

New Zealand Scoured Sheep's Wool

History

The history of sheep's wool in Aotearoa New Zealand is woven into our culture and prosperity. Our nation is built on the back of rural families, European and Maori, who farmed the hills of Aotearoa and sent the wool clip to be graded, scoured, carded, dyed, woven or knitted, into carpets, insulation and garments that could be exported around the world. When the meat prices were down, the wool prices would get a farming family through the year, and vice versa.

Some families took on the role of shearing the sheep. These families were often Maori and the shearing gangs provided employment for the young as they grew. Everyone was involved during shearing season – from the shepherds, shearers, rousers, cooks, shed hands, to the drovers and drivers – and of course, the boss. The shearing shed was a hot, busy, and often noisy place. Sweat dripped from the shearers and lanolin greased the hands of the wool handlers. The day would often start at 5am and knock-off time was 5pm. It took strong, determined people to complete the task and there was great satisfaction when the shed was finished.

In the farming area of Hawke's Bay, 1986 was a significant year for Maori communities, with the closing of the Whakatu freezing works in Whakatu, Hastings. The Tōmoana freezing works was closed in 1994. The closure of these two freezing works resulted in the loss of over 2,000 jobs and many families were forced to find employment elsewhere. This broke up wider family groups (hapu) and contributed to major hardship. Whakatu reinvented itself as an industrial hub. Those businesses associated with the freezing works were forced to relocate or shut down, while new businesses that supported the wider community developed.

Whakatu Research

One business that remained in Whakatu was the wool scouring business and gradually the community noticed the health impacts that this business was having on their families (whanau). Fat residues impregnated with foul-smelling white chemicals were found in the Karamea river (awa) that ran beside the factory. The local community that lived close to the scouring plant complained of multiple symptoms at night, and on waking in the morning.

Large vats of wet wool were heated in the factory during the scouring process and chemicals escaped from vents in the roof. Of particular concern was an ammonia smell and other chemicals used to clean the wool of soil and vegetable impurities, grease and other fibre contaminants.

Orange residues were commonly seen on outdoor furniture and vehicles overnight, particularly on a foggy night when air flow was less. Angela Hair interviewed affected people from the community and asked them about their symptoms. Forty-five people took part in the study and all ages were represented. Homeopathic remedies were supplied where a remedy seemed indicated. The information was presented to the community and the Hastings District Council. A visit to the factory was organised for a community representative and Angela Hair and the findings from the community survey was presented to the business owner.

Symptoms from community survey included:

- Headaches
- Loss of sleep from pungent smell of wet wool
- Loss of sleep from smell of ammonia
- Pain in nose, on waking
- Dry tickling throat, difficulty speaking
- Frequent sore throats, on waking or developing through night
- Sore eyes on waking
- Asthma especially during foggy weather

Difficult breathing especially during foggy weather

Anger

Frustration

Powerless feeling

Depression

Proving Information

The proving was undertaken by a group of people from the community in 2009. The dirty wool sample was sourced from the factory's rubbish bin and known to the provers. The physical symptoms are listed from head to feet.

When triturating a substance (C0) symptoms start to be felt by the provers loosely following the order; Physical(C1), Emotional(C2), Mental (C3) and Soul (C4). Each level contains the information that has come before it and trituration powders are retained so that dilution into remedies, can be made from whatever trituration level is needed by the patient/client. The dilution step is usually completed by a homeopathic dispensary.

C1

Physical

Head

Hot

Pain

Nose

Pain sinus

Hay fever

Odour, aversion smell of wool

Odour, smell like weak camphor

Itching, especially on ends of nostrils

Obstruction, dust from

Eyes

Scratchy

Itching

Mouth

Taste, foul

Taste, bitter,

Taste, greasy

Tongue

Gritty feeling, back of

Throat

Back of throat, something stuck in the

Back

Heavy weight, on shoulders

Tightness, side of neck

Pain, tailbone

Chest

Heaviness

Pain in sternum (centre chest) extending through to the back

Tingling, axilla

Respiration

Breathing difficult

Something stuck in the chest

Stomach

Empty feeling

, Eructation, with mild nausea
Female

Numbness, left ovary
Pain, stabbing
Pain, as if someone pushing deep in ovary area
(The women in this prover's family had repeated miscarriages or were sterile with a family history of infertility)

Kidneys

Pain, right kidney
Pain, radiating

Extremities

Pain, hip, left, sciatica
Pain, kneeling aggravates
Pain, standing aggravates
Numbness, back of the leg extending to ankle
Pins and needles

Skin

Cancer
Itching, intense
Itching from dryness
Itching, scaly
Psoriasis

Emotional

Calmness
Hanging face in hands
Laughing hysterically
Sadness
Sighing
Potential, lost
(Sadness comes from our nanny mama, who brought her children back here, thinking it was a better life, but she brought them to a poisonous place)

Spiritual

Clairvoyance – nanny is with me
Animal consciousness
Felt really light
Distant from self
Sitting on top of herself
Third eye (brow) feels like a pinprick

C2

Physical

Head

Itching, top of head
Pain, left side, extending behind
Pressure, side of head

Ear

Pressure, shooting to behind
Pain, extending to ear
Pain, behind

Eyes

Sticking together

Nose

Breathing through, burning
Dripping, left nostril, aggravates

Hot, as if burnt
Itching, scrapes skin off
Odour, burning
Posterior nares stuffed up
Pinching top of nose, ameliorates

Mouth

Lips, heated
Hot, as if sucking on an exhaust pipe
Breathing through, coating inside mouth
Locked jaw (as if chewing on gum)

Face

Itching, hot
Movements, as if massaged
Pulsation, like a wave

Chest

Itching, intense, scratching aggravates
Heavy, breathing

Respiration

Difficult

Stomach

Nausea
Eructations, felt in solar plexus

Back

Pain, lower, pregnant, as if
Sagging
Weakness, sudden

Generalities

Movement difficult
Weakness, energy drained
Heavy
Exhaustion

Emotional

Memories, in shearing shed, sweeping wool
Smell of shearing shed, ameliorates
Lanolin in wool, wash under cold water

Camaraderie

Laughter
Children, free to wander
Gratitude for employment and family
Upbeat, grateful, hopeful
We can help ourselves
Contentment

Mental/Spiritual

Delusion, tall
Delusion, looking over everyone
Delusion, everything looks larger from above
Delusion, landscape, pastoral, trees, river, green

C3

Physical

Head

Scalp, tightening, occiput

Ear

Pain, extending from jaw, right side

Eyes
 Blinking ameliorates
 Lachrymation
 Tears, stinging

Nose
 Obstructed
 Sneezing

Mouth
 Taste, cigarette
 Taste, mouldy
 Taste, horrible
 Taste, cod liver oil, like

Throat
 Tickling

Chest
 Compression, chest, Breast, abuse from
 Pain, chest, rib under left, sharp
 Pain, chest, rib under left, pressure ameliorates
 Tightness, pulling
 Pain, right
 Pain, slight pressure ameliorates
 Pain, hard pressure aggravates

Abdomen
 Alive, as if something alive, in
 Eructations
 Hardness

Back
 Compression, shoulder blades, abuse from

Respiration
 Breathing difficult, abuse from

Extremities
 Discolouration, redness, hands
 Discolouration, purple, tips of fingers
 Discolourations, mottled, hands
 Swollen, puffy, hands
 Pain, fingers, as if broken
 Perspiration, feet
 Perspiration, watery with sweat, feet

Generalities
 Goosebumps, sensation

Mental/ Spiritual

Karakia (prayer) for protection from spirits and dark entities

Intoxication from chemical spraying, heavy metals, lead from shotguns

Tight feeling

NB: The karakia (prayer) is a cultural protocol for Maori in Aotearoa New Zealand. Te Rangi Hiroa (Peter Buck) suggested a karakia is 'a formula of words which was chanted to obtain benefit or avert trouble.'

C4

This trituration was completed in June 2022 by Angela Hair to take the NZ Scoured Sheep's Wool to C4 level

Mental/Spiritual

Snuggling up by the fire on a winter's night
Sensed discomfort in chair and placed pillow behind my back
Theme – warmth and comfort

Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee – a much-loved 96-year-old queen who served her people faithfully. She is traditional, loves outdoors, family, dogs, and horses. She represents security in the Commonwealth countries and the colonial story of Aotearoa New Zealand. Governor Generals are the Queen's representative.

Shepherding, shearing, carding, spinning, dyeing wool is a process that has happened for hundreds of years, in every part of the world.

Images of Mahatma Gandhi in his white clothes include a spinning wheel, a symbol of the peaceful rhythm of life. Gandhi led India to non-violent independence from Britain in 1946.

Homespun jerseys, soft, warm, cosy and crafted with love

Physical

Mouth, lips prickling
Skin, itching in spots

Postscript

Due to community pressure, the wool scouring business moved to a more suitable industrial area after this research was completed and community members exerted considerable pressure on the Hastings District Council and business to relocate. A new state-of-the-art environmentally friendly plant was built at Awatoto and the Whakatu community was able to breathe again.