



OH&S Seminars for Employers working in NSW

The SCAA has worked hard over the past 12 months to fund a significant Occupational Health and Safety Project. The Project is culminating in 3 one-day Seminars to be held in Dubbo 16 October, Wagga 23 October and Armidale on 6th November.

The Seminars are open to all members and non-members. See registration form for details and cost. The purpose of the seminars is to inform shearing contractors of their OH&S obligations under the NSW laws. The program is designed to inform contractors

of how to implement and maintain an



OH&S program for their employees. With Workers Compensation being one of the single biggest issues affecting the viability of Shearing Contractors, this program is aimed at alleviating some of the pressures

on employers by imparting knowledge of knowing what-to-do and what-NOT-to-do. Ultimately the program should reduce injuries caused from accidents and therefore reduce premiums.

As a footnote, the SCAA committee realises that accident based claims are a very small part of contractors total workers compensation costs. "Injuries" out of the employers control are incorporated in the premium regardless of your efforts to prevent the incident and the committee is doing their utmost to change this.

IRG Rural Meeting

The Secretary and President of SCAA attended the September WC's Industry Reference Group - Rural meeting.

As always many issues were discussed including the new requirement for all employers to have OH&S programmes in place; issues with loading from heights i.e. Loading wool lorries; the use of chemicals in the Shearing Shed environment and the updates on the Shearing Shed modifications programme.

Shearing Shed Work Cover (WC) funded Improvements-Inspections.

Long time SCAA trustee, Peter Kimber, has inspected the majority of the Shearing Sheds that have had improvements funded by WC. Peter and SCAA President Ivan Letchford inspected the most recently completed shed in Walcha, New England, NSW. The shed has been converted from a massive aircraft hanger.

AWI Research

During September SCAA assisted in a project on behalf of Australian Wool Innovations (AWI) to do research on "non-traditional" methods of shearing. The Agri-business research group TQA Research was contracted by AWI to undertake the study.

Opinions were canvassed from the SCAA's huge network of rural contacts during 7 meetings held at Bendigo, Hamilton, Hay, Dubbo(x2), Wilooka (SA) and Armidale. AWI is trying to generally evaluate projects currently on the drawing board as well as avoid previous mistakes such as the "Shear-Express". Special thanks to Phil Pretlove, Stuart Griggs, Jim Murray, Bernie Baker, John McRae, Jock Dunne, Gerard Morrissey and others.

Robert West 1944-2004

Sadly Robert lost his long battle with cancer this week. Robert has been a significant contributor and supporter of the SCAA filling the position of Vice-President of the Association for many years.

Robert, a valuable member of the shearing community, was an extremely hard working entrepreneur where his business interests crossed into many areas apart from shearing. Aside from his family and business commitments Robert still found the energy to help out with local community projects. His wife Meryl and his children not to mention the Hardin community will sadly miss Robert.

Work Cover (NSW) Formula Review & Consultation Process

SCAA Secretary, Jason Letchford, was invited to attend the review process of the method by which the WC Formula is calculated.

The review process is being facilitated by Price Waterhouse Coopers. Although we cannot be assured of the outcome, the message regarding the plight of the shearing industry caused by the current system has been heard. The submission lodged with WC last November has been used as an example case when contemplating any changes to the Formula. In the coming months the potential new Formulas will be review again in a similar process.

Points in Brief

- The Worm – Drive Rebate scheme saw 4671 worm drives subsidised by WC (NSW) at a cost of \$280,260.
- Shearing Shed improvement scheme. WC (NSW) has completed ten of the 13 Shearing Sheds at a cost of \$195,300.
- The Shearing National Championships were held in Roma QLD last month
- The World Championships are to be held in Toowoomba QLD early next year.
- The Wool Classers Award is still in the Industrial Courts. A Full Bench sitting was held on 11/10/04. Results were not available at time of printing.
- The flow on for the Federal Pastoral Award was also heard on 11/10/04.

SCAA Contact Details

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