

NSW DIVISION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

"Thank you" to committee members for your support during the year. Last year Nick Gorrie nominated for the Board and I took on the President's role with Jenny Readford as Secretary and Sue Bell, Treasurer. The year brought many challenges – the drought continued with dust storms and high food prices followed by fires, floods and then the COVID 19 virus. Both mohair and meat prices were good but we have to be apprehensive for the future.

Our showpiece show (NATS) was one of the few events to be held between the fires and COVID lockdown. The Show depends on Nick Gorrie and many volunteers, but this year particular thanks to Meagan Mrowka who stewarded both fleeces and animals and Sue Bell who took on the office. Our South African Judge, Jordi Van Hasselt, a top young producer and his Associate Michael Mrowka worked well together with Michael covering Sunday when Jordi had to fly back to South Africa before the lockdown. The new 5 kg fleece class was well supported and will be 10 kg next year. Exhibitor and livestock numbers were up as was support for the dinner. Friday's Youth event had increased support and Sunday's Judges' workshop went well.

During the year we revised the NSW Judging Guidelines and moved three judges up from associate to full judge. Jasmine Shields represented NSW at the National Young Judges' final in Adelaide winning the competition. In May we broke new ground with a Division Zoom meeting – thanks Jenny for setting it up.

The Board held a tele-conference with Division Presidents encouraging us to be more active. The web site is being developed and we were asked to undertake a membership drive, improve strategic planning and youth involvement. Currently over half the MA membership are in NSW and we need to recover those who have recently lapsed. We are still active in the show scene but the number of events is declining. Other activities include the Hunter Newsletter and Eastern Region Facebook to inform members and workshops for the wether competition and managing worms.

Whilst in some regions we may be short of finance or volunteers, we need to continue to promote Angora goats and mohair where possible.

The recent webinars on farm assurances and traceability should take our industry forward with an increased emphasis on safety and record keeping through NLIS and NVDs. The new Sustainable Goat Fibre Guidelines makes recommendations for the industry but will need to lead to Standards and Certification as has been developed for the meat industry.

Finally, thank you to the NSW Regions who have responded to my request for information. The coming year will probably be just as challenging and we will need to keep working for our industry.

Reg Scott
President
NSW Division of Mohair Australia Ltd

3 August 2020