



# New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
**Christchurch Park, Christchurch**  
**Meeting commenced at 12.50pm**

**Board Members Present:** Bill Dowle (Chair), Marg Forde (Registrar), Don Urquhart, Allan Frazer, Tracy Paterson, Roger Fuller, Karen Wilkins and Terence Mulcahy

**Classers Members Present:** David Wood, Wendy Parsons, John Booker, Maria Bamford, Bill Stevenson, Cassie Johnston, Sarah Graham, Jeanine O’Neil, Dave Carr, John McKenzie, Bruce Abbott (Life Member), Kevin Waldron, Ian Kofoed, Ian Shaw, Guy Palmer, Richard Moriarty, Alan Paterson, Grant Andrew, Nic Blanchard, Tegan Caves, Hillary Tahere, Sharon Lawton, Ian Stevenson, Fiona Ramsden, Eric Laurenson, Julie Thompson, Dave York, Juliet Jones, Emily Jones, Janet Hackshaw, Anne Johnstone and Donna Gaskell

**Associate Members Present:** Richard Gavigan, Kerry Thompson, Christie Burn, Ken Bowmar, Fiona Bowmar and Mitchell Young

**Guests Present:** Rawina Elers, Laurie Boniface, David Scobie, Sue Simpson, Mark Stevenson, Matt Martin, John Philp, Tina Longman, Holly Brown, Morgan Brewster, Kylie Finn, Sandra Hendry, Cassidy Gray, Angus Gilbert, Whit Stewart, Larcinia Taueki, Mina Nathan, Grant George, Caleb Kellas, Kelly Harvey, Ella Vuleta-Dick, Lorna Webster, Hine Mullany, Thoams Dravitzki, Ivan Gulledge, Richanna Clarke, Donald Aubrey, Kate Campbell, Cheri Peterson, Trish Booth

**Apologies Received:** Struan Hulme (Board Member), Tony Cunningham (Board Member), John Sanders (Board Member), Sonya Johansen (Vice Chair), Grant Murdoch (Board Member), John McWhirter, Pip McConway, Rose Barnett, Rebecca Braddick-Tohiariki, Anne-Marie Parcell, Tina Elers, Sarah Lewis, Brent Cole, Sandra Harnett, Kristal Wilson, Charlotte Stuart, Samantha Harmer, Julia Waldron, Janet Smooth, Melissa Pearce and Sharlene Adamson

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

**Moved: Eric Laurenson**

**Seconded: Dave Carr**

***CARRIED ALL***

## **CHAIRMANS WELCOME**

Chairman welcomed all to the 2023 AGM, with special mention to the SIT students & John Philp’s crew.

Bill also thanked Marg for a great start to the Classer Day with a record turnout.



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## MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

2022 Minutes circulated via email and taken as read.

Matters arising from last AGM minutes: None.

*Move that the minutes represent a true and correct record of the 2022 Annual General Meeting*

**MOVED: Alan Frazer**

**SECONDED: Roger Fuller**

**CARRIED ALL**

## FINANCIAL REPORT (01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022)

Annual accounts circulated via email and taken as read.

At last night's Board Meeting the Board has requested that the following changes be made to the 2022 Financial Statement

1. Ask accountant to separate WRONZ scholarship from Operating Expenses along with Scholarships from Admin expenses into separate area keeping to transparent as this is not part of our actual operating expenses as we only administer this money.
2. Page 9 Add explanation of the One-off Donation from the disbandment of the Mid Micron group.

**ACTION: Annette Gamble to speak with Accountant**

*Chairman moved that the Association's Financial Annual report be accepted with pending changes*

**SECONDED: Tracey Paterson**

**CARRIED ALL**

## SETTING OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2024

At last night's Board Meeting, board voted for all Association fees remain the same for 2024.

### **Motion:**

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

**MOVED: John Booker**

**SECONDED: Janet Hackshaw**

**CARRIED ALL**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT **APPENDIX A**

Circulated via email and taken as read.

*Bill Dowle moved that the Chairman's report be accepted*

**SECONDED: Terry Mulcahy**

**CARRIED ALL**

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT **APPENDIGE B**

Circulated via email and taken as read

***Bill Dowle moved that the Registrars report be accepted***  
**SECONDED: Don Urquhart**  
**CARRIED ALL**

## ELECTION OF BORAD MEMBERS

Two Board members retiring by rotation:  
Sonya Johansen & Terry Mulcahy

Both have indicated they will stand for re-election.

One Board member Resignation: John Sanders

Resignation read by Chair:

*Dear Bill & NZWCA executive*

*I would like to formally tender my resignation to the executive of the NZWC. I have enjoyed my time on the executive and feel a little sorry in resigning, however age is catching up and Mary -Liz and I wish to do a few more things in life before we depart this world.*

*I have been very pleased, that while on the executive, we have been able to instigate the training of new Classers, due to the courses being abandoned by both Lincon & Massey.*

*I wish the executive all the best for the future, and, at any time, I am available to help out if needed*

One nomination received: Kristal Wilson

Chair called for any further nominations due to the failing of us asking for nominations with cut off date three weeks prior to AGM.

No further nominations received.

Chair thanked Sonya & Terry for re-standing and their further commitment to the Board and welcomed new board member Kristal Wilson

Chair also noted that we will have a new Broker Rep & NZSCA Rep.  
New Boker rep will be Kevin Waldron (D984) from PGG in Dunedin, and  
NZSCA rep will be Ratapu (Te) Moore

Chair thanked Roger Fuller & Grant Murdoch for there past service on the board.

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## ADDRESS FROM OUT PATRON ALLAN FRAZER

This was done earlier in the day.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

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

Between 5 October 2023 & 5 April 2026 all incorporated societies must Re register or they will be removed from the register of Incorporated Societies. There is no ability to “Grandfather” over, Rules/constitution must be reviewed and comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. (the old act is the Incorporated Societies Act 1908).

### **Constitution.**

- Constitution must be updated to comply with the 2022 Act.
- Must include Dispute Resolution clauses (Sections 38 – 44)
- Requirements are in Section 26 of the Act.
- Officers term of office is up to each society.

### **Regulations.**

- Should be available by 28 September 2023.

**MEETING CLOSED 1.12PM**



## APPENDIGE A

### NZWCA CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anyone that is involved in an Incorporated Society will be aware that the legislation covering Incorporated Societies has changed and we have to review our constitution. This is being looked at by the board, but at this stage I don't think we need to alter much to comply with the new



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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.

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

**Bill Dowle D1076**

**Chairman**

**NZWCA**

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## APPENDIGE B

### NZWCA REGISTRARS ANNUAL REPORT 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 for the association.

**This past year we have also introduced in writing that NZWCA reserves 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.



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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 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 Mazej** 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 programs and the association of these programs 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 programs. 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 programs, 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.





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**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 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

**Marg Forde A1260**  
**NZWCA Registrar**