

Dear IWTO Members and Friends,

As we close the books for 2017 and prepare for a short break, the wool industry certainly has reason to celebrate. Fine Merino wool has been in high demand from manufacturers and auction prices rewarded growers for their tenacity, during the past 12 months. Although wool still only represents one percent of textile use, we've seen it move into new fashion categories, promising health and well-being to the young consumer and representing responsible and aspirational dressing in the formal wear market.

During the past twelve months, we've regularly had to confirm our claims of wool's natural sustainable credentials and thankfully, due to the high level of scientific output from the IWTO Working Groups, we had [the facts](#) to back our arguments and [speak out](#) against false accusations.

We demand integrity from our beloved wool fibre, the hands that produce it and the pipeline that processes it and will continue to communicate the output from these dedicated people and businesses. The attached media release is now available on the [IWTO website](#) and the shortened version can be found on [www.iwto.org/news/wool-integrity](http://www.iwto.org/news/wool-integrity). We urge you to circulate these to your members, colleagues, clients and media partners.

IWTO members, you can find the Wool Round Table presentations and photos in the [Member Area](#) of the IWTO website.

The IWTO Secretariat will be closed from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2017 till the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2018. We wish you a peaceful and joyous Christmas season with your loved ones.

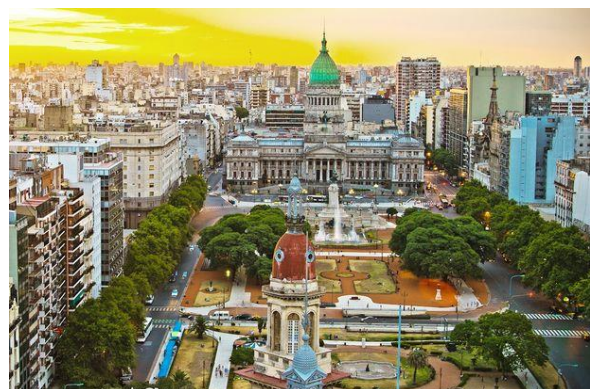
With best wishes,  
The IWTO Team

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**Save the Date**

## **2018's Wool Round Table in Buenos Aires**

The 2018 Wool Round Table will take place 3 & 4 December in Buenos Aires, with working group meetings on 2 December. Details in the coming months on [www.iwto.org](http://www.iwto.org).



*Wool Round Table Outcomes*

## Wool Integrity, Regeneration Key to Industry's Message

Wool hovers at just over 1% of the world's total fibre production, but the wool message remains clear: throwaway culture is on its way out. With the weight of both science and common sense around it, the wool industry is primed with the facts that support its sustainability and integrity.



Read more about our work on wool's green footprint on [www.iwto.org/news/wool-integrity](http://www.iwto.org/news/wool-integrity)

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## Have you seen our new video yet?



Our new wool video lets viewers discover how wool is grown and how wool products are made. Designed with textile education in mind, please include this video in your presentations and company web pages – and share widely on your social media networks!

Click [here](#) or on the image above  
to view the video on YouTube

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## *Spotlight on* **Microfibres**

One of the most pressing issues to planetary health, IWTO is increasingly asked about microfibres and wool's biodegradability.

Research is clear that natural fibres such as wool biodegrade in a relatively short period in warm, moist conditions.

Further, wool has been shown to biodegrade in marine environments.

Our Wool LCA TAG is currently evaluating information on the loss of natural fibres in the environment and we hope to have more to report on this subject soon.

Learn more at [www.iwto.org/microfibres](http://www.iwto.org/microfibres) and look for our Fact Sheet on Microfibres in early 2018.



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## *Spotlight on* **Test Certificates & Traceability**

Presentations at [the recent Wool Round Table](#) showed that wool growers are increasingly reporting on-farm practices, such as mulesing, in wool declarations.

Through certification processes in Australia and South Africa, this information is passed through the supply chain.

In Australia, where the declarations are voluntary, the average national rate is up to 65% and in some states higher.

Read more on [www.iwto.org/test-certificates](http://www.iwto.org/test-certificates) and look for our Fact Sheet on the topic in early 2018.



*Coming Soon*

## **IWTO Congress 2018: 14-16 May in Hong Kong**



The next IWTO Congress is scheduled for 14-16 May 2018 in Hong Kong.

Working group meetings will take place on 13 May.

More information on the programme and venue will be shared as it becomes available - visit [www.iwto.org/events/2018-congress](http://www.iwto.org/events/2018-congress)

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## **About IWTO**

With a world-wide membership encompassing the wool pipeline from farm to fashion, the International Wool Textile Organisation represents the interests of the global wool trade. By facilitating research and development and maintaining textile industry standards, IWTO ensures a sustainable future for wool.



Visit our website

