NZ Wool Classers Association Newsletter

New Zealand Wool Classers Association · Newsletter · November 2026



NZ Wool Classers Association Newsletter

New Zealand Wool Classers Association · Newsletter · November 2026

Inside this issue

Prelamb classing feedback and mainshear prep reminders – from Zentera Wool 3

Lasting appreciation photo for Lyons' 4

Organic wool – important information for preparation and handling..... 5

New wool levy vote for farmers announced 6

Classer profile – Cassie Johnston D2182 7

NZWCA at the 2027 Wanaka Show 8

Latest WRONZ scholarship recipients announced 8

Some retire, some move on to other work or pursuits, but "once a classer, always a classer" 9

Another day begins 10

Top wool students awarded 10

Recent NZWCA Classer and Grader Registrations and Upgrades 11

NZWCA Board news 11

State of NZ wool industry presented to the world 12

Registrar's message..... 14

Wool Christmas decorations..... 15

Prelamb classing feedback and mainshear prep reminders – from Zentera Wool

ZENTERA™

Fine wool

- Fine wool preparation and classing was generally of a very high standard this year.
- Mer Hogs were a challenge in some areas with varying degrees of tender and shorter greasy staple length.
- There are still a few issues with identification of Polwarth and Quarterbred v Halfbred when classing out the finer lines. The value difference when they are visually straight Merino v mixed (containing some visual non Merino or Halfbred) is significant.
- Calling fleece lines (STN) that are taken out for Pen, Blood, Bacterial stain can create a misconception that it is pizzle stain causing a significant loss in value.
- Describe them as AAM or AM or ½ A and brand them as such, but on the speci in the traditional description write exactly what they are, e.g. blood/bact.



White gold – Photo: Cassie Johnston D2182

Make every move matter in fine wool properties

Wool preparation is improving the fleece to add value, whether that is on the board or skirting table.

Classing is putting like wools with like wools. Don't over class or under class. There should be a good visual and/or handle difference between lines.

If the in-shed job is done to the absolute best standard, the current contracts and market will take care of themselves.



Magnificent merino, freshly shorn, prepared and classed – Photo: Cassie Johnston D2182

Strong wool perspective

Pre lamb in the South was very good. Removing VM was a standout, with an excellent effort by the wool handlers.

Raising the bar. There was a standout effort with pre lamb shearing at Paparatu, Gisborne: 14,000 full wool ewes, a 10 stand shed, and fantastic wool prep including removing mud balls from bellies and lox etc. Shout out to Lenora Smith and the team at Smith Shearing.

Strong wool, looking forward

- Focus and maintain the fundamentals of LCC (Length, Colour and Contamination) throughout the shearing.
- Maintain a quality job and consistent wool preparation from the first sheep shorn to the last.
- Minimise contamination risks at all stages of shearing, handling and pressing. Prevention is far easier than dealing with contamination issues after the wool leaves the farm.
- Good communication between growers, contractors and wool handlers is key to achieving a great result.
- Attention to detail in the shed helps maintain wool quality, grower confidence and maximises the $$$$ returns.
- Bale weights: we still see quite a lot of over and under weight bales, and a lot of this can be avoided with a bit more attention on the last day of shearing. Use 120 kg minimum and 190 kg maximum as the guide.

Happy Main Shear 2026/27.

Blair Davies | Assistant Commercial Manager / Area Manager

Lasting appreciation photo for Lyons'

NZWCA has presented a magnificent framed photo to Peter and Elsie Lyon, in appreciation of their generosity supplying the venue and all food for our Industry Day/AGM in May.



Peter and Elsie Lyon with the NZWCA presentation photo.

Peter and Elsie are long-term supporters of NZWCA as associate members and as sponsors of the Provisional Classer or Grader category in the annual NZWCA Classer Awards.

The photo was chosen by NZWCA from several offered by Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing student Leora Werner, who works farming in Central Otago and attended the AGM/Industry Day in the Lyons' outstanding cookshop complex. Leora said she was "really chuffed to know that it will hang on their wall for everyone to enjoy!"



Leora Werner's photo used for the appreciation presentation to Peter and Elsie Lyon. Leora is a Cert Wool Tech student and WRONZ Scholarship recipient. Thanks Leora!

Organic wool – important information for preparation and handling

With the worldwide demand increasing for wool from organic farms, NZWCA thought it was timely to check in with Palle Petersen and Jared de Rooy of Bloch & Behrens, the PGG Wrightson Wool subsidiary which acts as NZ's organic wool broker.

Farms maintain their certified organic status by adhering to strict standards with programmes laid out by either BioGro or AsureQuality. Every bale must have the property's certification number on it.

Organic wool may be received at Napier, Mosgiel, Invercargill or Christchurch wool stores, but the processing of it all is at the Christchurch store, in a segregated area. If a bale is opened anywhere but on the certified organic farm it was shorn on or in the dedicated wool store area, the wool loses its organic status and premium price. Therefore, Jared de Rooy pointed out to NZWCA, making sure bales are within the correct weight range was very important.

Here is information provided to organic wool growers that all classers, pressers and wool handlers who are wool harvesting on organic farms should be mindful of:

> ***Please note*** *that our wool stores now also need to be certified to process Organic Wool,* ***so we made the decision to only certify our Christchurch store****. You can still deliver your wool to your nearest PGG Wrightson Wool Store.*

Please ensure your Organic Wool is:

- ***Packed in NEW PACKS.***
- ***CLEARLY marked as ORGANIC, both on the bales and on the Specification Sheet.***
- ***Organic Registration Number is written on the bales and on the Specification Sheet.***

Please keep in mind that we do need the wool to be short – preferably 6 monthly shearing – as the manufacturers cannot process full length fleece wool.

On behalf of the Bloch & Behrens Team, and Jeffco Fibres, we thank you for your continued support.

New wool levy vote for farmers announced

In February and March next year, sheep owners will be asked to vote on a proposal to establish a new compulsory levy on wool. Voting will take place as part of Beef + Lamb NZ's six-yearly Sheepmeat and Beef Levy Referendum. If the proposal is approved, existing activity would be consolidated into a wool-specific division of B+LNZ with its own dedicated budget and team, building on the work of the New Zealand Wool Collective in an administration-light and cost-effective way.

Here are some links with the vote announcement and more details from the Wool Collective:

- **https://nzwoolco.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/Media-release-wool-levy-2026-11-10.pdf**
- **https://nzwoolco.com/growers/wool-levy/**

Campaign for Wool NZ (part of Wool Collective) chair Ryan Cosgrove has written a comprehensive piece on his substack on the levy proposal, including history and current data. He posted a link to his substack article **My two (to three) cents worth – by Ryan Cosgrove** on social media with the following comment:

> *"On the back of the announcement by the New Zealand Wool Collective and Beef + Lamb New Zealand about the intention to hold a wool levy referendum in 2027, I thought I would note down my (reasonably biased) opinion. I know not everyone is pro a levy funding model for wool, but I'm hoping over the next few months we can have the conversations about what could be, and not what was."*

Thanks Ryan for permission to share the link.

Classer profile

Cassie Johnston D2182

Appointed NZWCA Board Vice-Chair in 2026



The Johnston family up on Fox Glacier – Cassie, George, Emma and Simon – pictured proving they hang tough and together

Where are you based?

Hakataramea Valley, North Otago

When did you begin working in the wool harvesting industry, and how did that come about?

I've always been involved in the wool industry in some way, initially through my mum, who was a wool classer and growing up on a farm. I then worked as a shepherd, then did a few stints as a wool handler before moving into the industry professionally at Kurow Wools, where I completed my Certificate in Wool Technology.

How long have you been classing?

I have been a registered wool classer for six years.

What made you decide to become a NZWCA registered stencil holder?

Becoming a registered wool classer was the natural next step in my wool journey. It was also important to me as a way of recognising the level of professionalism and standards I choose to uphold in my work.

What are your future aspirations with regard to classing?

As wool classing is mainly a seasonal occupation, I'd like to extend my working season a little further once the children have flown the coop! I would also love to explore other areas of the wool industry, particularly learning more about the exporting side and how that part of the industry operates.

What do you enjoy most in the shed?

One of the most enjoyable things about being in the shearing shed is seeing the teamwork and bond between the shearers and shed hands. There's a real family feel within a good shed, and throughout the day there's always plenty of interesting conversations, good laughs and a great sense of camaraderie.

What annoys you the most in the shed?

Probably one of the most annoying things in the shed can be some very average music choices!

Another challenge is that some wool sheds simply aren't designed to make the classer's job easy. It can be an interesting challenge working out how best to configure each shed to ensure everything runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

What wool-related event or achievement are you most proud of?

One of the highlights of my wool classing journey so far has been stepping in to help Vanessa McAlister at Omarama Station this year. It was a real privilege and an experience I thoroughly enjoyed. The team from Mouse O'Neill Shearing were absolutely amazing. They took such pride in the presentation of every single fleece, which made my job so much easier. It was a real treat to work alongside a team who take so much pride in what they do.

Have you worked in any other areas of the industry, or overseas?

Alongside wool classing, I work for local merchant Don Urquhart at Kurow Wools. This role gives me exposure to a huge variety of wool types and allows me to keep up to date with wool yields, microns and the different qualities of wool throughout the year and in different seasons. For example, if we have had a wet season and we are seeing a lot of yellow wools in store, I know to expect more colour in the clips I'm about to class.

It means that when I head into the sheds for classing season, I already have a good understanding of what wool is likely to be presented and what to expect for the season ahead.

Are you involved in any other activities, wool or farming related, community or sport?

Family life is pretty busy, with much of our time revolving around the kids' sport. I don't think a week goes by where we are not on the road to sporting commitments, with our eldest now rowing Twizel has become our second home. I'm involved in a couple of local sports committees, I am a volunteer with Kurow St John, and am also a member of the Friends of the School. I'm very lucky to have a family orientated boss and I also go on school camp every year.

I enjoy being involved in the local community and helping out wherever I can.

Outside of the wool industry, what other things do you like to do?

As a family, we love getting outdoors and making the most of a good summer's day. We're big fans of water sports and snow sports, and enjoy spending time together doing the things we love – usually on a sports field or lake of some kind.

What is the best thing about being a registered classer?

For me, being a registered wool classer demonstrates my commitment to upholding the standards of the New Zealand Wool Classers Association. I hope it also gives both the wool grower and the buyer confidence and credibility in the wool that I class.

NZWCA at the 2027 Wanaka Show

The NZ Wool Classers Assn flag will be flying at the next Wanaka A & P Show March 12-13 2027, thanks to the show's wool committee.



Terence Mulcahy at the NZWCA stand beside the NZ Fine Wool Supreme Fleece competition pavilion, 2026 Wanaka Show.

We are grateful to have once again been given space for our stand beside the NZ Fine Wool Supreme Fleece competition pavilion. NZWCA representatives who will share the duties manning the stand will be Board members Terence Mulcahy (pictured here at the 2026 show), Tracy Paterson (chair), Cassie Johnston (vice chair) and registrar Marg Forde.

If you're at the show come and see us and put your entry in for our fleece guess competition. There's a prize, generously donated by Mons Royale, for the best guess of the weight and micron of a beautiful Polwarth fleece.

CLASSERS: If you have picked out a fleece for your wool grower client to enter into the Wanaka show, make sure your name and registration number is included on the entry form. This is so you can be in the running for the Martin Paterson Classers Special Prize. This goes to the registered classer who selected the fleece with the highest score in any Flock wool class. The winner gets their name on a trophy, a ribbon, a cash prize, 12 months NZWCA membership and a whole lot of personal satisfaction.

Latest WRONZ scholarship recipients announced

Congratulations to the following NZ Certificate of Wool Technology and Classing (NZCWTC) students who are the most recent (Semester 2 2026) recipients of WRONZ Scholarships:

Lucy Elers of Mataura and Carolyn Amos of Rolleston

NZ Wool Classers Assn administers the Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand (WRONZ) scholarship which is valued at $1000 per recipient.

This is paid in four instalments as the recipient passes stages in their course. But it represents more than cash to help with study and living costs for the two-year distance learning course. NZWCA suggests to recipients that they can maximise the scholarship by using it as an opportunity to network and connect with wool industry organisations and people.

The presentation letter from NZWCA to the recipients reads: "One way you can do this is by communicating with WRONZ and NZWCA giving progress reports on your study, things you have enjoyed learning or aspects of the wool industry that particularly interest you. Additionally, you can share information about how you are using the money, and how it is helping you."

There are typically two intakes each year for the Cert Wool Tech, with the Semester One intake being the largest. We announced recipients from those who applied for the WRONZ scholarship in Semester 1 2026 at our AGM/Industry PD Day in Alexandra in May this year. They were **Kaylee Hood of Cromwell, Ashley Clarke of Roxburgh and Leora Werner of Oturehua.**

Lucy and Carolyn were chosen from applicants who responded to the call for applicants in Semester 2 2026.

Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand
www.woolresearch.com

New Zealand Wool Classers Association
www.woolclassers.org.nz

Some retire, some move on to other work or pursuits, but "once a classer, always a classer"

There can be no doubt that passion for wool doesn't stop when we step away from classing.

Your NZWCA Board pondered this dilemma for classers, and the value to our industry of having classers remain connected and supportive. So the Board has created a new membership category, which will be established from the beginning of the next financial year, 1 April 2027.

If you would like to switch your current NZWCA registration to the new "Retired" category, or you have let your NZWCA membership lapse but would like to reinstate it in the new category, please contact secretary@woolclassers.org.nz preferably by the end of January as invoicing is done each February.

Here is how the new category is explained on our website. It's on the bottom of this page.

Retired Classer Membership *$60.00 incl GST per annum*

Retired Classer membership is a category introduced in the 2027/28 financial year, intended to encourage former classers to remain involved in and support the Association after they cease classing. Members in this category will no longer be permitted to use their stencil for classing activities. However, should they wish to reactivate their classer registration they may be able to do so upon application to the Registrar and payment of the difference between Retired Classer and Shed Classer/Owner Classer membership. Current paid-up Retired Classer members will have the choice of opting in or out of being visible as members on our website, however as previously stated, this inclusion can not be taken as that retired classer's stencil being valid for use.

Use of NZWCA website encouraged

Our website is a mine of information and is constantly being updated and tweaked – www.woolclassers.org check it out!

Some useful ways to use the website:

- Join our association! Classers, have a chat to your clients about associate membership. Explain the value of supporting the administration of a NZ classer and grader system that allows their wool to be branded and sold with a valid and recognised quality assurance that the NZWCA registration represents. https://woolclassers.org.nz/join/
- Minutes from NZWCA AGMs have been published on our website for many years and recently minutes from Board meetings are also available online. https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/minutes/
- Search for members available for work. https://woolclassers.org.nz/member-profiles/?wpv_post_search&wpv-wpcf-available-for-work=1
- NB: All members can opt to add themselves to the above list via their profile. If you have opted to show yourself available for work, be aware we have added the ability for you to indicate which areas you are able to work in.
- Find information about applying for registration and upgrading your prefix. https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/membership-information/
- Download forms required to have printed out and available for classer or grader shed management inspection. https://woolclassers.org.nz/report-forms/
- Order your stencil or stamp. https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/stencil-products/
- Read back issues of our newsletter. https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/newsletters/
- Anyone can check if a stencil registration on a bale or in the bale specifications is valid by using the search facility we now have on the NZWCA website home page. If you see it call it! https://woolclassers.org.nz/
- Complaints procedure formulated and adopted by the NZWCA Board. https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/complaints-procedure/
- There is an online form allowing wool brokers and buyers to easily nominate classers and graders for the annual NZWCA Classer Awards. https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/nomination-form-for-nzwca-classer-awards/

Another day begins



Cassie Johnston D2182 took this photo walking into one of her offices this prelamb.



Classer Vanessa McAlister A1579 competing in the wool handling at the Merino Shears in Alexandra recently – Photo: Barb Newton A723



Classer Charlotte Stuart D2222 competing in the wool handling at the Merino Shears in Alexandra recently – Photo: Barb Newton A723

Top wool students awarded

Wool industry workforce and knowledge boosted by 28 graduates of NZ Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing in 2026

Announcing the 2026 NZWCA SIT/Telford prizes:

Overall top student who completed in 2026, and recipient of the NZWCA Perpetual Trophy is *Suzanne Webby*

Other awards:

July 2026 Completion

Top Theory – *Tara Marshall*

November 2026 Completion

Top Theory – *Suzanne Webby*

Top students attending block courses in 2026

North Island – *Caleb Lingman*

South Island – *Kaylee Hood*

Award certificates are to be posted to all of the above, however recipients are encouraged to attend the NZWCA Industry Professional Development Day/AGM in Christchurch on Friday May 07 2027 where they will be acknowledged and *Suzanne Webby* (if attending) will be presented with the NZWCA cup, which resides permanently at Telford.

Congratulations to all 28 students who completed the two-year distance learning NZ Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing course this year. We look forward to your contribution to the NZ wool industry workforce. Holders of the Cert Wool Tech are able to pursue a range of wool sector opportunities, including being able to apply to NZWCA for their Provisional Wool Classing stencil registration by going to our website https://woolclassers.org.nz/ and clicking on the "Join" tab.

Recent NZWCA Classer and Grader Registrations and Upgrades

Congratulations and welcome to the following:

Professional classer stencil prefix upgrades:

Kristan Tuinder P to H 2252

Craig Smith P to M2259

Provisional grader stencil applications approved:

Renee Booney P2262

Nick Gee P2263

Provisional store classer stencil applications approved:

Kylie Finn SP2265

Explanation of registration prefixes here:
https://woolclassers.org.nz/members-area/registration-prefixes/

REMINDER

When the NZ Wool Classers Association was constituted it was written into the rules that wool classing stencils with registration numbers could only be used by current financial members of NZWCA.

It is considered vital that the integrity of our classer registration system be upheld.

Membership of NZWCA indicates a commitment by each person to maintain the standards of classer registration.

NZWCA, with co-operation from the wider wool industry, is checking classer registration numbers against clips. In addition, there is a search facility on the NZWCA website; if a classer's name and stencil appears on the website their registration is current and valid.

Members please be aware that your work is being protected, and please pass on this message to anyone who may be using their registration and stencil without NZWCA membership.

Thank you

STAY INFORMED

YOU CAN SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THESE NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

Here is a link to the most recent newsletter from the Wool Research Organisation of NZ (WRONZ):

https://mailchi.mp/217834522e08/wronz-member-newsletter-8118268

And the link for the NZ Wool Collective newsletter:

New Zealand Wool Collective

NZWCA Board news

NZWCA Associate member Willy McSkimming has joined our Board as the NZ Shearing Contractors Assn rep, taking over from Ratapu Moore D2188.



Willy McSkimming

Thank you Ratapu for your contribution and fitting in NZWCA obligations around your busy shearing contracting, classing and family life. You are appreciated.

The NZWCA Board has classer members, but it also has members who represent a range of sectors of the wool industry including processing, broker and merchant. You can find out more about our Board on our website https://woolclassers.org.nz/board-members/

Here is Willy's introduction to himself which is on our website. Welcome aboard the Board Willy, and thank you:

I grew up in Clyde, Central Otago, before the family moved to Waimate when I was 13, and that's when I first got into the woolsheds. I started out wool handling, moved on to pressing, then picked up the handpiece, and by 22 I'd taken up contracting. After leaving school at 17 I headed north to Taumarunui, where I spent 25 years, 16 of them running our own contracting business with my wife Tess. We eventually sold up and moved back south, and I spent three years as the South Island rep for Heiniger before we bought another shearing run out of Kurow. We've since added a second run to that, which gives us year-round work across all breeds, and we're really enjoying the change. We now live in Oamaru. I've been a member of the NZ Shearing Contractors Association for many years and currently serve as Vice President on the exec committee. Tess and I have two kids, and we love spending time with them when work allows. I still enjoy the competition shearing scene and play a bit of cricket over the summer.

Looking ahead, I'm passionate about helping take our industry into the future, which is why I developed The Shearing Board, an app built to make life easier for contractors, shed staff, farmers and wool buyers alike. The shearing industry and the rural communities around it have given our family so much, and giving something back is important to us.

After more than 30 years in the industry, I've seen first-hand how much good wool handling and classing matters, from the board right through to the bale. Our classers are a big part of what makes a shed run well, and I'm a strong believer in backing them with good training and recognition. I'm proud to support the work of the NZ Wool Classers Association and look forward to helping grow and strengthen our industry for the next generation.

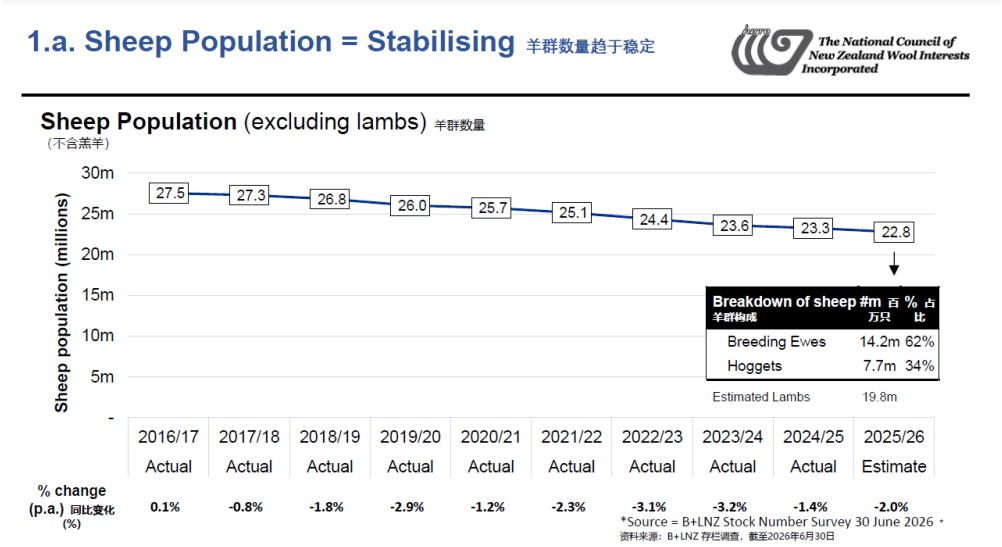
State of NZ wool industry presented to the world

An overview of the NZ wool industry was presented in China recently by the National Council of NZ Wool Interests Inc chair Rosstan Mazey.

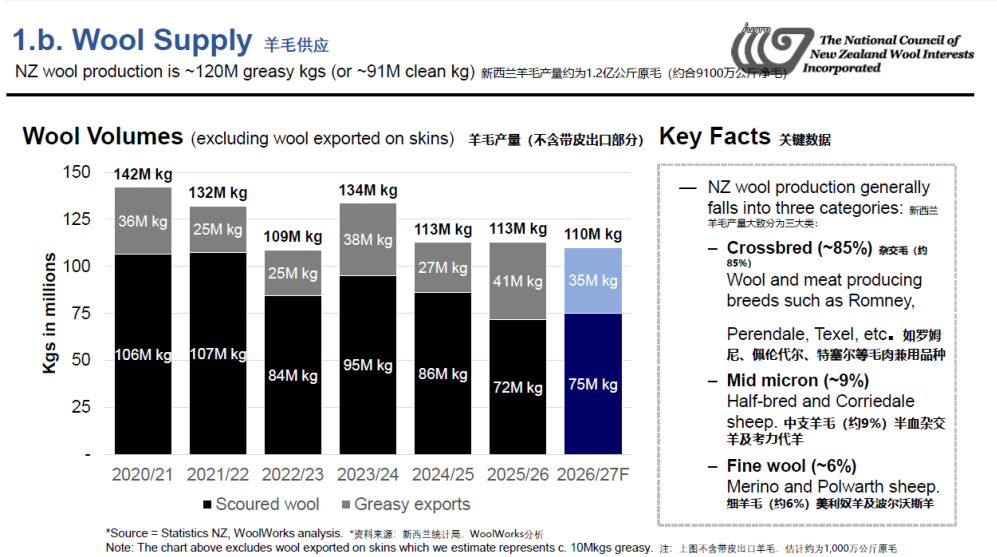
Speaking at the 37th Nanjing Wool Market Conference Rosstan shared a range of interesting data spanning the past 10 years, to paint a picture of the current state of sheep farming and the wool industry in New Zealand.

Just four key trade markets represent about 85 percent of NZ's wool exports. These are China 44 percent; India 18 percent; the European Union 17 percent; and the UK 5 percent.

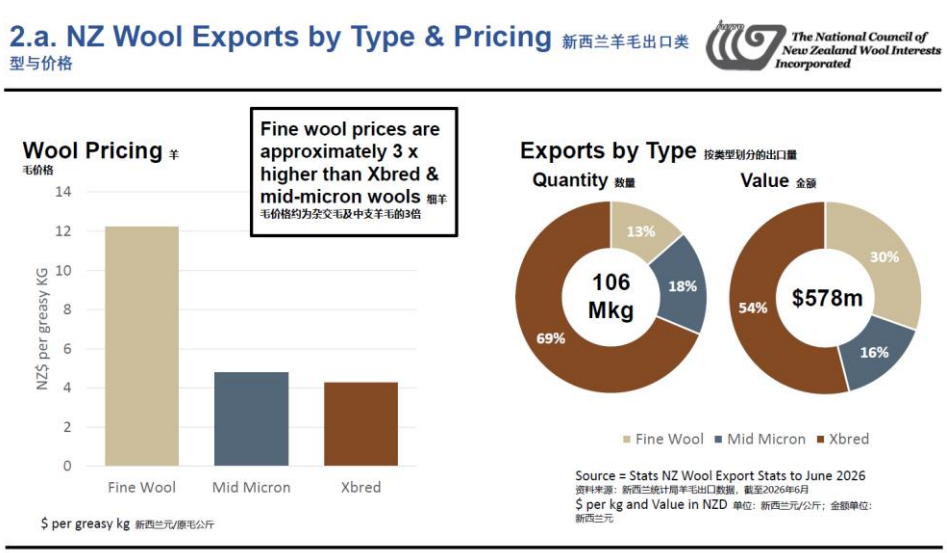
Below is a sample of some of the information which was compiled for the presentation.



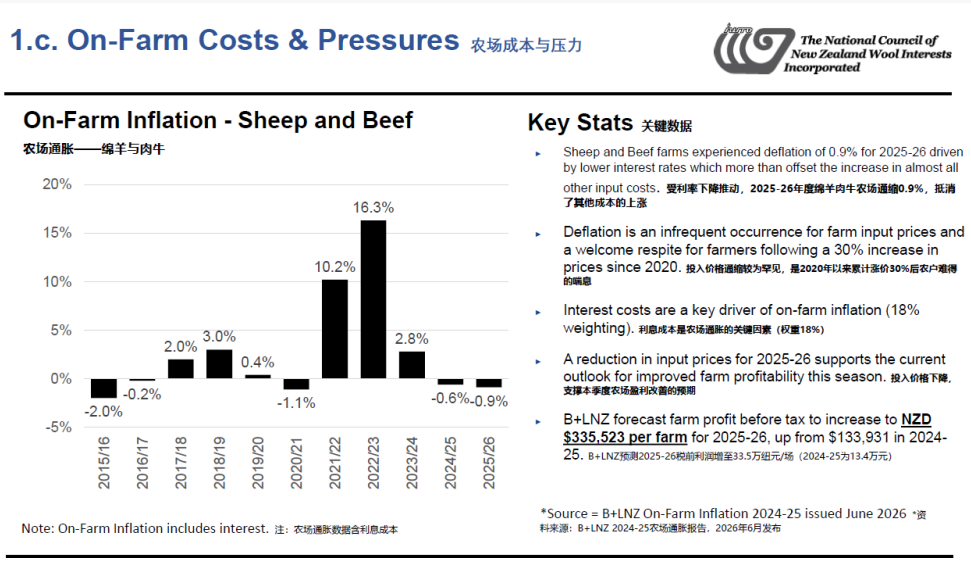
Sheep population



Wool supply



Exports by type and pricing



On-farm costs

Rosstan Mazey wrote in his chairman's report to the National Council's AGM in November:

> "It is important to note the improved wool price that growers have been receiving over the last 18 months as the global dynamic between wool supply and demand becomes tighter. Through to the end of June this year we witnessed strong demand which was reflected in driving prices to levels not seen for a very long time for New Zealand strong wool. Since then there has been a period of settling in the market as prices have come back from the levels above $7.00/kg clean. Despite this it appears that we will settle at a level significantly higher than 12 months prior which is encouraging and is set to provide growers with more confidence in their sheep farming operation, greatly assisted by ongoing strong demand and returns for lamb and beef."

** The primary purposes of the National Council of NZ Wool Interests are to foster wool production and promote the interests of the wool trade, preserve and improve its reputation in international markets, promote the interests of its members, and to act as the New Zealand members of the International Wool Textile Organisation. NZWCA is an associate member of the National Council.*

Registrar's message

Greetings all NZWCA members and supporters to our end-of-year newsletter. Thank you for reading this far, and on behalf of the NZWCA Board, thank you for your interest and support throughout the year.

It has been a positive year for wool, with many areas escaping extreme weather conditions, and all wool types lifting in price, which makes working in the industry even more of a pleasure!

Commitment is something which underpins our NZ wool industry. I had a personal reminder of this during prelamb when my 30 years classing for Carrick Station at Bannockburn was acknowledged by the Clark family, who presented me with a station logoed jacket embroidered with the words "30 years wool classing legend" on it. I'm not comfortable with the word "legend" but I do know loyalty that goes both ways makes for a successful working relationship. You can see in the photo here Don Clark who originally approached me to class at Carrick, and his son Jason who now runs the property.



L to R Marg Forde A1260, Don Clark and Jason Clark outside Carrick Station's historic stone wool shed

Administering the NZ Wool Classers Registration system and overseeing quality standards for wool preparation and presentation are the core roles of the association, and for me as Registrar. However, it is recognised that because NZWCA is independent of any commercial interest in the wool industry we sit in an effective space to advocate for wool education and wool harvesting training too. NZWCA time and resource is spent doing so. It is heartening to note that in amongst the detail in the recent big announcement of a vote for a wool levy is a recognition that, if successful, part of wool levy money collected will be committed to training and education. This is Campaign for Wool NZ chair Ryan Cosgrove in response to a question on social media this week about where any wool levy would be spent. Ryan wrote: "This is an absolutely critical part of the investment. Maintaining and improving our only tertiary qualification, shearing and wool handling training, as well as Campaign for Wool's - Wool in Schools are all part of the investment in training and education".

As some will be aware, NZWCA secretary Annette Gamble gave 12 months notice of her resignation at our AGM in May. Annette is into her 18th year in the role and based on my first hand knowledge working with her, I can honestly say Annette is someone who rightfully deserves "legend" status. I am grateful to Annette in many ways, she is an incredibly efficient person who has taught me much about being better organised, and in the process we have also become friends. I will miss her but we all wish her well as she steps up into leadership and overseas work in her "real" job, a full-time role which she has juggled whilst helping out NZWCA part-time.

Big shoes to fill, but we are fortunate to have found a willing and capable replacement. Sarah Vallance will transition into the role with Annette's oversight, taking over at the next AGM on May 7 2027. Sarah pictured here is a former wool classer, a current sheep and beef farmer with her husband, and most recently was on the staff of Muka Tangata, the now disestablished workforce development council for the food and fibre sector. I worked with her in wool industry groups in recent years on several wool training and education projects, and I look forward to working with her some more. Sarah's appointment is a gain for our association, but also for the wider wool industry.



NZWCA secretary-to-be Sarah Vallance at right with her friend Mereana Paku-Clarke enjoying attending a NZWCA North Island Industry Day in 2023

By contrast, the resignation of Rebecca Braddick Tohiariki M2103 as a wool tutor at Southern Institute of Technology is a great loss for our industry. Rebecca is a person of integrity and a classer with exceptional knowledge and motivation to pass on that knowledge. Thank you Becks for your conscientious work as a wool tutor, which has been noted by many.

In closing, I thank NZWCA members and in particular NZWCA Board members for continuing to allow me to be your Registrar.

I hope all you hardworking people find some time off in the coming months to enjoy the festive season and the warm weather. Wear wool, use wool, give wool for Christmas, and stay safe out there this summer. *Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me Te Tau Hou*

Signed, **Marg Forde A1260, NZWCA Registrar**, November 2026

Wool Christmas decorations

Support New Zealand farmers this Christmas by decorating your Christmas trees with hand felted NZ wool decorations. These are a collaboration with Nepalese artisan craftswomen, who work for a FairTrade registered company, ensuring fair wages and ethical practices.

Click this link Christmas – Wool Integrity Store



DISCOUNTED NZ WOOL PRODUCTS FOR CHRISTMAS ANYONE?



NZWCA members who have attended our AGM/Industry PD Days in the past few years will be familiar with the much-admired embroidered throws presented to the recipients of NZWCA Classer Merit awards. These are from the Wool Integrity range by PGG Wrightson Wool/Bloch & Behrens.

***A discount of 10% has been negotiated for NZWCA members** for all Wool Integrity products except for the Kaiwaka range on the website. The online store https://woolintegrity.store/ offers a selection of premium wool products either produced locally and/or made with New Zealand wool. Their range includes throws, slippers, baskets and bowls, Christmas decorations, knitting yarn and much more.*

*To access the discount, NZWCA members only will need to apply the special discount code of **nzwoolclassers** at the checkout. NZWCA membership will be verified.*

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



A classer's Christmas tree, this was the creation of Board member Pip McConway A1864