



# New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

NRE Building, Lincoln University, Lincoln

Meeting commenced at 12.44pm

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

**Classers Members Present:** Pip McConway, Sally Smith, Jessica Murray, Kate Campbell, Sam Harmer, Sarah Falconer, Heidi Middleton, Johnny Booker, Susan Simpson, Melissa Pearce, Charlotte Dykes, Emily Jones, Juliet Jones, Bridget Speight, Julie Thompson, Ian Shaw, Graeme Goodger, Tegan Caves, Katrise Saunders, Ian Stevenson, Dave Carr, Donald McKenzie, Kara Ball, Dave York, Emma O'Sullivan, Tina Elers, Rose Barnett, Cassidy Gray and Rebecca Braddick

**Associate Members Present:** Kerry Thompson

**Guests Present:** Crystal Newton, Ocean Cashell, Stuart Mangin, Abbie Hewitt, James, Wilson, Taleaha King, Vanessa Weily, Conor Devoy, Nigel Malthus, Breanna Hayes, Lynne Hurley, Donald Aubrey, Frances Ngarangione, Keith Shaw, Warwick Payne, Jade Kiesanowski. Laura Henderson, Mark Stevenson, Bonnie Fogarty, Suzanne Webby, Erin Chittock, Kelly Harvey, Lucy Elers, Richanna Clarke, Gregory Fergusson, Kristine Milne, Holy Brown, Morgan Brewster and Tom O'Sullivan

**Apologies Received:** Mary Satterthwaite, Barbara Newton, Krystal Proudfoot, Graeme Bell, Ada Louise Watkins, Amberlee Kahukura-McGinnis, Susan Middlehurst, Janet Hackshaw, Brent Cole, Malcom Spencer, Ratapu Moore. Bruce Abbott, Kelly Paku-Taylor, Emarina Watson & Diane Webster

***Chair moved that the apologies be accepted and leave of absence be granted***

**Seconded: Allan Frazer**

**CARRIED ALL**

## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2025 AGM and expressed how wonderful it was to see such a strong turnout to our Industry Day .

Chair calls for a moments silence to remember those in the industry who are no longer with us. Special mention of the recent passing of Brent Hickey. He was a dedicated wool man & will be missed greatly.

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## MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

2024 Minutes circulated via email and taken as read.

Matters arising from last AGM minutes: None

One correction to moving of Registrar's report sys "Chairmans report"  
And Seconded has 3 in front

*A motion was moved to adopt the recommended changes, and once amended, that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the 2024 Annual General Meeting*

**MOVED: Tracy Paterson**

**SECONDED: Bill Dowle**

**CARRIED ALL**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APPENDIGE A (pages 5 & 6)

Circulated via email and taken as read.

*Allan Frazer moved that the Chair's report be accepted*

**SECONDED: Bill Dowle**

**CARRIED ALL**

## REGISTRAR'S REPORT APPENDIGE B (pages 7, 8 & 9)

Circulated via email and taken as read.

*Chair moved that the Registrar's report be accepted*

**SECONDED: Cassie Johnston**

**CARRIED ALL**

## FINANCIAL REPORT (01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024)

Annual accounts circulated via email and taken as read.

The Chair noted that the positive financial outcome for the year was largely attributed to the inability to hold a second Classer Day, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Bill Dowle expressed his gratitude to the Registrar and Secretary for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

*Chair moved that the Association's Financial Annual report be accepted*

**SECONDED: Bill Dowle**

**CARRIED ALL**



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## SETTING OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2026

At last night's Board Meeting, the Board voted to implement an increase in the Association's annual fees for 2026. After reviewing the past ten years of records, it was decided that the Classer fees will see an increase of \$10.00 per annum.

**Motion called: That the annual subscription fee for Classer membership be increased by \$10.00 per annum, effective 2026, with all other membership categories remaining unchanged**

**MOVED: Tracy Paterson  
SECONDED: Don Urquhart  
CARRIED ALL**

## ADOPTION OF NEW NZWCA CONSTITUTION TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION CHANGES FOR INCORPORATED SOCIETIES

Circulated via email and taken as read

At last night's Board meeting, it was noted that the following clause: '*All wool classing stencils with registration numbers may only be used by current financial members of NZWCA*' had been inadvertently omitted from the document. This clause, which was included in the original Constitution, will now be added under the section 'Members/Obligations & Rights'."

Chair called for questions.

Classer (name not noted) asked how we are able to manage this clause?

The Chair noted that while this is difficult/impossible to monitor, it is the responsibility of each professional Classer to uphold their integrity and self-monitor in the best interests of the Association

**Motion called: That the new Constitution be adopted, incorporating the inclusion of the aforementioned clause.**

**MOVED: Tracy Paterson  
SECONDED: Dave Carr  
CARRIED ALL**

## PATRON GAVE ADDRESS – Allan Frazer APPENDIGE C (page 10)

## ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

No Board members up for Rotation

Karen Wilkins- Duff has indicated her intention to resign from her position on the NZWCA Board  
All other current Board members have indicated their intention to continue



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The Board would formally like to thank Karen for her dedicated service over the past four years. Her calm demeanour, helpful nature, and exceptional marking skills at Classer Days have been greatly appreciated

We have received one valid nomination to the NZWCA for Phillipa McConway

Tracy Paterson extended a warm welcome to Pip, who joins the Board with 40 years of experience in the shearing sheds and 28 years of wool classing in the Marlborough region.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

None

**MEETING CLOSED 1.07PM**

DRAFT



# New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

## APPENDICE A

### NZWCA CHAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2025

It is with great pride that I present my first Chairs Report for New Zealand Wool Classers Association for the past year. The 2024–2025 period has been one of both reflection and renewal, as our industry navigates ongoing challenges while continuing to demonstrate resilience, craftsmanship, and adaptation.

#### **Acknowledgement's**

I would like to start this report with some thanks. Firstly, to Bill Dowle who after an impressive tenure of 11 years stood down from the chair's role. Thankfully he continues on the committee as deputy as we appreciate his wisdom and counsel.

Thank you to New Zealand Wool Industry Charitable Trust for their continued support with the sponsorship of the Wool Classing Certificate scholarships. It is recognised that many, if not all, recipients are also in full time employment so additional time is required beyond the working day to complete the course, so this financial support is gratefully received.

Thank you to all the generous sponsors WoolWorks, Wool Exporters Council, Federation of NZ Wool Merchants, NZ Merino Company, Bremworth, PGG Wrightson Wool, Wools of New Zealand, Peter Lyon Shearing and NZ Wool Testing Authority both financially and for your time - on behalf of our members we are sincerely grateful.

#### **Industry Outlook**

We, together with all involved in the wool industry, welcomed Minister Nicola Willis' announcement that from 1 July government departments are required to use wool carpet. There are many Ministers and MP's that have pushed for this and to those who have I say thank you – special thanks to Minister Mark Patterson for his tireless pursuit in getting this across the line. While the strong wool sector remains under pressure this latest initiative will hopefully see some value add for the industry.

Evolving consumer preferences and the drive for natural fibre has seen the fine wool market hold and, in some cases, strengthen. New Zealand wool retains its global reputation for quality and sustainability—values that our classers are instrumental in upholding. The rise in demand for traceable, ethically sourced and harvested fibre presents opportunities we must continue to embrace and lead.

#### **Membership and Professional Development**

We finished the year with 176 full registered classers, 11 Q Stencil Graders, 54 Associate members and 2 Wool Harvester members. Our membership is growing, and we are committed to enhancing our offerings.

This year, we welcomed 8 new Provisional and Owner classers and 1 Provisional Grader, a positive indicator of the interest and investment in our profession.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our senior classers, and industry partners who have made the educational efforts across the industry a success.

Continued professional development remains a cornerstone of our work. The development of a suite of classing documentation to assist our classers is key going forward. We are committed to ensuring all members have access to training that reflects industry best practices and global expectations.



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## **Collaboration and Advocacy**

We continue to have dialogue and strengthen relationships with wool brokers and processors, advocating for greater recognition of the role classers, and their stencils, play in maintaining New Zealand wool's premium status. Big thank you to our committee member Sonya Johansen and Registrar Marg Forde for their work with the Food and Fibre Workforce Council - Muka Tangata and other industry members to develop the NZQA Wool Harvesting Training new Microcredentials. Our Association is well represented in industry and our voice is being heard.

Our partnerships with training institutions and other industry education initiatives help to integrate classing standards more closely with wool harvesting. These links are vital for building a shared understanding across the entire wool harvesting and supply chain.

## **Looking Ahead**

As we look to the coming year, key areas of focus include:

- Developing an enhanced suite of documents that will assist the registered classer
- Promoting certification and maintaining quality assurance processes both in the education piece and stencil status
- Promoting the profession to those who wish to have a deeper understanding and connection to the fibre
- Fostering industry pride in the work that classers do as stewards of wool quality

## **Further Acknowledgements**

Thank you to our Registrar, Marg Forde. Your tireless pursuit of enhancing the objectives of our Association is to be commended. Your many hours of "behind the scenes" work does not go unnoticed.

Thank you to Terrence, Marg and Edsel for your presence at the Wanaka Show. It is a huge few days and your willingness to "fly the NZWCA flag" is much appreciated. Thank you to Annette our long serving secretary. Your guidance and support is the heart of the Association.

To the NZWCA Board, thank you for your continued governance and support. To our members, your dedication to excellence continues to inspire confidence across the wool industry. Finally, to our partners across the supply chain, we thank you for your collaboration and shared vision for a thriving, high-quality New Zealand wool sector.

**Tracy Paterson**

**M2154**

**Chairperson**

**New Zealand Wool Classers Association**

# New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

## APPENDICE B

### NZWCA REGISTRARS ANNUAL REPORT 2025

It's genuinely an honour to be presenting my **fourth Registrar's report to a NZWCA AGM**. Thank you for the solid support this past year and for your trust in me in the role.

Passion for wool, collaboration, showing up with integrity and commitment, putting in the mahi, always learning and being open to seeing things from more than one perspective; these are the things that are my focus. I'm grateful to have recognised the same in people I have come in contact within the past year in my work for the NZ Wool Classers Association. In my experience there's a lot of goodwill out there in our wool industry and we are all better off for this.

In no particular order here are (I hope) **most of the things that have kept your Registrar busy**, and your Board involved since the 2024 NZWCA AGM.

Dialling back to **May 2024 and our AGM/Industry Professional Development Day in Mosgiel**. It was heartening to have healthy attendance numbers from a wide range of wool industry people and a varied line up of willing speakers. Feedback on the day was very positive. I can assure you these events take a lot of pulling together prior, and also work setting up and on the day, thank you too all. Special mention to Kevin Waldron and Allan Paterson for wool exercise samples and to the shearing contractors who recognise the value in getting their wool harvesting staff to participate, filling their vans up with attendees. It's a given that Classers and Graders take responsibility for keeping themselves engaged and informed by attending such events, but we can't underestimate the value of having wool handlers and pressers grow their knowledge and confidence too.

At the time of writing (mid-April), since our last AGM **we've welcomed nine new stencil holders**. Six Provisional Classers, two Owner Classers and one Grader. Four Classers have done what it takes to get off their Provisional prefix status to either M (merino) or H (Mid Micron) and one Classer passed their final clip inspection to upgrade from C (Crossbred and Merino) to A (all breeds). I'm really pleased to see this progression and upskilling. We have the systems in place, but the motivation to do it can only come from the individual Classer/Grader; I do all I can to support this. A reminder to those on a Provisional stencil, there is now a three-year time limit on this (as passed at our AGM in 2022), though extensions may be considered on application to the Registrar.

**The Young Farmer of the Year final** was in Hamilton in July 2024 and included wool for the first time for many years. Earlier in the year a Young Farmers Club organising committee member contacted my husband Edsel and I enquiring about using our mobile shearing plant as they wanted to include shearing on the practical module final day. I pushed to include wool and Edsel, and I ended up working with them to design a module that incorporated shearing and wool, and we were module hosts and judges on the day. A win for wool – lucky I just happened to have a bunch of merino, mid micron and crossbred wool samples at our North Island home to use! And of course, I made sure the NZWCA logo was visible and pushed the quality message on the day.

In March we were once again able to **fly the NZWCA flag at the Wanaka A&P Show**, thanks to the show's wool committee making us welcome and finding us space right beside the door to the building housing the NZ Fine Wool Supreme Fleece Competition. Thank you to Ian Bagley and his wool committee, you do great work for wool. It was third time at the show representing NZWCA for





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Terence Mulcahy and I. We agree there is huge value in NZWCA having a presence there. We had two days of many conversations with a 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.

At our AGM/Industry PD Day on May 9 we will be announcing the next round of recipients of **scholarships provided by the Wool Research Organisation of NZ**. WRONZ gives \$5000 a year for NZ Certificate of Wool Technology and Classing students (\$1000 per student) and the scholarship is 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. The payment of the scholarship is in increments and conditional on a student passing. There is also a 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". Thanks to WRONZ for the support of tertiary wool education, and WRONZ manager Tim Lonsdale for his collaboration on this.

Driving our Board objective of **transparent, timely and operable documentation and processes** has continued for me this past year. I have worked with the Board to update the Roles and Responsibilities of Board members document and there is now a requirement for anyone accepting nomination for the Board to confirm they have read and understood this document. The Classer Code of Conduct and Ethics has also been updated, and a link to it included in the registration invoices sent out in February. A Store Classer registration description relevant to current conditions has been created. All these documents are on our website. The creation of a new NZWCA Constitution to ensure compliance with new Government regulations around Incorporated Societies has been a huge piece of work for your Board and myself. The draft is on this year's AGM agenda for consideration and adoption. A work in progress document is a pre-shearing checklist of agreed responsibilities for Classer, Farmer and Shearing Contractor.

**Communicating with members and ensuring NZWCA is positioned visibly** where we need to be, where our input and advocacy is helpful or required, are tasks that require a deceptive amount of time and resource input from me. Online meetings via Teams and Zoom allow affordable participation, I've taken part in many this past year, in a wide range of wool industry related areas. I'd always like to have the time to communicate more with our members, and to network more. On the plus side I was glad to be able to circulate a reminder during pre-lamb 2024, prompted by feedback from two wool reps, around the ongoing importance of protecting the reputation of our industry when making online social media posts. That reminder remains firmly in place! Regarding my time input, as I have previously stated 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.

Definitely an area that's taken up a big portion of time for me in the past year has **been input into wool harvesting training and wool education**. Allan Frazer and I, on behalf of NZWCA, made a





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comprehensive submission to the new Government's Vocational and Educational Training Reforms. Sonya Johansen and I continued the work begun in 2023 with the wool harvesting microcredential working group, facilitated by Muka Tangata, the Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council. The new microcredentials were signed off in 2024. The work was done to replace the defunct unit standards, with the aim being to cut through some of the blocks to funding and delivery for wool harvesting training. Time will tell if this happens. I have ensured a good working relationship with the wool tutors appointed last year by the Southern Institute of Technology, Rebecca Braddick-Tohiariki and Emma O'Sullivan. We have worked together to make sure the 2025 NZWCA AGM/Industry PD Day at Lincoln University on May 9 was timed to allow NZ Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing block course students to fit attendance into their block course week.

One thing I didn't do that I should have was run the intended **North Island Industry PD Day in 2024/first half of 2025**. I had to have surgery in October, and this knocked me sideways a lot more, and for longer, than anticipated. My recovery is still a work in progress. While I was able to keep on the job with admin online and by phone, the mobility required to put on an Industry Day was literally a step too far. My apologies, and my thanks to our Board members for their understanding.

**To close, my heartfelt thanks to all the NZWCA Board members and our Secretary** It is a pleasure to work with you all on our shared purpose of ensuring there is a solid platform to enable achieving highest quality standards of wool preparation and presentation. Our association is fortunate to have such a committed group of people who hail from across the wool sector giving their time and experience. Special mention to our new Chair Tracy Paterson, who despite already being a busy woman with multiple farm, family and community leadership balls in the air has caught the NZWCA one and run with it. And as always, Secretary Annette Gamble, who knows I couldn't do what I do without her rock-solid efficiency, wisdom, commitment and most importantly humour.

**Acknowledgement and appreciation are also due to 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.

Ngā mihi, nā  
Marg Forde  
A1260  
NZWCA Registrar

# New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.



## APPENDIGE C

### PATRON ADDRESS 2025

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.

You have been fortunate to have appointed knowledgeable and dedicated members of your profession to serve on the board throughout the 20 years since the organisation was formed. Also, our associate organisations have nominated very competent people to serve on our board.

They have had some challenging issues to manage over that time and this past 12 months has been no exception. But your board has worked well as a team, and it has been particularly well served by those who have held the position of Chair. They have all recognised the importance of collaboration with other organisation in the industry and work hard to build and maintain those relationships and to present the wool classer viewpoint where their voice needs to be heard. We have also had some very capable people serve as Registrar over that time who have delivered way more than their remuneration suggests.

I continue 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 those of 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, Also, many of you undertaking these roles do so at the expense of earning income.

It is an honour to be your Patron, and 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**  
**NZWCA Patron**