graded:***

*YES / NO - I confirm I have ascertained that the classer/grader stencil registration number applied to my wool bales and used in associated bale specifications is valid and current for the year in which the wool was shorn and baled. (Registration validity can be confirmed using the search facility here <https://woolclassers.org.nz/>)*

We highlight that use of a NZWCA stencil that is not current and valid, or is not registered to the person who has classed/graded the wool, is fraudulent. To date no response has been received from either ZQ or NZFAP indicating a decision has been made on this suggestion, however we intend to continue to engage.

## **Some background:**

Our Association is a small organisation which has a governing Board whose members possess a wide range of experience and representation, but it sits firmly independent of any particular commercial interest in the wool industry. We believe the introduction of wool into the NZ Farm Assurance Programme, and the existence of the ZQ programme, presents an opportunity to enhance the integrity of the NZ Classer Registration system and, by ensuring classer registration validity is part of process, the NZFAP and ZQ platforms could be further strengthened.

With Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) being associated with both NZFAP and NZ Merino Company's ZQ programme, we have submitted that ensuring NZWCA classer registration validity before a stencil goes on a bale sits well with RWS and NZ programme values and expectations around such things as Content Claim Standard, Chain of Custody, Credibility, Purchase Assurance, Traceability and Origin. To have wool branded and documented with classer registration numbers that are not valid being sold and used within these programmes we have respectfully suggested contravenes what the programmes stand for.

In most cases wool cannot be sold through the Australian Wool Exchange AWEX without a valid classer number associated with it. A similar approach applied in NZ when NZ classer registration was administered by the NZ Wool Board, with the Board holding statutory powers which could be used for, amongst other things, ensuring compliance with quality standards and in only allowing for classing to be undertaken by classers registered by the now-disestablished NZ Wool Board. Those powers could not be transferred to NZWCA, so while NZWCA can and does strongly advocate for only valid NZ stencil numbers being used, ultimately this comes down to individual honesty, and the willingness or otherwise at all points in the chain of custody in which NZ wool travels through, to value our Kiwi stencil validity.

- NZWCA Board and Registrar

# NZWCA CLASSER PROFILE

## JASE NAHONA C1575



I'm based in Wanaka Central Otago but spend a lot of time classing across the ditch around the New England district and the central west of New South Wales, Australia.

I began working in the wool industry in the 80s mainly as holiday work working with family under Steve and Rita Potaka Osborne based outta the Whanganui river and surrounds.

After finishing a Bachelor of Education degree I realised school teaching was not my cuppa tea so headed back to the sheds. In 1991 I headed to Massey to study the Diploma in Wool and Wool technology under Bill Renault. It was there I found there was a lot more to wool than the usual bales of mainline and oddments getting pressed and pushed out the door. I wanted to learn about what happened to wool after it left the shed and where it ended up in its final product.

After graduating from Massey University I headed south to work in Gore to learn about the full wool clips. I was lucky to have awesome mentors, working with cousins who in their own rights were wool handling legends. Working alongside of Raelene McConachie(nee Howes)she guided and showed how the big XBD clips were prepared,

Working back in Whanganui with Joanne Kumeroa she taught how to use speed work with the shorter 2/S prep. Both of those relatives, Raelene and Joanne, are mainly the reason I pursued the fine wool sector. In 1992 I did my first pre lamb classing under Colman Rangī based in the Wanaka/Hawea district. It was there I realised with the classification of merino everything I learnt at university just went out the window, learning the theoretical of classing vs the practicality of merino classing were two different kettles of fish. I had the opportunity classing under Allan Kane who back then was the vice president of the now defunct NZ Wool Board, on his clip Glenfoyle, also Cottie Burdon of Mt Burke Stn, Don McKay of Motutapu Stn, Ben Gordon of Avalon Stn and Ray Anderson of Branch Creek Stn. These farmers gave me the opportunity to gain my Merino seal as a classer.

After the NZ pre lamb I headed to Australia, In those days Aussie was so different to NZ in classification of merino. I found they didn't class to micron but focused more on style. Australian stud breeders had so much knowledge and their passion and knowledge was next level. Working and classing in Aussie is great learning about genetics and classing off the back of the sheep are highlights.

After 9 Spring runs in Australia, in 2001 I was given a new stencil with the word MC above my number. I didn't know what that meant but was later informed it meant master classer. To me I thought it was a crack-up because I thought they were for the older woolclassers LOL I wasn't even 30!!

Classing some of the well-known clips of Australia is a highlight in my job - classing the Commonwealth Hill run and working for the Kater family of the famous Egelabra Stud near Warren NSW.

I've been classing in NZ and Australia close to 30 years now and it's something I don't regret in the least. Accolades are good knowing you've classed clips to their best: Longacre, Shirlmar, Branch Creek, Lindis Downs, Geordie Hill, Mt Burke in NZ. Egelabra, Widjindirri, Rawlinna, Thompson Pastoral in Aussie.

The good thing about being a NZWCA registered classer back in NZ is meeting people from all walks of life, watching young shed staff starting from learners and working their way up to be aspiring classers, in my eyes that's GANGSTA.

These days I'm doing more mentoring in the shed passing on what I've learnt with superfine classing and sharing it to the next generation of classers coming through the ranks.

Knowledge is Power

Ko Ruapehu rāua Ko Tihirau nga Maunga

Ko Whanganui raua Ko Whangaparāoa nga awa

Ko Te Atihaunui a Paparangi me Te Whanau a Apanui oku Iwi

Tihei Mauriora no Ahitereiria

Naku No

**Jase**



## Recent NZWCA Classer and Grader Registrations and Upgrades

*Congratulations and welcome to the following:*

### Professional classer stencil prefix upgrades:

Lynette White P to H2165

Tia Potae P to D2237

### Provisional stencil applications approved:

Borgia Daniels QP (Grader) to P2216

Nathan Daniels QP (Grader) to P2217

Jodie Salmon P2234

Amber Casserly P2235

Sarah-Rae Reo P2236

### Owner Classer stencil inspected and approved:

David Grigg FM 2233

### Owner Classer stencil prefix upgrade:

Jason Erasmus FH to FD2196

Explanation of registration prefixes here:

<https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/registration-prefixes/>

# The importance of investing in wool preparation

*By Rosstan Mazey, chair of the NZ Council of Wool Interests, CEO of WoolWorks Ventures  
Reprinted with permission from PGG Wrightson Wool's Wool Street Journal*

**At the start of the shearing season, quality preparation of the clip is an investment, not a cost.**

Ask yourself: what is the ultimate aim of wool preparation?

Answer: to prepare your wool to achieve best commercial advantage.

While that begins in the paddock on the sheep's back, what you do in the shed, directly after the wool has been harvested, is most crucial. Good preparation, care and attention to detail will directly add monetary value to a consignment of wool.

Meticulous care is necessary at every stage to ensure the highest quality wool reaches the market. Contamination can significantly impact value and marketability. Growers who are vigilant in maintaining their clip's purity will secure premium prices and uphold the reputation of our product.

An extra shedhand might be \$250 a day. At 12.5 cents a kilogram that could achieve up to a 50c per kilogram improvement in price achieved, which makes it a worthwhile return on investment.

We are optimistic that the market is turning and we are currently seeing the start of a sustained improvement in wool prices. If so, it is likely that the differential that good preparation provides will increase the monetary value available for the best quality wool. In these circumstances paying attention in the shed will maximise the benefit you derive, and fully justify investment in professional preparation.

Demand for New Zealand strong wool is increasing, though only the growers who attend to the basics will achieve full value potential. Meanwhile, the marketplace will punish those who do not handle preparation correctly.

Good coloured wools that can be dyed more naturally have always been attractive for overseas buyers. Our Chinese clients are advising us that they want knitting wools. Of the four major wool producing countries, the sound genetics, quality characteristics and specialised facilities that underpin New Zealand wool best fit their requirements.

Because New Zealand wool is most suitable for dyeing, a price change is coming, though only for those growers willing to invest in sound wool preparation during and directly after shearing. That means removing yellow fribs and dags, ensuring medullated fibre is taken out of the body wool, maintaining consistent length characteristics, and eliminating all general non-wool contamination: all the simple basics that require a little extra attention in the shed.

'Remove to improve' is key to the reputation and integrity of our wool. One small piece of metal can cause hundreds of thousands of dollars damage and bring an entire wool scour to a halt. Similarly, if a towel or tee shirt is shredded during the opening and blending process at the wool scour, thousands of small pieces of foreign coloured thread and fabric can be spread throughout, making the whole commercial consignment unusable for our customers. As with foreign contamination, any non-scourable raddle remaining on wool cannot be washed out through the scour, therefore causing additional processing problems.

Our international customers are committed to producing a high quality product. To do so they require the best possible raw material, and are therefore prepared to pay more for New Zealand wool, though only when it is handled correctly at the source. We must remember that we are competing with a man-made fibre that is totally repeatable. This is why we need to work hard collectively through the early-stage supply chain on delivering consistent wool to the market, enabling manufacturers to confidently produce great products with our wool.

Maintaining the quality of wool from the shearing shed to the market is a shared responsibility. By adopting best practices, implementing quality assurance measures, and staying informed about industry advances, growers can protect their clip's integrity and reinforce New Zealand's reputation as the global leader in high-quality wool production. Those growers committed to sound preparation practices and continuous improvement in the shearing shed will benefit individually, while their investment and attention to detail will also contribute to the overall success and sustainability of the wool industry.

If you want to find out more about woolshed preparation and how we can help, [please contact your local wool rep.](#)

# Use of NZWCA website encouraged



Our website is a mine of information and is constantly being updated and tweaked – [www.woolclassers.org.nz](http://www.woolclassers.org.nz) check it out!

## There are two significant recent additions to the NZWCA website:

- Complaints procedure formulated and adopted by the NZWCA Board <https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/complaints-procedure/>
- An online form allowing wool brokers and buyers to easily nominate classers and graders for the annual NZWCA Classer Awards <https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/nomination-form-for-nzwca-classer-awards/>

## Some other useful ways to use the website:

- Search for members available for work [https://woolclassers.org.nz/member-profiles/?wpv\\_post\\_search&wpv-wpcf-available-for-work=1](https://woolclassers.org.nz/member-profiles/?wpv_post_search&wpv-wpcf-available-for-work=1)
- NB: All members can opt to add themselves to the above list via their profile
- Find information about applying for registration and upgrading your prefix <https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/membership-information/>
- Join our association! Classers, have a chat to your clients about associate membership. Explain the value of supporting the administration of a NZ classer and grader system that allows their wool to be branded and sold with a valid and recognised quality assurance that the NZWCA registration represents <https://woolclassers.org.nz/join/>
- Download forms required to have printed out and available for classer or grader shed management inspection <https://woolclassers.org.nz/report-forms/>
- Order your stencil or stamp <https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/stencil-products/>
- Read back issues of our newsletter <https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/newsletters/>
- Anyone can check if a stencil registration on a bale or in the bale specifications is valid by using the search facility we now have on the NZWCA website home page <https://woolclassers.org.nz/> If you see it call it!

## DIARY DATES FOR 2024

**27 January 2024**

*NZWCA Wool Day*

*Blenheim – venue to be advised*

**8-9 March 2024**

*Wanaka A&P Show – if you're going,  
visit our site in the wool area*

**13 May 2024**

*NZWCA AGM/Industry Professional Development Day  
Taieri Bowls Clubroom 12 Wickliffe St Mosgiel*

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE  
2024**



# Around the sheds

*David Grigg FM2233 of Tempello in Marlborough is our newest NZWCA Owner Classer. Pictured here happy in his work in August this year. Welcome aboard David!*



*NZWCA members Sarah Graham P2230 (at left) and Katrise McDonald P2232 were chosen for NZ Merino Company Wool Classer Scholarships in August. They are pictured here with one of their two classer mentors Rebecca Braddick-Tohiariki M2103, classer at Earnsclough Station. This pre-lamb Katrise mainly worked alongside Rebecca and Sarah was with the other NZM appointed mentor, Rose Barnett A1565. Sarah and Katrise are both recent graduates of the Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing a two-year distance learning course. This is the academic prerequisite required by NZWCA before "P" (provisional) classer registration can be approved.*



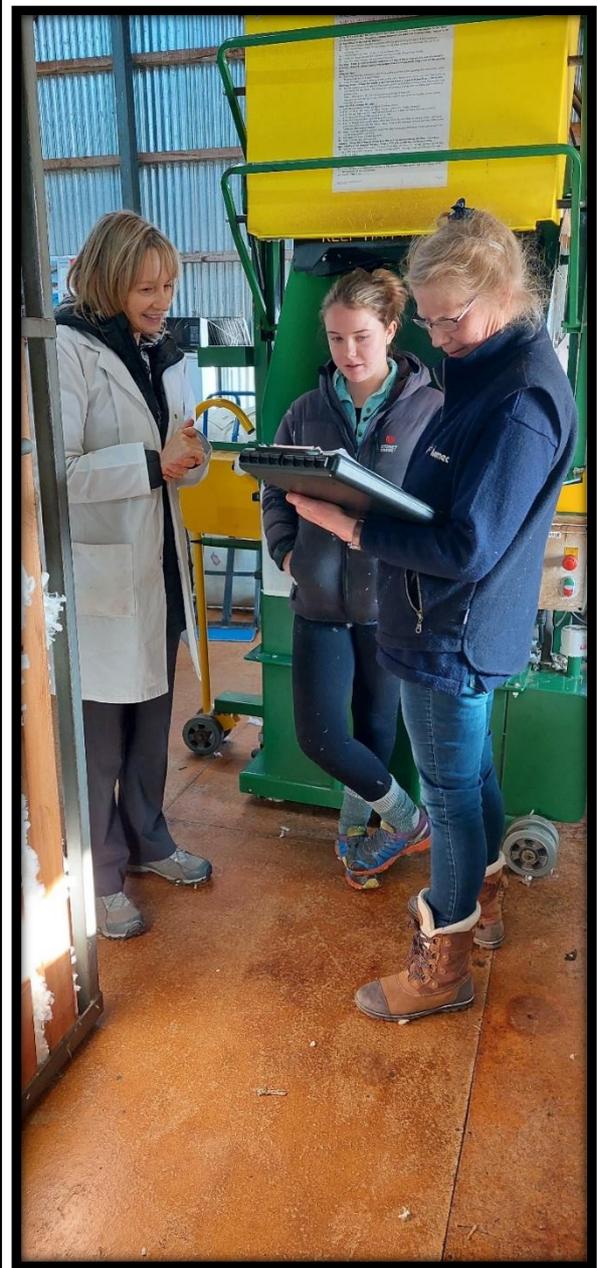
*Samantha Harmer P2214 with Karen Wilkins Duff A871 at Castle Ridge*

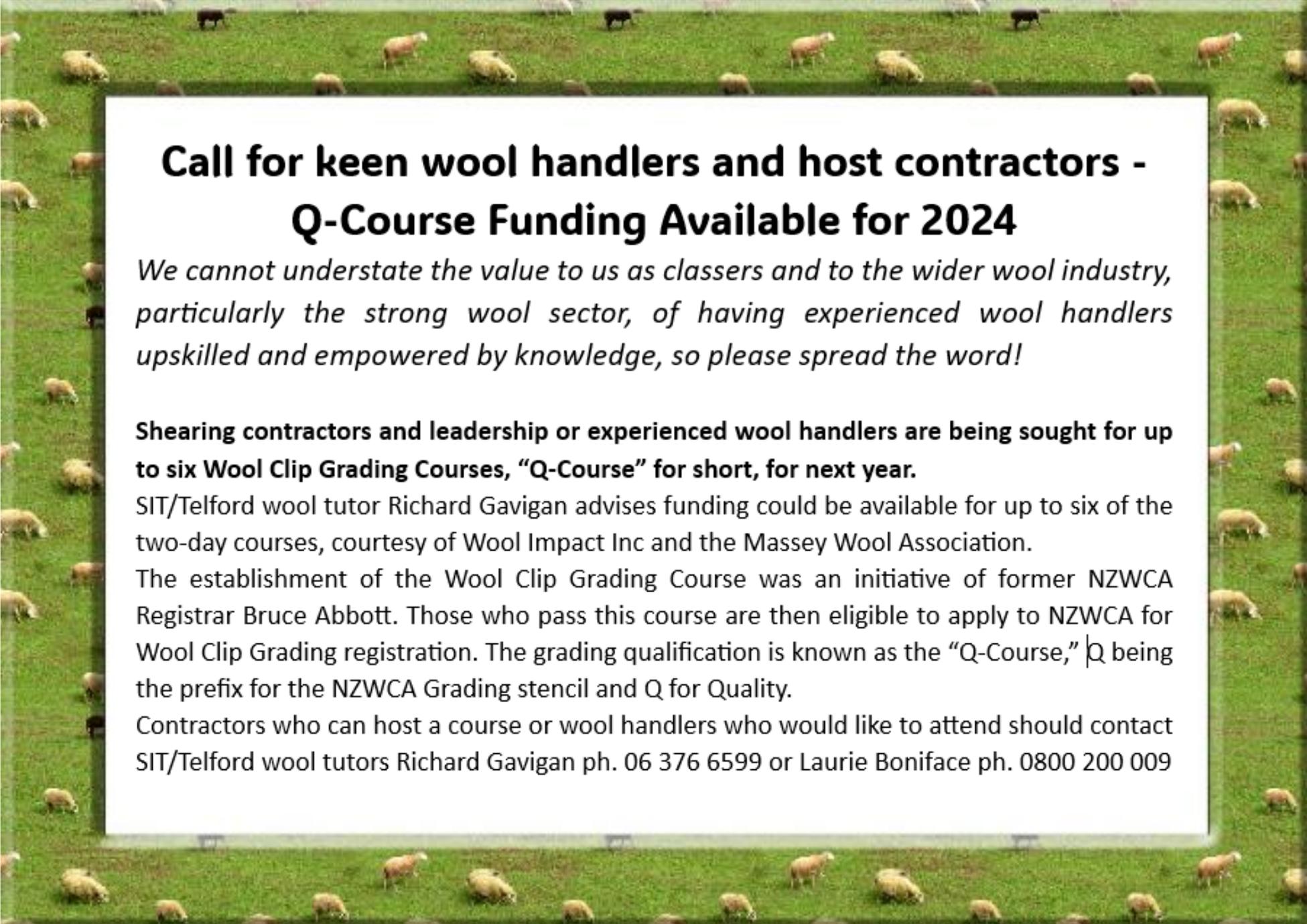
# More around the sheds

*Samantha Harmer P2214 at Castle Ridge with her two shed management inspectors, NZWCA Board member Karen Wilkins Duff A871 and Sandra Harnett A1899. Most inspections are carried out by wool broker reps, however from time-to-time NZWCA volunteers step in to help. Thanks Karen and Sandra.*



*Lucy Gee-Taylor P2212 at Merivale, near Tarras during pre-lamb. Lucy is one passed clip away from moving off her "P" Provisional prefix.*





## **Call for keen wool handlers and host contractors - Q-Course Funding Available for 2024**

*We cannot understate 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, so please spread the word!*

**Shearing contractors and leadership or experienced wool handlers are being sought for up to six Wool Clip Grading Courses, “Q-Course” for short, for next year.**

SIT/Telford wool tutor Richard Gavigan advises funding could be available for up to six of the two-day courses, courtesy of Wool Impact Inc and the Massey Wool Association.

The establishment of the Wool Clip Grading Course was an initiative of former NZWCA Registrar Bruce Abbott. Those who pass this course are then eligible to apply to NZWCA for Wool Clip Grading registration. The grading qualification is known as the “Q-Course,” Q being the prefix for the NZWCA Grading stencil and Q for Quality.

Contractors who can host a course or wool handlers who would like to attend should contact SIT/Telford wool tutors Richard Gavigan ph. 06 376 6599 or Laurie Boniface ph. 0800 200 009

## LATEST WRONZ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BRINGS EXTENSIVE DESIGN BACKGROUND TO THE NZ WOOL INDUSTRY

**Hannah Webster is the most recent recipient of the Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand (WRONZ) scholarship for Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing students.**

Hannah, who is currently based in Wellington, commenced her wool studies in the middle of this year, with the cohort of students who began in July 2023 and will complete in July 2025. The scholarship is \$1000, paid out in \$250 increments as students pass each semester. Hannah gained her Bachelor in Design degree from Massey University in 2013. She followed that up with an industry-linked Callaghan-sponsored Masters programme also through Massey, and this is where her love affair with wool and wool textiles began in earnest. Hannah explains: "For my Masters I was partnered with the Town and Country weaving mill in Palmerston North, and tasked with utilising their existing technology in new ways to show the viability and potential of this textile manufacturing business in today's market. I have never been so excited in my life.

"I designed a range of contemporary throws, menswear apparel fabrics, and even designed a Barkers throw during my year there; all 100% woollen products made right here in NZ. My project was highly commended in 2015 at the ECC NZ Student Craft Design awards in the Rembrandt Textile & Fashion category. Unfortunately the mill was unable to keep me on and has since closed its doors, which I feel is an enormous loss of knowledge and manufacturing potential for the NZ wool industry." Since then Hannah has worked in a range of roles, including in the film industry in set decorating and costume positions as well as in business development, teaching, graphic design and even book selling. But wool has continued to call for Hannah as she explains: "I discovered the Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing course through the Careers website, and felt like that is a great place to start!

"Although it is a bit daunting as someone who doesn't come from a rural background, I feel like understanding the whole wool pipeline from growing to final product would be invaluable, and also would help me to understand the challenges faced by farmers."

Hannah attended the NZWCA North Island Industry Day in Whanganui in October. She knew no one when she arrived but says she finished the day "full-up" with wool knowledge and new contacts and friends.



She even earned herself two "Top Scorer" certificates in the student/woolhandler category after taking part in the practical wool exercises. She says: "My dream one day is to own a woollen textile manufacturing business, hopefully a weaving mill for interior and apparel fabrics, and be an advocate for women in business in the primary industries. I want to inspire women to get into manufacturing, trades, and of course to see them in top positions in the wool industry!"

Hannah is a worthy recipient of the WRONZ scholarship; her commitment to the NZ wool industry clearly runs deep and she wants to be part of the wool revival. "NZ produces such incredible, high-quality wool that is like gold, and I feel so frustrated that it's not being as pushed to its potential as it could be," says Hannah.

"Instead, we're sending wool away and buying it back as finished products, losing that value-add that we should be getting here. It doesn't make sense that such a renewable, environmentally friendly fibre isn't being given the full credit it's due."

Well said Hannah, and welcome aboard!

*Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing students are encouraged to apply for a WRONZ scholarship in their first semester of study. Further details and the application form can be found here:*

<https://woolclassers.org.nz/education/scholarships/>

# 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 on line NOW to start the course in Feb 2024**  
**[sit.ac.nz/Courses/Agriculture-Horticulture](https://sit.ac.nz/Courses/Agriculture-Horticulture)**

## Enquiries:

Laurie Boniface | 027 433 8925 | 0800 200 009 | [laurie.boniface@sit.ac.nz](mailto:laurie.boniface@sit.ac.nz)

Richard Gavigan | 027 376 0005 | 06 376 6599 | [richard.gavigan@sit.ac.nz](mailto:richard.gavigan@sit.ac.nz)



# TOP WOOL STUDENTS AWARDED

Wool industry workforce and knowledge boosted by 22 graduates of Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing in 2023

## Announcing the 2023 NZWCA SIT/Telford prizes:

Overall top student who completed in 2023, and recipient of the NZWCA perpetual trophy is *Jody Amokura Salmon*



### *Other awards:*

#### July 2023 Completion

Top Practical - *Katrise McDonald P2232*

Top Theory - *Jody Salmon P2234*

#### November 2023 Completion

Top Practical - *Lea Brabant*

Top Theory - *Cassidy Gray*

Te Pukenga/SIT/Telford certificates have been posted to all of the above, however recipients are encouraged to attend the NZWCA Industry Professional Development Day/AGM in Mosgiel on May 13, 2024 where they will be acknowledged and Jody Salmon if attending will be presented with the NZWCA cup, which resides permanently at Telford.

Congratulations to all 22 students who completed the two-year distance learning Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing course this year. We look forward to your contribution to the NZ wool industry workforce. Holders of the Cert Wool Tech are able to pursue a range of wool sector opportunities, including being able to apply to NZWCA for their Provisional Wool Classing stencil registration by going to our website <https://woolclassers.org.nz/> and clicking on the "Join" tab.

# Wool Classing pioneer Dave Anderson

## *In Memoriam*

### **NZWCA acknowledges the recent passing of Dave Anderson, Stencil registration A2**

We offer condolences to Dave's wife Cynthia, sons Stephen, David and Cameron, his mokos, and the many friends he made during his years in the shed and industry.

As the classer registration number A2 suggests, Dave was amongst the first shed wool classers to be registered in New Zealand. In 2019 Barbara Newton wrote this explanation:

*"The NZ Wool Handling Committee (Chaired by the General Manager of the NZ Wool Board, members included; the Director of Dept of Agriculture-sheep & beef, a Dept of Agriculture sheep and wool instructor, with a representative from each of the NZ Wool Commission, NZ Wool buyers Association, NZ Wool Brokers Association, and Federation of NZ Wool Merchants) initiated classer registration in 1967. This came to fruition in the late 1960's early 1970's when Lance Wiggins became the NZ Wool Boards' wool production manager. Also at this time came the introduction of official training for wool handlers to raise wool preparation standards and to better develop skills that were required as a result of increasing shearing tallies, the consequence of the Wool Boards shearing training programmes. A number of classers all became registered at the same time, initially just in crossbred."*

**Dave Anderson, at number 2, was one of them.**

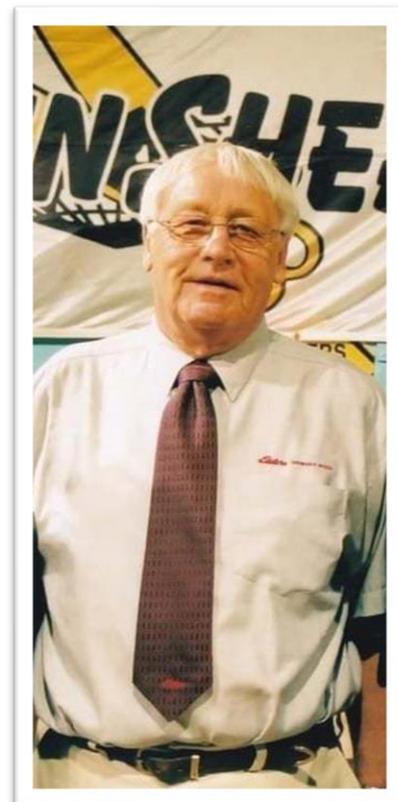
Former Milton shearing contractor Bill Potae remembers Dave as "a top man in the wool shed". Bill says Dave, who was based in the Wairarapa, was convinced to "come south" after meeting the Potaes in the North Island when they were shearing and he was classing for Bill Meech.

Recalls Bill: "That was about 1968 and Dave would have done every prelamb after that until about 2000. He classed all the big sheds like Rocklands and Beaumont, he never stopped working from early July until Labour weekend, then he went back home to the north.

"He ran the sheds well, he had a sense of humour like Fred Dagg. Dave was making more money than the top shearers every day. He'd keep reminding them, until he had to shout, that shut him up but only for a little bit," laughs Bill.

Founding NZWCA chairman Graeme "Ding" Bell, now a PGG Wrightson wool rep, says he has "much respect for Dave Anderson as a person". In addition to having one of the biggest shed classing runs for many years, Dave also became someone whose opinion was sought and who, with Ding, Ronnie Davis and Don Moffat in the early 1970's, personally threw his weight behind the Wool Board's wool production officer initiative to establish wool training equivalent to the successful shearing training.

Dave was also a early supporter of the YFC competitions, the Golden Shears and was a woolhandling competition judge. Says Ding: "He had mana, he definitely became an elder statesman of the industry."



# WOOL FOR THE WIN!

*By Marg Forde NZWCA Registrar*

**Wool wasn't on Ewelina Gren's radar when she arrived in New Zealand from Poland seven years ago, but it undeniably is now.**

The winner of the beautiful big Bremworth wool rug in the attendees prize draw at the NZWCA North Island Industry Day in Whanganui in October secured herself an admin job when she got to New Zealand, and that's where her wool connection began. That job just happened to be in the Wellington office of Segard Masurel, an international wool exporter/broker/direct selling company working in five continents.

The world of wool has opened up for Ewelina leading her, amongst other things, to undertaking study for her Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing and attending our North Island Industry Day in October. Ewelina is also doing business studies at university level and learning the trade of being a wool buyer. And she has recently signed up as a NZ Wool Classers Association "Associate" member, saying: "NZWCA efforts should be supported as everyone in the industry benefits from it, and we all should put the money where our mouths are."

Ewelina wrote on her evaluation form for the North Island Industry Day (her first): "Your dedication to creating a platform for industry professionals to connect and learn was evident, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of it. I was particularly captivated by the variety of speakers and the insights they shared. Each presentation was informative and thought-provoking, offering a comprehensive view of the latest trends and challenges in our industry. The wool exercise was a delightful surprise, and I enjoyed the hands-on experience it provided."



**PHOTO LEFT:** Bremworth's Andrew Karl made the prize draw at the end of the Industry Day, as photo shows from a woolly hat (of course!) held aloft by Sonya Johansen A1099.

**PHOTO RIGHT:** The other photo shows Ewelina with her wool tutors Laurie Boniface and Richard Gavigan, photo taken at the request of the proud tutors!





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*Wool Exercise top scoring certificates*

*NZWCA North Island Industry Day at Whanganui 11.10.23*

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**Exercise A – oddment identification**  
**Top Score – Sarah Vallance**  
**Woolhandler/student category –**  
**Ziarna Marsden**

**Exercise B – micron estimate**  
**Top Score – Sarah Vallance**  
**= Woolhandler/student category –**  
**Sarah Reid and Hannah Webster**

**Exercise C – Crossbred Y-Z colour**  
**Top Score – Lucas Broughton**  
**Woolhandler/student category –**  
**Sarah Reid**

**Exercise D – Classing**  
**Top Score – Ian Hopkirk**  
**Woolhandler/student category –**  
**Hannah Webster**

**Overall top scoring**  
**= Genevieve Nicholls and**  
**Lucas Broughton**

**Overall top scoring**  
**Woolhandler/student category**  
**Hannah Webster**

**PHOTOS FROM THE NZWCA NORTH ISLAND INDUSTRY DAY IN WHANGANUI IN OCTOBER”**

**Sarah Vallance (right) of Muka Tangata and Bo Paku Clark**



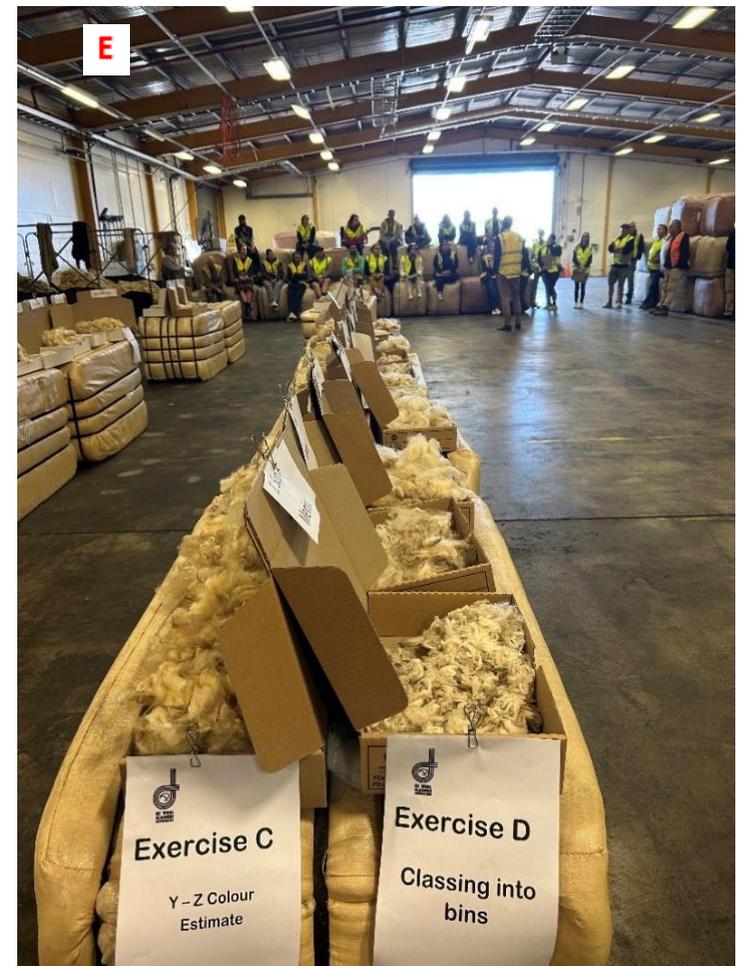
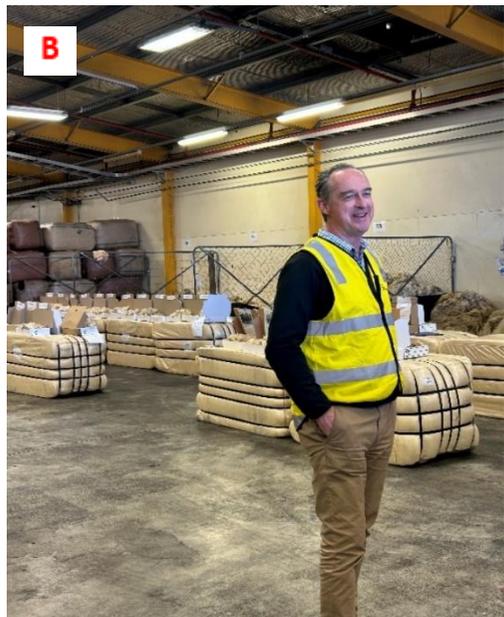
**North Island Industry Day wool exercise time in the Elco Direct woolstore**



**North Island Industry Day group who stayed on at the end of the day for the Bremworth factory tour**

**Bremworth let our group use their cafe and big screen for speaker presentations**





**A: Wool tutor and farmer Richard Gavigan and shearing contractor Stu Munro**

**B: Andrew Karl GM Yarn Plants Bremworth Spinners**

**C: North Island Industry Day wool exercise time at Whanganui**

**D: United in wool from way back. Wool tutor Laurie Boniface and NZWCA Board member and NI Industry Day co-organiser Sonya Johansen**

**E: NZWCA North Island Industry Day Oct 2023 Whanganui**



The NZWCA Board and staff extend our warm wishes to all our members and supporters for a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, safe festive season and we hope everyone finds time for a relaxing summer break



#choosewool  
#ithoughtiknewhow

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