



The National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia Inc

NEWSLETTER

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2019/04

From the desk of Chris Wilcox, Executive Director

- Australian wool prices rise despite lift in the A\$
- Trends in prices for other fibres and price ratios for wool
- No sign of the fall in Australian wool test volumes easing in January
- Mixed rainfall outlook in Australia for the next three months
- Unveiling ceremony for a plaque in honour of Elizabeth Macarthur
- IWTO 2019 Congress in Venice – registration open
- Upcoming industry events



Merino wool prices outperform prices for competing fibres

All of the major competing fibres have seen a sharp fall in the past six months. For synthetic fibres, this is due to a combination of excess capacity, falling oil prices and lower demand, notably in China. Acrylic fibres have seen the most significant falls and certainly more than the slide in polyester staple fibres. Viscose prices have also fallen sharply. For cotton, prices have fallen back despite an expected decline in production this season. Poor quality for the cotton from the US (the world's largest exporter) is weighing on prices as is the on-going impact of the US-China trade dispute.

These declines in prices should be kept in mind with what has happened with wool prices over the past few months. Merino wool prices, particularly medium Merino prices (20-24 micron), have recovered after the decline in October and fine Crossbred wool prices have risen sharply in the past couple of months. As I reported in the *Weekly Newsletter* of 18th January, prices for broad Crossbred wool from New Zealand and the United Kingdom have remained flat at low levels since the decline seen in 2016 and 2017.

Further details including a chart showing the price trends for wool and the major competing fibres are contained in the full edition of the NCWSBA *Weekly Newsletter*, available to NCWSBA members.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

The **Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee** meets on Monday, 1st April 2019 at AWTA in Melbourne.

The **IWTO 2019 Congress** will be held in Venice on 9th to 11th April 2019.

WOOL SALES WEEK BEGINNING 4th FEB 2019 – week 32 (roster as at 31/1/2019)

Sydney

Wed, 6th Feb, Thurs 7th Feb 11,736 bales

Melbourne

Wed, 6th Feb, Thurs 7th Feb 19,922 bales

Fremantle

Wed, 6th Feb, Thurs 7th Feb 8,768 bales

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