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## Glossary of wool industry terms and vernacular:

**Accuracy:** A measure of the closeness of a test result to the true value as distinguished from precision.

**Afghan:** Knitted or crocheted wool blanket or robe made with a series of stripes, zig-zag effects or squares.

**Ageing:** Wrinkles in fabric caused by fibre regain after manufacture into garment.

**Airflow Method:** A method of measuring the average fibre diameter of a sample of wool.

**Airflow Meter:** An instrument used to measure the average fibre diameter of wool. A known weight of wool is compressed into a known volume and subjected to an air current of constant pressure. The resistance to the air moving through the cylinder is related to the diameter of the fibres, e.g. the smaller (finer) the diameter the greater is the resistance, and vice versa. This instrument was used commercially by the Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) Ltd, Melden and other wool testing laboratories.

**Aged:** A sheep that is past the most economic period of its life - about 5 years.

**Agistment:** The leasing of the grazing rights of a paddock.

**Airjet Loom:** A loom that uses an air jet instead of a shuttle to propel pre-cut lengths of weft across the shed.

**Almeter:** The Almeter is an electronic machine used for calculating the fibre length distribution in wool slivers. The average fibre length is also calculated. A specimen is formed from a draw of parallel fibres from the original sliver. This sample is placed in a slide which moves at constant speed, through a measuring condenser. The variation in capacity caused in this way is proportional to the mass of the draw of fibres situated in the condenser.

**All wool:** The description of any material in which all yarns are made solely from the wool of sheep.

**Animal Fibres:** General term for fibres taken from animal life—wool, silk, etc. Basically nitrogenous in substance, these fibres give off the odour of burning feathers or singed hair when a lighted match is applied to them.

**Apparel Wool:** Broad term which embraces all wool except carpet and pulled wools.

**Apparent Length:** Wool staple length as it appears in the staple without stretching.

**Appraisement:** Estimated value of a given lot of wool.

**Apron:** The largest fold encircling the neck of a Merino.

**Aquajet Loom:** A loom using a jet of water instead of a shuttle.

**Art Serge:** A 2-up 2-down woven worsted which is fine in texture, piece-dyed in many suitable colours, and used for draperies, table covers and general decorative purposes.

**Astrakhan:** Fabric of woven cloth made of wool on a pile weave construction to assure curliness after the threads have been cut.

**Atlas:** Automatic Tester for Length and Strength. This machine, which was developed by the CSIRO, and is now used commercially by AWTA Ltd, automatically measures about 60 individual staples of greasy wool from the grab sample for staple length and staple strength. The instrument can measure the length of any staple but only staples with a length of about 50 mm or above can be measured for strength. A continuous belt conveys each staple lengthwise, between an array of lights and photo detectors, to measure staple length. The staple then enters a set of jaws which grip either end and stretch it to break point, the force required being recorded in newtons. The two broken pieces are collected and weighed to calculate the staple thickness (kilotex) and position of break. Staple strength is then calculated as newtons/kilotex (N/ktex).

**Auction system:** The system of selling wool to the highest bidder.

**Average Yellowness:** Colour appraisal has traditionally been part of the valuation of greasy wool for sale. However, a method of measuring average yellowness of clean wool has been written into International and Australian Standards. Yellowness is measured on the same core sample as used for measuring mean fibre diameter. The sample is scoured and carded before it is tested for average yellowness in a colorimeter. Average yellowness of wool is expressed as Y-Z. Y and Z represent the green and blue components of light that is reflected from a sample of wool, i.e. green - blue gives yellow. A commercial Average Yellowness measurement has been offered since July 1988.

**Australian Superfine Certificate:** Standards Australia has issued an Australian Standard specifying the requirements of Certification of Superfine wool. The Australian Superfine Certificate was introduced by the AWTA Ltd to meet a perceived need for the objective specification of yield, vegetable matter base and micron on speciality lines of one, two or three bales. Wool meeting the required standards are notated in the sale catalogue.

**Babbling Brook:** Cook. Also referred to as silly look, cookoo, bail-slinger, water-burner.

**Baby Flannel:** Plain weave, bleached, lightweight, soft woollen cloth used in children's underwear and garments.

**Backs:** Wool skirted from the back section of the fleece.

**Backwasher:** Machine used for washing tops. etc., to remove all impurities. It also dries the tops after washing by passing them over steamheated cylinders, or perforated cylinders through which hot air is forced.

**Backwashing:** Removal of the oil which has been put into worsted stock in the blending, oiling and mixing operations when the mix was made up.

**Bacterial Stain:** Bacteria present on the skin of sheep multiply under conditions of warmth and moisture. These bacteria leave a green, brown, bright red, pink and bluish green residue in the fleece which should be removed.

**Badly Bred:** Animals that are either untrue to type, or produce wool displaying faults. For example, wool that is straight, shows little or no character and is irregular in quality.

**Bale:** A wool pack containing a specified minimum weight of wool.

**Banded Wool:** Discolouration or depigmentation occurring in the staple of pigmented wool.

**Barathea:** 1. Fine dress fabric, spun silk warp Botany weft. 2. Military double cloth.

**Barb:** A black kelpie.

**Barbe:** One term used to describe the mean length of fibres in a top. It is a weightbiased distribution.

**Bar Bale:** A bale of wool containing two or more varieties of wool separated by a division.

**Bareme:** Ready reckoner used by wool valuers.

**Bar-fly:** Pub regular on the make; cadger, bludger.

**Baron:** Character who thanked the boss for sacking him.

**Barrel:** Mid section of the body between the forequarter and hind quarters.

**Basil:** The finished dressed leather obtained from sheepskin.

**Bathurst Burr:** A type of burr with fine spines that cling to wool.

**Beat Up:** To push the weft threads to each other during weaving; usually achieved by means of a reed.

**Beaver Cloth:** Woollen overcoating with dressed face finish.

**Bedford Cord:** Worsted or woollen dress fabric with pronounced warp cords running lengthways in piece.

**Bellies:** Wool shorn from the belly of sheep. Belly wool is packed separately from fleece wool.

**Bending Length:** The length of fabric that, when extended over an edge, will bend

under its own weight.

**Billiard Cloth:** A plain woven, heavily milled cloth with a fibrous finish, made from very fine merino wool and shrunk about 33 per cent. in width and 25 per cent. in length from the loom dimensions.

**Billabong:** Low-lying area of land filled by the overflow from a river.

**Binders:** Fibres that grow from one staple to another and hold the fleece together. These fibres join the staple at the tip on hoggets and gradually work down as the sheep grow older. On very old sheep the binders join the staple at the bottom near the skin- consequently, when the sheep is shorn the staples fall apart and this is known as a locky fleece.

**Bin Sorting or Classing:** Classing or sorting shorn fleeces into standard lines.

**Bins:** Compartments in which wool can be placed or stored.

**Birdseye:** Applied to a worsted fabric it implies a clear finish, staple material, the face of which is marked by small indentations produced by the weaves used to suggest the eye of a bird.

**Blackball:** To reject, to vote out. To declare black; to refuse to work for or to work with.

**Black-leg:** Non-union labour; labour who exercise freedom of contract.

**Black-stump:** An imaginary line or demarcation between urban and remote country area.

**Black-brown Wool:** Natural pigmentation in the wool fibre.

**Black Wool:** Any wool that is not white but not necessarily black. Stock that is grey or brown in colour is classed as black wool.

**Blanket:** This cloth, made from heavily milled fabrics woven with woolen spun yarns composed entirely of wool, is named after the man who first used it as a covering for warmth and sleeping purposes, Thomas Blanket (Blanquette), a Flemish weaver who lived in England in the 14th century.

**Blends:** Intimate mixtures of different fibres in a yarn or fabric.

**Blended Fabric:** One which contains blended yarns in either the warp or the filling.

**Blending:** 1. (Marketing) The physical mixing of small lines differing slightly in type and yield to produce large even lots when repacked for sale. 2. (Manufacture) The mixing of wools of different type or origin to produce a special effect or to reduce costs.

**Blighty Tweed:** A propriety term applied to a tweed of the Harris and Homespun type woven on hand looms by ex-service men who have been maimed in wars.

**Blocky Tip:** A square flat tip of a staple or staples.

**Bloodhound:** One who serves writs, private investigator.

**Bloom:** Term used to indicate good colour in wool.

**Blow:** Shearing of wool the width of the comb over the contour of a sheep's body. Also to have a rest.

**Blowfly Strike:** Specific types of blowflies are attracted to sheep, laying maggots in warm, moist and often urine- or faecal-stained wool. Strike-affected wool should be removed and kept separate with other stained wool.

**Blue:** Show of force or temper. To have or put on a blue.

**Blue-tongue:** Lizard with a flicking tongue. Sometimes applied to shedhands with big appetites, who push up shearers' mess bills.

**Bluey:** Swag, matilda, carpet-bag, shiralee.

**Board:** The floor or wooden platform on which sheep are shorn.

**Board Locks:** Locks swept from the shearing board.

**Body:** Term applied to wool when the staple appears full and bulky.

**Body Cloth:** Blanket or covering used on horses; is a coarse, heavy material usually made of low quality wool.

**Body Wool:** Wool in which the staple appears or feels full and bulky.

**Bogan Flea:** Small flea-like burrs that cling to wool.



**Boggi:** (Pronounced bog-eye.) A shearing handpiece, so called because its shape resembles a Boggi lizard native to Australia.

**Bold:** Term applied to a well-grown wool of good character.

**Bonzer:** Very pleasing; bosker, a beauty.

**Bootlace:** Strip of skin cut from sheep by a careless shearer.

**Boss:** Employer, Shed boss or boss-of-the-board. The head serang, overseer, ganger (N.Z.).

**Botany:** Term applied to all classes of fine Merino wool.

**Bowyang:** String or leather thong tied around trousers just below knee level to allow freedom of movement while working in a crouched position. Seldom used these days.

**Box:** To mix sheep of different age and sex. To mix similar shorn sheep prior to branding.

**Boxed:** When different mobs of sheep are mixed.

**Boxer:** One who holds the stakes being wagered at a two-up game.

**Bradford Spinning:** English method of spinning wool into worsted yarn. The wool is thoroughly oiled before it is combed, producing a lustrous yarn used for worsted suitings. This is distinct from the French system which is dry spun.

**Bradford System:** 1. Indicates the type of processing for certain wools. 2. Wool suitable for use on the Bradford combing machine, i.e. 'Noble Comb'.

**Branding:** 1. Stencilling on bales of wool to signify the owner, serial number, and type of wool in the bale. 2. Sheep branding is the placing of a registered brand on the sheep with a branding fluid for purposes of identification. Firebrands are sometimes placed on the face or horns of sheep.

**Break:** Distinct tenderness in wool caused by sickness, lack of food or water, or a sudden change of pasture. Careless dipping or some injury could also be a cause.

**Breeze-up:** To have the wind-up; to be scared.

**Brightness:** 1. Term describing the white colour and light-reflecting power associated with the finer types of wool - indicates that it is free from discolouration.

**Brisket:** The area under the neck between the forelegs and immediately in front of the belly.

**Britch/Brotch/Breech:** The area of fleece on the buttocks and hind legs; normally of lower quality than the bulk of the fleece.

**Broad:** Coarser or stronger in quality than is usual for that particular type of wool, i.e., a 60's/58's is a broad merino. This term is also relative being merely an indication that the fibre is coarser or stronger than is usual for that type of wool.

**Broadcloth:** Fine merino woollen fabric used for overcoatings and other purposes.

**Broken:** Trade term applied to the best wool of the skirtings, having the characteristics of fleece wool.

**Broken Wool:** Best of the skirtings.

**Broken Mouth:** A sheep is described as "broken mouthed" when some of the incisor teeth have fallen out or become badly worn and irregular, usually the result of old age or hard grazing.

**Bronze:** Backside, dinger. To sit on one's bronze.

**Brownie:** A currant loaf sweetened with brown sugar. Hungry shedhands may still be referred to as Brownie-gangers.

**Brushed Wool:** Knit or woven fabric which has been brushed, napped or teasled. Used in some garments, scarves, sweaters, trimmings.

**Buck:** Male goat used for breeding.

**Bulk Classing:** The grading and pooling of small lots of wool from a number of owners into standard lines by classing. The lotting together is to trade standards, and the wool is sold under a common brand, and each owner is credited with the weight of his wool in each bale or lot.

**Bulky or Dense:** Deep, thick-staple closely packed on the sheep giving good bulk (volume) for the period of growth.

**Bullet:** The sack; given the bullet; to be fired or told to 'Hang-up' when shearing.

**Bunny:** Fall guy; scapegoat; simpleton.

**Burdizzo:** A castrating instrument.

**Burgoo:** Porridge, rolled oats.

**Burl:** Give it a burl; to attempt something that holds a challenge.

**Burling:** In the dry finishing department of a woollen or worsted mill, it is the removal of as much objectionable matter as possible from the goods.

**Burrs:** Seed pods of various burrs and medics.

**Burry:** Wool carrying a percentage of burr. Light burr in combing wools can be removed by the comb or card in manufacture. Heavy burry combing wools and any short types carrying burr or excessive vegetable matter are carbonized before carding.

**Butt:** Parcel of greasy wool in a recognized wool pack weighing less than the recognised minimum weight. The weight varies in different states.

**Canary Stain:** Bright yellow stain in wool which cannot be removed by the normal scouring process. It is usually caused by moist, humid conditions, and is fairly prevalent in Queensland and Western Australia.

**Cactus:** Lost cause; 'It's Cactus'.

**Capped:** The past practise of opening of a proportion of the bales in all "big" lots by removal of the cap so that buyers may inspect the entire contents of the bale. Other bales have the front flap dropped, exposing a portion of the bale only.

**Carbonising:** Mechanical, chemical process for removal of vegetable matter from wool. The usual agent for converting the vegetable fault to carbon is sulphuric acid. Most wools suitable for the woollen trade, such as lambs, locks, and crutchings carrying fault, are treated by this method.

**Carbo Types:** Very burry wools, usually short.

**Cardigan:** Sweater style usually referring to a 3-button coat sweater with a V or round neck. There are also cardigan jackets made of a woollen or worsted fabric.

**Carding:** After wool is scoured and dried it is fed into a carding machine which opens up the wool into an even layer, removing as much burr and seed as possible and draws the fibres parallel to each other to form a single continuous strand of fibres called a 'sliver'.

**Carding Wool:** Wool suitable for the woollen trade. It is shorter than combing or worsted quality wool.

**Carpet Wools:** Coarse crossbred wool of counts usually from 22's to 34's.

**Cashmere:** 1. Fine worsted dress fabric. 2. A speciality superfine hair fibre from cashmere goats.

**Cast:** Term indicating low grade wool

**Cast Fleeces:** Inferior fleeces of a clip - tender, cotter, etc.

**Cast for Age (C.F.A.):** Sheep rejected from the flock because of old age.

**Castrate:** Remove the testicles of a male sheep.

**Catalogue:** Printed list, prepared by the selling broker, showing the lot number, owner's brand, description of the wool and the number of bales in each lot. Catalogues are supplied to buyers for valuing purposes and to growers when they inspect their wool.

**Catcher/Holder:** Labourer used to catch and hold lambs for marking.

**Catching Pens:** Small enclosure within the shearing shed from which the shearers catch sheep for shearing.

**Character:** Evenness of the crimp or wave, indicative of good breeding.

**Cheviot:** 1. A breed of sheep. 2. Woollen fabric made from crossbred wools.

**Chlorinated Wool:** Chemically treated woollens whereby shrinkage is decreased and dyeing properties increased, especially in the case of fabrics that are to be printed.

**Chinese Hundred:** Tally of fifty sheep shorn in a day.

**Chip:** Reprimand.

**CIDR:** Controlled internal drug-releasers used for continuously dosing ewes with progesterone.

**City Slicker:** Person who slicked back his hair with concrete brilliantine, like Rudolph Valentino.

**Character:** Evenness of crimp or wave, denoting good breeding.

**Classer's Registration Number:** A registered number by which each classer may be recognised. Must be stencilled on the bales of wool offered at auction.

**Classer's Report:** See **Specification**.

**Classing:** 1. Wool classing is the grading of the skirted fleece of a similar quality and style into the most attractive lines for sale to the best advantage. 2. Sheep classing is the process of culling and selection applied to flock of sheep. 3. A term applied to the grading of rams according to sale value. 4. The division of a flock of stud ewes into various groups prior to mating.

**Clean Basis:** Price of scoured wool minus loss and charges incurred in the scouring operation.

**Clean Colour:** The colour of wool after scouring. Clean colour is measured in terms of brightness and yellowness, both of which can affect dyeing potential.

**Clean Wool Content:** The amount of wool base adjusted to standard contents of residuals and regain.

**Clip:** The quantity of fibre shorn in a single season from a named area of property.

**Clock:** To strike in the face.

**Closing Date:** The latest date on which wool can be received at a wool-selling centre to be eligible for a sale on a given date.

**Clothing Wool:** Sound, dense wool not more than 40 millimetres in length; it must be reasonably fine, with even crimp and good felting properties. A speciality used in the woollen trade.

**Coarse:** Indicates a fibre of thick average fibre diameter.

**Cobbler:** Hard-cutting woolly sheep.

**Cocky:** Small farmer (who, in earlier days, broadcast seed by hand, only to see it eaten by cockatoos settling behind him).

**Cod Lock:** The wool from the scrotum of the male sheep; usually yolk stained.

**Coefficient of Variation (CV%):** A statistical term used to describe the amount of variation within a set of measurements; it is expressed as a percentage of the mean value. For example, for length it is used to denote either the variability of staple length in greasy wool, or the fibre length variability in wool top. The higher the percentage the more variable is the length.

**Colorimeter:** An instrument used to measure the clean colour of wool. In this method of testing, a scoured sample of wool is placed in the instrument and light is shone on it. The colorimeter then measures the light which is reflected from the sample, from which the values for brightness (expressed as Y) and yellowness (expressed Y-Z) are derived. As Y increases, brightness improves. As Y-Z increases, yellowness increases.

**Colostrum:** The milk first produced by the ewe.

**Colour:** Refers to the degree of brightness in fibre.

**Coloured Fibres:** Natural brown, grey or black fibres or tufts grown by an animal which is otherwise white.

**Colourfast:** Ability of a dye to remain unchanged when a fabric is washed or ironed or exposed to sun, perspiration or other fading agents.

**Combing:** A process performed after carding and gilling (usually by rectilinear comb) to remove most of the short fibres (noil), neps and foreign matter, leaving the longer fibres lying parallel to the direction of the sliver. This product after two more gillings is called top.

**Combing Wool:** Fibres of wool from one and a half to six inches long used in worsted yarn. Merino combing wools are classified as Full warp, Half warp, Wept,

French combing, Shafly top-makers, Inferior top-makers, and, Preparing wools.

**Comeback:** Wool produced by the crossing of two breeds of sheep (Lincoln and Merino), then the crossing of the progeny with a Merino. The progeny from this cross is known as a Come-back; crossbred wool. which is 58's or finer.

**Condenser:** Carding machinery arranged to divide up the film of carded material into a number of filaments ready for spinning.

**Condition:** 1. The amount of impurity present in greasy wool. 2. The amount of moisture present in scoured wool or tops, exposed as a percentage of the clean oven dry weight. 3. The degree of fatness of a sheep.

**Conditioning Wool:** Testing either greasy, scoured wool, or tops to ascertain what percentage of moisture they contain.

**Cone:** 1. The bobbin upon which yarn is wound prior to weaving. 2. A package of yarn wound into a suitable shape. 3. A tapered cylinder of cardboard, metal or wood around which yarn is wound.

**Confidence Limits:** Are used to express the precision of a measure. When stating the average or mean for samples (e.g. 60 staples for length) it is important to give the confidence limits as an indication of the relationship between the sample mean from 60 staples) and the likely true mean for all the staples in the bulk (e.g. sale lot). Confidence limits are usually expressed at the 95% level. Thus the 95% confidence limits are defined by those differences above and below the mean value which are exceeded only once in every 20 of a large number of tests.

**Continental Combing:** See French combing.

**Cords:** Farmer's term for *vas deferens* and blood vessels that supply the testicle.

**Cord Effect:** A rib running warpways in the fabric.

**Corduroy:** Cut weft pile forming longitudinal cords in the cloth.

**Core Sample:** The sample extracted from a bale of wool by inserting a sharpened hollow tube the length of the bale. The diameter of the core tube is normally 18 mm. Subsamples of the composite core sample are used for measuring yield, mean fibre diameter and vegetable matter content. The core sample may also be used to measure clean colour. Every bale in a sale lot which is sold by sample with objective measurement is core sampled

**Core-testing:** The taking of samples from a bale of wool to test for yield, fibre diameter, and vegetable fault.

**Corkscrew:** 1. Fine worsted dress fabric or coating and suiting cloth. 2. The seed of the wild geranium; a spiral seed approximately 15 millimetres long. A persistent nuisance to manufacturers.

**Cortex:** Main shaft or body of the wool fibre, lying within a layer of cuticular scales and surrounding the medulla, if present, as in certain types of "hairy" fibres. The cortex consists of long narrow cells.

**Cotted or Matted:** Term applied to wool which has become partially felted or matted whilst on the sheep's back.

**Course:** Horizontal row or loops in knitted fabric.

**Count:** 1. Number given to wool indicating its fineness. 2. Number given to a wool yarn indicating (in the wool industry) its length per unit weight. In the worsted system it is the number of hanks of yarn, each 560 yards long, weighing one pound. In the woollen system it is the number of hanks of yarn, each 256 yards long, weighing one pound.

**Counting-out pen:** An enclosure in which a shearer puts his freshly-shorn sheep so that they may be counted.

**Covering:** Refers to the entire fleece.

**Covert Coating:** Worsteds warp face overcoating. When made from woollen yarn, the fabric is called a Venetian.

**Cow Tail:** A very coarse fibre usually found in the britch of coarse crossbred sheep or goats.

**Crackers:** Aged sheep with broken mouths and in poor condition.

**Crêpe:** Worsted dress fabric made from high-class yarn.

**Crepon:** Of the crêpe group of cloths, but stouter and more rugged than the average crepe.

**Crimp:** The natural wave formation in the fibre. It is the visual indication of character; the smaller and more even the crimp, usually the finer the fibre.

**Crossbred Sheep:** Sheep arising from the crossing of one pure breed of sheep with another.

**Crossbred Wool:** 1. Any wool other than Merino, irrespective of whether it is from a pure bred sheep or not. 2. Wool coarser than that from Merino sheep, but not so coarse as that normally used for carpets. Counts usually from 36's to 58's.

**Crutching:** The shearing of wool from the area of the sheep's crutch (junction of the thighs). This is done to prevent the formation of dags in the flush of the autumn feed and also to help to prevent flies from blowing the sheep.

**Crutchings:** Wool shorn from the crutch and back of hind legs.

**Cryptorchid:** A male sheep that has either one (unilateral) or two (bilateral) testicles retained

**Culling:** The practice of segregating and discarding low grade producers and animals with physical defects from among the main flock or herd.

**Culls:** Uneconomic or rejected sheep from a flock.

**Cut:** Variation in the manner in which wool peels away, from a sheep while being shorn. The wool can be 'good cutting' or 'bad cutting'.

**Cut Per Head:** Return of fibre per head of animal shorn.

**Cuticle:** 1. Outer layer of flattened cells (scales) on wool/mohair fibre which protects the surface of the fibre. 2. Outer layer of the skin.

**Cut-out:** Cessation of shearing, temporary or final at a particular shed.

**Cut-out Horrors:** A craving for a change in environment or company.

**Dags:** 1. Hardened sheep excreta entangled in the crutch wool. 2. An ocker-type person.

**Dam:** Female parent.

**Dark Fibre:** Refers to wool which is either urine stained or contains black, grey or brown pigment. It is considered to be a contaminant of white wool. Because of the discrete nature of dark fibre in bales of raw wool, it is not possible to accurately sample for it.

**Darling Shower:** Dust storm.

**Dead Wool:** Picked from the carcasses of sheep that have been dead a considerable time. Dead wool is not as valuable as plucked wool, as it usually carries more dirt and vegetable matter and is more or less perished by exposure.

**Deep Grown:** Long, sound, deep staple about half as thick or wide as a shafty wool. Sometimes used to describe wool that is rather long for the quality. Dense Staples carrying a large number of fibres.

**Degreasing:** Any method or process used to remove yolk, suint and foreign matter from wool.

**Delaine:** Fine printed worsted dress or blouse fabric, largely used for infants' clothing.

**Density:** Term denoting compactness in a fleece i.e. the closeness of fibre growth on a given area of skin.

**Depth of Staple:** Term applied to the length of staple on the body of the sheep.

**Dermis:** The inner layer of the skin.

**Development:** Capacity of the Merino, for growing what is apparently more skin than is required to cover the body smoothly, with production of folds or wrinkles. Varies in extent according to the type of Merino.

**Devil's Grip:** Serious defect in conformation, appearing as a depression immediately behind the withers and associated with short, yolk- stained wool of poor

character. The fibre is usually thin, yellow, shrivelled, and of poor character.

**Dewlap:** The upper fold under the neck of the Merino sheep.

**Differential Frictional Effect:** It is easier to rub fibres with scales (wool) towards the tip than towards the root of the fibre.

**Dingy:** Wool which is of poor colour and wasty carrying yellow yolk, which may not scour white.

**Dip:** To immerse an animal or spray it with insecticide to eradicate lice and keds.

**Dip Stain:** Fibre stained by dip solution which can result from incorrect dipping.

**Dobby:** Mechanism for selecting warp threads to be raised in order to create a pattern in a woven fabric.

**Doeskin:** Fine merino woollen cloth.

**Dodger:** Bread.

**Doe:** Female goat.

**Doffing:** Removing the full bobbins or spindles from a spinning machine.

**Doggy wool:** Straight-fibred, lustrous, run out wool lacking breeding with very little felting property.

**Donegal Tweed:** Rough woollen tweed suitable for sports wear.

**Donk:** Engine.

**Doolan Kennedy:** The fastest presser of all.

**Double Fleece:** Fleece of wool consisting of two years' growth.

**Double Knit:** Fabric knitted on a weft knitting machine with two beds of needles - also called double jersey.

**Double Stud Ram:** A term applied to the best and purest stud rams.

**Doubling:** Feeding two or more slivers, slubbings, rovings or yarns into some textile machine.

**Downs wool:** Wool shorn from British short wool breeds.

**Draft:** Drawing out fibres so that there are fewer in the cross-section of the yarn.

**Drafting:** 1. Dividing animals into groups in the yards. 2. The drawing of fibres, that may be in some sort of rope form, among themselves to make some sort of rope form, to make the stock take on more the appearance of yarn.

**Dreadnought:** Shearer who has shorn 300 sheep in a day.

**Dressed Face Finish:** Conceals the structure. Applied to doeskins, pilots, box cloths, beavers, and billiard cloths.

**Droving:** The driving of a flock slowly along a road or stock route on long journeys.

**Dry Combing:** Preparing and combing worsted wool without oil or emulsion.

**Dry Ewe:** A female sheep without a lamb at foot.

**Dual-purpose sheep:** Sheep bred and selected for their suitability for both wool and meat production.

**Dumping:** The further compression of a bale of wool to less than half its original length before securing it by means of metal bands or wire.

**Dumped Wool:** Package of wool compressed tightly for shipment, and held by metal bands or wires.

**Duvetyne:** One of the better quality cloths. Duvetyne resembles a compact velvet; it wears well, has a good draping effect, and is soft to the feel.

**Dye bath:** Solution of dye, often with other additives such as salt, detergent, acid etc.

**Dyed in the Wool:** Fabrics, the wool of which has been dyed before being spun.

**Dyed in the Yarn:** Fabrics, in which the yarn has been dyed before being woven. (See Piece dyed Cloth.)

**Dyed Slubbings:** Worsted tops dyed in top form and recombed before drawing and spinning.

**Eagle:** The bird who arrives with the money on pay day.

**Ear-basher:** One who talks incessantly; windbag, blatherskite, blabbermouth, gas-bag, organ-grinder.

**Earmark:** The distinguishing mark of an owner which is clipped out of the ear.

**Ear Position:** Described as either front, back, tip, butt.

**Eartag:** A disc placed in the ear for identification.

**Elasticity:** The property of returning to natural length after stretching or compression. Wool has this property developed to a high degree.

**Elastrator Applicator:** A tool for applying rings.

**Elastrator rings:** Special rubber bands applied to the tail or purse.

**Epidermis:** The outer layer of the skin.

**Evenness:** Relates to the general uniformity of the various characteristics of a fleece.

**Ewe:** Female sheep. Wet ewe: in lamb or lactating. Dry ewe: not in-lamb.

**Expert:** Staff-man responsible for the care and operation of shearing machinery.

**Eyebrows:** Wool second cuts, which occur when a shearer makes a second blow by retracing part of the sheep's body.

**Fadge:** Woolpack partly filled with wool (a but of a bale), or several bags sewn together. Usual weight, 30-70 kgs (60 to 150 lb).

**Fadging:** Replacing shorn wool in its original bales.

**Falkland Island Wool:** Coarse wool, usually of the Cheviot type, grown in the islands of the South Atlantic adjacent to the South American coast.

**False Packing:** The malpractice of concealing inferior wool in a bale with intent to deceive the buyer.

**Fastness:** Ability to resist fading.

**Fatty:** Fleece wool containing an exceptional amount of grease.

**Fat Sheep:** A sheep suitable for the butcher, but not necessarily prime.

**Fault:** The presence of vegetable matter in wool.

**Faulty Wool:** Examples are: cotted or matted, doggy, fatty, 'steely', lumpy wool, tender and excess vegetable fault.

**Fecundity:** Ability to produce multiple offspring.

**Fellmongered Wool:** Wool removed from sheep-skins by sweating or chemical processes.

**Fellmongering:** Process of removing wool from the pelt by bacterial action (sweating) or by treatment with chemicals.

**Felt/Felted Cloth:** Sheet of wool fibres matted into a substantial texture. In the felting, milling or fulling process, a cloth is moistened with warm soapy water, and is subjected to a hammering or beating operation or the intermittent application of pressure in length and width. Under the pressure of the heat and the moisture the fibres swell and become thicker and shorter which causes them to mat and interlock.

**Felting:** Property possessed by wool and some other animal fibres of closely entangling and interlocking to form a compact mass.

**Fern Stain:** Wool carrying the fine chocolate-coloured fibres from the stems of ferns and bracken; it will not scour white.

**Fertility:** Ability to conceive.

**Fettling:** The removal of wool grease and embedded fibres from the needle on a wool carding machine.

**Fibre Diameter:** The thickness of individual wool fibres. Wool is inherently variable in fibre diameter but the average fibre diameter of any sale lot is by far the most important characteristic in terms of processing value. Average fibre diameter is measured commercially by the Airflow machine and expressed in micrometres (or microns). 1 micron = one millionth of a metre

**Fibre Fineness Distribution Analyser (FFDA):** This machine, developed by CSIRO, measures the diameter of several thousand individual fibre snippets (2 mm long) and calculates both the average fibre diameter and the fibre diameter variability. It also produces a distribution curve.

**Fibre Image And Display Measurement (FIDAM):** This machine was developed by AWTA Ltd to measure fibre diameter and its distribution, using Image Analysis.

**Fingering Yarn:** Worsted knitting yarn in which the lower qualities are not combed,

the noil being allowed to remain so as to give fullness to the thread. In many world centres for handknitting the term fingering is synonymous with worsted yarn.

**Fixing:** Making the dye stay in the fabric by steaming then drying the printed material.

**Flannel:** Wool fabric of plain or twill weave made from worsted or woollen yarn and milled during manufacture.

**Flat-to-the-Boards:** At top speed; like a blue-fly.

**Fleece:** The covering of the sheep.

**Fleece-Lined:** Cloths in which one side is very soft and fleecy in feel and appearance; may be woven or knitted.

**Fleece Rot:** Bacterial action of micro-organisms on the surface of the skin, under damp, humid conditions, which leaves the fibre with a wasty, yellow appearance.

**Flicks:** Movies, pictures.

**Flock:** A group of sheep.

**Flock Break:** To keep the wool from individual flocks separate at shearing; bales from each flock are noted separately on the specification.

**Flock Ewe:** The ewe in the flock as distinct from the ewe in the stud.

**Flock Ram:** Pure bred ram of not such a high standard as a stud ram, used for mating with flock ewes.

**Floodgates:** Opening the floodgates; shedding tears.

**Flushing:** Feeding ewes prior to and during mating.

**Fly Strike or struck:** Condition produced by the development of blowfly maggots on live sheep or Angoras.

**Folds:** Excessive skin in all regions of the body, but the term is usually confined to the larger structures of folded skin on the front of a Merino sheep.

**Follicle:** The individual root structure of a fibre.

**Forelock:** The lock of wool hanging over a Lincoln's forehead.

**Forequarter:** The area forward of the barrel.

**Forward Stores:** Sheep in good healthy condition, but in need of 'topping off' to be good butcher's sheep.

**Found:** Rate of pay in the Pastoral Industries Award that is based on the worker being provided with food and lodgings.

**Four tooth:** An animal just over two years old, which has its four permanent front incisors showing.

**Free/Free of Nearly Free (FNF):** Term applied to wool that is free from vegetable fault.

**French Combing:** Wool suitable for combing on European type machinery, generally 4 to 5 centimetres in length.

**French Spun:** Worsted yarn which has been spun on the French method in contradistinction to the English or Bradford system.

**Fribs/Fribby:** Wool containing an excessive amount of second cuts and sweat points.

**Frieze:** Heavy woollen overcoating with a rough fuzzy, frizzy face.

**Frogs' Eyes:** Tapioca.

**Front:** Fore part of the body.

**Frosty Face:** A defect sometimes occurring in Merino sheep, which consists of chalky, harsh white hairs covering the face.

**Fulling:** Pounding woollen fabrics on soapy water to felt some of the fibres together to give the fabric a fuller handle.

**Full Mouth:** An animal over four years old, which has its eight front incisors showing. When an animal is a full mouth, it is difficult to determine whether it is four or more years old.

**Fustian:** The origin of this cloth is traced to the Egyptians and the Arabs. It was in the Fustat, or old Arab Quarter of Cairo, that the cloth was supposed to have been



first made.

**Futures:** Contracts for the buying or selling of a quantity of wool to be delivered on a specified date in the future at a specified price.

**Gabardine:** Warp face worsted fabric; hard wearing.

**Galah:** 1. Australian Cockatoo. 2. Derogatory term, e.g., dope, dill.

**Galashiels:** Popular Scotch tweeds made in and around this district in Scotland.

**Gare:** Long, hairy fibres that are not serrated, and will not spin or dye.

**Garnetting:** Process of recovering the fibres from hard twisted thread wastes, rags, clippings, etc.

**Gestation:** The period of pregnancy (in sheep/goats 150 days).

**Get:** The progeny of a ram. A term usually applied to his offspring in one particular season.

**Gilling:** In the worsted system, three gilling operations are normally carried out prior to combing and two gilling operations after combing. Carded slivers are blended together and the direction of feed alternated to make the final sliver suitably uniform for worsted spinning.

**Gidgee:** Shrub that gives off a pungent smell when wet weather threatens.

**Girth:** Measurement around the barrel.

**Glen Check:** A colour and weave check effect.

**Glengarry:** 1. An English tweed cloth of the homespun and tweed group. 2. The Inverness or cape-overcoat 3. A Scotch cap.

**Googana:** Aborigine for rain

**Grab Sample:** A sample of greasy wool taken at random positions, by mechanical means, from every bale in a sale lot. A minimum number of 20 samples, each weighing between approximately 100g and 400g, must be taken from each sale lot. The composite grab sample is used for display purposes on the showfloor. The wool exporters inspect the sample and in conjunction with the objective measurements, place a value on the wool. For staple length and staple strength measurements, the grab sample is sub-sampled for staple tufts by the Mechanical Tuft Sampler (MTS), before being displayed on the showfloor.

**Granite Cloth:** Made of wool, worsted or other major textile fibres, the fabric is a fancy, irregular cloth with a pebbly, rough or granite like surface and feel.

**Grass-eaters:** Horses who race at Picnic meetings known as 'Flutterers'.

**Greasy Wool:** Wool as shorn from the sheep in its natural state, containing yolk, suint, moisture, vegetable matter and earthy matter.

**Green Discolouration:** This is caused by a pigment-producing bacterium. Favourable conditions are sufficient moisture and a scurfy condition of the skin. When old, the colour may change to a brownish red.

**Gritty:** Wool carrying a considerable percentage of sand.

**Grouse:** Excellent, first-rate.

**Gumption:** Shrewdness, sense.

**Gummy:** 1. Wool that has not been correctly scoured, and still contains some soap or yolk. 2. An aged sheep that has lost its incisor teeth.

**Gun Shearer:** One who shears 200 in a day.

**Habit Cloth:** Fine woollen costume cloth.

**Hairy Fibres:** Term applied to coarse, straight, usually chalky fibres. In the Merino, they are more commonly observed in the breech region and on the folds of the neck.

**Hairy Tip:** Long hair-like fibres projecting above the staple; usually associated with badly bred wool.

**Half Bred:** The progeny of two distinct pure breeds.

**Half Warp:** Wool having the characteristics of a warp wool without its length.

**Hand, Handle:** 1. Reaction of the sense of touch when fabrics are held in the hand. A correct judgement may thus be made by an expert concerning the capabilities of a material in content, working properties, drapability, feel, elasticity, fineness and

softness. 2. Handle also refers to the degree of softness of wool to the touch.

**Hank (English Worsted):** 560 yards of worsted yarn or 256 yards in woollen yarn. The number of these standard hanks which together weigh one pound, specifies the count or size of the yarn.

**Hang-up:** In shearing parlance, to leave or be discharged.

**Hard-edge Fibres:** Percentage of fibres in a blend that are stiffer than the rest; tend to make the wool feel prickly.

**Harris Tweed:** Under the terms of the British Board of Trade and the Federal Trade Commission, Harris Tweed refers only to woollen fabric hand-woven on the Islands of the Outer Hebrides, including among others the Islands of Harris and Lewis. There are two types of Harris Tweed—fabric woven from hand-spun yarn, and fabric woven from machine-spun yarn.

**Harsh:** Fibre which is lacking in softness and hard to the touch.

**Hauteur:** Hauteur is a term used to describe the mean fibre length in the top. It is a length biased distribution. Hauteur as determined by the Almeter is widely used commercially for the specification and trading of wool tops.

**Hayburner:** A horse.

**Heather Mixture:** Blend of yarn used in the knitting trade and in homespun and tweed fabrics.

**Herringbone:** Used for suitings, topcoatings, overcoatings, sports coats, dress goods in men's and women's wear. The cloth gives a weave effect resembling the vertebral structure of the fish known as herring.

**Hind Quarter:** Rear end of an animal - rump and legs.

**Hock:** Joint of the hind legs above the cannon bone.

**Hocky:** A term used to describe a sheep with its hocks inclined inwards; sometimes referred to as 'cow hocked'.

**Hogget:** A young sheep of either sex from about nine to ten months until it is a two-tooth. The hogget stage follows on the weaner stage.

**Hogget Wool:** First fleece of a sheep which has not been shorn as a lamb. In Australia hoggets are usually shorn as lambs and the first grown fleece is known as hoggets wool. It still retains the spiral tip and gives the appearance of being coarser fibre than it actually is.

**Home and Hosed:** In racing parlance, to win by a big margin.

**Homespun:** Originally an undyed woollen cloth spun into yarn and woven in the home with rather crude machinery.

**Honeycomb Fabric:** Worsted dress fabric with cell-like appearance.

**Hooer:** Undesirable person.

**Hormone:** The secretion of a ductless gland, which when circulating in the body activates some other organ.

**Hosiery Yarns:** Yarns, usually twofold or more, which possess a large amount of surface fibre so that the interstices of the knitted fabric will be covered up.

**Hound's Tooth Check:** Medium-sized broken check often used in tweeds, clear-finish worsteds, etc.

**Hughie:** Someone up above, called upon by 'Found' members when rain is threatening, and who get paid during a 'wet sheep' period. The catch-cry: 'Send her down, Hughie!'.

**Hungerfine:** An ultra-fine but thin wool, the result of starvation.

**Hygroscopic:** The ability of fibre to absorb and give off moisture.

**Inbreeding:** Mating of closely-related animals.

**Individual Fibre:** Any single fibre (or in the case of a length-biased sample, any cross section of any fibre) that is taken or might be taken for the purpose of measurement.

**Insulating Ability:** Wool possesses good insulating properties. The body of the wearer is thus protected from extremes of heat and cold.

**Interlock:** Type of double knit structure that resists in ravelling.

**Interlotting:** Grouping of odd bales belonging to various owners into large even lines in a broker's store to reduce the number of small (star) lots and obtain increased competition from buyers.

**I.W.S.:** International Wool Secretariat.

**Irish Tweed:** White warp and dark shade filling of blue, grey, brown or black feature this popular, rugged men's-wear fabric. Used for suiting and coating.

**Jackeroo/Jillaroo:** Australian term meaning a pastoral cadet; a person, usually young, who works on a sheep station not primarily for the remuneration he/she receives, but so that he/she may learn the methods employed at the station regarding sheep breeding and wool production generally.

**Jacquard:** Mechanism for selecting warp threads to be raised in order to create a pattern in a woven fabric.

**Jaw or Jowl Pieces:** Matted or felted pieces of fibre shorn from underneath the jaw, usually carrying vegetable matter such as grass seed.

**Jersy:** Another name for knitted fabric.

**Jimmy-brits:** Nervous dyspepsia. (Dysentery)

**Joining (mating) (tupping):** The placing of rams with ewes for mating.

**Jowl:** A pendulous cheek extending under the jaw.

**Jug:** Police station.

**Karakul:** Originally an Asiatic breed of sheep, the long carpet wool of which has made it a favourite. Lambs of the breed, one to three days old, are skinned and called Astrakhan or Broadtail. The name comes from the village of Kara Kul (Black Lake) in eastern Bokhara.

**Kemp:** The short, dead, white fibres found around the head and legs of some animals. When found in the fleece, it indicates bad breeding. Will not spin or dye as natural animal fibre.

**Keratin:** Substance forming the wool fibre, composed of the elements carbon 50.5 per cent., hydrogen 6.8 per cent., nitrogen 16.8 per cent., oxygen 20.5 per cent., and sulphur 5.4 per cent. approximately.

**Kersey:** Crossbred woollen cloth; sometimes also of worsted.

**Kid:** A young goat—up to 12 months old.

**Kidding:** Natural birth by does.

**Kid Mohair:** Mohair of 27 microns or finer.

**Kilotex (ktex):** Is the unit of measurement used to express linear density (or thickness), and is defined as grams per metre. The thickness of staples is measured (in kilotex) and used in the calculation of staple strength. A staple of 100 mm in length with a clean weight of 0.1 gm has a "thickness" of 1 kilotex. Typical staples range from 1 to 5 ktex. A staple of pencil thickness is equivalent to approximately 1 ktex.

**Knitted Fabric:** Fabric composed of a series of interlocking loops from one or more yarns.

**Knocker:** One who seeks perverse satisfaction through disparagement of others.

**Knocking:** An ego-protective device, popular in Australia.

**Knitted Fabric:** Fabric composed of a series of interlocking loops from one or more yarns.

**Lace:** To defeat someone else; to mix drinks with an ulterior motive; to pep up.

**Laine:** The French word for wool.

**Lair:** Show-off, flash type of person (mug lair).

**Lamb:** A young sheep still with its mother, or up to about 5 months of age.

**Lamb Boards:** Two boards hinged together at one end used to pick up lambs wool.

**Lamb Drop:** A group of lambs born on the same season.

**Lambing:** Natural birth by ewes.

**Lamb Marking:** The procedure of earmarking, tailing and castrating lambs.

**Lanolin:** An extract from the yolk, used in ointments, etc.

**Large Lot:** A lot containing the minimum number of bales of wool or more; eligible for sale in the Number One Room. Refers to the number of bales in a lot on the sale floor. Sold in the Number One Room.

**Learner:** A shearer who has shorn less than a specified number of sheep.

**Lead:** Lower section of the back situated immediately in front of the hip joint. The region of the short or floating ribs.

**Length:** Relates to the length of staple in a fleece.

**Light-on:** Scarce.

**Lightweight Bale:** A bale under the minimum weight.

**Limit:** The highest price to which a wool buyer is prepared to bid for a particular lot of wool at auction.

**Line Breeding:** Breeding from the same blood or within the same stud but not from close relations.

**Lines:** The various grades classed from a clip or consignment of fibre.

**Load-up:** The procedure during shearing of fitting a comb and cutter to a shearing handpiece.

**Local Rules:** Bung rules; a product of the imagination. A practice of the shrewdie.

**Locks:** All very short pieces of wool unsuitable for combing, such as second cuts and all the small pieces that fall from the fleece during shearing. There are board locks or table locks.

**Lucky Fleece:** A fleece that will not hold together, but falls in staples.

**Lofty:** Term indicating a blocky, soft, springy, full handling material; usually applied to scoured wool and to hosiery yarns.

**London Shrinkage:** Cloth is passed several times without tension through hot and cold water, then dried by hanging on poles in a warm chamber. May also be placed between moist cotton sheets and then dried. The thoroughly shrunk condition is required by tailors to prevent irregular shrinking during manufacture and subsequent wear.

**Lot:** Any parcel of wool catalogued and offered for sale as one line.

**Lotting:** The act of preparing a catalogue of fibre for a sale.

**Lustre:** The sheen mainly found in the wool of the long wool British breeds and in Mohair. It is caused by the light being reflected more directly by the large outside scales of the coarser wool.

**Maiden Ewe:** A ewe that has not had a lamb or has not been served by a ram.

**Make Tracks:** To depart.

**Man-made Fibres:** All textile fibres that do not occur naturally, particularly regenerated groups of fibres.

**Marking Knife:** Clamp and hook knife designed for lamb marking.

**Matchings:** Wool that has been divided and sorted into standard lines.

**Mating:** The act of joining rams with ewes.

**Matted or Cotted Wool:** Wool naturally felted on the sheep's back, usually the result of a bad season, defects of breeding, or disease.

**Mazamet:** 1. Name given to a type of French melton. 2. Name of a French city where the largest wool pullery in the world is located.

**Mean:** This usually implies 'arithmetic mean' and is synonymous with 'average'. The arithmetic mean of a set of values is their sum divided by the number in the set of the values are a set of measurements subject only to random error, the mean is the most likely estimate of the true value.

**Mechanical Tuft Sampler (MTS):** An automatic device developed by AWTA Ltd to randomly select 'tufts' of staples from the grab sample. The machine is programmed to select 66 tufts from each grab sample. At the testing laboratory a single staple is drawn from each tuft and measured for length and strength.

**Medulla or Medullated Fibres:** Fibres possessing a medulla or core of air filled

cells. Under the microscope this structure appears spongy, and when the medulla is coarse, the fibres are hairy, harsh in handle and possess irregular dyeing properties. Medullated fibres are a feature of the carpet wool breeds.

**Melange:** 1. From the French meaning "mixed." Hence a cloth showing a mixture effect. 2. Also used to imply printed slubbings or top of worsted stock and the name given to the cloth produced therefrom.

**Melton:** Woollen overcoating.

**Merino Sheep:** Sheep giving the finest wool, and now present in large numbers in Australia, South Africa and South America.

**Merry Widows:** Wide gauge Combs and cutters.

**Metabolizable energy (M.E.):** Food energy available to the sheep after accounting for losses in the faeces, urine and methane.

**Metrology:** Science of measurement. In the case of the wool industry it is applied to the measurement of wool fibres.

**Micrometer (um):** A unit of measurement, used commercially to express the average fibre diameter. The unit micrometre is equal to one millionth of a metre.

**Micron Measurement:** Measurement of fibre diameter expressed in microns.

**Mid-side Staple:** A given area of the fleece from which fibre can be drawn for testing to maintain uniformity in sample selection.

**Milled:** Synonym for fulled or felted woven fabrics.

**Mingy:** Miserly, mean, selfish.

**Mismothered:** A ewe and lamb that separate and do not reunite.

**Mob:** A group of sheep run together as a unit.

**Moity:** Wool which contains vegetable matter other than seed or burr, such as fern, bark, straw, etc.

**Molleton Flannel:** Fine woollen fabric used for dressing gowns and jackets

**Molo:** Drunk.

**Monicker:** A person's name.

**Moquette:** Fabric commonly used for upholstery.

**Mordant:** Metal salt used for fixing dyes.

**Moss Finish:** Applied to woollen cloth to give a soft handle. The fabric is heavily milled and given a fibrous face finish.

**Mother Hair:** Long hairy fibres on lambs, usually falls out when the lambs are three months old.

**Mug:** 1. Drinking utensil. 2. Derogatory term.

**Muldoon the Glutton:** A legendary shearing shed character with a voracious appetite and who, it has been said, had two alimentary canals.

**Mule:** Type of spinning frame with an intermittent action. It draws out and twists a length of yarn, then winds it in the form of a cop, repeating the cycle several times each minute.

**Mulga:** An Outback shrub. One can be 'out in the Mulga'.

**Mulesing:** An operation reformed on the wrinkled breech of a sheep, which involves removal of two crescent-shaped pieces of skin.

**Mungo:** Recovered fibres obtained from wool rags, cuttings and other wool waste. Mungo is of very low grade and the fibres are usually less than one inch; used as weft with cotton warps for cheap blankets and other fabrics.

**Mushy:** Wool which is lacking character, open, badly weathered, and very wasty or noily.

**Muslin:** Made from worsted and other fibres. Plain, soft and open structures; lightweight.

**Muster/Mustering:** Act of assembling sheep into a mob.

**Mutton:** The edible flesh of a grown sheep.

**Mycotic Dermatitis:** A fungus condition of sheep's skin which discharges and leaves waste matter in the wool.

**Myiasis:** Invasion of living tissues by larvae of flies.

**Mystery bag:** A sausage, a snag.

**Nap or Pile:** Ends of fibres raised from the body of the yarn so as to give the cloth a fibrous surface.

**Napping:** Napping, gigging or raising is accomplished by passing the cloth in a tightly-stretched condition over a revolving cylinder or roller, inlaid with teasels.

**Nark:** Unpleasant, unco-operative person.

**Necks:** Wool shorn from the neck region of the sheep.

**Negretti Sheep:** Sheep, native to Spain, which are now grown in several world centres. The wool is fine, soft, and has the best of working properties.

**Neps/Slubs** Small "balls" (or aggregations) of entangled fibres ranging in size from "pin points" to approximately 2 mm in diameter which are created during processing. These are mostly removed from the "top" in the combing process.

**Newton (N):** The unit used to express the amount of force or "pull" placed on a particular object. 10 newtons (N) is equivalent to the force exerted by a 1 kilogram (kg) weight. For wool it is used to measure the force required to break a staple. The 7 pounds (lbs) force often referred to when subjectively appraising staple strength by the "flick test" is equivalent to approximately 30 newtons (N). The ATLAS machine accurately measures the force in newtons required to break a staple.

**Newton's Kilotex:** See Staple Strength

**Noble Comb:** Also known as the circular comb, it is used on the English or Bradford system in making worsted yarn. Made of three circles filled with sharp upright pins; the large circle is about 1.1 metres (44 in.) in diameter, the two smaller ones from 0.45 to 0.5 metres (18 to 20 in.).

**Noble Combing Wool:** Wool suitable to be processed by the Noble Combing method.

**Nobs:** Double-headed pennies. Greys, double tail pennies used in two-up.

**Noil:** Is the short fibre which is removed in the combing operation. It is a mixture of short and broken fibres, neps, and small particles of vegetable fault. It is then used as one of the components in blends in woollen systems.

**Noils:** Short and weak fibres extracted from the long during the combing process; used in the woollen and felt trade.

**Noily Wool:** Wool carrying a large percentage of noils.

**Noogoora Burr:** Seed pods of the Noogoora plant having hooked spines that cling to fibre.

**Numdah Rug:** Rug, made in India, of wool, felted instead of being woven; a washable, practical bedroom rug.

**Non-woven:** Fabric made directly from fibre by construction methods other than knitting or weaving.

**Nylon:** A synthetic polyamide fibre, with great strength, elasticity and durability.

**Objective Measurement:** Denotes measurement of fibre properties rather than their visual or subjective appraisal.

**Oddments:** 1. Trade. Section of the trade handling locks, lambs, crutchings and stain wool. 2. Classer. Butts, bags and fadges containing outsorts from the classer's main lines.

**Oil Dressed Tip:** Wool carrying oil in the tip of the staple other than natural yolk. Usually applied to the longwool breeds to preserve the fleece from excessive moisture.

**Overlong or overgrown:** Wool longer than is usual for a specific count.

**Overshot:** A condition of inequality in the length of the jaws in which the lower jaw appears too short.

**Pack:** A container into which wool is pressed.

**Paisley Shawl:** Fine woollen cloth with the traditional Paisley design.

**Papilla:** A formation at the base of the wool follicle from which the fibre grows.

**Passed-in:** Wool lots offered for sale at auction but not sold owing to bids not reaching the reserve price.

**Pasterns:** Joints between fetlocks and hooves.

**Pastoral Industry Award:** The award covering the shearing industry in all States except Queensland, which governed by the Queensland Shearing Industry Award (State). It provides terms and conditions for shearers, crutchers, wiggers, ringers, shedhands, wool-pressers and cooks.

**Peg-out:** To depart this world.

**Pelt:** Sheep skin with little or no wool on it.

**Pen:** Enclosures inside and outside shearing shed for holding sheep. A shearer when engaged, is offered a 'Pen'.

**Pen Sweeps:** Wool picked up from shutes and counting out pens.

**Pepper and Salt:** Apparel material of fine, speckled effect. The appearance of the cloth suggests a mixture of salt and pepper.

**Peppin:** A strain of Australian Merino sheep.

**Perseus:** A machine developed by the University of New South Wales, which automatically measures staple length and strength. Perseus is not used in commercial test houses but in research establishments.

**Persian Rug:** Rugs (which should be made in Iran), are the nearest to perfection from the angles of loom technique, actual weaving and work.

**Picker-up:** A person employed to pick up shorn fleeces and throw them out on to a wool rolling table.

**Pie-eater:** Rural descriptive term for city dweller, used in the days gone by. (Pie-eating city slicker)

**Piece Dyed Cloth:** Any material that has been dyed some solid colour or shade. One of the group of the three greatest methods of dyeing—piece, stock and yarn or skein dyeing.

**Pieces:** Classified skirtings from a fleece of wool, inferior to 'broken,' but not containing 'stains' or 'locks.'

**Piece Picker:** Person who grades the skirtings from a fleece.

**Pieces:** Skirtings from the fleece wool that are inferior or broken.

**Pie Pieces:** Wool recovered from skin pieces that have been sweated in a heap; usually from the shankings, trimmings of skin during the process of fellmongering.

**Pilot Cloth:** Woollen cloth used for overcoats and jackets.

**Pizzle Stain:** Fibre stained by urine, found in the belly fibre from male animals; will not scour white.

**Plain:** Straight fibred wool without crimp, lacking character and good breeding.

**Plain Bodied:** Term applied to a sheep that has relatively few wrinkles on its body.

**Plastic Lymph :** Secretion exuded into the base of the wool follicle.

**Plucked Wool:** Plucked from carcasses of sheep that have recently died.

**Ply Yarn:** Composite yarn made by twisting a number of single yarns together.

**Poddy:** A land that has lost its mother - stunted in growth.

**Points:** Extremities of a sheep or fleece.

**Points Judging:** A scale of points used in judging fleece at shows.

**Polled or Poley:** Term applied to a sheep that does not possess horns.

**Poplin:** Plain weave, fine warp and thick weft; produces a warp rib effect.

**Poling:** Loafing.

**Pony:** Shedhand who acted as assistant to the woolclasser in the days of the big sheds.

**Pooling:** See **Bulk classing** as this term has a similar meaning.

**Population:** The aggregate of individuals which it is desired to characterise in one or more particulars.

**Port Holing:** Cutting an inspection hole in a bale of wool to enable an examination of the contents.

**Position of Break (POB):** Indicates the location of the weakest part of the staple. Position of break is measured in conjunction with staple strength by weighing the two sections of each broken staple. The distance from the staple tip to the point at which the break occurs is calculated and then converted into values to indicate whether the staple broke in the tip, middle or base region. The percentage of staples which break in these three regions is then reported in sale catalogues.

**PP Board (Pastures Protection Board):** A government body whose regulatory functions include registration of ear marks and brands.

**Precision:** An indicator of the degree of repeatability in a set of measurements. (To be distinguished from 'accuracy'.) The degree of precision is often expressed in terms of confidence limits.

**Prem Shorn:** Short wool shorn prematurely with only a few months growth.

**Preparing:** A preliminary process of combing which replaces the worsted card with crossbred wools exceeding about 180 mm in length.

**Prepotency:** Power of an individual animal to pass on its own characteristics or likeness to a large proportion of its progeny

**Pressing:** To pack wool under pressure in containers for transportation.

**Prime:** A sheep at the top of its condition.

**Private Sale:** Wool sold by private agreement, not by auction.

**Projectile loom:** Loom with small free-flying projectile that grips the end of a pre-cut weft thread and carries it across the shed.

**Projection Microscope:** This instrument is used to measure fibre diameter and fibre diameter variability. It projects magnified (x 500) images of the fibres on to a screen, these being measured by an operator using a graduated scale. It is a test method in routine use but is a slow, tedious and hence expensive procedure.

**Puff-de-loon:** Johnny cakes comprised of flour and water, cooked in fat and sprinkled with treacle or syrup - honey these days; if available.

**Pulpy Kidney:** Common term for the disease enterotoxaemia caused by *Clostridial* bacteria.

**Pure-bred:** An animal of a pure strain; of a recognized breed kept pure for many generations.

**Purse:** Farmer's term for scrotum.

**Purse-proud:** Arrogant attitude engendered by sudden acquisition of money, after a period of poverty. Such people were known as purse-proud rabbit-eaters.

**Quality:** 1. The standard of excellence or desirability of a sheep or its fleece. 2. An abbreviation of the term 'quality number' or 'count.'

**Quality Number:** A term referring to the spinning capacity of wool, similar to 'count'.

**Quart Pots:** Small lambs

**Quid:** Pound note, slice, fiddley.

**Rabbit-eater:** 'Down and out' person during the depression (when rabbits were, being in plague numbers, often the staple diet).

**Race:** A narrow enclosure through which sheep pass singly for drafting or classing.

**Raddle:** Marking chalk placed in a harness on a vasectomised ram in order to detect which ewes are on heat.

**Ram:** A male sheep used for breeding.

**Ram Stag :** A male sheep castrated after maturity.

**Ram's Wool:** Wool from a ram; usually well nourished and robust, with an odour stronger than flock wool.

**Ranger:** Shearer who shears the highest total of sheep at a particular shearing.

**Raw Prawn:** Confidence trick.

**Raw Wool:** The fleece as shorn from the sheep.

**Rayon:** Man-made fibres that are regenerated from cellulose.

**Reclassing:** The classing of unclassed or badly classed clips; usually carried out in a



wool store to meet trade requirements.

**Red-eyed Monsters:** Large and wild full woolled wethers (desexed sheep) with wool a plenty from their eyebrows to their hoofs.

**Reed:** Comb-like arrangement of flattened steel wires fixed in a frame; keeps the warp threads in position to form a guide for the shuttle and to beat up the weft to the fell of the cloth.

**Regain:** The amount of moisture naturally absorbed from the atmosphere by clean oven dry wool; expressed as a percentage of the clean oven dry weight. Wool fibres absorb up to 33% of their own weight of moisture before becoming "wet". Regain is the amount of moisture in the fibres, expressed as a percentage of the clean oven dry weight. Standard regain is brought about when wool comes to equilibrium with air at 20°C and 65% relative humidity. Processed wool is adjusted to a particular regain according to national and international agreements e.g. 18.25% for dry combed tops and 16 or 17% regain for scoured wool.

**Reject Bales:** A lot removed from the show floor because of bales that are unevenly classed or subject to untrue representation.

**Re-offered:** A lot of wool which was offered but not sold at auction, and is then offered again at a later sale.

**Re-packer:** An organization which re-handles wool before or after its sale.

**Re-processed:** Wool that has been recovered from a manufactured fabric before it has been worn by the consumer - torn up cloths, trade waste, tailor's clippings.

**Reserve price :** Minimum price that the owner will accept for a lot of wool.

**Resistance To Compression:** The force required to compress a standard mass of wool into a fixed volume. This is related to the handle, bulk and fibre crimp of the wool.

**Residuals:** Small amounts of dirt and fatty matter remaining in washed samples, and measured as part of the standard method for determining yield or wool base.

**Resistance to Compression:** The force required to compress a standard mass of wool into a fixed volume. This is related to the handle and bulk of the wool, and is also positively related to the amount of fibre crimp; i.e. highly crimped wool has greater resistance to compression than low crimp wool of the same diameter.

**Rig:** A male sheep with one testicle not removed but remaining in the abdominal cavity.

**Ring:** A mob of sheep moving in a circle.

**Ringling:** The removal of a circle of the wool around the sheath or prepuce of rams and wethers.

**Ringmaster:** One who controls a game of two-up.

**Robust:** 1. Term which implies growth and vigour in sheep. 2. Term describing wool which has more than the average amount of firmness and bulkiness for its type.

**Roller Lapping:** Top made out of very long, coarse wool, 20 centimetres or more in length (36/40 quality); used to wind around the squeeze rollers at the end of scouring bowls.

**Roll-me-in-the-gutter:** Butter.

**Romaine:** Is the amount of noil (short fibre) produced during processing, expressed as a percentage of the top and noil produced.

**Ropey wool:** Scoured wool which has become badly tangled during scouring.

**Rosella:** In shed parlance, a sheep that has shed most of its wool.

**Rouseabouts:** See Shed Hands.

**Roving:** Final product of the drawing process, resulting in a strand of wool of the desired thickness for spinning into yarn.

**Rubbety:** Pub, hotel, tavern.

**Rugs:** Single or double woollen cloths, the latter often centre stitched; a different pattern on each side.

**Run:** Period of time for shearing-currently two hours. Four runs to a days work.

**Run Out:** A term applied to wool which shows loss of style and character.

**Sack:** A bag containing wool.

**Sale Room:** Room where buyers bid for lots previously valued on the show floor.

**Sand:** Sugar.

**Saving:** Sharing.

**Saxon:** Strain of Merino used in Australia that originates from Saxony; mainly fine and superfine quality.

**Saxony Cloth:** Fine Saxony or Merino wool, used for costumes, trousers, suitings and overcoatings.

**S.B.S. Insurance:** An insurance cover offered on wool which protects the owner against loss or damage from the time the sheep enter the shed for shearing until the wool is delivered to the selling broker. (Sheep's Back to Store.)

**Scabby Mouth:** Common name for the disease contagious pustular dermatitis.

**Scag:** Back of the neck.

**Scoured Wool:** Wool cleansed of all impurities other than vegetable matter. Scouring entails immersion in hot water of varying temperatures and with specially prepared soap.

**Scouring:** A form of dysentery amongst sheep who have been pastured on lush feed.

**Scrotum:** The purse or bag containing the testicles of a male animal.

**Scur:** A small rounded portions of horn tissue attached to the skin of a polled animal.

**Sebaceous Glands:** Wool wax secreting glands in the skin, which, in the sheep, are closely associated with the follicle.

**Second Cross:** Progeny resulting from mating between true halfbreds and a distinct breed.

**Second Cuts:** Short pieces of wool staples which result from a shearer going twice over the same area.

**Seedy:** Term applied to wool containing grass and certain other seeds.

**Selected Ram:** A ram better than a flock ram, but not up to the standard of a stud ram.

**Serge:** Mostly a crossbred worsted fabric with a crisp handle.

**Serrations:** Tips of the cuticle scales, invisible to the naked eye, which project from the body of the wool fibre and in milling operations assist the felting of the wool by interlocking. The scales vary in number according to the breed; in fine Merino there are 5,000 to the inch, and in Lincolns 600. Wool is the only textile fibre that is serrated.

**Set Stocked:** Permanent stocking of a paddock with a given number of sheep.

**Shabby:** Dull and unattractive wool.

**Shafty:** Term applied to a wool having length, bold, full free growth.

**Shag:** River bird who usually sits alone. Hence the expression: 'All alone like a shag on a rock'.

**Shandy:** 1. A mixture of beer and lemonade. 2. In shearing shed parlance, the sly practice of mixing wet and dry sheep after a wet vote.

**Shanks/Shankings:** Short hairy wool growing on the end of a sheep's legs; may contain kemp.

**Shaver:** Boy, nipper.

**Shearer:** A person who cuts or shears wool off sheep. A good shearer will shear from 150 to 200 sheep a day.

**Shearing:** The annual removal of the wool from the sheep by the shearers. Shearing is the most important event of the year on sheep station.

**Shearing Board:** See **Board**.

**Shed:** Space between the raised and the lowered warp threads where the shuttle passes during weaving.

**Shed Hands:** Persons employed in the shearing shed other than the boss of the board, shearers expert and classers. Employed at shearing time they take wool away

from shearers, pen up sheep, etc. They are also called 'rouseabouts'.

**Sheep-Classing:** The selection of the best sheep for breeding purposes, and the rejection of inferior sheep, and of other sheep that differ from the desired types.

**Shelter:** Features in a paddock like timber, gullies, or ridges that hold stock from adverse weather.

**Shi-ack:** To indulge in friendly barter.

**Shive:** Fine grass seed and certain vegetable matter (not burr).

**Shivering Jinny:** Blanc-mange (a pudding).

**Shivy:** Wool containing small, fine particles of vegetable matter (fine grass seeds).

**Shoddy:** The worked up waste of woollen and worsted goods in which the initial material has been of the long fibred class.

**Show Bales:** Representative bales of a lot, displayed on the selling broker's show floor for the inspection of buyers.

**Show Floor:** Broker's floor on which grab samples or bales are displayed for inspection.

**Shuttle:** Free-flying part of the loom, which carries the weft thread across the shed; usually made of wood.

**Single-yarn:** Simplest type of yarn, made by twisting fibres or filaments together.

**Singlet (Jackie Howe):** A thick flannel singlet with sleeves cut out, made popular by the top shearer of them all.

**Side:** Affectation, flattery by subterfuge.

**Sixties:** Wool of a certain quality viz., 60's means that from one pound of tops of this quality 60 hanks of yarn each 560 yards long can be spun.

**Six Tooth:** An animal just over three years old with its six permanent front incisors showing.

**Skein (Yorkshire):** 256 yards of woollen spun yarn. The number of these standard skeins which weigh one pound specifies the count or size of the yarn.

**Skein (Spinner's Type):** Superior combing wool which is regular, well-bred, and free from fault. It must have good colour and good handle.

**Skin Wool:** Wool removed from the skins of slaughtered sheep and sold after being scoured; scoured, fellmongered wool.

**Skirted Fleece:** Fleece with skirtings removed.

**Skirtings:** Those portions of wool removed from the fleece on the wool table because of their inferior quality so as to leave the remainder uniform and even.

**Slashing:** Very attractive, tasteful.

**Sling:** Tip for services rendered.

**Sling-off:** To criticize.

**Slipe:** Fellmongered wool usually sold without being scoured.

**Sliver:** A continuous band of carded, or carded and combed, wool in an untwisted condition.

**Slub:** Fault in a yarn, which appears as a thicker part, with little twist; sometimes used as a decorative effect.

**Slubbing:** Rope or twisted fibres.

**Smoko:** Break between or within a shearing run in which the shearers could smoke and/or eat.

**Smoodge:** To solicit favour by flattery.

**Snort:** 1. A drink. 2. Derisive ejaculation.

**Speed Ball:** Rissole moistened with bore water containing a high mineral content (almost Epsom salts).

**Softness:** Refers to the feel of fibre or handle; kind not harsh.

**Sorting:** 1. Preparation of fibre for manufacture or sale, refers to the grading. 2. Dividing of wools into various matchings according to quality, length and colour. Yield is not considered.

**Sound, Soundness:** Wool that has the necessary tensile strength to undergo the

combing process economically.

**Sound Mouth:** An aged animal whose teeth are still intact and retain their natural position.

**Specialty:** Stylish wools with superior characteristics in either fleece or lambs.

**Specification:** Detailed classer's report on the preparation and contents of the clip.

**Spindle:** Rotating part of a spinning frame, which inserts the twist into the yarn being spun.

**Spinner:** Final drawing of a roving into yarn, inserting the required degree of twist, and winding it into a form of a cap, or upon a bobbin or spool.

**Spinner's Type:** These are the best types of Merino wools; well bred with good colour, dense, a minimum of fault and a high tear. Superior combing wool, well bred, regular and free from fault.

**Spotless Finish:** Superheated steam finish to prevent spotting in wear.

**Stag:** A male animal castrated after maturity.

**Stained Fibre:** Any fibre which will not scour white. Some common stains include urine, canary, dip, drench and water-rot stain.

**Stained Wool:** Urine stained wool from the britches of ewes' fleeces and the pizzle stain from the centre of rams' and wethers' bellies.

**Standard Deviation:** Is a measure of variability in a characteristic. For example, for fibre diameter the standard deviation indicates how the diameters of individual fibres vary from the average. Standard deviation is the square root of the variance.

**Staple:** Number of fibres which naturally form themselves into clusters. Staples are joined by binders which cause the fleece to hold together.

**Staple Length:** The length of a staple from tip to base. For a sale lot, a minimum of 55 staples must be measured to conform to Australian and International Standards. The average staple length is then calculated and reported in millimetres (mm).

**Staple Imaging Systems:** Prototype systems are being developed by CSIRO - Ryde to measure those characteristics of greasy wool which are currently subjectively appraised, eg. style including crimp definition, dust penetration etc.

**Staple Length Variability:** Refers to the variability in staple length within a sale lot. It is reported as the coefficient of variation which is expressed as a percentage (CV%).

**Staple Measurements:** Refers to the measurement of staple length (mm), staple strength (N/ktex), staple length variability (CV%) and position of break (POB).

For the selection of staples see MTS; for the measurement of staples see ATLAS.

**Staple Strength:** The force or "pull" (newtons required to break a staple of given thickness (kilotex). Staple strength is expressed in newtons/kilotex (N/ktex). It is a measure of tensile strength which is independent of mean fibre diameter and average thickness of staple. A minimum of 40 staples must be individually measured for strength to conform to Australian and International Standards. The average staple strength is then calculated (expressed as N/ktex) and reported in the sale catalogue. (Usually about 60 staples are measured for strength but in some cases the number may be fewer due to individual staples being shorter than the gauge length of the instrument).

**Star Lots:** Lots of wool containing less than the number of bales specified for sale in the main sale room.

**Steaming-up:** Feed females prior to parturition.

**Steely:** Wool lacking character and possessing a 'steely' or glassy sheen. Such wool is usually produced on pasture deficient in certain trace elements, notably copper.

**Stifle:** Joint of the hind legs between hip and hock.

**Stir the Stumps:** An order to get a move on.

**Stock Rate/Stocking Rate:** Number of sheep that can be depastured on one acre/hectare, or the number of acres required to depasture one sheep.

**Stock Route:** A public way on which sheep are permitted to travel; sometimes with

permit.

**Stones:** Farmer's term for testicles.

**Store Condition/Store Sheep:** A sheep that is in good average condition, but not fat.

**Stoush:** To hide something; to beat up, as in a fight.

**Straggler:** A sheep missed in a muster.

**Strides:** Trousers, pants, tweeds.

**Strong:** Term referring to wool or mohair which has a comparatively broad fibre diameter for its breed.

**Studdy:** Term for fleeces showing stud sheep characteristics.

**Stud Ewe:** Ewe used for breeding rams or stud ewes.

**Stud Ram:** Ram used for breeding rams or stud ewes.

**Stud Register:** Record of stud sheep kept by individual breed societies.

**Style:** Term denoting a combination of the attributes of wool, including density, brightness, dust penetration, crimp definition, tip shape, good colour, softness, elasticity, tear and length.

**Sucker Lamb:** Lamb still obtaining nourishment from its mother. When in prime condition, the best type of meat.

**Sudoriferous Glands:** The sweat glands of an animal.

**Suint:** Dried sweat of the sheep in the wool.

**Summer Lamb:** A sheep five to eight months old, born out of the usual season.

**Super:** Wool of superior style, irrespective of spinning count.

**Super Spinners:** Superior Merino combing wool.

**Swampy Back:** A depression in the back between the shoulders and the loin.

**Swarm:** Meeting of shearers, shedhands or both, convened for the purpose of negotiation.

**Sweat Locks:** Locks heavy in condition from the sweat points of the sheep.

**Sweating Pens:** Enclosure within the shearing shed in which sheep are held before shearing.

**Sword Swallower:** A person who eats food with a knife only.

**Swy:** Game of two-up.

**Synthetics:** 1. Cellulosic - rayon, acetate. 2. Non-cellulosic - nylon, acrylic, polyester, polyamide.

**Table of Limits:** Lists of clean cost limits in cents per kilogram used by valuers and buyers.

**Tail Docking/Tailing:** Cutting the tail off to a specified length (tip of vulva).

**Tanning:** Process of soaking hides in tannin, chrome and other chemical solutions to soften them.

**Tare:** Weight of the pack or container around wool, which weight is deducted from the gross weight of the bale. Weight of a woolpack is eleven pounds; fadges and bags according to weight of package.

**Tattoo:** Indelible distinguishing mark or letters and figures, made in the ear of a sheep by rubbing pigment into small punctures in the skin.

**Tear:** The ratio of tops to noils. Tearing 10 to 1 means that in 11 kilograms of scoured wool there will be 10 kilograms of tops and 1 kilogram of noils.

**Teaser:** Vasectomised ram used to indicate which ewes are in oestrous.

**Teats:** (immature) Small teats present on all lambs.

**Tender Wool:** Wool which will not stand the normal pressure applied during the combing process: is more generally used by woollen manufacturers.

**Tex:** Used to measure the thickness of yarn - it has units of g/km.

**Texture:** 1. Raw Wool: Handle or feel of the wool. 2. Fabric: Term applied to fabrics to indicate the closeness of the weave structure and finish.

**Texturing:** Treatment given to yarns (or filaments) to make them bulkier.

**'Tick' Stained:** Wool discoloured by the excreta of the sheep 'tick' or ked.

**Tip:** Outer upper extremity of a staple of wool.

**Tippy:** Term used when the tip is open or loose. The condition may be caused by severe weather damage.

**Top:** A continuous, untwisted strand of combed wool, in which the fibres lie parallel, with short fibres having been combed out as noil. Top is raw material for worsted wool processing and is specified in terms of fibre diameter, fibre length distribution and mean, regain etc.

**Topical:** A vaccination made by scratching the skin.

**Top Knot:** Wool from the crest or poll of the sheep.

**Topmaker:** Manufacturer who buys wool, sorts it if necessary, and makes it into tops, which is the first stage of manufacture in the worsted process after scouring.

**Topmaker's Types:** These are Merino combing wools possessing faults which exclude them from the spinners section. Such faults could be—irregularity, some colour thinness, vegetable and/or mineral fault, and/or tensile weakness.

**Toxaemia:** Blood poisoning.

**Tramp:** To sack; to walk, as with Shanke's pony.

**Trefoil Burr:** Burr Medic seed—the fine spines of which cling to fibre.

**Tricotine:** Piece-dyed worsted costume cloth.

**True Length:** The length of wool fibres when stretched.

**True to Type:** (a) Wool and mohair which is even and regular within the specification of a certain type. (b) Displaying characteristics laid down for a specific breed.

**Trueness:** The characteristic of wools which have the same diameter throughout their length.

**Twist:** 1. The crutch; the inner aspect of the hind legs. 2. The number of turns per centimetre of a yarn.

**Two Tooth:** An animal just over one year old, showing two permanent incisors.

**Underground Mutton:** Rabbit.

**Unskirted:** Fleece wools with skirtings intact.

**Up-the-putty:** No good.

**Urine Stain:** Wool from the crutch of ewes or the belly of male sheep stained urine. Will not scour white.

**Vacuum Pressed:** Wool pressed by the vacuum method.

**Variance:** A statistical quantity which is a measure of the spread of a number of test results on the same material, or of a number of individual values in a group (e.g. the lengths of fibres within a staple). The square root of variance is the standard deviation.

**Vegetable Matter Base (VMB):** Consists of burst grass seeds, thistles, hardheads, straw, chaff, and small pieces of stick and bark. The vegetable matter base is established when a scoured subsample of wool is placed in a boiling solution of caustic soda. The wool is completely dissolved and the remaining vegetable matter dried and weighed. Vegetable matter base is expressed as a percentage of the weight of the greasy core sample.

**Vegetable Matter Content (VMC):** Is referred to in the Sale Catalogue and is as follows: 1. Spiral burr, clover burr and other soft burrs 2. Seed, shive and other small particles 3. Hard head - twigs. The breakdown figures have an implied one decimal place, the sum of which equalling the total vegetable matter base (VMB).

**Velvet Pile Finish:** Applied to woollen cloths, producing a very erect pile on the face. The cloth is heavily milled and raised; then stretched face down between rollers and beaten by rods until the fibres project vertically. The pile is finally cut level.

**Vermont:** A strain of Merino sheep imported into Australia from America last century.

**Vicuna Cloth:** Made with worsted warp and woollen weft; is either a backed or double cloth. Has a felted and raised finish but is finally cut closely to reveal the