

Well I guess chronologically events shape a person, so here goes.

At 8 years old my sister had 200 sheep to look after, at shearing time a shearer was employed and I was to help on the table, "As I should know what I was doing removing the pieces." Brief demo and left to it. It was a long day, I remember that, and tied on my feet.

My Father and then my Eldest brother Peter ran a Private Merchant business in Ashburton. This was always a base to train, work after school and holidays, Dags saved for crushing and if I did a man's output I would be paid accordingly. Straight from school to Massey University to do the Wool Technology Diploma.

Gradually fell into classing with 1 shed first year, 3 next, then 7, up to 15/17 sheds around Tekapo and Ashburton areas for few years. Gaining an A classing stencil. A rural downturn after government interventions were removed, also had 2 summers at the Fairton freezing works gaining valuable slipe experience.

I applied and was employed by the Wool Board as a valuer. Amazing place to work with a lot of talented people, all having a high level of diverse skills.

17 years flew by with weekly valuing, sales in Dunedin, classer assessments, I would volunteer for any opportunity for helping on different schemes, extra choice, Woolcare shearing shed assessor, wool handler training, Registrar of the classer scheme, tutoring at Lincoln University. With the end of levy and of Wool Board, with the many activities I'd had been involved with ceasing or massively under threat in the new order.

I went back to classing near Ch Ch for few sheds, and the next highlight was classing a Large Merino series of sheds for one family, while the Owner was to have a baby. The privilege to be let into her shed and given that opportunity was awesome.

I'm currently Wool Production coordinator at Canterbury Woolscourers in Timaru using all my skills/knowledge. A busy position, since now we are the only site in the south Island. A lot of our processes follow on from the good work done in the shed. Plant works 24/7, imagine if you will, it's a bit like a shearing shed going night and day with different staff with shift changes.

A big Thank You to all of the Farmers and wool people I have worked for and with (and for putting up with me), suggest you take any opportunity given, and the 'introduction is everything' when showing or teaching a new chum, it made me what I am today.

Struan Hulme