

Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

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Te Atakura Crawford, New Zealand champion senior fine wool shearer. Inset: Pagan and Tina Rimene.



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CONTENTS

- 6 NZ Merino Shears report
- 9 Cordillo carved in stone
- 10 Glover wins Jackie Howe Festival
- 12 Who pirated the merinos?
- 14 Paddy O'Neill obituary
- 15 Big changes for training
- 16 Things that fly in Germany
- 19 What to do in quiet times
- 20 Tectra certificate recipients
- 22 Rick Pivac obituary
- 24 Masters from the past
- 27 A bronzed woman
- 29 Houghie's last waltz
- 30 Poet's Corner (Blue Jeans)
- 32 Antz in top gear
- 33 Photo essay Christchurch Show
- 34 Quittin' time, smokers!
- 35 Preview, world champs Ireland
- 36 High flying Hilary
- 38 Photo essay, Kiwis in Oz

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**Next edition due 10 April 2014.
Deadline for all material
two weeks prior.**

UNDER COVER STORY

The under-cover story is just a little further under the cover this edition as we give up our regular spot on the better quality 'shiny paper' for another full-page advertisement. Advertisements (the revenue from) are what enable us to bring the mag to you free of charge via all our country pubs, rural merchandise stores and other distribution outlets, so we hope you'll agree that's a small price to pay.

At page 15 we bring you information about recently-announced changes to shearing and woolhandling training. The old Tectra/Primary ITO [formerly AgITO] partnership that we've know for years will 'change' in some aspects at least, in favour of 'direct servicing of the industry' by Primary ITO itself.

This change is announced to take place on 1 January 2014 but many people have been in contact with the magazine in recent days, believing the whole proposal – seemingly developed over the past 12 months – leaves many unanswered questions, including the amount of 'consultation' that took place, evidence the number of people who know nothing about it.

It's fair to say that no other issue in recent times has generated such wide reaction from fair-minded industry people – so read page 15 and keep your ears and eyes alert for developments in the days and weeks ahead. There will be some!

Meantime, among other stories, we farewell another couple of shearing legends in Rick Pivac and Paddy O'Neill. Plus we hope you'll find a familiar face or two among the photos. And if you've never been in the mag yourself – send your photo with gang or other mates and we'll fix that, pronto! Take care people, see you in 2014.

Ka kite ano

Des Williams (editor)

SPEEDSHEAR

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‘This one’s for you, Joe.’

By Barbara Newton

The first competition on the 2013/14 Shearing Sports calendar kicked off with the New Zealand Merino Shears at Alexandra on 6/7 October.

This event saw some exciting contests; a rare feat repeated after 28 years; fresh faces; new champions; the comeback of a legend and master; and a lesson from an Aussie. There were good entries across the board and the Earnscleugh Station sheep were certainly challenging for both wool handlers and shearers during the heats and finals.

Senior Shearing:

The crowd went wild at the announcement of the winner of the senior shearing event. Te Atakura (Tuts) Crawford freshened up the record books when, in her very first merino competition, the shy, pocket-sized 26-year-old from Te Karaka, near Gisborne took out the title.

The five-sheep final is never a spectacular one, but the quality-focused Crawford, who had travelled over from Australia for the weekend (where she has been working for the past three years), with her measured approach was not far off the pace of second place-getter Patrick Duncan to take the title by 8.6 points.

Apart from the momentous occasion, what is more remarkable is that this was Crawford’s very first fine wool show. Her first shear in the heats, where she top qualified, was the first on merinos with a cover comb, and she freely admitted to being a tad tentative with the wide cover comb and all those wrinkles. She was using gear borrowed from fellow competitor Rangipa Chase and was also generously assisted by Doug Smith with combs and Dion Morrell, who helped with sheep selection.

This unassuming young woman has made her family proud and looks to have a competitive shearing future after having started in the sheds with whanau as a wool handler, before being encouraged by her aunt, Ailsa Fleming, to take up shearing when she found wool handling to be a bit boring. Her uncle, Johnny Mourirere of Gisborne, initially taught her to shear. She then went on to win the Golden Shears Novice shearing title in



Te Atakura Crawford, NZ Senior Fine Wool champion.

2006, and was a finalist in the Golden Shears senior event in 2012.

Te Atakura said the late Joe Paewai had influenced her in her early days of shearing and she dedicated her New Zealand Merino Shears title to him.

But wait, there’s more. To top it off Crawford teamed up with fellow senior shearer Rangipa Chase and wool handlers Vance Brown (junior champion 2003, senior champion 2006) and Monica Potae in the teams event, displacing many more experienced and open teams in the process to reaching the final.

Team ‘Advance Technique’ went on to finish in third place behind the seasoned ‘No Worries’ team of Damien Boyle and Mark Buscomb, who once again were joined by Taiwha Nelson and new team member Keryn Herbert and runnersup ‘Lyon Wannabee’ team of Johnny Kirkpatrick, Nathan Stratford, Ngapine Hakaraia and Waina Peneha.

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Female shearers:

Michelle Harrex (nee Anderson) is the only female to have contested an open fine wool final (and probably any open final, internationally), doing so four times at Alexandra with a best placing of 3rd in 1998, the same year she won the South African title. She followed this up in 1999 by winning the NZ winter comb title at Omarama.

Jills Angus Burney won the senior event at Alexandra in 1985. Two other females to contest the senior final were: Jenny Manttan, 4th in 1984 and Una Cameron, 3rd in 2002.

Open Shearing final:

There was literally a 'Boyle over' on the open shearing event where two master quality shearers, Dion Morrell and Grant Smith, local brothers Charlie and Jocky O'Neill, Angus Moore, and the defending champion Damien Boyle made for an exciting and interesting final.

Morrell, a local [Alexandra] shearing contractor who celebrated his 50th birthday earlier this year, doesn't get on a stand much these days and whether or not he could last the distance was always going to be an issue.

Some old shearing cohorts got their heads together to hatch a plan in an effort to unseat Boyle's domination with his superior quality.

From the first sheep Morrell took it to him, (nearly unseated himself in the process with a cutting blow to the flank), and after eight of the 12 sheep final he had managed to put one around Boyle, bringing the parochial crowd to its feet. Alas, in his valiant effort to break Boyle's successful run he was undone in sacrificing quality for speed.

Despite finishing first and the over 2min time advantage this was well negated by Boyle's superior board and outside pen quality to take the title by a whopping 15.48 points.

Remarking on the fact that he had a sheep put around him by a 50 year old, Boyle exclaimed, 'he was shearing very well and I was trying to catch him, ... no way was I going to [catch him]!'

For the humble 37-year-old farmer Boyle, the win was a pretty special one, his fourth consecutive title emulating the feat of Mana Te Whata achieved some 33 years ago.



Top: 'Come here, Gorgeous!' Angus Moore, Norm Harraway and Grant Smith speak in unison. Above: 'Mana, mate, would you like to do a couple, just for old times sake?' Dion Morrell and Mana Te Whata at work.

(Incidentally Te Whata finished 10th this year).

Damien may be from far across the ditch in Broombe, Western Australia but he surely qualifies as an honorary Central Otagoite having competed at Alexandra each year since he first shored in the senior event in 1994. He has gone on to be an open finalist on five occasions (1999, 2000, 2001, 2007, 2009), and now four times title winner.

There is no doubt he will be back again in 2014.

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The final was a thrill for the O'Neill family of Alexandra, with two brothers taking part, for the second such occasion. In 2009 older brother Colin and Charlie finished 3rd and 4th respectively.

This was the first appearance in an open final for Jocky (senior winner in 2010) and Charlie's fourth final appearance (2008, 2010, 2012).

Jocky unfortunately had a bit of a mishap on his very first sheep and he was never going to finish better than 6th. Charlie shone well, and although he finished his sheep behind Morrell and Boyle it was Grant Smith with lower outside pen points that elevated him up into third place, relegating O'Neill to fourth with the promising Angus Moore in fifth placing.

Wool Handling:

With many past champions, Masters and other fancied prospects out of the final lineup, no matter the outcome, we would see a completely new champion awarded the coveted NZMS open wool handling title for 2013.

While Sara Kara had first made the final in 1999 and most recently ten years ago in 2003, it was a first for Rocky Hape-Taite. And although Amy Ruki (2010), and Ratapu Moore (2011) had each been in a previous final, it was a still refreshing new line up and perhaps a sign of things to come.

It was an intense final, with all four finalists truly fired up and focused waiting in the wings prior to the start.

The shearers set a fast pace and this was matched by the outstanding time management skills and coordination of the wool handlers.

At times all competitors were expertly throwing their fleeces within seconds of each other. As a result, an appreciative crowd were kept on the edge of their seats in the intense atmosphere as the four finalists made no bones about their intentions – to get the job done fast.

Hape-Taite was first to finish after his trade-mark clean up, tilting the table on its side, with a 32-second time advantage over Ruki, followed by Kara and then the five-months pregnant Moore.

However, the 26 year old Ruki, originally from Invercargill now based in Alexandra and the mother of



Amy Ruki, champion senior woolhandler.

two preschoolers, had the better quality and reversed the order with her outside judging points to capture her first open title comfortably and add to her remarkable record and rise through the ranks since starting wool handling just eight years ago.

At last she had her hands on the special pure merino wool winner's sash, something to which she had aspired to since her first final as a junior in 2005 where she finished 5th.

The veteran Kara finished 3rd and Moore 4th. Rocky Hape-Taite was awarded the Gina Nathan Memorial trophy for his superior quality through the lead-up qualifying rounds, while promising Hastings 22-year-old, Kyle Wihongi, ended a two-year drought with his win in the senior event.

The winner of the junior wool handling title was local 26-year-old Ruby O'Neill, aged 26, whose wool handling work is potentially just a career fill in, lived up to her "most promising wool handler" prize of 2000.

(See page 13 for full results.)

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Cordillo carved in stone

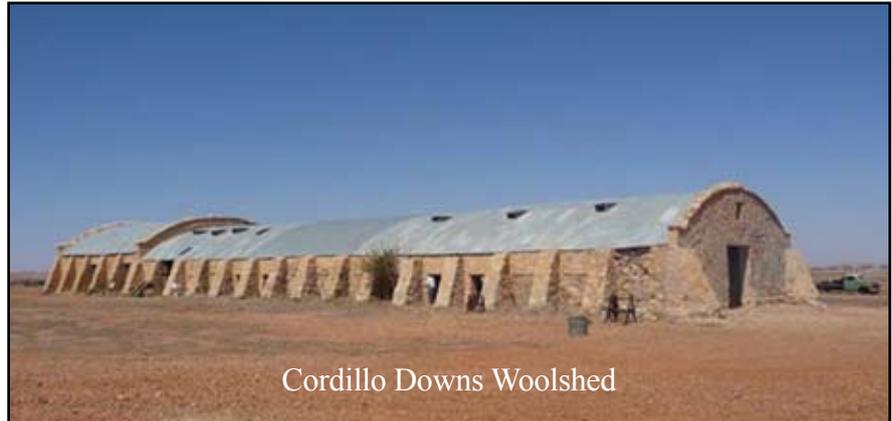
By *Bernie Walker*

Originally known as 'Cardillo', the vast station now known as 'Cordillo Downs' is a pastoral lease in the north eastern corner of South Australia. Originally 7,800 sq kms (3012 sq miles) it was regarded as Australia's largest sheep station.

Comprising flat to undulating gibber (stony) plains with some sandhills and claypans in the famous Channel country on the eastern fringes of the Simpson Desert, the area is prone to extended dry periods. Mitchell grass, some spinifex and bladder saltbush provide much of the vegetation, but following periodic partial inundation from floodwaters originating from heavy rain in Queensland, prolific growth of nardoo, cooper clover, lignum and grasses takes place as the water recedes and evaporates.

The station was first taken up in 1873. Ten years later the lease was transferred to the Beltana Pastoral Co who stocked it with 10,000 sheep and 600 cattle. By 1893 there were enough married employees with families to warrant the employment of a school teacher, Mr. W. Sturdy, who was paid 25 shillings per week (A\$2.50). It was also big enough to have its own Post Office, saddler, blacksmith and police station which was only manned at shearing time. In 1903 the station was amalgamated with 'Cadelga' (now ruins) and Haddon Downs with a flock of 85,000 sheep by 1905.

One of the outstanding features of the station is the big stone woolshed built in 1893 as part of the development of the property. Built from local stone, the heavily buttressed walls support the curved galvanised iron roof, a common design in outback areas due to the lack of suitable timber to support a conventional gable roof. The roofing iron was brought in by camels from the railhead at Farina, 600km (377 miles) to the south with wool carried on the return trip. In 1885 a remarkable feat occurred when the extensive machinery, including a steam engine, required for a wool scour was brought there by camels. Despite the cost, it must have been more economical to scour the wool removing the grease and sand, which may have amounted to 40% of the



Cordillo Downs Woolshed

fleece weight, than to pay the freight on it down to Farina and then on to Adelaide.

Industrial trouble with the shearers arose in 1888 and again in 1891 during the big shearers' strike. Mounted constables were sent in to maintain law and order. Although some reports suggest there were up to 120 blade shearers, there is doubt about this as the shed is not big enough. There were originally fifteen chutes about a metre square on each side, but some have been blocked up. When machines were introduced in 1907, 36,000 sheep were shorn by the contractors, Federal Pastoral Co, and the best tally was 180. These shearers were certainly tough men. Travelling via the Strzelecki Track, walking or riding pushbikes, they had to battle through the infamous Cobbler Sandhills, so named after the worst sheep in a shearer's pen. In 1909 it was reported those on bikes made the journey south to Farina in 4½ days. Some of these shearers pushed on to work in south west Queensland.

Also in 1907 the station boundary was fenced with netting. Cordillo Downs was closed down in 1931 with only a caretaker and a few boundary riders remaining until it was restocked with sheep in 1936. Breeding cattle arrived in 1939. In 1941 dingoes killed virtually every lamb and, coupled with the expense of repairing the fences, the decision was made to sell the sheep and run cattle only. The big shed is now used only for storage. According to a former manager, Mr. David Usher, the annual rainfall averages about five inches (125 mm). There are a number of waterholes in

the numerous channels on the property which hold out for some time after rain, plus wells and bores.

In 1954 it was reported that a meteor had landed somewhere on the station. The bright flash and ball of fire lasting several minutes was reported from Innamincka, Muloorina and Narilya.

Beltana owned the property until 1981 when it was sold to Brookman Holdings for A\$1.2 million. Anthony and Janet Brook manage the property for the Brook family who run approximately 40,000 Poll Hereford cattle on several stations in the area producing certified organic beef under the OBE Beef brand. Stocking rate is about one beast per square kilometre.

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Robbie shows 'em (Jackie) Howe

By *Bernie Walker*

The second Jackie Howe Festival of the Golden Shears was held at Jondaryan Woolshed Queensland on 6/7/8 September 2013. Tasmania's Robbie Glover had the measure of NSW's Daniel McIntyre (last year's champion) to take the title by 2.2 points. Third was Mark Buscomb from Williams, Western Australia, and fourth was young Queenslander, James Ferguson.

The Jackie Howe Invitation Woolhandling title was won by young Victorian Sophie Cameron. Tasmania's Michelle Walker again placed second, as she did in 2012. Veteran Queenslander Bruce Lines was third with another Tasmanian, Kelly Hazel, fourth. Once again the unique trophies were designed and made by Howe family member and artist Mary Rich who, with Keith, Eric and Darcy Howe, made the presentations. A highly delighted Robbie Glover will have his name added to the distinctive tally book perpetual trophy, which he described as the best trophy he had won.

The programme included the 2013 Sports Shear Queensland State shearing and woolhandling finals to select the team that represented Queensland at the Australian Sports Shear National Championships at Warrnambool at the end of October.

The successful competitor in the Queensland State shearing final was world merino wether record holder, Dave Grant from Longreach, ahead of Mick Nancarrow, Bollon, John Bryan and James Ferguson, with the first three to represent

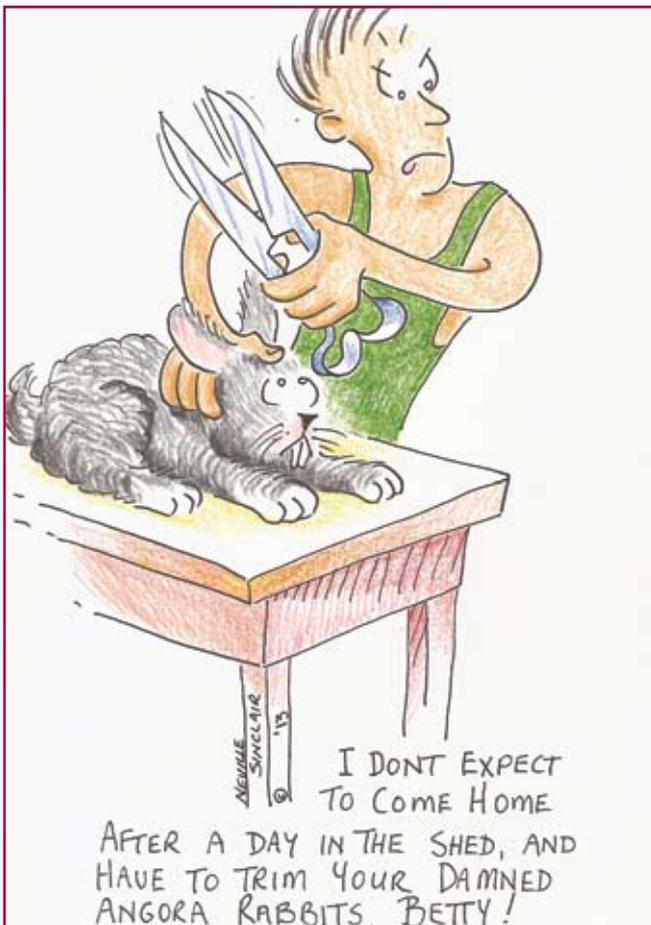


Robbie Glover, Jackie Howe champion 2013

Queensland at Warrnambool. Among the woolhandlers, State wool manager for Landmark, Bruce Lines prevailed, taking the State title ahead of Kelly Moir, Stacey Hooper and John Bryan.

Blessed with perfect weather, the three-day Festival attracted bookings from over 1200 caravans and campervans. Unfortunately, the Federal election was brought forward to the same Saturday and was thought to have restricted those people from the Gold and Sunshine Coasts as well as Brisbane and Toowoomba who usually make it a day trip to the Festival. Consequently, attendances were down compared to 2012. Nevertheless, there were more trade and craft sites booked this year, more than thirty, featuring everything from honey sales to clothing and hats, bush poets to camp oven cooking.

Live country music featured on the main stage and in the Flagstone Creek Hall. Demonstrations of bee keeping, whip plaiting and cracking, blacksmithing, wool spinning and weaving were just some of the skills and crafts demonstrated among the other attractions. As was done in 2012, Friday again featured two steam engines, each driving ten stands of overhead shafting gear with 1000 sheep being shorn, many by those present to compete in the Jackie Howe and Queensland finals the following day.



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- Grade 5: jaysucroistshe'sdroymate
- Grade 6: droyasawoodengodmate
- Grade 7: treesarechasin'theblardydogsmate
- Grade 8: droysadeaddingosdongamate

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Think in terms of the energy released by pent up expletives: a Grade 1 expletive releases as much energy as blowing up 170g of TNT. A Grade 8 expletive releases as much energy as detonating 6 million tonnes of TNT.

History shows that the release of the expletives as graded equates to set levels of appeal to, or response from public officials and local or central government politicians. Hence, a Grade 4 drought is likely to prompt a farmer delegation to the local mayor; a Grade 5 to the local MP and Grade 6 to the Agriculture Minister. *(Devised and authenticated by Dr Clive Dalton and Philippa Stevenson.)*



So you're now over 50 and suddenly, that regular weekend exercise routine is getting a bit much? No need to panic, there is an easier way to keep fit:

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After a couple of weeks, move up to 5kg potato bags. Then try 25kg potato bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 50kg potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level.) After you feel confident at that level, start increasing the weight by putting some potatoes in each bag.



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Who pirated the merinos?

By Dr Clive Dalton

When shearing the neck wrinkles on your next Merino, spare a thought about how this unique sheep breed got into your catching pen. Australia as the source of our New Zealand Merinos is end of the story. For the start, you have to go back to George III (1738-1820), King of England and Northern Ireland – and a prime sheep stealer. He and McKenzie would have made great mates!

Poor George suffered mental problems so was nicknamed ‘mad King George’, but he was also a farming pioneer and a great promoter of the wool industry (from which he’d get a lot of tax), so he was also dubbed ‘farmer George’.

England’s wealth came from wool exports to Europe (especially Flanders) for the cloth trade, but this demanded fine wool which most of the English ‘hairy’ hill breeds didn’t produce. So King George saw the need for an emergency fining of the wool clip, and he knew what was needed to improve the English Down breeds - the superfine Merinos from Spain that were closely guarded and definitely not for export. He was going to have to nick some!

There were Merinos in France with Spanish genes but they were not fine enough, and there were also Merinos in Germany but they were bred more for meat. Spain was the only place to get the real McCoy, so George hatched a ‘Baldrick cunning plan’ to get some based on bribery, stealth and plain common theft.

Basically he paid Spanish shepherds (contrabandistas) to steal sheep in dribs and drabs from flocks, and drive them across the mountains into Portugal (which was no short hike), from where he could import them legally for his farm at Windsor castle.

As sheep numbers grew and were being distributed to farmers around the country and even into Scotland, he needed a shepherd to keep the records and run the show. Joseph Banks (later knighted) must have been hanging around with time on his hands waiting for another assignment with his mate James Cook. Banks’s CV looked good, gaining a high reputation with Cook for detailed classification of plants and animals, and sexual prowess with Polynesian maidens!

As the King’s flock grew, identifying individual sheep using numbers on the wool and giving them personal names got a bit limited, so Banks got his mate in the Royal mint to make him some metal disks (like coins) which could be numbered and clipped into a sheep’s ear. The ear tag was born!

A fascinating part of the story is on a map showing where individual Merino rams from the King’s flock went to - written by the late H.B Carter, an Australian wool scientist in a book called ‘His Majesty’s Spanish Flock. Sir Joseph Banks and the Merinos of George III of England. Angus & Robertson 1964. I got a second hand copy from Australia which is now in the public library.

In King George’s reign, merinos got to America where some misguided breeders in Vermont bred wrinkles on them, assuming that you’d get more wool from a greater surface area. This sadly became a fashion.

The breed in England didn’t survive for long as clearly the climate was too wet, but the King saw the great possibility



“Come to my shears, you beauty!”

of it doing well in the drier parts of the new lands in the colonies of Australia and South Africa about the same time. Sadly the wrinkles went with the sheep to be the bane of every shearer.

It took the Australian CSIRO research organisation a lot of time and money to prove the wrinkle story to be total rubbish. The worst of the wrinkles have gone but still come persist to this day.

I didn’t realise it at the time, but I saw the last merinos in England when I lectured at Leeds University before coming to New Zealand in 1968. In brief, H.B. Carter who was a brilliant pioneering wool researcher, had left Australia in the huff because he didn’t get the top job at Prospect Research Centre, which he built. He went and holed up at the Animal Breeding Research Organisation (ABRO) in Edinburgh working for the ex-Kiwi director, Hugh Donald.

Carter persuaded Donald that he needed some superfine Merinos for research and the best source was from Taylor of Valleyfield in Tasmania as export of Merino rams was banned from mainland Australia at the time. This was a massive con job by Carter, and the deal was that the sheep were never to leave Edinburgh alive.

Well they did – along with Carter, who inevitably fell out big time with Donald. So the sheep arrived at our Leeds University farm almost in secret, and nobody other than Carter was allowed to go near them. (To p13)



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(From p12)

Carter was like a bit of a hermit and was given an office in the textile department where he finished his tome on the King's Merinos.

The official story was that the Merinos got Johnes disease and had to be slaughtered, but not before a few disappeared in to private hands! The Australian and UK 'authorities' that approved their importation never found out – or if they did, maybe didn't want to know or care. So much for academic integrity! My lecturer mate got a few which he took into retirement and won a lot of fleece competitions with them.

So there's a tale. Merinos twice smuggled into Britain – once from Spain into England by a King, and then from Tasmania into Scotland by an Aussie!

(See my blog under <H.B. Carter Merinos> for more of the story.)

Results: 52nd New Zealand Merino Championships held at Alexandra, 4-5 October 2013

Shearing

Open (12 sheep): Damien Boyle (Australia) 113.87pts, 1; Dion Morrell (Alexandra) 129.255 2; Grant Smith (Rakaia) 131.76 3; Charlie O'Neill (Alexandra) 132.351 4; Angus Moore (Kaitangata) 136.284 5; John O'Neill (Alexandra) 139.25 6.
Senior (5 sheep): Te Atakura Crawford (Te Karaka) 101.313 1; Patrick Duncan (Napier) 109.95 2; Cody Beck (Taumarunui) 111.58 3; Hayden Hill (Otorohanga) 119.442 4; Corey Smith (Rakaia) 128.68 5; Jake Rangiuaia (Mataura) 146.078 6.

Woolhandling

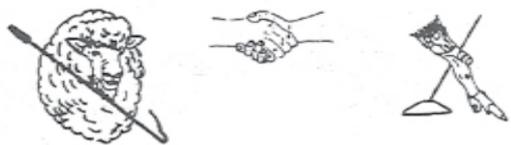
Open final (5 fleeces): Amy Ruki (Invercargill) 309.84 1; Rocky Hape-Taite (Dannevirke) 354.45 2; Sarah Kara (Winton) 405.39 3; Ratapu Moore (Kaitangata) 456.58 4.
Senior final (3 fleeces): Kyle Wihongi (Hastings) 292.29 2; Erana Smith (Ruatoria) 334.80 3; Daine Rehe (Te Teko) 334.97 3; Keisha Te Huki (Dannevirke) 608.72 4.
Junior final (3 fleeces): Ruby O'Neill (Alexandra) 196.41 1; Creedence Culshaw (Raupunga) 273.09 2; Alayne Daysh (Pahiatua) 281.16 3; Linda Duncan (Alexandra) 482.14 4.



Above: Junior woolhandling finalists at Alexandra: Ruby O'Neill, Creedence Culshaw, Alayne Daysh and Linda Duncan. Below: Ruby O'Neill (junior) and Kyle Wihongi (senior) enjoy their moment as winners and gridders.



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Paddy the genuine tussock jumper

By Jills Angus Burney

The sudden passing in early October 2013 of dual blade and machine shearer, Paddy O'Neill (65) from Fairlie resulted in a true send off for a South Canterbury son, or 'tussock jumper'.

Throughout his life Paddy kept coming back to Fairlie; Peter Walsh said in his eulogy that's because 'it is here that Paddy was most comfortable'.

Paddy took up blade shearing about 1969 and, after returning from a working holiday in Australia with champion blade shearer Paul Rose, he worked for the Enterprise Shearing Co. with Snow Brophy, Sam Dobson, Ken Robby and the late Bunzie Campbell.

An enterprising streak saw Paddy break away from the traditional blade teams to start Aorangi Shearing Ltd with Maurice Oakley, Allan Corder and blade legend, John Kennedy, who each put in \$5 to open a company cheque account. Peter Corder subsequently took over and continued the business, but not before Paddy left his mark in a few sheds.

A dual blade and machines Wool Board regional shearing instructor, Paddy was a great motivator with excellent people skills. He was renowned for helping people out and even financially to a few. He was quick to praise learners and he frequently gave good advice, particularly to young shearing people passing through Burkes Pass en route to 'Central'.

One story that goes down in typical tussock jumping fashion was when Paddy got caught speeding – with a large sheep in the front passenger seat. Unlike the great sheep stealer James McKenzie and some recent Auckland boys, Paddy had the sheep in his car for a legitimate purpose.

It all started when Paddy was angling with 'the cocky' to get a free mutton to take home. Just before 'cut out' the station owner said to Paddy,



Paddy O'Neill, 'tussock jumper'

'if you want a mutton there is one out the back.'

Paddy thought he was on to a winner and shot out behind the woolshed, only to find one lone merino wether in a 10-acre holding paddock. Paddy thought it would be a good idea if the farmer ran the wether into the yards. But the station owner got the last word on Paddy and said, 'No, you can have it, if you can catch it!'

Paddy resolved to catch 'the bastard alright' which, after some time, he managed to do. He then enquired where to kill the hapless sheep. The station owner responded 'I said you could have it – not kill it here. If you want it, take it with you.'

Paddy, being of good Irish stock, promptly belted the wether into the front seat of his vehicle and took off back to his cottage near Fairlie, only to be pulled over by a highway patrol officer, for speeding.

The Mackenzie country officer is reputed to have asked Paddy, 'now what have we got here?' After giving his name the officer then said to Paddy, '... and I suppose your friend is Bo Peep?' After much hilarity in

explaining the situation the officer let Paddy off on the proviso the sheep 'didn't do any driving'.

In the early 1980s Paddy did the unthinkable and changed to machine shearing with Opihi Shearing.

Paddy travelled overseas shearing and was also a very competitive shearer in open blade competitions all around the country.

After shearing, Paddy farmed in both South Canterbury and on the West Coast. He married late and raised his family in several farming communities. However, he was a high country man, most at home in a woolshed in the company of the great blade legends, among whom he held his own.

He was a Mackenzie country man of considerable talent and many of his past shearing mates, wool handlers and farmers turned out in great numbers to pay tribute to a great character and irrefutable 'tussock jumper'.

John Kennedy said when you worked with Paddy he treated everyone the same, from the tea-maker to the number one shearer. 'He was great at motivating the young people he gave jobs to. Many would have travelled a less certain path in life if they had not met Paddy. It was a privilege working with him.'



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Training change surprise to many

By Des Williams

An announcement last month by Primary ITO of its intention to transform 'the training and education needs of the wool harvesting sector' seems to have caught many industry people completely by surprise.

Primary ITO chief executive Kevin Bryant revealed his organisation has, over the past year or so, consulted with the industry, reviewed the present training system and assessed future needs. Based on feedback received from its consultation, Primary ITO will launch a brand new, on-job learning training and servicing model on 1 January 2014. Tectra will no longer be the training agency for Primary ITO, though the new approach will be complemented by an off-job training system, such as that currently being delivered by Tectra.

Kevin Bryant said his organisation is excited about the benefits the alternative on-job training model will bring to employees and business managers and owners in the industry. He says it will minimise time off work, meaning employers are not losing their staff to off-job classes so often, thereby helping to increase business productivity.

The new system is to be based on a pilot scheme trialled over the past year on behalf of Primary ITO by Paewai Mullins of Dannevirke, who have been formalising their own training model and aligning it to the ITO's practices and procedures.

'The on-job training model has been very successful for us for many years and makes learning more enjoyable for our staff,' Mavis Mullins said.

'It brings training closer to the coalface – real training in a real work environment. This is a proven model for us and we're delighted to hear it will be officially formalised by Primary ITO next year.'

The new approach also covers the wider skill needs of team leaders and business owners, especially in relation to business management, rather than training in only the technical facets of shearing and wool handling.

A major feature of the change is the direct role the ITO will take in terms of servicing employers and their staff in training. Primary ITO

training advisers will work closely with employers to develop a tailored training to support them to reach their business goals faster.

Kevin Bryant said with the larger, more capable and better resourced ITO [resulting from a merger between Ag ITO and Horticulture ITO in October 2012], it is timely that the approach to education for the industry changes.

'The direct servicing of the industry by the ITO is now the best option to meet industry needs. This does mean a change to the long-standing relationship the ITO has had with Tectra, whose training advisers have represented the ITO. We would like to acknowledge the role Tectra has played for many years in working with us to ensure training for the wool industry continued despite the loss of the wool levy in 2009,' Bryant said.

How wide the consultation and how necessary the change?

While the Primary ITO's proposals are reported to be based on consultation with the industry, several people of 'respected opinions' have expressed to *Shearing* their concerns about the nature of the change, the wider implications for the industry and the unanswered questions.

Ron Davis of Balclutha says he has major concerns about the way the proposed change is being introduced, and the lack of evidence that a change of such magnitude is warranted, and he has written directly to the Tertiary Education Commission about it.



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Shearing understands further important negotiations are scheduled for the days ahead – this statement from New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association (NZSCA) chairman, Barry Pullin received just an hour before this edition rolls on the printing press!

'Our understanding is that Tectra and Primary ITO (government funder) are now in discussion about the delivery of training for 2014. Our Association has high hopes the current training model will continue in 2014, with Tectra continuing to deliver off-job courses in Levels 2, 3 and 4. The current model also enables alternative providers to engage trainees,' Barry Pullin said.

'At an Industry Partnership Group (IPG) meeting on 19 November 2013, clarification was sought from Primary ITO around the Tectra contract and delivery of training for 2014. Primary ITO advised there would be a meeting with Tectra on Friday 22 November to discuss with them an off-job Training Provider contract for 2014. The second component of the present contract with Tectra – that of recruiting and service – would not be renewed.

'When questioned why the change with the Tectra contract is being considered, Primary ITO responded that, essentially the system is not changing, but one component of Tectra's present contract – that of recruiting trainees and servicing their training needs – is now going to be done by Primary ITO staff, as it does in all other industry sectors.

'The ITO has statutory requirements placed on it by government and the ITO Act, and for some time there has been nervousness about using another party to fulfil what is the ITO's base responsibility. When questioned on delivery, Primary ITO responded they consider the off-job training component of the Tectra contract as being a 'roll-over' from this year.'

Barry Pullin said the Association, 'along with everybody else in the industry, eagerly awaits the results of the negotiations between Primary ITO and Tectra for off job delivery.'

Tectra managers were unable to comment on the situation for this edition ahead of important discussions with Primary ITO scheduled for 22 November 2013.

Things that fly

By Roger Leslie

Kiwis, it's said, can't fly, except perhaps in the face of adversity. It would be agreed though, that they've always had a fascination and penchant for flight. Hine-O-Te-Rangi (daughter of the skies, better known as Jean Batten), Richard Pearse, Sir Keith Park and William Pickering, just to name a few, were all leaders in this field, and all Kiwis.

Shearing Kiwis have their feet planted firmly on the ground but who doesn't like to find a flier in their pen, and wasn't there a comb called the Top Flight? Kiwis are the best known of the international itinerant shearers and usually they fly to get there, often with ill concealed impatience along the way.

I have written before of parasitic pestilence in the form of ticks but now want to concentrate on things that fly (and sometimes bite).

Shearing being what it is, takes a lot of skill and concentration and it's often the little things that make or break a day. Flies might be small but it's not for nothing that they were one of the plagues of Egypt from the days of Moses. Those that have shorn in outback Australia will know something of flies. These flies must sit on ones face and if brushed away will land immediately on another part. They do have a saving grace though; they don't follow the shearer inside the shed but wait politely outside for him to reappear.

German flies tend to have that certain level of Aryan persistence that causes wars. They have no inhibitions about coming inside and if you are foolish enough to allow even one into your sleeping space you will be woken as soon as there is flying light (around 4.30 am). I don't like this and have been known to shut all windows, block the gap under the door and go to work on the remaining flies with a vengeance.

Generally the worst infestations are found on farms with large amounts of decomposing matter lying about and often a shed that has wintered many years of sheep without being cleaned out and the floor level has risen to meet the rafters. These sheds are also not good places to sprint about chasing sheep.

One such farmer, dubbed the 'Lord of the Flies' by the



A wise wool classer in a no-fly zone - no flies on her!

boys, has it down to an art form and I have seen shearers walking up and down the road as they eat their sandwiches because if they stop the flies descend in a black cloud. The sanity of such chaps, only ever hanging on a slender thread, can quickly reach the point of meltdown.

Eating in the kitchen is no better because ones movements are restricted and the flies can develop a team approach. Half will crawl all over the food and down inside the milk carton while the others will disappear under the table and crawl over ones legs and feet. It can be quite embarrassing when one of the boys turns into a Berserker half way through the meal. There's a time and place for such things.

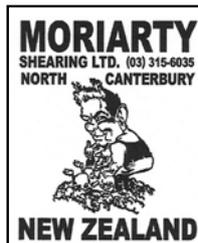
The flies, which appear to have studied the shearer's weak points, are quick to note the vulnerability of the vehicle. They have all day to slip through a carelessly left open window and fill the vehicle so full it looks like it has tinted glass. You can't drive with it like that so you have to get them out. The obvious answer of course is to spray them. But the Germans have long since bowed to environmental pressure and stopped putting anything toxic in the spray, so while it does seem to annoy the flies a bit and increase their wing speed, it doesn't kill them.

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(From p 16)

I've even wondered if there's nitrous oxide in it because the flies seem to laugh a lot. The correct approach is to open all doors and have a frenzied flap session with a towel or similar, and then leap in and shut the doors. Then as you drive away you can open the windows again and go to work on the remainder. This of course is a job for passengers. Fly chasing is apparently not an acceptable defence in the event of accidents.

Let me tell you in finishing of Frau Humple. She was the grandmother of a rural three family German home and therefore the boss. She was bent in age but not in spirit and she hated flies. Her kitchen was a fly free zone similar to the Israel/Syria border.

If an unfortunate specimen happened to get in there it was mercilessly pursued and dispatched with her swat. There was nowhere the fly was safe, not even on the back of a shearer's neck ... especially not there!

A single door separated the barn and her kitchen and believe me, that door stayed shut. Flies and all other undesirables like dirty footwear, Communists and Green Party members were not welcome. She had a poem on the door which doesn't have quite the same zing in English but went something like this: A chap as kind and sweet as you, would use the door and shut it too!

Frau Humple has been dead for a few years now but as I write I can clearly hear her satisfied cackle as another fly goes to the happy hunting ground.

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HD Dawson Circuit intermediate winner 2013, Cory Green (Rakaia, right) pictured at Te Kuiti with Ashburton's Shaun Burgess. Cory finished sixth in the NZ Champs intermediate final won by David Gordon of Masterton.



Above: That old folkie Pete Seeger might look at this photo and start singing, 'Where have all the young men gone, long time passing ...' And these blokes would say they are still young enough to do the business, thank you! Waimate open finalists, from left: Cam Ferguson, David Fagan, Nathan Stratford, Darin Forde, Grant Smith and Tony Coster. Below: Waimate Shears President Warren White with open woolhandlers: Keryn Herbert, Rocky Hape-Taite, Tina Rimene, George Hawkins, Pagan Rimene and Amy Ruki.



Hold those Moccs, Arwyn!

The above photo records the moment when a delightful Welshman named Arwyn Jones (left) paid NZ\$2100 for a pair of moccasins worn by David Fagan (right) at the 2004 Corwen Shears. Fagan had just shorn 20 lambs in a tad over 10 minutes to win the Open final and Arwyn's monetary gesture boosted the proceeds of a charity auction held that evening.

More recently (last month, in fact) a Wolsley handpiece owned by the legendary Jackie Howe sold at auction for A\$38,000, bought by the National Museum of Australia at Canberra. The handpiece had been presented to Howe (1861-1920) soon after he'd established his world record with blades, shearing 321 lambs in seven hours 40 minutes at Alice Downs in 1892. (Equates to about 377 in nine hours.)

Howe's name may live forever in Australia, just as the exploits of 'our' David Fagan will endure here, for as long as there are sheep to be shorn. So Arwyn, hold onto those moccs – who knows what they may be worth 120 years from now?

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Above: David McMurray of Kurow has recently retired after 46 years of blade shearing, mainly around the Mackenzie Basin. Enjoy the rest David because your replacement may already be on the way! Well-performed machine shearer Ringa Paewai (below) gets some tuition in the finer points of the ancient craft from Walter Thompson of Maniatoto.



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What to do during the quiet times...

The in-between season has struck again. At first we are looking forward to a break, but by week two most local employees not leaving the area are getting bored and are broke. So what to do? Some suggestions:

- The accumulated holiday pay you saved up during the season should get you through a couple of weeks quite comfortably. Get your contractor to pay out only some of your holiday pay on each of the quiet weeks to help you manage your spending.
- Now is the time to sort through your shearing gear. Grind it, tidy it up, make a list of what you need. Do the same with your shearing clothes, your car, etc.
- Catch up on sleep. Sleep without your TV or lights on for better rest.
- Get your body sorted: Have regular massages and chiropractic treatment. Do a few in a row to properly re-align your body. This will be money well spent as it helps avoid injuries during the busy times and will increase your productivity and the number of years you are able to spend in this demanding industry with a healthy body.
- Visit a physiotherapist and ask them to show you some stretches for your shoulder, back, groin and hip area, as these are some of the areas most affected by your work.
- Eat healthy food and re-hydrate: load up on vitamin C, magnesium and other important vitamins and minerals by eating lots of fruit and vegetables. Drink plenty of water to hydrate your muscles. Again, this will help you avoid injury during the busy times and increase your productivity.
- Spend some time in the sun for Vitamin D!
- Stay fit: Go to the gym three or four times a week and get your trainer to put a programme together for you to suit the demands of your job. Work on your core strength and aerobic fitness.
- If you don't have money for the gym, just walk up a steep hill every day to get your lungs going. Walk for an hour or so daily, then go home and do push-ups, sit-ups and stretches.
- Enjoy your time out, do all the things you cannot do during the busy times: read, visit friends, play the guitar, do courses, etc.
- Plan your activities for each day to make the most of your time off.

(Courtesy Dion Morrell Shearing, Alexandra)

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Daniel Warwick, Lennard Parks, Michael Nielsen, Arana Makiri, Daniel Paikea, Daniel Turipa, Gregory Satherley, Holly Granich, Te Ua Wilcox, Tony Keating, William Davidson, Horizon Tamati-Smith, Tumanako Ponga-Kennedy, Sam Kakahi, Kepa Apanui-Raukawa, Anthony Paikea, Rebecca Baynes, Christopher Richardson, Catherine Mullooly, Samuel Le Geyt, Angela Holloway, Brendon Mathieson, Ngamorehu Wickliffe, Kane Crawford, Tremayne Hohipa, David Cummins, Nick Tuapata, Ian Papanui, Taihoa Neera, Billsam Neera, Hayden Morrison, Kylie Chase, Joseph Mygind, Sarah Reid, Daniel Paikea, Daniel Turipa, Disraeli Downs, Eru Keil, Holly Granich, Jamie Angus, Jimmy Smith, Leon Jovanovic, Ross Farley, Wilfred Waihape.

Machine Shearing Level 2 Junior:

Sam Kahaki, Anthony Paikea, Luke Guillard, Taihoa Neera, Kane Crawford, Tumanako Ponga-Kennedy, Catherine Mullooly, Nick Tuapata, Samuel Le Geyt, Horizon Tamati-Smith, Hamish Botting, Tremayne Hohipa, Kepa Apanui-Raukawa, William Condon, Tama Keelan, Trevor Mason,

Machine Shearing Cross Bred Level 3: Te Carson, Korena Down, Ian West.

Machine Shearing Fine Wool Level 2: Cesar Oyarzun

Wool Handling Level 3: Kaya Hemmingsen, Hayley Discombe, Monica Potae, Anne-Maree Kahukura-McGinnis, Cazna Te Amo, Tawhai Maxwell, Vanessa Weily, Nadine Smith, Pieta-Maree Gilbert, Melissa Veint, Tia Potae, Shani Graham, Valerie Weatherburn, Jennifer Hunter, Tramon Campbell, Maria-Laine Coleman, Shanae Daniels, Miriama Holmes, Tunisha Karamaena, Chenile Kennedy,



Partners in Wool Harvesting Training



Crystal Madams, Desiree Taputoro, Raewyn Thompson, Te Whakapono Te Whata, Winipera Ropiha.

Wool Handling Level 2: Natalie Nuku, Shanara Day, Ketu Hokianga, Cherylee Neben, Ezra Roberts, Tumanako Ponga-Kennedy, Mahina Dempster, Candace Elers, Tracey Gollan, Charlotte Gould, Manuela Harrison, Riripeti Heitia, Chenile Kennedy, Crystal Madams, Renee Mita-Waata, Te Ngamoki, Tekaumatahi Paikea, Rawinia Pirere, Pania Ruwhiu, Vanessa Silby, Stacey Taylor, Kassidy Thornton, Rawinia Tiori, Gael Tirikatene-Nash, Ngaraima Watene, Taiawhio Wati, Brooke Woodhead, Awhina Nicholson, Brooke Smith, Chaavarne Dick, Chanell Bell, Diane Christiansen, Donna Nicholson,

Elle Bryant, Grace Archibald, Hine Hammersley, Jazinda Hayman, Juresa Broughton, Justine Robertson, Maple White, Rebecca Pattison, Samantha Paterson, Samantha Ruru, Samantha Tipene, Waihana Campbell, Anahera Taha-Williams, Daniel Paikea, Daniel Turipa, Demi-Leigh Rangiuiaia, Holly Granich, Mortisha Joseph-Hamahona, Retchell Rickard, Rosalea McGregor-Koch, Tiara Russo.

Wool Handling Level 4: Sarah Yaxley, Mary-Anne Baty.

Wool Handling Fine Wool Extension Level 3: Monica Potae, Sharlene Adamson, Cedric Aramoana, Renee Hooper, Te Oti Martin, Ataneta Puna, Sarah Yaxley, Cheri Peterson, Kelly McDonald.

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TECTRA TRAINING COURSES SCHEDULE 2013-2014

North Island 2013

2-5 Dec	Te Kuiti	Wool Handling Levels 2-3
2-6 Dec	Central Hawkes Bay	Learner Shearing
2-5 Dec	Taumarunui	Advanced Shearing
16-20 Dec	Feilding	Learner Shearing

North Island 2014

6-10 Jan	Masterton	Learner Shearing
20-24 Jan	Dannevirke	Learner Shearing
20-24	Rangitira	Learner Shearing
27-31 Jan	Marton	Learner Shearing
17-21 Feb	Masterton	Learner Shearing
24-25 Feb	Palmerston North	Advanced Shearing
3-7 Mar	PioPio	Learner Shearing
10-13 Mar	Taumarunui	Advanced Shearing
10-14 Mar	Waipaoa	Junior & Learner Shearing
17-21 Mar	Taihape	Learner Shearing
17-21 Mar	Ngaruawahia	Learner Shearing
24-27 Mar	Palmerston North	Advanced Shearing

South Island 2013

2-5 Dec	Gore	Wool Handling Levels 2-3
2-6 Dec	Tapanui	Learner Shearing
2-6 Dec	Winton/Invercargill	Learner Shearing
2-6 Dec	Washdyke	Learner Shearing
9-13 Dec	Alexandra	Learner Shearing
16-20 Dec	Cheviot	Learner Shearing

South Island 2014

20-24 Jan	Gore	Learner Shearing
27-30 Jan	Methven	Advanced Shearing
27-31 Jan	Gore	Learner Shearing
24-28 Feb	Oamaru	Learner Shearing
25-28 Feb	Gore	Wool Handling Levels 2-3
3-7 Mar	Roxburgh	Learner Shearing
10-14 Mar	Blenheim	Learner Shearing
17-21 Mar	Oamaru	Learner Shearing
17-19 Mar	Oamaru	Wool Handling Levels 2-3
24-27 Mar	Roxburgh	Advanced Shearing
24-27 Mar	Roxburgh	Wool Handling Levels 2-3
24-28 Mar	Ranfurly	Wool Handling L2-3
31 Mar - 4 Apr	Mossburn	Learner Shearing

Frederick Johan Pivac (1949-2013)

By Des Williams

His Far North whanau knew him as Freddy; many shearing mates referred to him as Ricky (or Ricardo, in later years), and this writer was informed, 30 seconds into his first interview (21 years ago), that 'the name is Rick'.

Whatever name they knew him by, Rick's mates all agreed on one thing – he ranked high among THE colourful characters of New Zealand shearing for the whole of his career. Rick's life came to an end in Western Australia on 10 September 2013, less than a month short of his 64th birthday.

It was reported he died when he crashed his Harley Davidson bike while out riding with friends. Word was at his tangi, held at Kareponia marae north of Kaitaia 11 days later, that he might in fact have suffered a heart attack, and thereby been given sufficient warning to slow down and get off the road. This surmising was based on the fact that neither Rick nor the bike had suffered any significant damage in the mishap.

All surmising about Rick's actual age (the subject of much conjecture over the years, most of it provoked by the man himself) was also sorted at the tangi – date of birth 6 October 1949.

After we'd got that first name business sorted out back in 1992, Rick proceeded to tell this writer about his early days and of how he came to be a shearer. Growing up in a large Northland [Kaitaia] family 20 years before unemployment was any sort of an issue, Rick decided to try any



Rick Pivac, died in Western Australia on 10 September 2013 - aged 63

work opportunity that came his way, at the same time looking for something more permanent. He even spent 18 months in Auckland as an apprentice mechanic, before trying his hand at selling insurance.

Back in Kaitaia, he spent some time driving a truck for a carrying firm, until he decided on a shortcut across the beach: "It was a Friday night, the tide was coming in and I never made it. An hour later I was sitting there watching my truck float away."

Actually, it wasn't Rick's truck – an

ex-army vehicle – it was his uncle's! Uncle suggested that Rick come in and collect his final wages.

'In the circumstances, it seemed to be a good time to check out the South Island. I had a mate working in Central Otago, shearing for Murray McSkimming. I looked him up, got a job with the gang as a presser and had my first taste of what promised to be something more permanent.'

Every presser in every gang fights like hell to stay ahead of the shearers, to keep those 170kg bales popping out of the press, to avoid being snowed in with wool. And every shearer in every gang shears like hell to try and snow the presser in – all just part of the every day ritual in the life of the gang.

Rick's sense of humour told him it would be more fun from the shearer's point of view so he got to try his hand at shearing a few.

Murray McSkimming well recalls the teen-aged Pivac turning up looking for work all those years ago. "He had a cheeky face – full of yap and confidence and with a carefree attitude that said he could do anything.

'Ian Rutherford and I put a lot of hard work into Rick, trying to get his mindset to slow down from 100mph, but to no avail. In those days he was always two yards in front of what he was physically capable of, no matter what he was doing.

'Finally it all came together for Rick as his CV notes, and how pleasing it

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was for me to see Rick develop into one of New Zealand's top shearers, both in the sheds and at competitions. Yes, a man that could shear anything put in front of him.'

At the end of that first season with Murray, Rick went to a shearing school at Palmerston North, run by Bob Reed, and then he went looking for work. Just in time, Carterton contractor Neil Scott gave him a stand after he'd hitch-hiked into town with ten bucks in his pocket!"

And not without a little youthful confidence and cheek, as Murray McSkimming has noted. Rumour has it Rick told Neil he was a 400 a day man, but he had some difficulty proving it. As a Commonwealth Games wrestler, Neil could probably have put the youngster on his back and told him to hitch on out of town again when that first day at work resulted in about 100.

Rick stayed on and by the end of the season, with a lot of concentrated effort and hard work, was doing nearer 300.

Carterton was Rick's home town for the next few years and he eventually took over Neil's run to try his own hand at running a business. While he enjoyed that side of it, he preferred shearing, the hard slog, the battle against mates on the board, the constant challenge to drag that little more out of the physical and mental reserves – 'it's a great life and it keeps you fit and healthy.'

Rick Pivac's naturally competitive nature meant that he just had to be a competition shearer. He first went to a shearing competition at Palmerston North. Still in his teens, he was too late to enter any grade other than the open, but that was okay.

'I just got chucked in at the deep end,' Rick recalled. 'Here I was up against the likes of Tom Brough, Joe Ferguson and Danny Holland, the best shearers in the country.'

And the young man who could shear fast also learnt fast. Soon he too was being counted among the best shearers in the country. Competition wins started to accumulate at Carterton, Hastings, Palmerston North, Rotorua, Waverley, Hawera, Feilding and Waimate, to name just a few.

'But always, while competing at those shows the real dream, a Golden Shears open championship, wasn't far from my mind. It's one thing to beat the top guys at all those other places but the true champion beats them all at Golden Shears, then you know you're at the top.'

Rick Pivac made that open final six times, but the closest he could get to winning was a second placing in 1983, a fraction of a point adrift of Alan Donaldson, and he was third to Colin King in 1987. That same year, Rick won the Caltex National Championship.

The previous season, 1986, Rick had finished runner-up to David Fagan in the Caltex National final and, because Fagan had also won the Golden Shears Open, Rick gained selection in the New Zealand team for the world championships at Perth. There, he finished third behind Mark Conlan and Fagan in the individual final, while the Kiwi pair won the world teams' event.

In 1982 Rick had taken part in a successful four-stand world record attempt with Alan Donaldson, Stephen Dodds and Tom Wilson, at Dusky Downs, in Southland. With Donaldson's 659, Dodds's 654, Rick's 630 and Tom's 576, the team posted a new tally of 2519. The following year, Rick was confirmed as a Master Shearer by the National Shearing and Woolhandling Committee [now Shearing Sports NZ].

Twelve years later, in January 1993, Rick was involved

in another successful record, the three-stand with Dion Morrell and Chris Brooker. At Trevor and Karen Peters' Clutha Downs property (Central Otago) the trio shored 1857 ewes in nine hours, adding 264 to the previous mark. Rick's contribution was a career-best 638.

Not that it came easy. At 4.00pm that day he'd admitted to an *Otago Daily Times* reporter that he could happily have slid down the porthole with the sheep he'd just shorn!

Rick's other significant competition wins included the National Lamb Shear at Raglan in 1982; Pahiatua in 1984, as well as the NZ Spring Shears at Waimate and the NZ Crossbred Lamb title at Riversdale in 1985.

Rick also represented New Zealand in trans-Tasman tests against Australia at home and away in the 1982/83 and 1983/84 seasons.

David Fagan recalled shearing and travelling with Rick in the early 1980s, and of being in the 1984 team to Euroa together – the last team to use narrow gear in competition against Australia. Even then, Rick's age was a matter of conjecture but David recalls he and fellow team member Alan Donaldson put their doubts to rest by having a sneak peek at Rick's passport when Rick was in the shower! A little secret investigation they managed to keep from Rick.

'We were together again representing New Zealand at the 1986 world championships in Perth. We knew we were going to be up against it on that trip, with the merino sheep and different judging, but we'd already established a great camaraderie and decided before we got there to split any winnings or prizemoney down the middle. I was second and Rick was third in the individual contest and we won the teams event and split the proceeds.

'We also worked together in the UK and Wales, where Rick had his own run for a couple of years. He left a huge impression on everyone he met or worked with in those days with his incredible strength and determination.'

Rick shored sheep all around the world during his career, including America, the United Kingdom and Europe. He spent most of the past 20 years living in Western Australia and in latter years was driving road trains.

Among those who paid their last respects to Rick at Kareponia were Peter Lyon, Ivan Rosandich, Dion Morrell, Edsel Forde, John Fagan and Neil St George. Fagan paid perhaps the ultimate tribute – 'You never looked upon it as work when you sweated in a shed all day beside Rick, it was always just a day full of fun.'



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Master blasters from the past

By Des Williams

One would not be surprised or disappointed if some of those names from the past mentioned in my 'Master Shearers' story (August 2013) 'rang no bells' in your memory. Sad it is but true that for many of our past gun shearers, the known information about them amounts to no more than a few lines.

It's information that may yet be held by the 'family history' expert, but ... where to find the expert? And it's information that needs to be found and researched if we are to shine a modern day light upon their (in some cases) century-old achievements.

Take Joe Queenan, listed in my previous story on the strength of two brief mentions that he gets in that wonderful AR Mills book, *Sheep-O!* (Reed, 1960.)

'Queenan was a top shearer with either machines or blades, spending most of his long shearing career in both North and South Islands, with a jaunt to Australia almost every year on a busman's holiday,' Mills relates.

Later in the same book, there's reference to five men establishing a record 'some years ago' at the Red Shed of the Goring Estate, out from Utiku: 'The team, comprising the well-know shearers Bill Vella, George Stewart [Stuart?], Jack Hulena, Sam Copp and Joe Queenan, shore the huge tally of 1680 sheep for the day, an average of 336 per man, with Bill Vella and George Stewart running neck and neck at the top of the board.

Jack Hulena and Joe Queenan were both gun shearers with either blades or machines ...'

A 'Google' into Papers Past (*The Maoriland Worker*) brings up a reference to shearers C Swan and Joe Queenan cutting out at Glencoe on 6 December 1917. 'Joe Queenan and I have 1300 to shear for a small farmer at Dannevirke, and then go to Taihape,' Swan was quoted.

Then the *Timaru Herald*, on 3 January 1918 (quoting the *Taihape Times* as source), reported action from Mr J McCarten's shed, near Taihape, where Bill Vella set a world record tally of 339. 'The previous best tally was 333, put up by Riano [Raihania Rimitiriu?], but Riano's tally was made on lambs.

'Vella's performance is the more meritorious when it is considered that five hours were occupied on big ewes, and this in the latter end of the day, when he would be feeling the strain of his strenuous efforts.'

The *Timaru Herald* added that the other shearers on the board were J Skinner, 304 ('shearing practically on one leg only'); J Queenan, 264 (who lost considerable time with two gear breakdowns) and L Amundsen, tally not given but also had one breakdown.

And what about Hedley Hawthorne, even more scantily treated by archives. Les Thomsen writes (in *The Discovery and Developments of Shearing Techniques*): 'Belonged to Hastings, Hawkes Bay and lived at Five Dock

Sydney when I knew him. He shored sheep in New Zealand and Australia for over 50 years and must have topped the one million mark by many thousands. A tall, lean, quiet man, he was my mate for many months in N.W. Queensland. Much of the information I have recorded here I have learned from him and he was highly regarded by all who knew him.'

Les Thomsen (1902-1975) hailed from Waipukurau, of Danish ancestry. He relates that his own 30-year career as a shearer started in the summer of 1914-15 as fleeco and broom boy, and described the conditions and general atmosphere prevailing in woolsheds at that time.



Les Thomsen, pictured in 1951.

'The narrow comb was still widely used, indeed the first wide comb, a Burgon, was brought to New Zealand from Australia by Thomas Hokianga of Porangahau, Hawkes's Bay, about 1913. Sheep farmers and managers were strongly opposed to its use and not altogether without reason. The narrow gear cut well and the wide did not.'

Thomsen said shearers using the wide gear always had two handpieces loaded up and they switched back to narrow whenever the 'bush telegraph' told them the boss was on his way.

'There were no wide forks but 'plates' to span the four-tooth cutters were ground from worn, narrow combs. Later, curved plates made from spring steel were fitted to narrow forks, and GL Stuart of Hastings made them by the thousand.'

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Christine Thomsen of Hamilton says Les (her grandfather) travelled about New Zealand on an Indian motorbike and was proud to be able to say he'd beaten the Bowen brothers at competitions.

And what of Walter Yendell (1905-1966) – New Zealand champion 1935! Would he be a Master Shearer in today's terms? The programme for the 1992 Northern Shears at Warkworth carried a story about Walter, and how he won the Moffat Virtue Cup at Taihape on New Year's Day, 1935. Billed as the New Zealand Championship, the event drew competitors from far and wide, including three from Australia.

Because of wet weather, the proposed final was cancelled but Yendell won with a score of 94 out of 100 on three sheep shorn, with his time being six minutes 10 seconds. His two closest rivals were nearly 20 seconds quicker but didn't have the quality to go with it. 'A handsome cup was awarded to Mr Yendell for his efforts,' the story says.

Born in Devon, Walter had come to New Zealand in 1924 with five of his brothers. Though he had some experience with blades shearing in England, Walter was new to the machines when he eventually took up shearing in New Zealand. He took pride in producing consistent tallies and in six consecutive days during 1934 produced 1846 sheep, ranging between 303 and 311 per day.

'These tallies do not impress on today's standards but fifty or sixty years ago conditions of shearing plant, gear and sheep were vastly different from today.'

The story notes how Walter shored 14,000 sheep in three and a half months during the 1934-35 season at the rate

of \$2.25 per hundred. Total earned for the season, \$315.00!

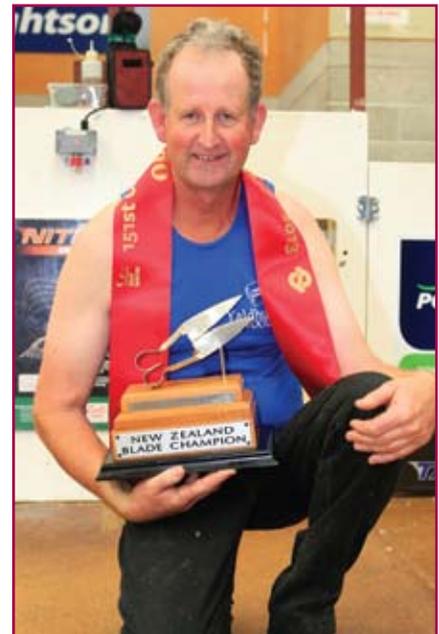
Walter Yendell later settled at Kaitiāia, where he opened a shop for the Loan and Mercantile Agency that later became known as Dalgety's.



Walter Yendell with the Moffat Virtue Cup, first prize for the New Zealand shearing championship 1935.

In 1954 Walter organised a shearing competition at the Mangonui Show, with first prize 100 pounds, money raised with pledges from local farmers. Such was the respect Walter had earned during his career that shearers came from all over, including a small plane load from Taihape. Trevor Brough took away the big wad of notes.

Is there enough tantalising information in the lines above to suggest that at least some of these guns from the distant past deserve lasting recognition, akin to that which we today accord our Master Shearers?



Albury's blade shearing legend Tony Dobbs almost rewrote the meaning of 'turning back the clock' with his winning of the New Zealand Golden Blades contest at the Canterbury A&P Show on 15 November 2013.

Dobbs already had his name on the trophy ten times between 1983 and 1995 (the last time he won, the day his 18-year-old daughter was born!) and has represented New Zealand many times, including the 1992 world championships, where he won the individual title.

Dobbs says he was motivated to 'have another go' by John Hough (see page 29), who said if Tony didn't enter himself, John would do it for him! Suddenly, Tony is once again a serious contender to make the New Zealand team for the world championships in Ireland next May!



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The late Junior Peter (Dolly) Olsen,

Junior Peter (Dolly) Olsen passed away on Friday 14 October 2011, the night before he was due to judge at the first Mt Moriac Speed Shear. His partner, Missy, reports the second holding of the speed shear recently gave friends and whanau the opportunity to reflect on Dolly's passing and some of their favourite memories of a true character.

Missy relates that Dolly was born at Ruakituri in 1952, the youngest of five siblings. Being the youngest, he was stuck with all the chores. Dolly's father (Peter Olsen) had worked for the local Rabbit Board and his mother, Matekino, was described as a 'hard lady', but very intelligent.

'She managed to get Dolly off the farm and into Te Aute College, where he thrived in his rugby union skills. He soon made his way out to the sheds, mastering that handpiece and shearing with some of the best. Dolly comes from a line of master shearers like John Turipa, Chris Durdy (my father) and Clifford Waihape, who shore many shed tallies in the South Island in their day.

'Doll was married to Raiha and they had four children, Sean, Odie (Olwyn), Rayna & Bianca.

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'In the early 1980s Doll made his way to Melbourne, Australia, and later moved the family over. Raiha passed away soon after the move, which made life tough for Doll's children, but with the help from their close friends and family, stabilised themselves in Geelong. Dolly and his son Sean were renown for their days of bouncing (security work) around Geelong – two blokes not to be messed with!

'But shearing was in Doll's blood and in 1995 he travelled to Queensland for work, where we met while working for my uncle, Charlie 'Oscar' Garnham. We travelled to Perth in 1996, and had been together ever since. Doll loved his big dogs, loyal and good pig hunters, Lobe, Marley, Doobie all passed on, and Jezz, our Neapolitan Mastiff.

'We worked on Kangaroo Island for a couple of years for Doll's nephew, Willie Smith before making our way back to Geelong, where we settled, and had our daughter Frankie. We tried for a few years to get him out of the shearing industry into something easier. Then an opportunity came his way to buy a five-tonne excavator. He said to me, 'Sweet, I think we should do this!' I told him it sounded good, something new for him to go for.

'And that was Doll, no not quite the excavator driver but the dump truck driver! He actually had a fear of getting in that digger, so he told his mate Colin that he could stick to the digger and he (Doll) would stick to his Kenny dump truck!

Dolly died from a massive heart attack in our home late on that Friday night. He is remembered and respected by many for his work hard, do it attitude, quietly spoken but powerful words, a gentleman and loving father and partner.'

Contestants at the Mt Moriac Speedshear now compete for the Dolly Olsen Memorial Trophy, donated by whanau.

(From Missy Joanne Durdy.)

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A bronzed woman

By *Bernie Walker*

Eliza Forlonge (1786-1859), a pioneer of the Australian superfine wool industry, has been honoured by the recent unveiling of a life size bronze statue at Campbell Town, central Tasmania. Possibly the most important importation of sheep into Australia was made by this remarkable Scotswoman, the wife of John Forlonge, a Glasgow wine merchant.

The first flock Eliza assembled was sold in England at great profit. She then returned to Saxony and Silesia to purchase another 100 sheep which were sent to Australia with her son William. When the ship 'Clansman' called at Hobart, William, aged 16, was persuaded by Governor Arthur (who recognised the value of the sheep) to accept a grant of good land near Campbell Town.

Here William established his flock of merinos. Such were his glowing reports that his mother, father, and brother Andrew decided to also emigrate and Eliza then went to Saxony a third time



to purchase another 150 sheep to bring with them. On arrival in January 1831, they joined William at Kenilworth.

In 1839, frustrated by their failure to secure river frontage and additional land, Eliza, now a widow, and her sons crossed to the Port Phillip district with

a flock of 1200 sheep. They then in 1844 sold Kenilworth with 4000 sheep to the Taylor family, owners of the famous Winton stud.

For a time the family resided near Whittlesea before moving to Seven Creeks Station, 70,000 acres at Euroa which had been established by a cousin, John Templeton in 1838. Eliza died there on 5 August 1859, aged 75. Her gravesite, selected by herself at the foot of the Garden Range, is marked by a granite monument in the shape of a woolbale, sometimes referred to as The Stone Woolpack.

The statue at Campbell Town was unveiled on 19 April 2013 by Count Paolo Zegna Di Monte Rubello, Chairman of the Italian Ermenegildo Zegna Group, which is known worldwide for its use of ultra-fine and super-fine wool to create high fashion garments.

The statue was created by sculptor Peter Corlett and honours a remarkable woman and pioneer of the Australian wool industry.

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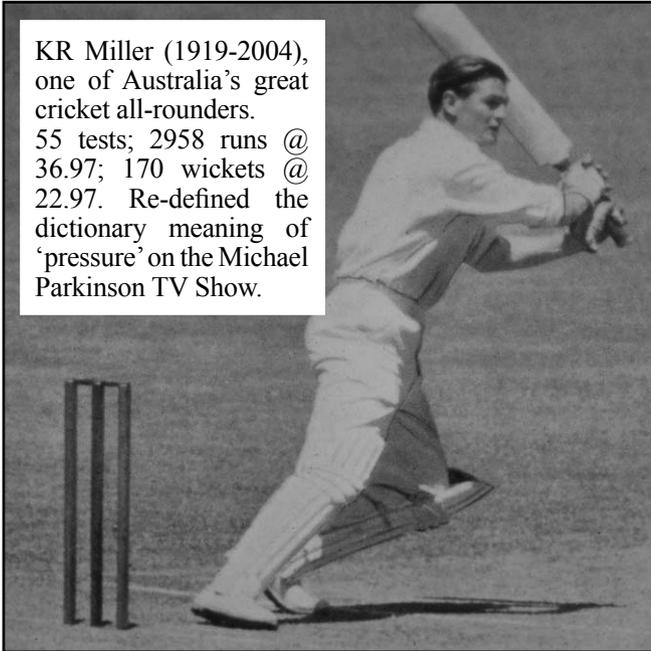
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KR Miller (1919-2004), one of Australia's great cricket all-rounders. 55 tests; 2958 runs @ 36.97; 170 wickets @ 22.97. Re-defined the dictionary meaning of 'pressure' on the Michael Parkinson TV Show.



How often do we hear the word 'pressure' used in sport? It often seems to be one of the most overused words in sports commentating and reporting, including shearing. Even in the shed, you hear shearers every day talking about 'shearing under pressure'.

A recent piece of research showed that 90% of Olympic athletes questioned would take illegal performance enhancing drugs if they could be guaranteed not being caught. An incredible 50% felt the pressure to win so badly that they would still take the drugs even if they were fatal and would kill them within five years.

But is it ever really that important? The legendary Australian cricketer Keith Miller once told British journalist Michael Parkinson how much he hated the word 'pressure' when used in sport. Miller, who flew fighter bombers over Germany in the Second World War, said the word was totally inappropriate when applied to athletes who are, after all, just doing their job.

'They don't know what pressure means,' he said (on the Parky Show). 'I'll tell you what pressure is: it's having a Messerschmitt up your arse at twenty thousand feet. That's pressure'. (Tom Harding)



From the Archives (1980s/90s): Marvellous the things you find when rattling through old photo albums in search of something else! I suppose someone will tell me the larrikins pictured above eventually grew into respectable citizens like the group below? Top left: Craig Alexander, Clint Bellamy, Eryl Williams (Wales), Jeremy Fuller and Glenn Forde – banishing Johnny Fraser from their midst for being unable to keep up with the required level of consumption. Below: NZ Wool Board Wool Production Officers, circa 1989: Back Row: Lew Willoughby, Mark Williamson, Owen Petrie, John Hutchinson, Stuart Bishell. Middle row: Lance Wiggins, Liz Kahn (Lance's PA), Helen Cameron, Brian Bradley. Front Row: Robert Pattison, Murray McEwan.



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Wide-combing it with ... © Last Side Publishing 2013

Mate, you've been wearing that same jersey for three years now - must be made of pure wool to last that long?



Buck Naked

.... and



Doug Deep

Oh yeah no, definitely!

Yep, got that wrong ...

At the meeting of the Sheepowners' Union, held on Tuesday (says the *Lyttelton Times*), the question of the advantages of having sheep shorn by hand was fully discussed. Mr T Teschemaker, of Otaio, who has long experience as a woolgrower, gave his support to the blades.

He remarked that in deciding the method of shearing, the sheep had to be considered, and he predicted that machine shearing would decline in favour of blade shearing, as the latter was better adapted to the climate of many parts of the dominion. (From *Otago Daily Times*, 100 years ago. Spotted by Barbara Newton.)



The Last Waltz

When John Hough let slip to a couple of mates over a couple of beers that he was thinking of having one last fling on the shearing sports circuit before completely giving the game away, there were one or two who shared his opinion that it sounded like a bloody good idea. Soon the talk had turned to walk and a team of seven south-to-mid Canterbury-ites signed up to join 'Houghie' on his farewell tour.

Norm Harraway, Johnny Fraser, Tom Wilson, Gavin Rowland, Rocky Bull and Robert (Rabbit) McLaren made the commitment to do as many South Island shows together as they could get to, and will come north to display their couple of hundred years of experience at Golden Shears and New Zealand championships one last time.

The troopers have actually enjoyed some success, with Harraway and

Bull making finals and others 'doing alright'. John Hough says he's happy and so far has escaped being last!

'The most I was hoping for was to go to some shows, meet up again with a few old mates, have some fun and a few beers and maybe tell some lies.'

Always a 'shed shearer' rather than a competition man, John nevertheless had his moments years ago – winning the Otago Shears at Balclutha 'some time in the 1970s', and he was second 'by a whisker' to Adrian Cox in the 1984 Fine Wool Championships at Alexandra.

John rates Joe Ferguson among the top shearers he's worked with during his career. 'Sometimes you knew Joe might have stayed out a bit late and you gave yourself a chance to take him on. Then he'd arrive at the shed in the morning, drink a pint of milk and it was game on all over again!'



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Catching Up

Two old friends had come together from a distant time and place
One was clad in city clothing, one had a weathered country face,
They hadn't sighted one another since they left the village school
Bob had become a taxi driver, while Bill mustered in the wool
They were sitting swapping stories, drinking rum quite leisurely
I was there by chance, a stranger, and they seemed to welcome me
A tie and collar fellow who had come in off the street
So I took the invitation when they said, 'drag up a seat'.

Bill spoke about the stations from Quailburn to Temple Peak
You could sense the pride and pleasure as he started into speak,
About mates and dogs and horses and the bond between all three
And the beauty of the sunsets, master-painted without fee.
The breeze amongst the snow grass where the peaks poked into space,
The wildness of the hillside, steeper than a rooster's face.
Home of the wild horse breaker, the snow raker and their kind,
And the rolling unfenced acres edged itself into our minds.
Old tin huts and we could see them, swags upon the earthen floor,
The camp ovens and the camp fire and the billy on the draw.
He spoke of them with reverence like they were a holy shrine
Giving shelter and protection when the blizzards used to whine.
And the names they bore were magic, part and parcel of the track,
A tradition handed down from when big mobs first went out the back
Blueduck, Pig-route, Shotover, Chimney Gully, Moa Bend,
Where the hills roll on forever and the stories never end.
He mustered with Les Johnson, they were working the outside,
When they crossed the little gully where the mounted trooper died.
He was lost there in a snow storm and he perished all alone,
But somehow, to me and Les, we weren't there on our own.
So death-like and so silent with a hush we couldn't name,
I thought of Sergeant Garvie and I know Les thought the same.
For the mountain has her secrets and she never lets them die,
And we knew that Sergeant Garvie and his spirit were close by.

Bob took on driving taxi cabs, he suggested that was decreed
He always loved the motor car, the power and the speed,
He soon had a reputation, he was prompt and safe and square
He obeyed the rules, the cops, the lights and he would always get you there.
He had his ups and downs of course, such was the life he led
He'd known the sharp knife at his throat, the pistol at his head,
He'd been hijacked, ransacked, side tracked by street kids raising hell
He learnt to carry little cash and soon he prospered well.
Professional ladies of the town relied on, and respected him
They were mostly night workers, short-skirted, blonde and slim,
They worked the richest part of town where the posh and wealthy strut
He drove them safely out and back and kept his vocals shut.
He bought a weekend paper run into the hinterland
Where gravel roads are rough enough out where the high hills stand.
Hot off the press as midnight struck behind the wheel he'd climb
And hit the track so he'd be back at home by breakfast time,
But storms and floods and snow and frosts and ever-changing climes
Over the years meant that he had missed many breakfast times.

Two old friends stood up together, for the time had wandered on
Would they meet again, or never? They shook hands and they were gone.
I thought about their stories as I drained my coffee cup
Then I wrote them down in rhyming verse and called it, *Catching Up*.

Blue Jeans ©2013



Former New Zealand Wool Board wool production manager Lance Wiggins (above) died at Wellington in August. Lance enjoyed many years of association with the industry, ending his career in June 2001 when he retired as managing director of *WoolPro*. Lance had assumed that position in 1998 when the NZWB split its production division into a separate company.

At the time of Lance's retirement, *WoolPro* chairman Terry Heiler noted that 'Lance and his staff have a string of firsts to their names which have been of great benefit to sheep farmers and the industry as a whole.' These included capless packs, quality assurance, the FITT (Farmer-Initiated Technology Transfer) programmes and Woolnet. (Also see story p31.)

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The ties that bind

In the mid-1980s Lance Wiggins of the New Zealand Wool Board had a team of 6-8 wool production officers based all round the country. They worked with farmers attempting to improve wool production and wool quality.

Now the NZWB was a Producer Board and, as such, there was a huge amount of agricultural politics in the wind at all times. There was never a shortage of farmers with political aspirations or simply an axe to grind.



Aahh, purple. Here's trouble!

When the wool production officers ran public meetings on practical wool-related issues there would always be political issues raised, which used to really annoy the team with its more practical focus. No one knows for sure who the instigator of colour coding cockies was, but Lance was certainly an enthusiastic supporter of the concept. It worked like this: the International Wool Secretariat had produced and sent out to New Zealand a series of promotional ties, emblazoned with the Woolmark. They came in four colours, purple, brown, green and blue.

At public meetings and other suitable occasions Lance's team would hand them out to farmers, who were always on the look out for a distinctive tie. (wool prices were pretty good at this time!)

The concept was simplicity itself! If you were trouble or a political activist, you got a purple tie; this ensured that at the next public wool meeting you attended at any town in the country, (they always wore the ties!) the chairman would probably ignore you and the Wool Board staff had you marked out!

Brown ties were given to normal run of the mill stirrers. Green ties went to grass roots, salt of the earth farmers.

And Blue ties went to those who could be relied on to ask the patsy questions that were easily answered.

(Supplied by Lew Willoughby)

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- Turn the vans into rubbish heaps

Then you probably should stay away. 'Cos our workers aren't going to be too impressed with you. But if you want to get stuck into some work, make some money and have some decent standards, then please give me a ring:

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Mackintosh
Shearing

Antz getting into top gear

By Des Williams

Sporting injuries have ended Antony (Antz) Bryant's days as a career and competition shearer so he's quietly retaining his links with the industry by experting shearing gear.

Antz enjoyed a successful 12-year career as a lower grade and open class competitor, starting with a New Zealand intermediate title at Te Kuiti in 1993. That win put Antz into the NZ Champs team with David Fagan, Alan (Mickey) MacDonald and David Hunt for the annual exchange trip to the Romney Shears at Warrnambool, where he won the senior final. Not content with that, he then entered the open contest and made the final alongside Fagan, MacDonald and Samson Te Whata.

That success provided all the encouragement he needed to continue in the sport. It also secured him a more permanent job when MacDonald, on the flight back to New Zealand, offering the youngster a place in his gangs. Antz had earlier worked in sheds around home [Te Akau] for Ewan McDonald and done some work for John Lawton down South.

'I worked with Mickey three or four years and he taught me a whole lot about shearing, about the mental approach and developing and maintaining a high work ethic, mainly through the examples that he himself set for others.'

Then Antz' other sporting love, body building, brought his shearing to a halt when he suffered a serious shoulder injury. 'That kept me out of action for about 18 months so I went back to the farm and kept myself as busy as I could while the [rotator cuff] injury healed itself. Then when I came right from that injury I worked for Mark Barrowcliffe at Piopio for two or three years. During my years of shearing I also did three seasons in the UK and seven seasons in Italy.'

Then the weights dealt Antz another blow – this time three ruptured discs in the lower back, That was eight years ago and he hasn't shorn a sheep since.

'I wanted to stay involved so I started helping a few local shearers do up their combs. Even as an intermediate 20 years ago I was a gear fanatic. I remember Nathan Stratford was also an intermediate at the time and he also worked hard to make sure his gear was well prepared.

'I seem to have been blessed with a pretty good memory and eye for that sort of detail. So I could take a look at a comb that someone might be using, remember the way it was prepared and go and produce another one just like it. Of course there's some trial and error, you wreck a few and break a few but that's part of the learning process.'

Antz also had some useful chats back then with Mike Gordon, who was experting gear for Acto-Agriculture (Lance Waddell). 'Mike always used a wooden wheel with cutting polish and that's pretty much the way I do it, too.'

When the writer 'pressures' [see Keith Miller page 28] Antz into naming a few people who have been making use of his expertise he's hesitant. There's a pause ... 'Well, I did Stacey Te Huia's combs when he did his solo ewe record, and then for Stacey and Sam Welch in the two-stand, and I also helped Kerri-Jo [Te Huia] when she did her record.'

There's others he mentions – without giving away trade secrets – Neil Fagan, Dig Balme, Dean Redman, Aussies Roger Mifsud and Robbie Glover and some for Shannon Warnest. And the four Guy brothers, from Northland.



Antz Bryant – growing reputation as gear expert.

That's an impressive and growing list of clients for work that Antz fits in between his 'day job' as personal trainer and fitness advisor at Te Kuiti's Lifestyle Fitness Gym.

And there's a story from 20 years ago that bears repeating. The young Bryant had already made his mark in competitions leading up to the afore-mentioned win at Te Kuiti – titles at Riversdale and Southern Shears and runner-up at Goldies. Then, during a quick interview at Waitomo: 'Where are you from, Antony?' 'Well, when I'm in the Waikato, I say I'm from Te Akau. When I'm somewhere else in the North Island I say I'm from Ngaruawahia. When I'm in the South Island I say I'm from Hamilton. It just saves a lot of explaining about where Te Akau is!'

Just the sort of youthful savvy that would lead to a future career as a gear expert!

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On Show at Canterbury: Top left: Judges Gwenda Jones, Jo Mead, Paula Rentoul. Top right: Trish Moke, open woolhandler; Bottom left, Leah Reuben, junior woolhandler; Bottom right, Jarrard Fletcher, junior woolhandler.

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Helping grow the country

Quittin' time is here, why not quit!

By Megan Horsham

Make Spring (or Summer!) the season to change. Improve your quality of life and health. Quit smoking today.

Smoking among shearers is high. To help shearers quit a variety of supports are needed. Throughout New Zealand, some employers have introduced smokefree workplaces and vehicles plans to encourage the amount of smoking during work hours.

Offering smoking cessation to employees is seen as an investment to any business. Employers throughout the country see adopting a plan as vital for maintaining a strong and healthy workforce.

Research shows non-smokers not only have more energy and better lung capacity but they are less likely to suffer from workplace injuries, strains and sprains.

Even after years of smoking, it is

possible to quit. Wairarapa shearer, Carl Rongonui and his wife Josie, are an example of how it is possible. After 30 years of being a smoker Carl and Josie decided to give up smoking for their whanau and to prevent dying prematurely from a smoking related illness.

The most successful way to quit is to utilise all options available to you. Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) comes in a variety of forms – lozenges, gum and patches which offer a discrete way to stop or reduce nicotine withdrawal. NRT is readily available in supermarkets, pharmacies and from your local medical practice. Newer products such as QuickMist work at providing relief from cravings. Champix and Zyban are two subsidised prescription tablet medications which are helpful for those who have tried NRT without success. Both these medications need to be prescribed by your doctor.

Attending a local quit smoking group or pairing up with another person who has, or is giving up smoking also can be useful. Receiving regular support and advice, especially during the early weeks improves the chances of remaining quit.

Alternatively, Quitline and Champix offer a 24-hour online, phone and text service to support anyone at any stage in their journey. These services are recommended for shift works and

people who work long hours who find it difficult to attend local quit groups.

For further information visit:

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Or alternatively email Megan Horsham for a draft copy of a Workplace policy that you can use for your own company.

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Smokers, thanks for putting your BUT (sic) in the bin. Outside, next to the drainpipe that leads to the gutter. Symbolic?

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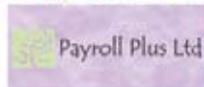
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If you ever go across the sea to Ireland ...

By Des Williams

'Then maybe at the closing of the day ...' (the song continues) you'll see some high class – nay, world class sheep shearing and woolhandling. Especially if you are there in late May of 2014 at the little town of Gorey in County Wexford, during the staging of the 16th world shearing and woolhandling championships.

In typical Irish fashion, my recent visit to the Golden Shears world championships website informed me that the extravaganza is now only 12 months away! How about making that six months – or maybe just five, by the time you get to read this!

If some of this sounds vaguely familiar, let me remind you that Gorey also hosted the 1998 world championships. And if the present day committee can even half-emulate the efforts of George and Ann Graham and other key members of that organising team from 15 years ago, this will be an occasion that you should make every effort to attend.

George Graham is this time chairman of the organising committee. As we go to print, George says he's hopeful that at least 30 countries will attend, with Russia and China likely to be represented for the first time. 'There's even a chance we will host 32 countries and that would be grand because it would mean one country for each of the 32 traditional counties in [Southern and Northern] Ireland. We are hoping that every county will be represented in our Grand Parade, which is planned for Friday 23 May.'

George says Gorey and district will be in full festival mode for the week leading up to the championships. Though the site is on the other side of Gorey from that used in 1998, the new venue beside the Amber Springs Hotel will again be a monster 'dome' similar to that used 15 years ago.

The World Shears programme starts on Tuesday 20 May 2014 with a briefing for all judges, with participants and competitors' forums and a world council meeting planned for the following day, Wednesday. Then the action begins:

Thursday 22 May: All Ireland shearing and woolhandling championships; "Meet & Greet" for world competitors and the Golden Shears Gala Welcome Dinner.

Friday 23 May: All Nations heats (all grades); Golden Shears Round One qualifying blade shearing, machine shearing, woolhandling; Welcome Parade (World Council and Teams).

Saturday 24 May: All Nations semi-finals junior intermediate, senior, open and blades; All Nations woolhandling final; All Nations shearing finals; Golden Shears Round Two qualifying machines and blades.

Sunday 25 May: All Nations senior and open shearing finals; Golden Shears Round Three qualifying machine shearing; Golden Shears semi-finals woolhandling, blades and machines; Golden Shears finals woolhandling, teams blades and machine shearing; individual blades and machine shearing; closing ceremony and celebrations!

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Scenes from Gorey's world championships 1998; Above, Master blade shearer Paddy Corrigan (left) shows how it used to be done. Below: 'The Dome', 'not yet full to capacity' according to note on back of the photo!



*Pricing is per person share twin, unless otherwise stated for complete twin/double accommodation. \$600 discount is valid if airline portion is paid in full by 05 Dec 2013. All prices are in NZD. Sales are valid until sold out. Prices are based on payment by cash or cheque only. Price is based on minimum of 20 paying passengers. Cancellation and amendment fees apply. Subject to availability. Special airline conditions apply. Product in this flyer is supplied by reputable suppliers with their own terms & conditions, please ask Harvey World Travel Te Kuiti for details. We welcome American Express Cardmembers. Membership Rewards Terms & Conditions apply. HWT3059

High flying Hilary

By Des Williams

When Hilary Gietzen of Minot, North Dakota finished runner-up in the 2012 North American Sheep Shearing Challenge, there were people who told him it was a pretty good result. Gietzen disagreed with their assessments. 'I wasn't second. I was first loser,' he said.

The sting and memory of that 2012 loss was considerably lessened after the 2013 NASSC final at the Calgary Stampede, when Gietzen outpointed Australian Steve Mudford (NSW) to take the champion's cheque. That's what he would call a pretty good result.

With the Canadian city under state of emergency because of flooding in the two weeks prior to the contest, Hilary was fortunate that the waters went away just in time for the Stampede to take place on time.

'I've been shearing for 36 years and competing for 34 and this was the toughest competition I've ever been in,' Gietzen told the crowd. 'It wasn't like one or two guys were pushing me. All of them were.'

A media report from the Stampede described the final as an interesting contrast in styles. Mudford finished shearing his eighth and final sheep before Gietzen started on his eighth. 'I hardly noticed,' Gietzen insisted. 'I did know he was ahead of me on time, but it didn't bother me one bit. I could have gone faster and done a less quality job. I like to think of myself as a strategist. My strategy was to keep everything in balance.'

Gietzen says American shearing events are both timed and judged. 'One judge watches for competitors who have to go over an area on the sheep a second time, while another judge examines the sheep after it is released to see if any wool has been missed and if there are any nicks or cuts. Fast and rough is a losing strategy as is too precise and too slow.'

The top eight competitors in the Open class were a fairly international crew with one Canadian, three Americans, one New Zealander and a trio of Australians. The competition was composed of four 'go-rounds' with accumulated points that eliminated four shearers. Pieter Demooy of Saanichton, BC won three of the four go-rounds with Gietzen taking the other. The two were first and second after the qualifying go-rounds with Australians Jackson Hira and Steve Mudford filling out the field. In the semi-final, Demooy and Hira were eliminated.

'I shear nearly full-time for a living,' Gietzen says. 'I've probably shorn more sheep than any other American.'

Although he shears thousands of sheep every year, to prepare for competition, Gietzen actually has a coach, Gary Reinhart of Fargo, North Dakota. Reinhart was the man who taught Gietzen to shear 36 years ago. Although Gary doesn't shear anymore, Gietzen says the two regularly review videos of shearing competitions and assess what the winners did right – and what the losers did wrong.

While he was sharing the credit for his victory, Gietzen mentioned another influence – Canadian shearing legend and former Stampede champion, Clifford Methetal of Ontario. 'He showed me some strategies. He helped me win in 2010. We worked together in May,' Gietzen said.

'Clifford told me something interesting. He said that he felt his best shearing years were in his 50s. I'm now 51. I'm



Hilary Gietzen of Minot, North Dakota (centre) with trophies won at Calgary. He flies his own aeroplane (a Mooney) the vast distances to competitions in America and Canada.

looking at it like I've still got my best years in front of me.'

When Gietzen won in 2010, he contributed the money to making improvements on a school in Peru. This year, his \$2,000 cheque is also earmarked for a good cause. After supporting a student in Peru for many years, Gietzen and his wife will be flying down to see the young woman receive her law degree.

Footnote: *Shearing* magazine interviewed Hilary Gietzen at the Calgary Stampede in 2004 (see August 2004 edition). He told this writer (known to be something of a nervous flyer) that a single engine plane is much safer than two engines, because 'in a light, two-engined plane, the good engine flies you to the scene of the accident!' Very comforting!

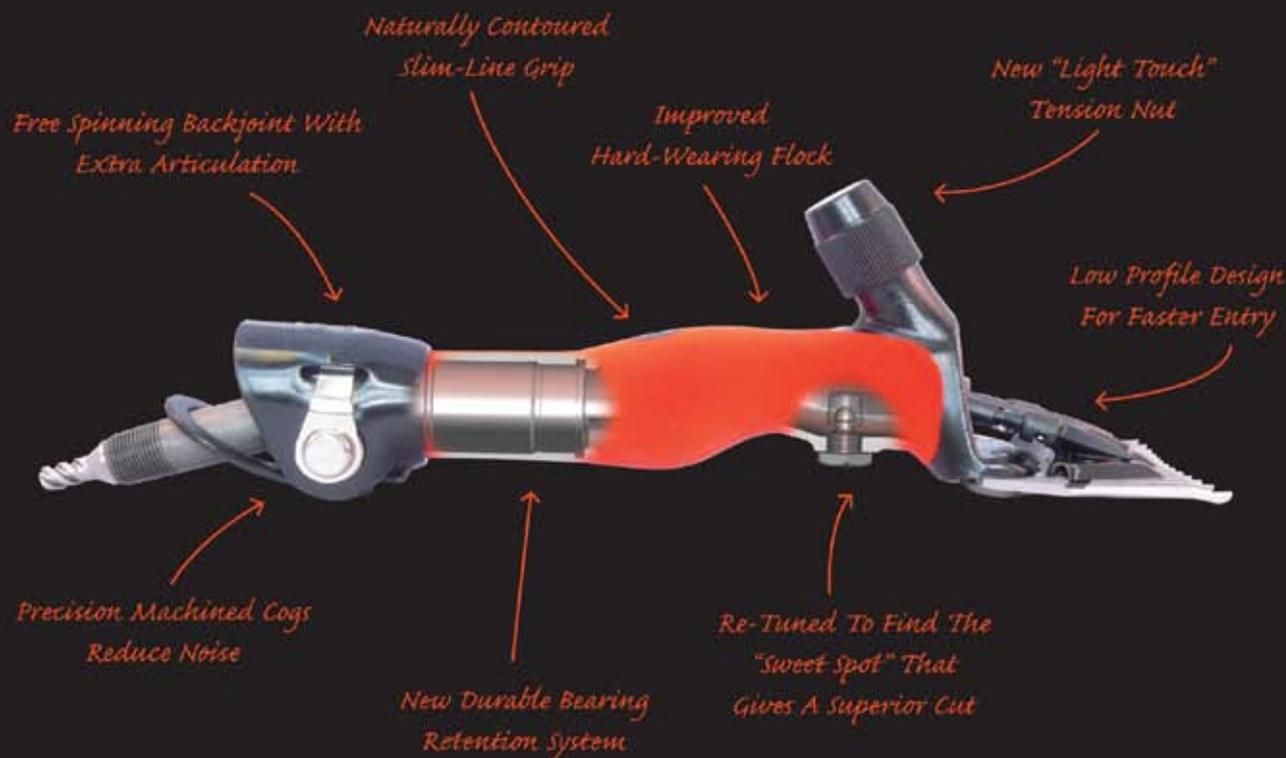
Hilary also described the problem of distance in USA and Canada – his plane has a range of 1600km including reserve tank. From Calgary that year he intended flying to his next competition at Quebec – a mere 3700 kms.

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Above: Kiwi mahi in Aussie: Barbara Newton caught up with these hard-working blokes at Bally Glunin Park, near Hamilton, Victoria, last month: top left, Kevin Johnston, (formerly of North Otago) setting up his gear; top right, Sam Kerr, the very essence of concentration and multi-tasking; above: George Hura, Sam Kerr and Kevin Johnston (combined age 186 years!) hard out, mid-run at Bally Glunin. Opposite: (different shed) Tini Hiroti, formerly of Wedderburn, Central Otago. Centre: Sarah Kerr, formerly of Kurow.



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