



New Zealand Wool Classers Association Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 15th May 2026

Peter Lyon Shearing, Alexandra

Meeting commenced at 12.40pm

Board Members Present: Tracy Paterson (Chair), Bill Dowle (Vice Chair), Marg Forde (Registrar), Don Urquhart, Allan Frazer, Pip McConway, Sonya Johansen, Kevin Waldron, Mitchell Young, Cassie Johnston and Terence Mulcahy
Annette Gamble (Secretary) joined via zoom

Classers Members Present: Kate Campbell, Ian Shaw, Ian Kofoed, Samantha Harmer, Graeme Bell, Jane Scott, Sarah Graham, Peter Philpott, Danielle Mahia, Julia Waldron, Juliet Jones, Susan Simpson, Heidi Middleton, Ken Gillespie, Allan Paterson, Tina Elers, Robynne Murray, Cassidy Gray, Andrew Paterson, Kristal Wilson, Murray (Herb) Ross, Katrise Saunders, Shirley Munro, Bruce Abbott, Sarah Falconer, Alistair Eckhoff, Marton Paterson, Anne-Marie Parcell & Charlotte Stuart

Associate Members Present: Hayden Hickey (WS Hickey & Son Ltd), Lloyd Kirtlan & Jason Clark (Carrick Station)

Guests Present: Jared Maniher, Ashley Clarke, Bonnie Fogarty, Andy Pope, Bree Taylor, Lucy Gee Taylor, Scarlett Hopcorft, Charlie McKenzie, Abby Makaafi, Shaun O'Docherty, Leora Werner, Garth Sanders, Gemma Blount, Blair Davies, Kaylee Hood, Jenny Harraway, Shane Sanders, Dallas Mihaere, Tahlia Nelson, Hemi Worthington & Vornie Wheki

Apologies Received:

Classers – Emily Jones, Sharlene Adamson, Julie Thompson, David York, Cedric Aramoana, John McKenzie, Mary Satterthwaite, Ada Watkins, Emarina Watson, Tania Tisdall, Lesley Edmonds, Janet Hackshaw, Brent Cole, Dave Carr, Karen Wilkins-Duff, Charlotte Dykes & John Elliot

Associate Members – Kerry Thompson & Kerrie Smith-Sutton

Other - Barbara Newton

The Chair called for the apologies to be accepted and leave of absence to be granted

MOVED: Julia Waldron

SECONDED: Allan Frazer

CARRIED ALL

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2026 AGM and expressed his pleasure at seeing such a strong turnout for the Industry Day. He also thanked Peter and Elsie Lyon for generously hosting the event.

The Chair called for a moment of silence in memory of those from our industry who are no longer with us, including those whose passing may be unknown to us. Special mention was made of Tom Bryant (A16) and Struan Hulme (A525, Life Member).



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MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The 2025 AGM minutes were circulated to members prior to the meeting and taken as read.
Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the 2025 AGM minutes and no corrections were noted.

A motion was called that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

MOVED: Bill Dowle

SECONDED: Ian Kofoed

CARRIED ALL

CHAIRMANS REPORT (pages 5 & 6)

The report was circulated via email prior to the meeting and taken as read.

Tracy Paterson MOVED that the Chair's report be accepted

SECONDED: Ratapu Moore

CARRIED ALL

REGISTRAR'S REPORT (pages 7 to 12)

The report was circulated via email prior to the meeting and taken as read.

Allan Frazer congratulated our Registrar on providing a very comprehensive report noting that it demonstrates the wide range of activities that have been undertaken by the Association over the past 12 months.

Allan MOVED that the Registrar's report be accepted

SECONDED: Bill Dowle

CARRIED ALL

FINANCIAL REPORT (01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025)

The annual accounts were circulated via email prior to the meeting and taken as read.

The Chair thanked our sponsors for their continued support of the Association and acknowledged the Classers & Associate members for their prompt payment of subscriptions for the upcoming season.

The Chair called that the Association's 2025 Annual Financial Report be received and accepted.

MOVED: Ratapu Moore

SECONDED: Ian Shaw

CARRIED ALL



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SETTING OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2027

At the Board Meeting held the previous evening, the Board voted to keep all Association fees unchanged for 2027.

PATRON GAVE ADDRESS – Allan Frazer (page13)

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

We have two Board members retiring by rotation:

- Sonya has indicated her intention to resign from her position on the NZWCA Board
- Terry Mulcahy has indicated he will stand for re-election.
- One other board position is available vacated by Kristal Wilson during the year

We have received one valid nomination to the NZWCA for Janet Smith A1477

The Secretary confirmed that the nomination was received and is true, correct, and valid

**Marg Forde MOVED the nomination be accepted
SECONDED: Ratapu Moore**

As only one valid nomination was received, only that position will be filled at this time. The remaining vacancy will remain open, and members interested in serving on the Board are encouraged to contact any Board member to discuss the role further. Details of current Board members can be found on our website: [Board Members - Wool Classers Association](#)

The Chair outlined there is also on the website the [NZWCA Board member role, responsibility and conduct](#), providing an overview of the expectations and obligations associated with serving on the Board.

The Chair acknowledged a number of Board membership changes and expressions of appreciation. The Chair and Board formally expressed their sincere appreciation to Sonya for her dedicated service to the Association since June 2020, including her service as Vice Chair in 2021 and 2022, and thanked her for her valuable contributions and commitment. The Chair also thanked Terry Mulcahy for continuing as a Board member for a further three-year term and acknowledged his ongoing commitment to the Association. The Chair further thanked Ratapu Moore for her service as the NZSCA representative, noting the valuable insight she brought to Board discussions through her experience as a Classer, as well as her contribution to the establishment of the Upper South Island Field Day. Her dedication to both the Board and the wider industry was sincerely appreciated. Ratapu Moore is relinquishing her position as the Shearing Contractors' representative on the Board, with the vacancy to be discussed with the Shearing Contractors to determine a suitable replacement.

Finally, the Chair welcomed Janet as the Association's newest Board member and looked forward to her contribution. The Chair also expressed thanks to Janet for stepping into the registration role during the day in the absence of the Secretary.



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GENERAL BUSINESS

1. The Board remains passionate about Fine and Crossbred Wool and welcomes new initiatives that promote and educate both our members and the wider wool industry. The Board is also exploring the possibility of a North Island Industry Day later in the year, in conjunction with other industry representatives, to share costs and encourage stronger attendance.
2. The Association's long-term Secretary (Annette) gave notice at last night's Board meeting of her intention to step down following the 2027 AGM. Annette commenced her role as Secretary in 2009 while employed at Tectra and has continued in the position since Tectra's disbandment. However, her current role now requires extensive travel, making it increasingly difficult to commit the time required to fulfil the responsibilities of the position.

Martin Paterson MOVED that Annette Gamble be recognised for her significant contribution to the Association over a period of 17 years, and that she be awarded Life Membership of the Association in recognition of her service

SECONDED: Graeme Bell

Unanimously approved by all members present

Annette thanked the association for this honour

MEETING CLOSED 1.05PM



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NZWCA CHAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2026

It is my privilege to present the Chairperson's Report for the New Zealand Wool Classers Association (NZWCA) for the 2025 year. A year marked by renewed momentum, strengthened professional standards, and a growing recognition of the critical role classers play in the future of New Zealand's wool industry.

Across 2025 and into 2026, the wool sector has continued to navigate a complex global environment. Despite ongoing pressure on strong wool prices, several developments signal a positive shift which include the Government's decision requiring all government departments to use wool carpet from July 2025 – a move that has been widely welcomed. A boost for strong wool demand and signalling renewed confidence in natural fibres.

Fine wool markets have remained resilient, supported by evolving consumer preferences for natural, traceable, and ethically sourced fibres. Industry leaders have reiterated that New Zealand wool's future lies in differentiation, quality, and meeting end-user specifications. The opportunity for New Zealand lies squarely in the delivery of well-presented and expertly classed wool. Associate Agriculture Minister Mark Patterson has highlighted concerns about declining wool quality affecting manufacturers and exporters which reinforces the need for renewed focus on breeding, shed preparation, and classing standards.

These insights reaffirm the central role of NZWCA: safeguarding quality, supporting professional development, and ensuring the integrity of the New Zealand stencil.

A strong and valuable presence was once again demonstrated by NZWCA at the Wanaka Show, where we engaged with classers, graders, farmers, shearers, students, and the wider public.

This was made possible through the dedication of Marg and Terrence, whose organisation, hospitality, and on-the-ground leadership ensured the Association was well represented. Their contribution strengthened our visibility and helped promote the value of skilled classing to a broad audience.

NZWCA continues to champion high-quality wool education. The Association maintains New Zealand's only register of qualified classers and graders, ensuring system integrity and professional accountability.

This year, we also celebrate the achievements of classers who have completed their training and successfully advanced their stencils. Their commitment to excellence strengthens the professional standards our industry relies on, and we congratulate each of them for their hard work and perseverance.

We also acknowledge and congratulate the WRONZ scholarship recipients. Their success reflects both individual dedication and the strong future potential within our sector. These scholarships play a vital role in supporting emerging talent and ensuring the continued development of technical expertise across the wool pipeline.

A large part of what NZWCA does is in the advocacy space. We act as a conduit for information between manufacturers and exporters to our members so that high standards of wool preparation are emphasised. Bale contamination issues are addressed – an issue that continues despite significant investment into education.

The Association's voice is increasingly sought in national conversations about wool's future, reflecting the respect held for our members' expertise.



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My sincere thanks go to our sponsors, including WoolWorks, the Wool Exporters Council, Zentera (formerly NZ Merino Company), Bremworth, PGG Wrightson Wool, Wools of New Zealand, Bremworth & WoolFirst (Federation of NZ Wool Merchants), Peter Lyon Shearing, and the NZ Wool Testing Authority

The New Zealand Wool Industry Charitable Trust and WRONZ for ongoing scholarship support

Our committee, it is important to acknowledge that all members volunteer their time and energy to ensuring the association delivers. A very big thank you to our Registrar Marg Forde and our secretary Annette Gamble – your significant contribution that goes well above what is required is very much appreciated.

Our members, your commitment to excellence, education, and professional integrity continues to strengthen the wool sector

The coming year presents both challenge and opportunity. Our focus will remain on:

- Strengthening professional development
- Supporting new entrants
- Enhancing quality assurance
- Advocating for the value of skilled classing in every shed

Together, we will continue to uphold the standards that define New Zealand wool and ensure our industry is positioned for the resurgence many now believe is within reach.

AGM & Professional Development Day

The Association successfully delivered its 2025 AGM and Industry Professional Development Day on 9 May 2025 held at Lincoln University, with strong attendance and valuable technical workshops.

The 2026 AGM and Industry Professional Development Day is scheduled for Friday 15 May 2026 at Peter Lyon Shearing in Alexandra. We look forward to seeing you there.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TP', followed by a long horizontal line that extends across the page.

Tracy Paterson M2154
Chairperson
New Zealand Wool Classers Association



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NZWCA REGISTRARS ANNUAL REPORT 2026

This is my fifth annual report to NZWCA. I am truly grateful for the support and trust in me in the Registrar role from NZWCA members, wool industry members and especially from those in the NZWCA Board waka. Couldn't do it without you, and it's one of the great and unexpected pleasures of my later working life that, despite never aspiring to this role, I find myself alongside so many passionate wool people.

Before getting onto the year in summary, I feel it is necessary to make this personal note: The above mentioned support and trust in me as your Registrar took on another level of meaning the week after our AGM/Industry Day last May as I gained a new role, caring for my grandson 2-3 full days a week when his mum's 6 month maternity leave ended. Very quickly into the older-Gran gig I came to realise that while there is great joy in being such a hands-on part of our first grandchild's life, there had to be a reality check for myself in what I can achieve each day, each week. For NZWCA this has meant my job description as "part-time" has had to be taken more literally in the past year than previously. My report on the past year reflects 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 2025 NZWCA AGM.

Our 2025 AGM/Industry Day at Lincoln University in May last year was an ambitious undertaking, especially given it involved a virtual take-over of the ground floor of an older building on the campus. This required big doses of flexibility and goodwill from the university, the caterers (you rock Rhonda, Liz and Lynn), NZWCA Board members who helped before during and after, speakers and attendees. Thank you to everyone and especially to the man who made it all possible, Lincoln Uni's Professor Jon Hickford. The number and range of attendees was gratifying, including Cert Wool Tech students and staff sent by shearing contractors. 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. For the first time, we paid to have some of the speakers filmed and we uploaded this to our new YouTube channel. Thanks to Board member Allan Fraser for persisting with the idea of filming speakers at our Industry PD Day. This and setting up a You Tube channel for online viewing of content was all new territory for me, and therefore time-consuming. Pleasingly, the most viewed video has been the one of the two Ministry for Primary Industries speakers, who came to inform around animal welfare and legal implications for classers and others in the shearing shed.

NZWCA 2026 AGM/Industry Professional Development Day This has been set for Friday 15 May, the venue is the impressive cookshop complex at Peter Lyon Shearing in Alexandra. This is in keeping with our belief it is important to move the event around the South Island. I am very grateful to Peter and Elsie Lyon for their positive response when I approached them for venue and catering support. Not surprised though, they are strong and longtime supporters of NZWCA and the wider wool industry.



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Annual NZWCA Classer Awards I'm really happy with the establishment of the online nomination process via our website, and the increased transparency and documentation of the eligibility and judging process for our annual NZWCA classer awards. The awards couldn't happen without the input of our wool broking community for nominations, and the sponsors who are all back, seemingly without hesitation, again this year. Thank you to both groups for this and for sharing NZWCA's desire to celebrate and highlight excellence in wool preparation and presentation.

Support and sponsorship It's a fact that NZWCA's ability to function would be limited with just financial membership input. There are a number of companies and organisations that support NZWCA with financial and in-kind contributions and this can never be acknowledged enough. All are listed at the bottom of the home page of our website. In the past 12 months I can say that at least one organisation set sponsorship money aside in their budget before I, on behalf of NZWCA, even got round to asking! I know I seem to say this every year, but the goodwill that I have found exists within our industry is something that I never cease to notice and appreciate and that can only be a good thing for the industry as a whole.

Review of the NZ Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing qualification for NZQA and creation of a new grading qualification I am really pleased to report the Cert Wool Tech review, which began early in 2025 and was completed and submitted in December 2025 to the NZ Qualifications Authority has been approved. The key people involved ended up well satisfied with changes recommended, including a boost from Level 4 to a Level 5 qual and the return of some subject matter that had been dropped through the years, once the qual left Lincoln and Massey Uni delivery. A bonus was the addition of and attention to what was the Level 4 Wool Clip Grading qualification, which SIT had ceased delivering three years ago. It has been reframed as a qual for leadership woolhandlers, with the option of using a pass to allow application to NZWCA for Provisional Grading registration. This could potentially be delivered as a standalone, or incorporated into a Cert Wool Tech block course, giving an opportunity for economic delivery, whilst still attracting funding. We received confirmation early in April this year that NZQA had approved the two qualifications submitted.

- **Micro credential: Manage Wool Preparation in a Wool Harvesting Operation (Level 4) Ref:[5565]** which we hope will be usable for delivery for Grading registration.
- **NZ Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing (Level 5) Ref:[5637]** which once implemented will be an academic prerequisite for NZWCA Provisional Classer registration

This review was facilitated by Muka Tangata, the Food and Fibre Workforce Council, on behalf of NZQA. The review was a scheduled 5 year one and required wool industry input. Board member Sonya Johansen and I were part of the review working group which met regularly online. Some of the people involved from Muka Tangata were the same as those Sonya and I worked alongside to create the new wool handling microcredentials in 2023/24 so it was helpful to have that established relationship with the people setting this review up. For the review, from a bigger group a core working group settled with excellent input including Prof Jon Hickford from Lincoln University,



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former SIT (now PrimaryITO) tutor Richard Gavigan, Campaign for Wool NZ chair Ryan Cosgrove, recent Cert Wool Tech graduate and Christchurch wool store senior classer Kylie Finn, and for some sessions, 2025 SIT wool tutors Becks Braddick and Emma O’Sullivan and SIT course manager Iain Winslade. In addition, Sarah Vallance was a particularly valuable Muka Tangata staffer in the group as she is a former classer, farms with her husband and has worked in agricultural education for many years.

Communication from the above wool qualification review group to the Wool Alliance Our Cert Wool Tech review group penned a letter to the newly formed Wool Alliance, aiming to reinforce the importance of wool training and education to ensure quality NZ wool preparation and presentation. The letter included this sentence: *“We believe strong advocacy for these qualifications will be required to ensure provider uptake and delivery and suggest the new Wool Alliance is well-positioned to lead in this respect.”* This need to improve wool harvesting training and wool education is something I feel very important for NZWCA to continue to push for.

Store classer registration Thanks to store classer sub-committee members Don Urquhart, Kevin Waldron, Sonya Johansen, Terence Mulcahy and myself, updating and re-establishing the NZ store classer stencil process has been completed. In 2024 we established the need for this and decided on guidelines. This past year, with an application for store classer registration received, we had to drill down into the logistics and create a store classer store management and classing inspection document (to parallel the shed management and classing inspection for a shed classer). We had to think through a store classer inspection process step by step, and I thank the subcommittee members for their time and input. It was decided the best way was to make it a two-step process, with potentially two different inspectors, one for store classer management and one for actual store classing (which is where the valuers and buyers come into the equation) with inspection of lines prepared for sale in sale boxes and associated test results. I spent some time at the Christchurch wool store on my drive home from 2025 pre-lamb, going over the proposed new store classer registration process and particularly the store management and classing inspection framework, which the two potential applicants and their bosses had raised questions about. It was decided that it needed to be added that lines put up for inspection could be group lots if no Bin room was available, and that the existing portion of the application form (which required the applicant and their supervisor to vouch for the lines being inspected being wholly the work of the applicant) would cover off any concerns. We now have buy-in from valuers and buyers (thank you), and the details and forms are uploaded to our website.

Classer prefix upgrades Continuing on from pre-lamb 2025 I’m happy to report there are a healthy number of classers, particularly Provisional, engaging with the NZWCA process to upgrade their prefixes. I have had numerous submissions of test results and clip summaries. It’s a learning curve for some classers, to be able to provide me with an adequate clip summary and their test results, and from my end it’s an area I have found challenging timewise this year in particular, but we get there in the end. Apologies to those classers who have had to wait. A reminder to those on a



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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.

WRONZ Scholarship At our AGM/Industry PD Day on May 15 this year 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. The scholarships are decided twice a year as there are typically two Cert Wool Tech intakes each year. 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 until 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.

MPI/PETA I was a member of the MPI facilitated group People and Culture Workstream, one of the groups formed in response to the PETA animal welfare videos released New Year 2025. I've attended some online meetings, however NZWCA chair Tracy Paterson leads another of the groups and there is quite a bit of crossover. In the interests of prioritising my time I've just kept abreast of things and contributed only when really needed. Tracy has been fully engaged with the NZ Shearing Contractors Assn on responses in their group. Our Board last year voted to adopt the following related policy, which is now on the NZWCA website: *NZWCA Commitment to Animal Welfare: Good animal welfare practices are critical for our industry. In addition to potential prosecution, any breach of the animal welfare regulations and the expectations of our markets and consumers puts our industry and all the people that work within it at-risk. Accordingly, NZWCA maintains a zero-tolerance position to any mistreatment of animals by any person. We all have a responsibility to ensure the welfare of animals and people. The NZWCA encourages members to report any mistreatment of animals and people if it occurs.*

National Council of NZ Wool Interests Inc I support NZWCA maintaining associate membership of this body. Because of the pre-lamb timing of the organisation's 2025 AGM, I couldn't attend the online meeting this year however I made contribution prior via its chair Rosstan Mazey, including giving a written update on progress of the NZ Cert Wool Tech review. I also was part of a small group that the National Council convened to work quickly on reworking the constitution to ensure it complied with the new rules for incorporated societies. I volunteered for this on the basis of my experience working on the NZWCA constitution for the same reason. I believe that experience plus my contribution from the NZWCA/associate member perspective was appreciated.

Wanaka A&P Show 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



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Bagley and his wool committee, you do great work for wool. It was the fourth time at the show representing NZWCA for 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. **Young Farmers Club** NZWCA had a North Island presence in the latter part of 2025. I devised three wool exercises as part of the shearing/wool module at the Waikato/Bay of Plenty YFC regional Young Farmer of the Year event early in November, which was co-hosted by myself representing NZWCA and my husband Edsel representing shearing and our business The Lifestyle Block Bloke. There were 29 contestants, so it was a full-on day. I made sure NZWCA logos were visible and the participants, who almost all had extremely limited wool knowledge, went away somewhat upskilled.

Newsletters Looking back on our newsletters since I took on the Registrar role, I realise the content has almost entirely been from me. I'm keen to remedy that so I'm putting it out there that anyone who has content – in writing or photos – please get in touch with me on it. Our main newsletters go out in June and November.

Nga mihi nui Acknowledgement and appreciation is always due to our Classers, Graders and Associate Members, for recognising the value of a wool classer registration system and committing financially and otherwise to support this. 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. As always, I express my deep appreciation to NZWCA chair Tracy Paterson and all the NZWCA Board members for your commitment to the work and function of NZWCA. It's a pleasure to work with you. In particular this year I acknowledge Sonya Johansen and Ratapu Moore who are retiring from the Board. Sonya and I have worked closely ever since I became Registrar across many areas, including wool education and North and South Island Industry Days. I really appreciate your wisdom and work ethic Sonya, and value the great friendship that has evolved from our NZWCA connection. Ratapu has advised that due to family and business commitments she has made the difficult decision to step down from the Board and her role as NZ Shearing Contractors Assn rep on our Board. Sonya and Ratapu, your passion for the industry and for classing is obvious. Thank you for your valuable contribution to NZWCA at Board level and thank you for your commitment to continue to support the work of NZWCA as a member. Don't doubt I will be taking you up on that! Saved the best for last: My sincere and ongoing gratitude to Annette Gamble. Her efficiency and continuity for NZWCA goes far beyond her title "secretary". Particularly this past year as I have adjusted to juggling the Gran ball as well as other commitments, Annette's patience and steady steer has been personally invaluable. Thank you.

To close I wouldn't ever leave NZWCA high and dry, but I wish to flag my retirement sometime in the next few years, once a suitable replacement emerges. Meantime I will continue to try to ensure all processes are well documented, so whoever takes over from me has a smooth transition and what NZWCA exists for and stands for remains constant. If you think you have something to offer the



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Registrar role I am happy to talk you through what it involves. I would suggest a first step would be to become a NZWCA Board member, to give you a full insight into the organisation.

Signed Marg Forde A1260
NZWCA Registrar

DRAFT



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PATRON ADDRESS 2026

I congratulate all of you attending here today. Those of you who are actively classing are contributing significantly to the productivity of our industry, and being here today indicates your commitment to keep on learning. You are true professionals. Thank you.

It is my hope that all people involved in classing become members of our association. While membership is voluntary, I firmly believe that the role your organisation plays is to the benefit of all classers. When the opportunity arises, I urge you to try and convince non-member colleagues to join as members. We are a democratic organisation that fosters and supports quality education, harvesting and presentation standards in the wool industry. If non-members are not satisfied with the way we go about promoting their interests, we need them to let us know.

It is 21 years since your Association was formed and it has been well served over those years by good leadership and the commitment of a great deal of voluntary time from your elected members. I have been proud to have worked with such a team of dedicated people, and we have all benefited from the commitment of those among you who have been willing to put their names forward for election as members of your board.

The support from individuals and associated organisations involved in the value chain is invaluable both in terms of nominating people to serve on our board as well as providing great input to reviews of our wool classer training programmes, assisting with professional development days such as this, and in providing sponsorship. Also, we greatly appreciate being invited to participate and contribute, on your behalf, in wider wool industry considerations.

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, admittedly more than 60 years ago, so I have seen a few changes since then. We have also had some very capable people serve as Registrar over that time who have delivered way more than their remuneration suggests as well as our long-term Secretary Annette.

I continue to admire the passion and skills of the people from many diverse backgrounds who work in this industry. Also, as mentioned in my opening words I respect the desire of so many to keep on learning and stay at the top of your profession.

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
Independent Board Member and Associations Patron