



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 13th May 2024
Taieri Bowling Club, Mosgiel
Meeting commenced at 12.42pm

Board Members Present: Bill Dowle (Chair), Marg Forde (Registrar), Don Urquhart, Allan Frazer, Tracy Paterson, Karen Wilkins-Duff, Sonya Johansen, Kevin Waldron, Mitchell Young and Terence Mulcahy

Classers Members Present: Struan Hulme, Ian Kofoed, Sharlene Adamson, Christine Forsythe, Heidi Middleton, Amberlee Kahukura, Foonie Waihape, Nic Blanchard, Ken Gillespie, Andrew Paterson, Kevin Waldron, Ian Shaw, Will Gibson, Juliet Jones, Sarah Graham, Katrise Saunders, Tegan Caves, Tracey Hill, Ken Urquhart, Mary Comer, Emily Holden, Charlotte Dykes, Emily Jones, Julia Waldron, and Jodie Salmon

Associate Members Present: Richard Gavigan, Barbara Newton and Brent Hickey

Guests Present: Chantelle Hofman, Storm McKenzie, Ruth Williamson, Matatau Lewis, Mille Hulme, Jane Hulme, Willaim Forsythe, Judy Boniface, Laurie Boniface, Fanziska Oehler, Mike Maguire, Gerrard Waa5a, Molly Maquire, Claire Corboy, Nita Poihakena-Jackson, Scarlett Hopcroft, Bronwyn Paterson, Denise Pepene, Charis Morrell, Dion Morrell, Emma Smith, Bob Harimate, Helen Cameron, Blair Davies, Mark Greenlaw, Bronwyn Campbell, Gail Kimura, Lisa Golding, William Ransfield, Donald Aubrey, Sue Aubrey, Ronny Hill, Shaun O'Doherty, Myia Pairama and Mark Scott

Apologies Received: David York, Graeme Bell, Samantha Harmer, Pip McConway, Alistair Eckhoff, Janet Hackshaw, Angus Sandall, Jeanine O'Neil, Rachael Handy, Cassie Johnston, Bruce Abbott, Sharon Lawton, Lesley Edmonds, Kelly-Paku-Taylor, Dave Carr and Ratapu Moore

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

Moved: Tracy Paterson

Seconded: Ian Kofoed

CARRIED ALL

CHAIRMANS WELCOME

Chairman welcomed all to the 2024 AGM, and noted it was great to see so many people here today.

Chair calls for a moments silence to remember those in the industry who are no longer with us.



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MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

2023 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 2023 Annual General Meeting

MOVED: Ian Koefoed

SECONDED: Don Urquhart

CARRIED ALL

CHAIRMANS REPORT **APPENDIGE A (pages 6 & 7)**

Bill announced his resignation as Chair of the Board. Bill has enjoyed his time as Chair but due to health reasons has decided to step aside. Bill will be endorsing our current Vice Chair Tracy Paterson as the new Chair of the Association.

Bill will be offering himself for re-election to the board

Circulated via email and taken as read.

Bill Dowle moved that the Chairman's report be accepted

SECONDED: Tracy Paterson

CARRIED ALL

REGISTRAR'S REPORT **APPENDIGE B (pages 8, 9, 10 & 11)**

Circulated via email and taken as read.

Bill Dowle moved that the Chairman's report be accepted

SECONDED: Karen Wilkins-Duff

CARRIED ALL

FINANCIAL REPORT (01/01/2023 to 31/12/202)

Annual accounts circulated via email and taken as read.

Chairman moved that the Association's Financial Annual report be accepted

SECONDED: Don Urquhart

CARRIED ALL



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SETTING OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2025

At last night's Board Meeting, board voted for all Associations fees remain the same for 2025.

Motion called:

That the annual subscription fee for all membership types remain the same for 2025.

MOVED: Bill Dowle
SECONDED: Sonya Johansen
CARRIED ALL

DISCUSSION ON CHANGES TO INCORPORATED SOCIETIES RULES & REGULATIONS BY VICE CHAIR

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.

Tracy Paterson – Vice Chair

There is a bit of work to do on this to ensure we are compliant with the new rules, but we have until 2026 to have completed.

Board subcommittee formed to ensure we complete in the timeframe.

A draft document will be ready for presentation at the 2025 AGM.

PATRONS ADDRESS – Allan Frazer [APPENDIGE C \(page 12\)](#)

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

One Board member Resignation: Struan Hulme

Three Board members retiring by rotation:

Bill Dowle, Tracy Paterson & Karen Wilkins-Duff

All have indicated they will stand for re-election.



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ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS, contd...

One nomination received: Cassie Johnston

Bill Dowle moved for Cassie Johnson's nomination be accepted
SECONDED: Don Urquhart
CARRIED ALL

Chair thanked Tracy & Karen for re-standing and their further commitment to the Board and welcomed new board member Cassie Johnston

Chair thanked Struan for his past service on the board.

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 & \$1000.00 for the Chair per annum.
- **Life Membership** - presented to Struan Hulme by Chair Bill Dowle

Citation for the Award of Life Membership of the New Zealand Wool Classers Association to Struan Hulme - read by Patron Allan Frazer

The New Zealand Wool Classers Association has accorded Life Membership on only a very few occasions and has much pleasure in recognising Struan Hulme as being highly worthy of this honour. Wool classing has been an underpinning skill to the many roles that Struan has taken on in a distinguished career.

Recognition is due to Struan for his wider service to the wool classing profession. It is a privilege to be able to acknowledge his service to the two organisations that have worked to set standards and to oversee them. This includes time with the association's predecessor body known as the "CRAIG Committee", including a period as the Registrar. More recently he became a director of the NZWCA board as a processing sector representative. In this role he has provided valuable input particularly as the thrust of the NZWCA is to ensure that clips are prepared to a high standard reflecting the needs of those businesses working further along the value chain.

Struan Hulme started in the Wool Industry over 50 years ago. Early on he graduated with a Diploma of Wool and Wool Technology from Massey University. During his career he worked as wool lecturer at Lincoln University, as a shed classer, for the NZ Wool Board as a senior valuer, classer registrar officer and farmer liaison manager followed by 16 years with Canterbury Woolscourers where he rose to occupy a senior position.

Mitchell Young – Associate, Board Member, and fellow work colleague of Struan spoke to Struan's love of the industry and dedication to the positions he has held.



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- **Cert Wool Tech Delivery & Status** by Registrar Marg Forde

At last night's Board meeting it was discussed that the Association has grave concerns around the status of the Cert Wool & Grading courses with Laurie's retirement & Richard's resignation.

Putting MOTION forward to Members:

The members of the NZ Wool Classers Association support the Board seeking an urgent appointment with the Southern Institute of Technology CEO to discuss and express our concern at the current situation regarding the ongoing delivery of the NZ Certificate of Wool Technology and Classing. NZWCA sees it as critical for the future of New Zealand's wider wool industry that this, the only tertiary qualification in wool in NZ, continues to be delivered at a quality level.

REQUEST TO AMMEND MOTION: Change CEO and Leadership team

**Moved: Bill Dowle
Seconded Alan Frazer**

Laurie Boniface retiring course tutor spoke to AGM attendees as to his disappointment around the lack of support and communication with SIT & Te Pukenga.

Laurie feels they are not interested in the Wool course and the Administrator is looking after around 100 online courses.

REQUEST TO AMMEND MOTION: Add Te Pukenga leadership team to motion

FINAL MOTION READS:

The members of the NZ Wool Classers Association support the Board seeking an urgent appointment with the Southern Institute of Technology and Te Pukenga leadership teams to discuss and express our concern at the current situation regarding the ongoing delivery of the NZ Certificate of Wool Technology and Classing. NZWCA sees it as critical for the future of New Zealand's wider wool industry that this, the only tertiary qualification in wool in NZ, continues to be delivered at a quality level.

**Moved: Bill Dowle
Seconded Alan Frazer**

MEETING CLOSED 12.24PM



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APPENDIGE A

NZWCA CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2024

As I started to write this report, I looked back to my first report in 2013. In it I spoke of how poor wool prices were, and the strong meat prices. We have progressed from there to weaker wool prices and weaker meat prices, so the sheep industry isn't in a particularly good space at the moment especially considering the onslaught of regulation that has hit many businesses and probably farming in particular in respect of environmental pressures. Our people trying to make enough to live on in the wool harvesting industry are no doubt feeling probably more pressure to keep prices down, partly, or largely through reducing staff numbers so making it harder than ever to present the clips in the best possible way. I have to admit to now watching this from the sidelines as my health has prevented me being able to do even a part day in the shed but that is a frustration I have to live with.

We have had a good year with outreach by again having a stand at the Wanka Show, thanks to past NZWCA chairman Martin Patterson as wool convenor giving us some space and helping in other ways to facilitate this and to Marg Forde & Terence Mulcahy for being there to vigorously wave our flag. Having done it twice it now looks to becoming a fixture in the association calendar. We have picked up several new members, but it is the interaction with people that is the important part of such a venture.

There were also Industry days held in Whanganui and Marlborough. Thanks to Marg and Sonya for the Whanganui day and Ratapu for driving the Marlborough day, to Terence and Mitchell for going all the way up from Timaru and Karen Wilkins-Duff for travelling from Christchurch to help with the Marlborough day. We also made a presentation on behalf of the association to Bob Butt who hosted us at his wool store and has retired after a life of involvement in the wool industry as a merchant and great supporter of our association in the Marlborough/Nelson area.

We have continued to support wool training with the Grading "Q" course being completed in several locations and the NZ Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing course continuing, possibly due to the persistence and temerity of Laurie Boniface and Richard Gavigan. We acknowledge Laurie who is retiring at the end of June and handing the reins to Richard who we will continue to work with on these very important wool training fields.

We also need to acknowledge the contributions that have been made by Wool Impact and the WRONZ scholarships. Promoting these tertiary training opportunities is seen to be an important function of NZWCA. Having the formal training as the pathway to registration as a professional classer gives an insight to the "why" of what we do in the shed as classers and helps with keeping wool handlers on track as you can explain why you want things done, which helps the team understand that there is often a reason for asking for things to be done. Attracting and supporting new classers and graders is essential to the long-term survival of our organisation and it is good to note that the numbers working their way through the Cert Wool Tech course have grown from what used to be about 15 per year to currently 45. This shows there are good numbers wanting to get some formal wool education. With Te Pūkenga/Southern Institute of Technology being allowed to



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again offer “fees-free” for the course the financial barrier is going, hopefully. The support from Wool Impact and the wider industry (National Council of NZ Wool Interests Inc) for the Grading, or Q course is growing. It is hoped that this can grow to 6 – 8 courses around the country per year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those involved in the winding up the Massey Wool Association (led by Laurie Boniface) who have resolved to vest some of the remaining funds to NZWCA to hold in trust specifically to assist with the costs of running some of these Grading courses. The exact amount hasn't been settled yet but it will be enough to help some courses happen.

On a wider note, with the progress being made by Wool Source (the commercial branch of WRONZ) and Campaign for Wool, it is hoped demand for wool can make the prices lift and some viability return to the wool growing industry. This year we have been suggesting there is an advantage to tying together having to be a registered Grader or Classer to quality assurance programmes (NZ Farm Assurance Programme and Merino Company's ZQ program in NZ). We have been asking for wool growers to have to certify that their Classer or Grader is registered in wool clips where stencil is being put on the bales and the stencil's registration number going in the wool specifications. If this could happen it would be making headway with our aim of having “verified quality control” on the bulk, or at least a good percentage, of the national clip as this should eliminate the practice of the fraudulent use of either a made- up registration number or someone else's number. Doing this is wrong and dishonest, but we have not had any real enforcement powers since the demise of the Wool Board in 2004 and the creation of NZWCA.

We see that recognition of valid registration is important to “proof of quality control” to the harvesting operation. We are going to continue to try to get a checkbox on the paperwork for quality assurance programs that seem to be becoming more essential in the modern world. Just shoving wool in a bag and throwing it on a truck is no longer acceptable, although it seems some are having trouble getting the message.

Before I conclude I have to thank Marg for her work keeping things moving and the publicity happening and who shares the administration with Annette. Thank you, Annette who also does all the agendas, minutes and boring essential stuff, as well as makes sure the bills are paid and invoices sent out which keeps us in existence. Also, to the NZWCA Board members who have helped when needed and contributed wise thoughts to our discussions when holding meetings (nearly all our meetings are online and, in the evenings.)

A special thanks must also go to our patron Allan Fraser for his continued wise council and advice when we look like veering of track. I must also acknowledge my wife who has for some years now had to put up with my “Woolly Thinking” and interfered with evenings especially when we have a meeting or phone calls, that usually happen at mealtimes.

On that bright note I will close off and wish you all well for the next classing season and we continue to hope for a turnaround for the greatest fibre, which is unfortunately battling for survival.

Thankyou,

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 2024

I want to begin by acknowledging the importance of the shared values of our member **Classers, Graders and Associate Members, and our Sponsors**. Simply put, administering the NZ Wool Classers Registration system and our association's advocacy work for quality in wool preparation/presentation, and for wool education and training, wouldn't happen without your support. Thank you and long may it continue!

In no particular order here are (I hope) most of the things that have kept your Registrar busy, and your Board involved since the 2023 NZWCA AGM.

Our response to the non-wool contamination in bales, flagged by WoolWorks

In 2023 WoolWorks went public with figures proving an alarming rise in incidences where items other than wool were being found in bales. The financial cost and the reputational cost to the NZ wool industry is huge for something that is completely avoidable. NZWCA helped spread the word through our membership and also via social media. We also decided to produce a poster for wool shed walls, to raise awareness. What has been created – and will be available at our AGM/Industry Day on May 13 for the first time – is a result of satisfying collaboration. Wording for the poster, which contains checklists for prior to and during shearing came from invited contributions, the graphic design was done free by a member, Samantha Harmer P2214 and WoolWorks are paying for a print run of 500 posters on tough rip resistant paper.

Formal complaint process

It was agreed in 2022 our association needed a formal complaint process so after Board input and careful consideration the NZWCA version was finalised in 2023 and placed on our website <https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/complaints-procedure/>

Things classers want to know

A recurring subject I've come across in my interactions with classers this past 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.

Classer Award process and nomination forms placed on website

<https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/nomination-form-for-nzwca-classer-awards/>

The nomination and judging process for the annual NZWCA Classer Awards has been documented. It is available for all to see on our website, along with an online nomination form which wool buyers and brokers/wool representatives/area managers can use to submit nominations. Thank you to the brokers and buyers who support the Classer Awards each year by noticing and nominating classers and graders, you are appreciated - the awards couldn't happen without you. A special thank you for your positivity and making the transition to online nomination forms so willingly.

Wool harvesting training advocacy

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 generic models.



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Sonya Johansen (NZWCA Board member) and I then became members of the working group at the pointy end of the project. Our group was tasked with the development of the technical part and delivery of the new micro credentials. We have had numerous online meetings and two in-person sessions and at the time of writing our group is almost there.

Why have NZWCA people spend the time and resources? It's simple. If we as an industry don't keep working 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.

NZWCA profile at events

We had a profile and our banner flying at the wool expo at the Waimate Spring Shears in October 2023, at the Canterbury Show in November 2023 and the Wanaka Show in March 2024. Thank you to Board members Mitchell Young and Tracy Paterson for representing the association and making space for us alongside WoolWorks at Waimate and Matakanui Stud at Canterbury respectively. Board member Terence Mulcahy and I represented NZWCA on our own stand at the Wanaka Show, extremely generously sorted for us by former NZWCA chair Martin Paterson, now president of the Upper Clutha A&P Society which runs the Wanaka show. He found us space in a tent in a perfect spot situated right beside the door to the Fleece Competition entranceway and adjacent to the sheep judging pens. Terence and I agree there is huge value in NZWCA having a presence there. We had two days of many conversations with a really wide range of people about what NZWCA stands for, supports and our role in the industry. There were people who came to our stand who didn't know anything about wool (and just wanted to talk about our wool samples and wool as a consumer item) and wise and experienced wool growers, buyers, exporters, and many in between. We were even able to connect a farmer looking for a new classer with a Provisional Classer we knew was at the show because she'd popped into our tent to say hello.

Adding Classer registration validity to wool quality assurance programmes

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). Over the course of the 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.

<https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/news/safeguarding-the-kiwi-stencil/>

We have been highlighting 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. This topic was on the agenda of the most recent National Council of NZ Wool Interests Inc (NZWCA is an associate member) meeting which Bill and I attended, and we will continue to flag this issue throughout the industry.

As I see it, there's two prongs here: 1) The NZ wool industry is better for a classing and grading system that is trusted and respected and 2) from an individual classer's point of view, I know I worked hard to get my Kiwi stencil, I don't want to see the registration system undermined. Therefore, if you see misuse of a stencil, at any stage of wool harvesting or processing, please call it! As Registrar I'm available to handle any misuse observations in a way that ensures anonymity.

Industry visits

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 was Board Secretary / Group Financial Administration Manager for Wool Research Organisation of NZ



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(WRONZ). Al has since retired. He has been 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.

New Zealand's only tertiary level wool education is the Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing

The delivery of this qualification is currently via the Southern Institute of Technology/Telford, and frontline in this sometimes-challenging education environment have been the tutors Laurie Boniface (retiring at the end of June) and Richard Gavigan, who are currently employed at 0.5 each. For example, it was incredibly frustrating for them to have 69 Cert Wool Tech students (a record number in recent years) either wanting to start or already undertaking study at the beginning of 2024. However, a ruling from Te Pukenga (the mega body that was going to take over all institutions like SIT, but now isn't) decreed that SIT could no longer offer fees free courses. When this was protested, a decision was made to make Otago and Southland students fees free, but anyone doing SIT courses from other parts of NZ had to pay. So that 69 students dropped to 42 in Semester 1 this year. Then, just as Bill, Richard, Laurie and I had agreed on the wording for a letter laying out the effect on the wool courses, to be distributed widely including to politicians, there was an about-turn and from Semester 2 onwards, it will be fees free again. With Laurie retiring I believe we as an association need to be mindful, and make sure the wider wool industry knows, just how important support for the Cert Wool Tech course is. It's the only tertiary qualification in wool available in NZ and is the academic prerequisite for gaining provisional classer registration. All of the above is why I wanted to include getting Richard down to Laurie's retirement acknowledgement at our Mosgiel Day in May. Compared to many tertiary qualifications there's a lot of extra work that goes into a course like Cert Wool Tech, for example, maintaining a collection of relevant wool samples, and also pastoral care of students who are often working as well as studying.

Resuming awards and trophies for NZ Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing students

Several years ago, a change in the Southern Institute of Technology/Telford system meant only pass or fail grades were visible to the tutors. This meant the NZWCA/Telford award system for top students was set aside. However, another change, a nudge from former Registrar Bruce Abbott, some admin co-operation from Telford, a prolonged effort and collaboration between the wool tutors Laurie Boniface, Richard Gavigan and myself saw the awards reinstated for 2023. These were announced in our December newsletter

Pg 20 <https://woolclassers.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/December-2023-Newsletter.pdf>

and 2023 top overall student Jody Salmon will be presented with the NZWCA perpetual silver cup at our Industry PD Day on May 13. The cup resides at Telford.

Massey Wool Association

The Massey Wool Association has been officially wound up, a sad sign of the times for wool. It had been inactive for the past 10 years or more, so Laurie Boniface and others initiated the formal dissolution. Annette, Bill and I have had ongoing communications with them re the MWA dissolution. There is around \$12,000 remaining MWA funds and the members doing the winding up requested that some of the money should be used to support the running of Wool Clip Grading (Q Courses) courses. NZWCA has agreed to administer this money.

WRONZ Scholarship

This scholarship provided by the Wool Research Organisation of NZ WRONZ is \$5000 a year for NZ Certificate of Wool Technology and Classing students (\$1000 per student), administered by NZWCA. We now have split the scholarships into two time periods as there are two Cert Wool Tech intakes each year, it only seemed fair. Currently the payment of the scholarship is in increments and



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conditional on a student passing. This year we are also introducing the requirement that the scholarship student won't get paid their last \$250 increment unless they furnish proof, they have acknowledged WRONZ and connected with the organisation. From the outset the successful scholarship recipients are encouraged in their scholarship advice letter to "maximise this scholarship by using it as an opportunity to network and connect with wool industry organisations and people". The person at WRONZ who has championed this scholarship, Al Boa, retired late last year. I was pleased to meet and have a good talk with his replacement, Tim Lonsdale at the Wanaka Show.

NZWCA Industry and Wool Days – Whanganui and Blenheim

Our 2023 NZWCA North Island Industry Day was in Whanganui in October. Huge thanks to the staff and management of Bremworth Spinners and Elco Direct who not only supplied our venue but also went out of their way to help Board member Sonya Johansen and I before, during and after the Industry Day. Wool tutors Laurie Boniface and Richard Gavigan were there too, once again North Island Day super supporters – speakers, suppliers of some wool samples, set up, pack up and even spent their lunch time helping to mark the wool exercises. And finally, thanks to all who attended – most of our members are in the South Island – especially the speakers and the two contractors (Stu Munro Shearing and Paewai Mullins) who filled vans and sent staff.

The NZWCA Marlborough Wool Day was held in Blenheim in late January. It was the initiative of Board member and local classer and contractor Ratapu Moore who undoubtedly achieved the aim of putting on a positive day bringing wool growers and other wool people together. Big thanks to all Board members involved, Bill Dowle, Terence Mulcahy, Karen Wilkins-Duff, Mitchell Young and especially Ratapu and her husband Angus who invested a massive amount of time, energy and resources to make this day happen. Originally it was planned for this day to be in April 2024 however the date had to be brought forward at short notice due to the retirement of Bob Butt and the closure of the woolstore which was the venue.

Phew, almost there!

In closing, I want to share an observation about the NZWCA events like the two above: For all the negative talk about how low things are for the NZ wool industry, the fact that it never seems to be difficult to find willing speakers to give of their time and share what they know is illustrative of the number of really great people in our country's wool waka. I'm grateful to be on board with you all, thank you. And last but definitely not least, thank you to the members of the NZWCA Board who have supported me and my Registrar role through the year. 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 Secretary Annette Gamble, chairman Bill Dowle, vice-chair Tracy Paterson and former vice chair Sonya Johansen who are always there for operational matters and always a pleasure to work alongside. You enable me to do my job to the best of my ability and, speaking personally, you ensure there is enjoyment along the way.

Ngā mihi, nā

Marg Forde A126

NZWCA Registrar

19.04.2014

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APPENDIGE C

PATRON ADDRESS 2024

Just to recap why I was nominated to be your patron; while not being a qualified classer.

While working for Meat and Wool NZ back in 2005 I was asked to help set up your Wool classers Association and at its formation I was invited to become a director and have been ever since. I think I have attended every AGM and Professional Development Day since then. In earlier days I grew up on a farm running Corriedales, I shored a few sheep and did lots of wool handling. Also, I undertook an introduction to wool classing at Lincoln university 60 years ago.

During those last 20 years I have come to admire the passion and skills of the people from many diverse backgrounds who work in this industry. Also, the desire of many to keep on learning and stay at the top of their profession, like you who are attending here today.

I especially admire those great people who freely give of their knowledge and time to support wool classers and graders and the wider industry, some of those who serve on your Association or have done so in earlier years. Also, many of you undertaking this role do so at the expense of earning income.

It is a rewarding experience to see how these people work together at board level to define issues both those directly concerning the classers' role but also those issues and challenges facing the wider industry in which the classers voice needs to be heard. This board also works well in the process of reaching solutions.

It is an honour to be your Patron I will continue to work to support you and the Association in:

- Keeping abreast of your needs as members.
- In undertaking initiatives to encourage new people to enter the profession
- To ensure that best practice training, professional development and education is available for members
- To maintain good relationships with others in the wool value chain and to seek their input as appropriate
- And above all to ensure relevant quality standards are maintained

Thank you

Allan Frazer