



The National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia Inc

NEWSLETTER

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From the desk of Chris Wilcox, Executive Director

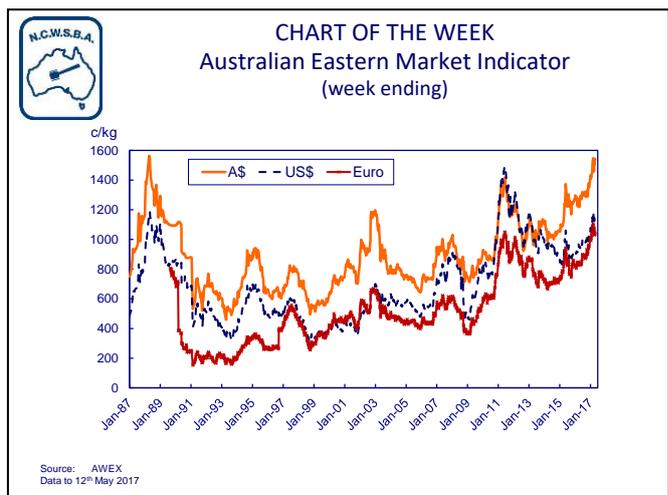
- Australian wool market softens
- 2017 Congress of the International Wool Textile Organisation
- Visits to UK mills and the British Wool Marketing Board
- NCWSBA 2017 Wool Broker Award
- Upcoming events



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The **Australian wool market** weakened somewhat this week with prices for Merino wool slipping back despite a lower A\$. The **Eastern Market Indicator (EMI)** eased back by 10 cents to 1534 c/kg, although there were more significant falls for Merino wools, particularly in Fremantle. This continues the seesawing prices we have seen in the past month or so. After recording the largest lift last week, the Western Market Indicator recorded the week's largest fall, down by 33 cents to 1527 c/kg. Given that there were a few wobbles evident on Thursday last week, the slide was not all that surprising. The Southern Market Indicator did best, closing unchanged at 1491 c/kg even though the medium Merino price guides fell by around 26 cents. The Northern Market Indicator slid 24 cents to 1615 c/kg.

The A\$ fell against both the US\$ and the Euro, down by 0.6 UScents and by 0.4 €cent. As a result, the EMI fell by 19 UScents to 1127 c/kg and by 13 €cents to 1037 €c/kg. In spite of the slide in the EMI, it remains at very high levels historically, as the **Chart of the Week** shows.



I covered some of the highlights from the Opening Session and the Market Intelligence Session from the **2017 IWTO Congress** in last week's *Newsletter*. There were a number of other interesting sessions and presentations. They are too numerous to cover in this week's edition of the *Newsletter*, but some highlights were:

- Sam Wiedeman gave an update on the progress in developing substantiated measures of the sustainability of wool, and how this work is being used to clarify and improve commonly used metrics which place wool low on the sustainability scale.
- Professor Stephen Russell provided information on trends in recycling of clothing products, and how wool clothing products are recycled extensively, lifting the sustainability rating of wool.
- Peter Ackroyd showed an excellent recent documentary called "Slowing Down Fast Fashion", which highlighted the importance of wool to address the problems involved with fast fashion. I think it is essential viewing for all involved in the wool industry. You can see an excerpt by [clicking here](#). You can see the full version by hiring it on Youtube or Amazon Prime.
- Dr Graham Ormonroyd gave a very interesting presentation on the use of wool in buildings (carpets, insulation etc.) to absorb Volatile Organic Compounds which can be harmful to health and wellbeing.

Contact me if you are interested in seeing any of the presentations from the IWTO Congress.

REMINDER: You can sign the **Dumfries House Wool Declaration** to register your support by [clicking here](#).

After the Congress, I visited **two mills in the Bradford-Leeds area and the British Wool Marketing Board** together with Dale Bruns (**one of the Finalists for 2016 Wool Broker Award**). We visited a vertically integrated woollen mill, Abraham Moon & Sons, to look at the processing of wool into woollen fabric for men's clothing, upholstery fabric and accessories (including scarves and throws). The mill was established in 1837 and has been owned by just two families. It now processes 26-30 micron wool from New Zealand as well as other sources, including Australia (if they can obtain wool with a non-mulesing certificate). We also visited Alfred Brown, a worsted mill which was established in 1915. It produces worsted fabrics made from Merino wool, with some blends. It sources its wool from Australia (and requires a non-mulesing certificate) and, increasingly, South Africa.

In between the mill visits, we visited the **British Wool Marketing Board (BWMB)** in Bradford. The Board is a farmer co-operative which handles almost all wool grown in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as some wool from Ireland. The BWMB has a number of receival and grading depots around the United Kingdom. Wool from farms is received ungraded. Wool is graded in each depot and then packed into bales, tested for micron, yield and colour and sold mainly in 24 bale lots via electronic auction. The auctions are held at the BWMB's centre in Bradford. There was an auction being held while we were there. The photo shows Dale Bruns with Gareth Jones (BWMB's Operations Manager) observing the electronic auction. It is a very interesting process (and a very quiet auction!), but one thing we noted was that it is slow compared with the Australian open-cry wool auctions. It appears that there are around 120 lots offered per hour using the British electronic auction.



REMINDER: Nominations for the **NCWSBA Broker Award for 2017** are now open. Sponsored by Fairfax Agricultural Media and AWTA, the Award recognises excellence in wool broking by a younger member of our industry – be it client servicing, auctioneering, innovation or other aspects of wool broking. The Award winner this year will be granted an all-expenses paid trip Hong Kong to attend the 2018 IWTO Congress on 14-16 May 2018. Arrangements will also be made for the Award winner to visit the wool textile industry and retailers in Hong Kong and southern China. **Please contact me for an application form – chris.wilcox@woolindustries.org or call me on (03)93110152.**

The Woolmark **Australian Wool Week** kicks off on 13th May and continues through to 21st May. The Woolmark Company has planned a series of events with supported from Westfield, Country Road, R M Williams, M J Bale and Rod & Gunn. [Click here](#) for more details.

AWI will hold its annual **Broker Briefing day** on Friday, 26th May in Sydney. One important part of the day will be an update on the progress of the Wool Exchange Portal. There will also be presentations and updates, including marketing strategy demonstrations.

OTHER INDUSTRY EVENTS

The **NCWSBA Annual General Meeting** will be held in Melbourne on 24th August 2017

Wool Week will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Melbourne on 24th to 25th August 2017.

The **2017 Nanjing Wool Market Conference** will be held in Tongxiang, China on 17th to 18th September 2017.

WOOL SALES WEEK BEGINNING 15th MAY 2017 – week 46 (roster as at 11/05/2017)

<u>Sydney</u>	Wed, 17 th May; Thurs, 18 th May	9,823 bales
<u>Melbourne</u>	Wed, 17 th May; Thurs, 18 th May	18,134 bales
<u>Fremantle</u>	Wed, 17 th May; Thurs, 18 th May	8,386 bales

Information in the Weekly Newsletter is intended to provide general information only and is not intended to constitute advice for a specific purpose.