

# Shearing

*Promoting our industry, sport and people*

Number 85: Vol 30, No 2, August 2014  
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*World champions new and old. Rowland Smith of New Zealand (left) with the silver salver he's just wrested from defending champion, Gavin Mutch of Scotland. Gorey, Ireland, 25 May 2014.*



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# RIP PAUL KELLY

1961- 2014



**Heiniger**

This page is dedicated to the memory of Paul Kelly and the legacy he has left behind for the NZ Shearing Industry and the Heiniger New Zealand Company.

Paul took his last catch on the 13th of August 2014 and our hearts go out to his wife Barbara and her Family for their loss of this truly dedicated Industry Man.

His achievements over the 14 years he was with the Heiniger Company and prior - are many.

They encompassed many successful world shearing records / grooming of World Champions and dedicated training and mentoring of Young Shearing Industry people.

Paul will be sadly missed by us all and we celebrate the memory of this truly amazing Husband, Mate and Colleague.

In the way that only Paul could put it – "Is best we all get on with it."

*"We all Die. The goal is not to live forever, the goal is to create something that will."*  
Ernest Hemingway



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**Photo credits:** p6 Heiniger; p8 Clive Dalton; p10 Lydia Hill; p11 (1965) Golden Shears; p13 Primary ITO; p14/16 Bernie Walker; p17 Bill Chapman; p17 Barbara Newton; p18 Alun Williams; p23 Tectra; p27 (top) Nita Knowles; p27 Philip Oldfield; p28 Jack Fagan; p30 Olga Kuti; p32 Lorrene Te Kanawa; p35 Kana family; p38 Arthur Rundle. All others *Shearing* magazine/Last Side Publishing.

**Next edition due 20 November 2014.**  
**Deadline for all material**  
**two weeks prior.**

## UNDER COVER STORY

Greetings readers, and welcome to the August 2014 edition of your magazine. Seems we've had a busy old time of it since we last went to print in April – a time dominated by the world championships in Ireland during May (and some “tourist activity” associated with that).

We give the world champs plenty of coverage here, both in words and in pictures, especially noting the achievements of Rowland Smith, Mayenzeke Shweni and Hilary Bond with their individual triumphs in machine shearing, blade shearing and woolhandling, respectively. While the New Zealand team no doubt hoped to return home with more than just one title, it was pleasing from a more altruistic view to see the ribbons shared around, with only South Africa managing two (individual and teams' blades).

We are pleased to bring to these pages possibly the longest story ever published in the magazine – a retrospective by Palmerston North's Alan Barker on his long involvement with our industry. We trace a journey from shepherd to high-seas war-time sailor, to part time shearer, full time shearer, contractor, New Zealand Wool Board instructor, overseas instructor, show commentator and (latterly) gear fixer-upper! A most entertaining read of a life where lazy days have not often featured!

Unfortunately we again have to record the passing of some popular people who have served our industry well – Aria's Barbara Marsh; Lance Kana from Te Kuiti; Neil Sadler from the West Coast, as well as Ireland's blade shearing identity, Ger Heraty, and England's Sir John Colfox, who was instrumental in the origins of Golden Shears at Royal Bath & West (Shepton Mallet) in 1964, the first world championships at that same venue in 1977, and establishment of the Golden Shears World Council (world championships governing body) in 1980.

New developments in the world of shearer and woolhandling training continue to evolve, with Primary ITO and Tectra both explaining in these pages that it's business as usual (or business under way at least, in the ITO's case).

And looking ahead, there's a farmer vote coming up in October on reinstating the wool levy – popular predictions suggest it will get the thumbs up, though whether with any direct benefit to our industry (training resources, for example) remains to be seen.

Meantime, November is not far away, keep safe and we'll see you then.

*Ka kite ano*  
*Des Williams (editor)*

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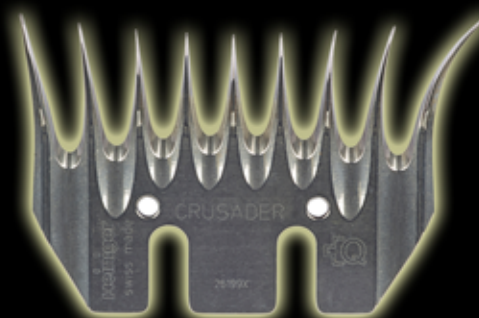


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# Roly head and shoulders above the rest

By Des Williams

A dream come true – that's how Rowland (Roly) Smith described his winning of the world championship at the town of Gorey in the Republic of Ireland on 25 May 2014.

While there were five other shearers hell bent on making their own dreams come true, in the end, the best shearer of crossbred sheep in the world won the title, and did so with three points and some decimal places to spare.

The finals lineup was all but perfect – two Kiwis (Smith and Kirkpatrick), the defending champion (Gavin Mutch), a known pace maker (Hamish Mitchell), a “darkish horse” (Gareth Daniel) and an Aussie – the great fine wool man and two times [2000, 2005] world champion, Shannon Warnest.

The “all but perfect” line up would have been perfect had it included host country favourite, Ivan Scott, who was the unlucky next in, missing out by a third of a point. Scott had taken a long, long time to sort his semi-finals pen, called for the referee to have a sheep rejected but was not granted his wish.

And then, after leading Mitchell for the first three of his 10-sheep semi, Scott fell behind by about 12 seconds on his fourth – perhaps the one (with so much at stake) he considered unworthy of being in a world championship semi-final. It proved to be a deficit that Scott, winner of the Connacht Shears the previous week, and well known to New Zealanders as a possessor of world record pace, could not recover.

But all that was already consigned to distant memory when the top six were welcomed onto the board in world heavyweight boxing commentary style – *Gaaavviiiinnnn Muuuutthhhhh!* (not sure that it was completely necessary!), and amid predictions that we were about to witness a “bust up in the big top” and we would see “some fluff flying” as well as some shearing!

And fluff flying it was, with Mitchell dropping his first sheep out in 36 seconds; Mutch, Smith and Daniel not a mile behind, but Kirkpatrick already 12 seconds off the pace. Mitchell – all blazing energy (“wind-milling his way down the last side”, as one commentator noted) never relinquished his lead – averaging a sheep down the chute every 45.75 seconds. Mutch and

Smith chased hard all the way, the former getting within a blow or two of the lead at one stage before drifting back, and Daniel would come with a late run at the end.

But who, meantime, was doing the business? Keeping track of the speed stakes was easy enough, and with the overhead screen revealing through board penalties that no one was going back to shear the same area twice (only Daniel had crept out to more than 2 at the end), the question remained, what was happening out the back? They'd be a bit rough, maybe? (Logic being if they weren't getting unduly pinged by the board judges, there would be some wool left on for the outside judges to penalise. The reverse logic being higher board points an indicator of tidier sheep outside.)

And so the patriotic mind goes into mental maths overdrive – Mitchell, as usual, fast and furious and prepared to concede a few points out the back. He's finished 40 seconds ahead of Rowland Smith so if he (Mitchell) is going for 12s out the back, the tall one has to be shearing less than 10s to come out on top. (Distinctly possible, given the quality of those two Golden Shears opens and New Zealand championships on his CV.) But Mutch and Daniel also had useful time advantages over Smith – could one of them sneak through the middle, as they say? One also hoped for Johnny's chances – his third crack at the world title, and surely his last, you would imagine.

So starts the nervous wait – the results won't be known for at least an hour and a half (based on experience of Gorey 1998 and Scotland 2003). You start listening to conversations all around you: “That's the absolute best I have ever seen Hamish Mitchell shear,” says one highly respected Scottish judge from the spectators' seats. “Gareth might go close, he had a bloody good shear from what I could see,” a Welsh supporter chips in. “Johnny was a whole minute behind Mitchell and 20 seconds behind Roly – that might be too much for him to make up.” [Make up on who, you ask yourself – Hamish or Roly ... or both?]

The second-guessing goes on for the next hour and a quarter – none of it helpful! But finally the announcements

are made, from sixth place to first. (An illogical practice, in this writer's opinion. Always start your story as close to the end as possible – that's a well worn rule of journalism that would also fit the bill here. We want to know who wins, not who comes sixth.)

But here we go ... sixth (Warnest), fifth (Kirkpatrick), fourth (Daniel), third (Mitchell), second (Mutch). So that leaves Smith, standing all alone in first place. Perhaps, on reflection, this reverse order makes sense after all – that three points plus margin of victory suggests “daylight” might have been second, even if daylight was in the form of the defending champion.



*When Rowland Smith holds a trophy on high he gives new meaning to “high”. The world champion's silver salver held aloft on this occasion came into his possession after a titanic struggle against an Aussie, a Kiwi and three United Kingdom shearers at Gorey, Ireland, in May. The true measure of his right to the crown is reflected in the three-points plus margin of his victory. A victory dedicated to Paul Kelly, his mentor back in New Zealand.*



The Switzerland-based Heiniger team congratulates Rowland Smith (second right) on his world championship victory. From left: Ludovit Tokar (research & development manager), Daniel Heiniger (managing director), Daniel Stockli (chief technical officer).

### The other spoils shared around

Five of the 27 countries attending the 16th world championships won titles – an unprecedented “spreading of the prizes” which must surely boost the sport on the international scale.

Scotland won the world teams machine shearing final (emulating their success at Masterton in 1996); South African retained both the individual and teams titles in blades shearing; Hilary Bond of England won the world woolhandling title from Ronnie Goss of New Zealand and the highly capable Jonathan Haakull of Norway, while Wales well and truly broke New Zealand’s dominance in the woolhandling teams’ event with an 80-point margin of superiority.

Returning to the world blade shearing stage after an absence of some 22 years, the 1992 champion Tony Dobbs gave early notice that his skills had not diminished with the passing years. Indeed, he was good enough to top

the qualifying first round ahead of the legendary Zweliwile Hans of South Africa, and his team mate Mayenzeke Schweni, with New Zealand’s Brian Thomson also in the top four.

The batting order changed somewhat after the second round and semis as the Africans found their form in both speed and quality, after which everyone else, Kiwis included, were chasing third place. And though Shweni was a minute behind Hans in the final, his delight in victory was there for all to see. As was Hans’ obvious magnanimity in defeat.

### Woolhandling

When Ronnie Goss had completed processing and rolling all her fleeces in the world final, the overhead screen in the Dome indicated she had a 19-point advantage over Hilary Bond. Kiwis in the audience held high expectations that she would retain that lead in the final analysis and come home with the



The four-legged supporting actors in the wide-screen panorama that was the world championships at Gorey. Top: a shorn sheep awaiting scrutiny from the judge, while below: “That wasn’t as baa aaa aad as I thought it was going to be!”

world crown. Especially considering the minimal preparation required on British fleeces compared to a typical New Zealand woolhandling final.

Hilary’s greater experience in rolling fleeces British-style allowed her to turn the 19-point deficit into a 26-point victory. There’s much more to it than meets the casual observer’s eye, says New Zealand’s woolhandling judge, Libby Alabaster.

“In the end Hilary’s greater experience in getting those roll ups just right proved to be the difference for her.”

(See Tom Harding’s report page 15)

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## Results 16th Golden Shears World Championships, Gorey, Ireland, 25 May 2014

### Machine shearing:

Individual final (20 sheep): Rowland Smith (New Zealand) 15min 55.517sec, 58.926pts, 1; Gavin Mutch (Scotland) 15min 47.331sec, 62.067pts, 2; Hamish Mitchell (Scotland) 15min 15.497sec, 62.525pts, 3; Gareth Daniel (Wales) 15min 42.966sec, 62.648pts, 4; John Kirkpatrick (New Zealand) 16min 16.483sec, 63.024pts, 5; Shannon Warnest (Australia) 17min 6.006sec, 64.2pts, 6.

Teams final (16 sheep): Scotland (Gavin Mutch/Hamish Mitchell) 13min 33.227sec, 54.786pts, 1; Wales (Gareth Daniel/Richard Jones) 14min 26.214sec, 55.061pts, 2; New Zealand (John Kirkpatrick/Rowland Smith) 13min 50.613sec, 55.281pts, 3; Ireland (Ivan Scott/Tom Kennedy) 14min 29.437sec, 55.281pts, 4; Australia (Shannon Warnest/Jason Wingfield) 14min 52.6sec, 62.068pts, 5; Northern Ireland (Jack Robinson/Ian Montgomery) 15min 55.377sec, 62.068pts, 6.

### Woolhandling:

Individual final (8 fleeces): Hilary Bond (England) 177.4pts, 1; Ronnie Goss (New Zealand) 203.2pts, 2; Jonathan Haakull (Norway) 217.6pts, 3; Leanne Bertram (Scotland) 4; Aled Jones (Wales) 5; Meinir Evans (Wales) 6.

Teams (8 fleeces): Wales (Meinir Evans/Aled Jones) 167.4pts, 1; New Zealand (Joel Henare/Ronnie Goss) 246.2pts, 2; Scotland (Leanne Bertram/Kirsty Donald) 300.6pts, 3.

### Blade shearing:

Individual final (7 sheep): Mayenzeke Shweni (South Africa) 17min 21.243sec, 61.205pts, 1; Zweliwile Hans (South Africa) 16min 24.204sec, 85.782pts, 2; Tony Dobbs (New Zealand) 17min 36.08sec, 89.09pts, 3; Brian Thomson (New Zealand) 18min 48.446sec, 94.137pts, 4; Elfed Jackson (Wales) 20min 19.788sec, 113.989pts, 5; George Mudge (England) 23min 14.723sec, 124.593pts, 6.

Teams final (6 sheep): South Africa (Zweliwile Hans/Mayenzeke Shweni) 16min 31.794sec, 82.09pts, 1; New Zealand (Tony Dobbs/Brian Thomson) 16min 43.33sec, 87.667pts, 2; Australia (John Dalla/Ken French) 16min 38.112sec, 99.906pts, 3; Wales (Elfed Jackson/Gareth Owen) 19min 2.714sec, 103.969pts, 4; Ireland (Peter Heraty/Seamus Joyce) 21min 1.223sec, 120.061pts, 5; England (George Mudge/Andrew Wear) 24min 29.685sec, 124.484pts, 6.



*Margaret Cashman of Novartis (a major sponsor at the world championships) with South African blade duo Mayanzeke Shweni and Zwilewile Hans - first and second in the individual blades and winner of the teams' event.*



*John Kirkpatrick and Joel Henare, All-Nations shearing and woolhandling champions, respectively.*



*Meinir Evans (Wales) in the world teams' woolhandling*



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Photo opposite: "It's Sunday morning, 16 March 2014, the whanau around Milton is slowly awakening. There's an exciting event ready to unfold. We are fund-raising for the Milton Kindy in South Otago to raise money for the little kids' water filter. Robbie Tai is picking us up in a Jason Davis shearing van so we can all head up to Lo-De-Bar Station, owned by Jeff, Debra and Tim Howie. Today is a day of whanau aroha for the next generation. Thank you for all your effort and time to those who participated." (Nita Knowles)  
Back left: Robbie Tai, Jeff Howie, Reihana Knowles, Jacob Wallace, Tim Howie, Mane Whiu. Front left: Bu, Neats, Rheese Kidwell (with Jazz), Sarah Te Wao, Diane Tai.



Participants in a blade shearing course conducted by Geraldine's Phil Oldfield at the Heraty Farm, near Owenwee, County Mayo Ireland, on 15 May 2014. Back left: Martin Hopkins, Michael Baynes, Seamus Joyce, John Grady, Kevin Heraty, Jo McEvily. Front left: Dean Kerrigan, Padraig Kerrigan, Adrian Joyce, James Hopkins, Peter Heraty, Eddie Fadian.



As a warm up for the blade shearing course at the Heraty property (picture opposite) Phil Oldfield (instructor) and Peter Heraty (Ireland representative) climbed holy mountain Croagh Patrick to enjoy the view of majestic Clew Bay in the background (said to have 365 islands in its waters).

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## Games to showcase rural sports

The inaugural New Zealand Rural Games to be held at Queenstown on 7-8 February 2015 will feature rural sports such as wood chopping, sheep shearing, sheep dog trials, gumboot throwing, gold panning, speed milking and coal shovelling, as well as Highland Games and a festival programme of live music and entertainment.

The Games will be managed by the non-profit New Zealand Rural Sports Trust, established in 2014. The Trust's board features respected New Zealand professionals including former All Black Sir Brian Lochore and former Dairy Woman of the Year, Barbara Kuriger as well as other representatives from the rural and commercial sector, including shearing icon David Fagan.

New Zealand Rural Games founder and trustee, Steve Hollander said the strong support he's received from sponsors (including Toyota, Wild Buck and Placemakers) reflects the significant contribution made by the rural sector to both New Zealand's economy and national character.



*There are many examples of rural sports such as shearing and chopping ('timbersports') getting together at the same venue – New Zealand championships, Taranaki Shears and the above occasion, several years ago at Te Puke, where David Fagan and Dig Balme enjoyed some match racing against Jason Wynyard (left) and (the late) David Bolstad.*



*Mike Bool gang at Albury. Top left: Malcolm Boyne, Peter Corder. Middle left: Sarah Stark, Neil Straun (El Capitan), Tim Sugrue, Jamie McKeown, Fern Ormond (holding Chevy the dog). Front left: Toni Fenton, Callum Marshall (Henry), Lavenda Collins, Eli Peeti, Tracy Bool, Justin Woodrow (Woody), Terry Mulcahy (Classer)*

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# Dealing with the Big 'D'

By Des Williams

There's a DVD on which "The Boss" Bruce Springsteen sings some of his better known songs. He then chats to his audience about where and why and how the song was written, what the words or the underlying messages might mean, and other stories associated with that particular episode in his creative life.

A bloke in the audience takes advantage of Q&A time to tell Bruce that he's been listening to his songs for years, that so many of them seem like he is "baring his soul" and because of that, "I feel like I know you. Do I know you?"

Bruce laughs and says, "No!" It's a good question, drawing an emphatic, straight answer.

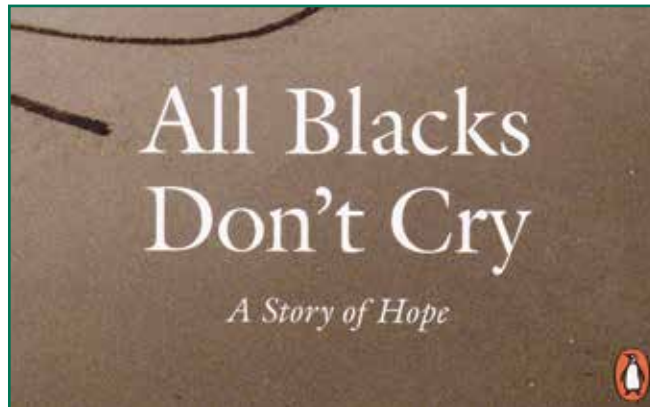
Let's now do a shimmy hard left: When you pick up a newspaper and read (or hear on TV news) that someone has shot 200 sheep on a North Otago farm, you may well ask yourself out loud, "what lunatic could do such a thing?" If you're in a charitable frame of mind you might concede that shooting one or two could be the act of some inebriated twit with a rifle in the wrong place at the wrong time, "just having some fun". But 200? Or even five, six, or a dozen? Surely that sort of "joke" would wear off pretty quickly.

Because there were sheep involved in this recent (June 2014) incident, the gross callousness is brought right into our own back yards. You can no doubt think of other inexplicable incidents that made you wonder at the sanity of the perpetrators.

So what's my link between Springsteen's emphatic "No" (you don't know me) and the person or persons who dealt to a farmer's sheep in some remote farm gully? Someone must know the gunman or gunmen. But how well do they know them? If it turned out to be your best friend, would you believe they could have done such a thing? In a similar vein, have you ever had a friend commit suicide and then have to admit to yourself that you never saw it coming? It's a hard admission to have to make.

And the culprit/s who did the shooting in our sheep example – how much self control do you need to be able to hide such a dark secret, even from your best friends?

This rambling introduction is all about Depression, folks – the Big D. Would we realise it if our best friend was suffering from it? While some keep it their dark secret others go to the other extreme – producing acts of random behaviour to seek attention. We are not trying to solve crimes on behalf



of the New Zealand Police here, but just maybe our shooter is someone trying to come to terms with that very problem.

Noted "former All Black" Sir John Kirwan has been through it all, has written a most revealing book entitled *All Blacks Don't Cry* (Penguin Books 2010) and become a "front man" for the disorder. Twenty years ago, if you'd heard JK talking about the Big D, chances are he'd have been referring to the defensive qualities of his beloved All Blacks or Auckland rugby teams.

That such an iconic figure living (outwardly) the good and successful live could (inwardly) be lost and lonely at the other end of the spectrum tells us that Depression plays no favourites on whom it chooses to descend.

Part of the strategy for keeping the Big D at bay is to recognise the warning signs. Kirwan fronts a website that invites you to test yourself with nine questions relating to how you've been feeling over the past two weeks:

- I have little interest in doing the things I usually enjoy
- I have felt down, depressed or hopeless
- I have had trouble falling or staying asleep, or have been sleeping too much
- I have felt tired or have little energy
- I have had a poor appetite, or have been eating more than usual
- I have felt bad about myself, felt like I am a failure or let down myself or my family
- I have had trouble concentrating on things like reading newspapers or watching TV
- I have been moving or speaking slowly, or been fidgety and moving around more than usual
- I have had thoughts I'd be better off dead or that I should hurt myself in some way.

The tick box options invite you to answer each question with one of the following: "not at all"; "for several days"; "for more than half the days"; or "nearly every day". Using your answers, the site then gives you a rating that indicates whether things are okay or whether you might benefit from talking to someone and seeking some help. The Depression Helpline is available on 0800 111 757.

Psychologists, doctors and all other experts on the subject will attest that reaching for the phone is not a sign of weakness. Rather, a sign of strength. An indication that you might be getting to know yourself at least as well as the bloke who [thought he] knew Bruce Springsteen!



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# Barbara Marsh obituary

It's often said there must be something about the air in the small King Country settlement of Aria for it to have produced so many great shearers.

Barbara Ratima Marsh, who died on 1 May 2014 aged 71, was one of those great King Country shearers – industrious and immensely competitive. Marsh, who first sheared at the Golden Shears in 1964, was in the same Aria primary school class as Brian (Snow) Quinn and Tom Brough who, in turn, followed in the footsteps of earlier King Country legends Charlie Taylor, Joe Te Kapa and Norm Stockman.

The youngest of seven Ratima children, Barbara was born and raised on a farm near Aria. From a young age she was milking cows by hand and undertaking general stock work on her parent's farm. She was exposed to shearing at a young age in a district where the name Ratima is synonymous with hard work and her family shearing business.

Not content to just shear and do farm work, from the 1970s Marsh would work as an Aria telephone operator on the midnight to 6am shift, have her breakfast and then travel to wherever husband, Toby was shearing and take a stand, shearing from 8am through to 5pm.

When the Aria Exchange was automated and closed in the late 1970s, Marsh was first moved to Piopio then to the Te Kuiti Exchange before operator exchanges were closed and led to her Post Office redundancy in the early 1990s.

Marsh acknowledged Charlie Marshall as the main influence in teaching her to shear. Encouragement to shear in competitions was attributed to another King Country legend and contractor, Mate Simon and his wife, Marg. Marsh's legacy to shearing was an impeccable outside job, a clean and precise pattern, not fast or flashy. A Golden Shears Intermediate finalist in 1978, Marsh's shearing career spanned from 1959 – 1990. She was the first Golden Shears Women's Champion at the 1980 World Championships and the only veteran woman to shear at the 50th Jubilee in 2010. In the 1970s Marsh also shored in two World Women's team shearing



*Barbara Marsh during her last visit to Golden Shears, 2012.*

records alongside her good friend, the first woman open shearer, Pam Herlihy (Awakino).

In the 90s Marsh continued to use her shearing skills at the Waitomo Rabbit Shed shearing rabbits' for visitors. In 2012 aged 69, Marsh shored in her last speed shear prior to the Aria sports day, at the 'local', the Aria Cosmopolitan Club.

Outside of shearing Marsh made a significant contribution to her marae and hapu development and was founding member of Mokau ki Runga Regional Management Committee (RMC). Marsh leaves a significant legacy in environmental management of their streams and rivers.

Her work encouraged the use and monitoring of fish passages on the Wairere and Mokauiti hydro dams to ensure eels could migrate safely to sea to spawn and the returning elvers and other fish species could migrate back up the dams.

Her later work with the Mokau Ki Runga RMC and her willingness to stand the line for what she believed in, to work for the protection of the environment for future generations, was not always popular. But Marsh was nothing if not staunch: in her commitment to effective and efficient land/water management even when in the face of open opposition to the RMC proposals. Marsh was not one to suffer fools gladly but was always

fiercely loyal to her whanau and what she believed in.

On 1 June 2012 Barbara suffered a stroke that affected the left side of her body. This was highly frustrating for her as she had always been so active, still pig hunting in her late sixties.

Stories from her tangi recalled the imposing tall and feminine figure, her colourful dresses, huge smile, the trademark red lipstick, an elegance on and off the shearing board, her enormous work ethic and marquee "pink sheep". One wit pointed out that "the only thing missing when she was shearing was lipstick on the sheep to go with its perfectly pink shorn body!"

Barbara Marsh influenced many young women and men in the shearing industry over her fifty year career. To many women shearers she was simply our kuia, our matriarch, and Auntie.

Barbara is survived by her daughter, Anne Lemieux and her mokopuna/ grand-children and one great-grand-child.

*Contributors: Jills Angus Burney; Anne Lemieux; with content from Hazel Riseborough (Shear Hard Work, Auckland University Press 2010); and Doug Laing (Shear History, Fraser Books 2010).*

\*\*\*\*\*



*New staff at Heiniger NZ's Christchurch base: left: Karen Easterbrook (sales coordinator / QA supervisor); Karen has returned to Heiniger after an eight year absence, having previously worked five years for the company. Centre: Sam Johnston (warehouse supervisor / service technician). Right: Heather Drewett (sales receptionist / warehouse assistant).*



# Primary ITO is bringing wool industry training to the coalface



## WOOL QUALIFICATIONS

## LEVEL

Wool Harvesting – Entry	2			
Junior Shearer	2			
Machine Shearing Crossbred Wool		3		
Machine Shearing Fine Wool		3		
Wool Handler		3		
Wool Pressing		3		
Machine Shearing Crossbred Wool			4	
Machine Shearing Fine Wool			4	
Wool Handler			4	

## MANAGEMENT LEVEL

Rural Staff Management			3	
Agribusiness Diploma				5
Train the Trainer				Across all levels

Primary ITO, the industry training organisation for the primary industries, is bringing learning to the woolshed with the launch of a brand new on-job training model.

## Primary ITO – who are we?

We've been helping people to upskill since the Cadet schemes began in 1964. The Cadet Scheme built on the Wool Board training which began when Godfrey and Ivan Bowen worked out a more efficient way to shear sheep in the 1950s. We've built on the Bowen way and the New Zealand Wool Board's shearing and woolhandling seal.

Primary ITO training is subsidised by industry and government.

## Training models

On job training is practical, hands-on training delivered in the woolshed. Your team will earn while they learn. They won't have to take time off work to attend off job training classes – helping to increase the productivity and profitability of your business.

\*The existing off job training model will remain or the two models can be combined. Only AgExcel endorsed providers, trainers and assessors can deliver wool training.

## Introducing your Primary ITO wool training advisers



### Bonnie Fogarty – North Island: Top half

"I'm very passionate about shearing, its people, gaining qualifications and grasping more knowledge about something you really love."



### Aria Mullins – North Island: Lower half

"I'm excited to be on board with Primary ITO to help you achieve better business and better careers."



### Vanessa McAlister – South Island: Top half

"I absolutely love the challenge and the hard work of the shearing industry. I look forward to meeting you and supporting you to reach your business goals."



### Gina Malcolm – South Island: Lower half

"I was shown a pathway to success fifteen years ago, and I would like to help others in the industry set themselves on the path to success too."

**For more information call us on 0800 20 80 20 or visit [www.primaryito.ac.nz](http://www.primaryito.ac.nz)**



## Primary ITO Training Underway

In May, Primary ITO facilitated its first shearing workshop, thereby heralding the ITO's move back into wool sector training. Primary ITO wool training adviser Aria Mullins says it was a full on day of training at Brownrigg Agricultural Farm in the Hawke's Bay – from gear set-up, to a grinding session, to shearing lambs. The 17 trainees hailed from across the Hawke's Bay region to attend the one-day workshop.

Three Woolshed Systems tutors instructed and mentored the trainees throughout the training session, which gave the trainees a good spread of expertise across the range of shearing skills. Woolshed Systems have been appointed as the official training provider for Primary ITO wool sector training in the North Island.

Peter Chilcott is a Woolshed Systems tutor, and was there on the day. He has been in the shearing industry for almost 17 years and is passionate about teaching and the job satisfaction that it brings.

"When I drive around the countryside I see sheep and I know that they're shorn averagely! I want to change that and give shearers the skills they need to shear a sheep correctly, as well as efficiently. I love that moment when you're teaching someone, and then you can just see it 'click'. They get a smile on their face and that's priceless to me," Peter says.

Aria also enjoys the positive feedback she receives.

"I got feedback from the trainees at the first Hawke's Bay workshop that they really loved it and learned heaps. They managed to cover all the basics in one day, without everyone leaving with that 'information overload' feeling that you can sometimes get after a course. There was even one young man who had never shorn a sheep before, so that was an exciting accomplishment for him," Aria says.

From 1 April 2014, Primary ITO took back the contract to provide training to people in the wool harvesting industry. As part of the move back into the sector, Primary ITO is bringing learning to the woolshed with the launch of a new on-job training model as well as the continuation of off-job training workshops.

On-job training is practical, hands-on learning delivered in the workplace – to fit around the work day and work. Trainees earn while they learn and don't have to take time off work to attend classes. This also means increased productivity and profitability for businesses.

The existing off-job training model will remain, or the two models can be combined for the ultimate flexibility in training. So whether contractors want their team of shearers, woolhandlers and pressers to learn on-job, off-job or a blend of the two, Primary ITO can tailor a customised training programme that's the right fit for any shearing business. Primary ITO also offers management training to help shearing contractors themselves build their business knowledge and expertise.

For more information about Primary ITO's wool industry training, call 0800 20 80 20 to speak to an expert wool training adviser or visit <http://www.primaryito.ac.nz/qualifications/wool-harvesting-training>.



Primary ITO's on-job training at Brownrigg

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## Another Diamond for Dave

Despite the very serious drought currently devastating the district, with only 50 mm (2") of rain recorded to the end of June this year, Longreach in central-western Queensland held another successful Diamond Shears in mid-July.

A previous winner of the open event, Dave Grant, chairman of the organising committee and world wether shearing record holder, managed to fend off Tony Coster from Rakaia (South Canterbury, New Zealand) by less than a point to secure his second \$2000 diamond and other prizes. Jovan Taiki was third a further point away and Grant Smith, also from Rakaia, fourth.

With New Zealand training organisation Tectra taking over shearer and woolhandler training in Queensland, a Canterbury-Queensland challenge match has now been established. Well-performed New Zealand fine wool shearers Smith and Coster successfully challenged Longreach shearers Dave Grant and James Ferguson, winning by 9.24 points. A return match between the same teams is planned for the Canterbury Shears at Christchurch Show on 13-14 November 2014.

Excellent Dohne sheep provided by John and Joanne Milne from their 'Loongana' station flock allowed all competitors to maintain a very high standard. In other events, Nardi Thompson won the open woolhandling from Holly Whakarau, whilst the senior shearing was won by Khan Wakefield, with Russell Ratima second.

Speaking after the presentations, Dave Grant said he couldn't see sheep numbers improving until the drought breaks and the proposed regional wild dog exclusion fence has been built. One consequence of the drought is the number of emus wandering the streets of Longreach, seeking food. (Bernie Walker)



*Diamond Shears champion, Dave Grant.*

## Perfectly Normal

Physchiatrist: 'Good morning Sir, how can I help you'?

Patient: "Well, I keep thinking that I'm Tom Jones and I'm always singing those old hit songs from the 1960s, like *What's new Pussycat*, *Delilah*, *She's a lady*, and the *Green green grass of home*. Is that really weird, or what?"

Physchiatrist: Oh no, *It's not unusual.*

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# Hilary on top of the world

By Tom Harding

Hilary Bond claimed England's first ever Golden Shears world title when she won the individual woolhandling at Ireland's world championships in May.

Hilary, a 32 year old sheep, beef and dairy farmer from Bovey Tracey in Devon, achieved a lifelong dream by winning the title at her sixth attempt, having previously represented England at world championships in New Zealand, Wales, Norway, Australia and Scotland.

Hilary first learned the skill of wool handling at home on the traditional family farm.

"My dad and my sister sheared the sheep, so someone had to pick the wool up after them!", as she told BBC Radio 4's *Farming Today* programme. Her sister, Rosemarie, soon saw a local woolhandling competition advertised and said, "You should enter that!"

It was the Devon County Show's first ever open woolhandling competition in 2003, and achieving second place at her first ever attempt gave her the bug for life. It also threw her in rather at the deep end, qualifying her to represent her country for the first time at the world championships in Scotland less than two months later!

"I ended up 11th in my first world championships," Hilary said. "I was really disappointed – I had set myself the goal of being in the top ten, as someone said they would have their names in the New Zealand *Shearing* magazine!"

She was however, by now hooked on competitive wool

handling, although often having to miss shows due to the pressure of the family farm.

As well as rolling her own fleeces at home, Hilary started to get more commercial woolhandling practice, working for local shearing contractors including her cousins, Richard and David, and also Adrian Mills. This gave her more experience of working under pressure and with different breeds of sheep and types of fleece.

Things got off to a good start for Hilary in Ireland when she came third in the All Nations open championship, and comfortably qualified to the next round of the Golden Shears. She top-qualified into the final and then went on to be crowned world champion, gaining most of her points from the outside judging.

"It felt like I was on top of the world when I won," she says. "Everybody seemed so pleased for me that I had won, especially the whole English team."

"I had a lot of help from the Australian girls, and I must also thank my board buddy for the final, Leanne Bertram from Scotland. I must also give special thanks to my England team manager Steven Lloyd, and his wife Anne, who both went way above the call of duty."

Steven said he was very proud to be English team manager in Gorey, Ireland when Hilary achieved one of the greatest moments in English shearing and woolhandling history.

"Her dedication and commitment to woolhandling and willingness to help others is a tribute to the person she is."

Hilary is also grateful for the support of her England team mate, Rachel Lumley (the pair came 5th in the team's woolhandling), and friends George and Anne Mudge. George also made both the individual and teams world finals for England in the blade shearing.

Winning the Royal Welsh Show is one of Hilary's main ambitions now, having come 2nd there three times, and she also hopes to qualify for the next world championships, at Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2017.



"Ronnie, you were 19 points ahead of me with your board work and yet I beat you by 26 points in the end. Did you drop a New Zealand flag into one of your rolled fleeces?" The world's best woolhandlers share a joke on-stage.

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# Simply the best presser

By Bernie Walker

He was the greatest. No one could match the tallies of the best woolpresser ever to work the big manual Ferrier, Warrego and Koertz woolpresses of the Western Queensland sheds. Everyone who worked with him will tell you that, in the words of Tina Turner, he was "simply the best" they ever saw.

Gun woolpresser Bill Chapman was born at Buninyong, near Ballarat, Victoria, in 1931, the fifth child in a family of ten. After he left Ballarat High School, Bill got a job for \$1 per week and keep. He then went rabbiting and "was doing well until the bloody bandicoots put me out of business. They arrived like a plague," Bill recalls.

So he sold his two hundred traps, horse and cart and dogs and got a job as a rouseabout with Chris Mooney, a shearing contractor from Meredith near Ballarat, who had sheds in the Riverina and the Western District of Victoria. This is where he learnt to press wool. Bill eventually went to Queensland where he could press year round.

In his prime in the 1960s, it was said he would not work in a shed with less than 10 stands because there would not be enough wool coming off, but Bill says this is not correct – "a job was a job". Talk to anyone who worked with him in the big sheds of Queensland's Central West, they all have a Chapman story or two. Brian Morrison relates how he was in a team of sixteen shearers at 'Bowen Downs' who



*Bill Chapman, simply the best.*

thought Bill should have an offside. When he told them he didn't need one, they set out to "wool him up" (shear more than he could press) but Bill "knocked them up" and they had to "give up". Over three or four days he pressed over 70 bales each day. Bill says his best effort was 74 bales in a day which he achieved several times, but seemed unable to better it.

John Harris worked with Bill at 'Barcaldine Downs' in 1963 when Bill again pressed for a big team on his own. It was here he became an icon of the industry when he pressed more (bales) than the learner shore (sheep). The learner's name was Keith 'Buddy' Eggleston, who had driven up from South Australia in a Morris Minor. He shored on the stand next to John; 'Tolly' Bowden was rousieing and Geoff Still was the Grazcos rep who later became State Manager. They have

all confirmed this story. According to John, Bill used to come down the board after 5pm, shear a sheep for 'Buddy', then beat the shearers to the showers, which really annoyed them.

Geoff Still says Bill had very long arms and could grab a huge armful of wool. Bill concedes he would spend "as long as he needed" to adjust the press to his satisfaction if he was at a shed he had not worked before. It was not unusual for the woolclassers to be yelling at him to start pressing as the wool piled up but "it was like throwing water at a duck" – he would start when the press was ready, and it was never long before he was waiting for wool.

Bill can remember other impressive figures: he once did 43 bales before midday at 'Strath Darr' Station near Longreach. 'Tallyrand' Station got into trouble with two pressers who couldn't keep up, and pleaded with Bill to come and sort it out. As he was walking up the steps into the shed, he heard a bell ring and asked what it was for. He was told, "To stop the shearers, there is wool everywhere." Bill said, "Well, ring it again, I'm here." He says this was the only time he allowed confidence to get the better of him.

Between 3pm and 10.30pm, to catch up, he pressed 57 bales on a 'Warrego'. One imagines the other two men may have been told to 'shut the gate' on their way out.

Bill relates how stations and contractors were so keen to get him, they would fly him from shed to shed. He says his reputation often preceded him and there would be a crowd, sometimes 30 or 40, gathered to watch him work. There were times when a contractor lost a shed, but the station would insist Bill did the pressing for the new team. (To page 17)

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*Bill Chapman, pressing wool like no other before or since.*

One contractor/woolclasser he worked for, Ritchie Jack, was known as 'Sack'em Jack'. He used to sack Bill every day until Bill told him, "It will take three to replace me, only half a man to replace you, so it would be better if you go."

Bill was described by a young fellow who worked with him, as a big strong man who didn't smoke and was a very light drinker. "A really easy man to work with," he said.

Now eighty-three, Bill lives in the small town of Marmor, about 45km south of Rockhampton, Queensland. While he was still working in the sheds in 1953, aged twenty-two, he bought his first property at Marmor which he named 'Seven Hills'. To develop it he bought a bulldozer to clear prickly pear and scrub. After he cleared the farm he ripped the soil using some of the principles of the 'Keyline' system developed by the late PA Yeomans.

"I read everything he wrote, then adapted it to our country," Bill says. This led to him designing, patenting and manufacturing a ripper boot known as the WASCA. His neighbours watched him and his results closely and were soon begging him to do work for them. Eventually he had several dozers earthmoving and clearing around the district. When their worst paddocks became their best, Bill was flat out coping with the demand but he would still have shearing contractors and station managers pleading with him to come out west to press for them.

When he was 41, Bill was kicked by a pony he had bought for his daughter, which resulted in the loss of a kidney. As a

result he now requires dialysis each week.

Several people also mentioned Bill's poor eyesight which was so weak that if he put down or dropped his glasses he had to get someone to find them for him. But following a successful cataract operation, he was able to work without glasses for the next twenty years. Sadly, he now suffers from early macular degeneration.

Bill Chapman admits to being a perfectionist, whether it be pressing wool, clearing land or chisel ploughing on the contour. Even the bales he pressed had to be the prescribed weight of three hundredweight (330 pounds, 152kg) and he insisted they be placed on their ends in neat rows in the order they were pressed. This was part of his method which made it easy to keep track of his bales, easy to check their number to ensure he hadn't branded two with the same number, or missed one. He says to press big tallies you had to be really organised with exactly the same routine applied to every bale.

Bill Chapman certainly proved his system and set tallies on the big double-box presses unlikely to ever be broken now the hydraulic presses have been introduced.

\* \* \* \* \*



"I don't think Hank [Williams] done it this-a-way," sings the late great Waylon Jennings in one of those famous old songs from the 1970s. And we don't think Bill Chapman done it this-a-way either, wahine ma! But still, Monica and Tia Potae are giving it everything they've got in this Barbara Newton image from the wool pressing championship at Balclutha's Otago champs in February 2014.

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# Alun Williams ends 40 years with Lister

By Des Williams

Alun Williams' 40-year association with Lister Shearing in the United Kingdom came to an end in February 2014 when he retired from his position as managing director. Having joined the company in 1973, Alun looks back on a long career that gave him a great deal of enjoyment and lasting friendships all over the world.

Born and raised on a farm in mid-Wales, Alun says he little knew then how his education and training would help him towards his successful career at Lister: "On leaving school I did a degree in mechanical engineering and on joining Lister as a management trainee I covered all departments and also completed a two-year course for a Diploma in Management Studies. Then I completed a Masters degree in agricultural engineering.

"This background put me in a good position for the future and I began working as designer, in charge of all sheep shearing and animal clipping equipment. New products included Single Speed, Nexus and Nova shearing machines, Laser Shear, Grinders, Air Shear, Concorde and Shogun hand pieces, together with combs and cutters. During this time I had over 30 patents on shearing equipment and clippers."

In 1983 Alun became Chief Designer, responsible for the whole range of field equipment, crop drying, farm feed and sheep shearing and animal clipping equipment. In 1985 however, Lister sold its interests in most of those, leaving just Lister Shearing.

"From my point of view I was lucky as shearing was my first love. In 1990 I was given responsibility for marketing and in this position I became more involved with advertising, sponsorship, agricultural shows and shearing competitions. In 1992 I also became the sales manager. During this time I visited customers, shows and competitions world wide.

Alun explains that Lister Shearing reported to Lister-Petter during this period and as they started having financial problems Lister Shearing suffered. That was the reason why he and David French, then production manager, started to look at a management buyout.



*Lister Shearing's new managing director Mark Grant (left) pays tribute to Alun Williams, who retired in February after 40 years with the Company.*

"In 1998 we purchased the company. David became managing director and I was technical and commercial director. During this period Lister experienced tremendous growth in the USA and the Wahl Clipper Corporation became Lister's largest customer. They were selling Lister animal clippers to give them a full range of clipping products alongside their smaller clippers."

This was very successful and in 2002 Wahl Corporation purchased Lister and Alun became managing director (following David French's retirement) and he remained a shareholder.

An advertisement for two products. The top part features 'TREV'S RATTLE' with five colorful rattle toys (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) hanging from a string. A speech bubble above them says 'Now even better'. The bottom part features 'Sheep Shaker' with a diagram of a sheep and a cartoon dog. A speech bubble from the dog says 'Who left the dogs out?'. Below the diagram is a list of features: 'Hides in your pocket', 'Noisy as', 'Choose your colours', and 'Lasts too long'. At the bottom, it says 'Available from leading farm supply stores' and includes the phone number '0800 Rurtec'.

"Wahl has been a great asset to Lister. It has invested in machinery, helped with markets, purchasing, production, and trained our people in new techniques, etc.

"Lister and Wahl had investigated the purchase of Supershear for some time and in 2010 the assets of Supershear were purchased. This was quite a challenge as we moved most of the equipment to Dursley.

The machines were installed in Dursley without the help of any Supershear personnel as they had been made redundant. It took longer than we planned as we experienced huge problems with machines not working and breaking down after being moved. However the problems were resolved and handpieces, combs, cutters and grinders are now produced.

"The final stage for me was to have a good management team and a new factory. The managers have been recruited and developed over the years into a good team. In fact the new managing director is Mark Grant, who was our business development manager. A new factory was purchased last year. The modifications have been completed and now the new management team is arranging the move. It should be complete by the end of July.

"It has been a great honour to be a grantee of the Royal Warrant of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for over 16 years. Lister have held this honour since 1950. It has also been a privilege to work with many prominent people that use our products. These include Zara Phillips, Nick Skelton and William Fox-Pitt on the clipper side of our business.

I have worked with many shearers but we were all thrilled to work with David Fagan over the past four years. He is a great shearer, has a vast amount of knowledge and knows how to communicate with engineers. Other highlights include sponsoring the world championships, Golden Shears, New Zealand Champs, etc.

"I have had a very enjoyable career and have met a lot of good people and made friends world wide. My family have supported me through all of this and I have been a very lucky man."



# Money, money, money ...

By Gabriela Morrell-Schmidt

What is your immediate financial goal? If someone asked you: "How are you off for money?" would your answer be: "Yup, I'm good, no worries there."

If the answer is likely to be not quite so positive, the following tips might help you to get there.

1 Drug and alcohol abuse costs too much for any budget. Only move on to step number 2 when you have those two things under control.

2 Work out your average weekly income. Ring IRD and ask them for your last two years' of net earnings (from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014). This is your earnings after tax. Now, let's say you are a woolhandler living at the shearing quarters and you earned \$30000 one year and \$28000 the second year. Take the average yearly earning, in our example that would be \$29000 ( $\$30000 + \$28000 = \$58000$ , average = \$29000. Divide that by 52 weeks in a year = \$557.00. That is what you have available each week throughout the year.

3 Work out your weekly expenses. Write everything down you spend for a week. In our example that might be: rent \$90; smokes \$100; alcohol \$100; phone \$20; toiletry, clothes, shoes \$50; petrol \$20 (our woolhandler doesn't have a car but helps out her mate with petrol money); snacks \$50; pub \$80; travels \$23 (\$1200 for the year, divided by 52 weeks); doctor/chiropractor/massage \$20 (\$80 month); unexpected expenses \$20.

That adds up to \$573.00 so our woolhandler is \$16 over budget. Where can you save? Less ciggies, less beer, revise expenditure and bring the budget down below \$557.00. Write it all down!

4 Stick to the budget: If during one busy week you earn \$900, don't spend it all because next week it could rain, you could have a sore back or it is the end of the season and you only earn \$100 for the whole week.

5 If you stick to your budget, then you should have money in the bank to allow for such a week.

6 Open up a second bank account: A savings account without an eftpos card. Save up a minimum of \$3000 in that account and never fall under this amount unless it is an emergency (an emergency is NOT wanting to buy a car or going to a 21st).

If you have \$3000 saved up, you are safe to live without income for 5 weeks.

This allows for a couple of rainy weeks, a week off due to personal circumstances, such as an injury or a death in the family, and a week to get to the new job if the season has come to an end and you need to travel to your next place of employment. If you use up your \$3000 in your savings account, you need to build it back up again as quickly as you can.

7 Work every day available. Reduce the amount of days you need off because if you are hangover, can't be bothered or have a sore back because you ignored early signs and did not tend to it quick enough. Choose your holidays wisely, during a quiet time.

8 Organise your stand a few months out, preferably a year out. This will prevent you losing time between jobs and will ensure you getting the best work available.

9 If you buy a car: Only buy when you have the cash, do not take on debt you cannot afford to pay back on an item that will loose value over time. Buy a reliable car, do not buy a petrol guzzler. You will do big kilometres and cannot afford an expensive to run and expensive to fix car.

10 If you are a shearer or have a family and a house, you need to adjust your budget: You need to allow 10% of your income for shearing gear. You need to write down your expenses in much more detail, such as, rent, power, school costs, etc.

You also need to up the amount of money in your savings account. With a family and rent to pay you may need \$6000-\$10000 to give you at least five weeks of security if you have to go through a period of time without income.

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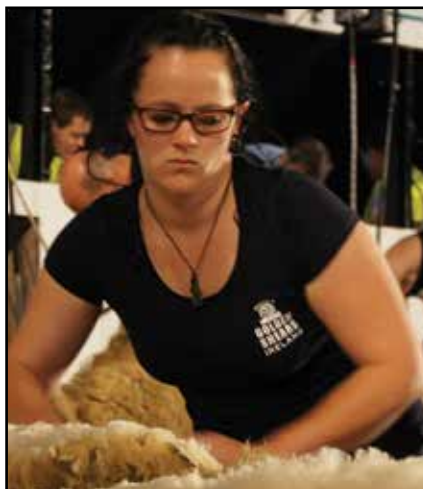
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*Peter Black, the only person from Cosy Nook (population 13) to attend the world championships. "Blackie" was assisting the South African team.*



*France's representative Anne Minot in one of the world woolhandling preliminary rounds at Gorey. She did not qualify for the finals.*



*Leading Irish shearer Collette Deegan with Northern Ireland's shearing judge, Robbie McIlheron.*



*Christophe Riffault of France in the first qualifying heat at the world championships. ("Ladies and gentlemen, Christophe always has to sleep with the light on – not because he's afraid of the dark, but because the dark is afraid of him!" – commentator Norm Harraway.)*



*Phyllis Bolger (All-Ireland champion in 1964, 1968 and 1972) was a keen observer at the world championships in May. She is still the only woman to have won the All-Ireland title.*



*Fourteen-year-old Keiran McDonogh provided mature commentaries during the All-Nations events at Gorey. Keenly following in the footsteps of his father, Peter McDonogh (background).*



*Germany's Stefanie Kauschus chats to Huw Condrion after winning the women's final at Gorey (this was not a world championship event).*



*The world championships commentary team, from left: Huw Condrion (Wales), Dye Clarke (Scotland), Wyn Jones (Wales), Norm Harraway (New Zealand), Peter McDonagh (Ireland), Steve Meredith (Wales). The team came up with some classics during the various events ("Look at that sheep trying to get away from Collette Deegan – why would it want to?") and provided entertaining banter throughout.*



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**Ian Hopkirk** (Southern North Island)

Tel 06 353 2965 or 027 230 6659

**Bill Hale** (East Coast North Island)

Tel 06 843 3187 or 027 492 8979

**Mark Herlihy** (Northern South Island)

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**Chas Tohiariki** (Southern South Island)

Tel 03 234 8762 or 027 246 5538

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**Tina Rimene** (Upper South Island)

Tel 03 314 7048 or 027 702 8269

**Robyne Murray** (Lower South Island) National Classing Manager

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### TECTRA TRAINING COURSES SEP-DEC 2014

### CERTIFICATE IN WOOL TECHNOLOGY

#### North Island

15-18 Sep	Otane (Bill)	Advanced Shearing
15-18 Sep	Whanganui (Ian)	Advanced Shearing
29 Sep/03 Oct	Palm. North (Ian)	Learner Shearing
29 Sep/03 Oct	Taihape (Ian)	Learner Shearing
06 Oct	Napier (Noel)	Pressing Workshop
06-10 Oct	Masterton (Ian)	Learner Shearing
06-10 Oct	Motatau (Dean)	Learner Shearing
20-23 Oct	Motatau (Dean)	Advanced Shearing
20-23 Oct	Kawakawa (Huia)	Wool Handling L2-3
20-23 Oct	Waipukurau (Huia)	Wool Handling L2-3
27-30 Oct	Taihape (Huia)	Wool Handling L2-3
27-30 Oct	Stratford (Huia)	Wool Handling L2-3
27-30 Oct	Taupo (Huia)	Wool Handling L2-3
28-31 Oct	Palm. North (Ian)	Advanced Shearing
03-06 Nov	Piopia (Dean)	Advanced Shearing
10-14 Nov	Taumarunui (Dean)	Learner Shearing
17-20 Nov	Taumarunui (Dean)	Advanced Shearing
24-27 Nov	Taumarunui (Dean)	Advanced Shearing
26-29 Nov	Palm. North (Ian)	Advanced Shearing
15-19 Dec	Feilding (Ian)	Learner Shearing

#### South Island

22-25 Sep	Balclutha (Chas)	Advanced Shearing
13-16 Oct	Cheviot (Mark)	Advanced Shearing
13-17 Oct	Clinton (Chas)	Learner Shearing
14-17 Oct	Alexandra (Robyne)	FW Wool handling L2-3
14-18 Oct	Cheviot (Tina)	Wool handling L2-3
22-23 Oct	Greta Valley (Mark)	Advanced Shearing
03 Nov	TBA (Noel)	Pressing Workshop
04-07 Nov	Rakaia (Tina)	Wool Handling L2-3
10-14 Nov	Washdyke (Mark)	Learner Shearing
10-14 Nov	Mt Hutt (Mark)	Advanced Shearing
17-21 Nov	Nelson (Mark)	Learner Shearing
17-21 Nov	Invercargill (Chas)	Learner Shearing
18-20 Nov	Timaru (Tina)	Wool Handling L4
18-21 Nov	Balclutha (Robyne)	Wool handling L2-3
24-27 Nov	Winton (Chas)	Advanced Shearing
24-28 Nov	Alexandra (Chas)	Learner Shearing
25-28 Nov	Winton (Robyne)	Wool handling L2-3
26-29 Nov	Geraldine (Tina)	Wool handling L2-3
01-05 Dec	Rangiora (Mark)	Learner Shearing
01-05 Dec	Tapanui (Chas)	Learner Shearing
02-05 Dec	Invercargill (Robyne)	Wool Handling L2-3

The Certificate in Wool Technology is an extramural tertiary-level course for people interested in the production, harvesting and preparation of wool. This two-year programme develops the knowledge and skills needed to supervise clip preparation in the shearing shed and to class wool in the shed or store.

**Who should do the course?:** Anyone wanting to understand wool and the wool industry in New Zealand will find the Certificate in Wool Technology extremely valuable. Students come from a wide array of backgrounds - leading wool handlers, farmers, wool brokers and people working in the wool marketing and processing industries have completed this internationally recognized qualification.

**How is the programme run?:** The course is a two-year, part time programme consisting of papers taught extramurally through study guides and assignments. Practical block courses are held in both the North and South Islands and those students who select to do the Wool Classing module undertake considerable in-shed practical work. On successful completion of the certificate you will be offered automatic entry into the NZ Wool Classers Association.

**What's new?:** In response to industry demand, we have developed a Wool Classing Module that will allow leading wool handlers to focus their programme on wool classing. This has a strong practical component that involves trainees working alongside mentors in live-classing situations. This allows you to learn the business alongside industry professionals.

**Aligned to equivalent Australian qualification:** An added benefit for people graduating with the Wool Technology classing qualification is the opportunity to have your classing stencil endorsed in Australia. This requires a short bridging course to get you qualified to class wool in Australia.

**Registration:** Applications for enrolment are open now so don't delay!

**Funding:** Ministry of Social Development student loans are available. Contact StudyLink on 0800 889 900 to discuss your entitlement. You may be entitled to a training incentive allowance from Work and Income New Zealand. Contact your Case Manager to discuss your entitlement.



# Tectra trainee numbers on track

## Supplied

Demand for training in the wool industry is as strong as ever, despite controversy about the delivery of government-funded employee training courses, says Tectra national operations manager Noel Handley.

"We completed 47 shearer and woolhandler training courses between April and July and have another 51 courses scheduled for the rest of the year. We also have 320 Modern Apprentices on our books. So our regional training managers are busy and shearers and woolhandlers are being trained."

He says changes in the delivery of government funded in-job training early in the year unsettled a lot of people. But the up-side was that more people talked about training.

"Our trainee numbers are currently tracking as we would expect for this time of the year."

Handley says that from the point of view of employers and trainees, it's business as usual. Tectra is a fully registered private training enterprise, helping people to get qualifications that are recognised and approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

Tectra courses for trainees looking for work are funded by the government, as are its mentoring and professional development programmes for modern apprentices. On the other hand, its popular trade days are user-pays, as are any courses it runs for people in work.

"The Primary ITO gets government funding to organise training for people in work and we are not competing with that. But if we are approached by a contractor to run a course, we negotiate a user-pays arrangement."

Handley says a good example is the pre-season course Tectra recently delivered for Peter Lyon Shearing.

"Shearers and wool handlers were sharpening their skills ready for the crossbred pre-lamb shearing. A second course has also been scheduled to get their fine wool shearers and wool handlers up to speed.

"They're advanced courses that help take the trainees up to the next level – level 2, 3 or 4 – in the national qualifications framework. Most are level 2, but there are some older trainees who have come back to the industry and want to perform at a high level."

Peter and Elsie Lyon say the pre-lamb course was really well-timed. "Most of them had been working on second-shear crossbreds in the North Island, so needed to adapt to full fleece shearing and wool handling."

Tectra's trade days are not on its course schedule, but are drawing good turnouts. One organised by regional training



*In April, 65 Modern Apprentices attended a 3-day Tectra workshop at Raukawa Adventure Centre, Whanganui. Topics included all aspects of work in the industry, from skills development and handpiece maintenance to injury prevention and nutrition. A highlight was a presentation by Ricky Lee, an electrician running his own company and a one-time finalist in the Apprentice of the Year Competition. Ricky, who is a keen competitor in the motor sport, drifting, brought his car for the apprentices to see.*

manager Dean Te Huia in Te Kuiti in July attracted 30 attendees interested in brushing up with gear maintenance and finding out what the market is looking for in terms of clip preparation.

The winter is also a good time to train the trainers. In late July, Tectra got its Merino trainers together for a workshop.

"These are the guys who will be doing the in-shed and off-job training during the season, so they need to be consistent in what they're delivering. Also, there is always new information coming through, so we brought them up to speed with this too."

Anyone looking for entry-level training or something more advanced should give Tectra a call, says Handley. "We're very happy to discuss the training needs of both trainees and contractors. If for some reason we can't help, we will point you in the direction of someone who can."

The names and contact details of Tectra's regional shearing and wool handling managers are included on the company's course schedule, published in this issue of *Shearing*.

"Our trainers are passionate about helping people to advance in the industry. We also are continuing to support shearing sports and promoting competitions to our young shearers and wool handlers. Competing is a great way to advance skills and to meet other people with a passion for the job."

## Competition Season Key Dates

October: 3/4 NZ Merino Shears, Alexandra; 11 NZ Spring Shears Waimate; 18 Ellesmere, Poverty Bay; 24 Great Raihania Shears Hawkes Bay; 25 Northern A&P Rangiora. November: 1 Ashburton, Pleasant Point, Wairarapa; 8 Marlborough, Manawatu; 13/14 Canterbury Shears; 15 Central Hawkes Bay; 22 West Otago, Nelson A&P; 29 Stratford.

Also: 5-7 March Golden Shears, Masterton; 3-4 April Northern Shears (Easter Show), Auckland; 9-11 April New Zealand championships, Te Kuiti.

# Barks grateful for careers advice

By Des Williams

Some friendly persuasion from a mate after a game of rugby, followed by a middle-of-the-night decision, transformed Alan Barker from farm worker into a career as a full time shearer and shearing contractor.

The "careers advisor" was Kevin Nesdale and the first recipient of the good news was Alan's [late] wife, Nance, who wondered why her husband was suddenly sitting bolt upright in bed at 3am. Alan explains:

"I'd been playing rugby with Kevin this day and during our after-match conversation he told me he reckoned I'd kill myself if I kept working the way I was. I was working long hours on a farm at the time, and had been doing some shearing at weekends and at night during the week whenever I could organise it.

"Our wives and children had left the clubrooms after the game that day and returned to Kevin's home at Kimbolton. We followed on a little bit later in the evening when our match analysis was completed!

"Kevin was trying to talk me into going shearing but I wasn't so easily convinced. So he picked up a tally book from his table and he pointed out to me the number of sheep the slowest man in his gang was shearing, and the amount of money he was earning as a result. Of course, it was a helluva lot more than what I was earning on my farmhand wages, even with the extra income from my part-time shearing thrown in."



Alan Barker ('Barks'), during his years as NZ Wool Board shearing instructor.

While they were driving back to the Barker residence that night, Nance commented that Alan was a bit quieter than usual, and enquired what was on his mind. "Barks" said he was mulling over what Kevin Nesdale had been saying. "I then woke up in the middle of the night and sat up in bed. Nance asked me "What's wrong now?" and I said, "We're going shearing!"

And that was it, decision made, plan formulated and career change implemented all within the time it takes to tell the story!

But Alan had already been through some interesting times in his life before taking up the handpiece on a full-time basis. As a youngster growing up in Palmerston North

and, more particularly during his secondary school years, he took every opportunity to get out in the country, shepherding and mustering.

"My father was manager on the Duncan farm at Rongotea, where I developed an early love for dogs and horses and when I was old enough I'd go and work on some large properties near Hunterville. I'd go up there about the end of November and stay until the end of January when I had to go back to school again."

Then, what was meant to be just a change of scene for further farming experience turned Alan's life in a completely different direction. He went to work on a property in the Wairarapa, south of Castlepoint and, as he succinctly puts it, "The sea got to me and I joined the Navy!"

That was in 1944, World War II was still in progress and Alan spent most of the next eight years on the high seas. His service included nine months duty in Malta and the Mediterranean "where there was a bit of dirt flying around there and the Suez Canal at the time," and then in Korea during the early 1950s.

"I served time on the New Zealand navy frigates *HMNZS Taupo* and *HMNZS Hawea* and then when I got to Korea they transferred me to the Royal Navy and the British ship *HMS Belfast*, which was a heavy cruiser."

The *HMS Belfast*, Alan notes, has for many years been permanently

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anchored on the River Thames, below London Bridge, and is used as a naval recruiting centre. In an earlier claim to fame, the *Belfast* is noted for having fired the first shot in anger on 6 June 1944 to launch the “D Day landings” at Normandy.

When Alan left the Navy in 1953 he returned to the Manawatu and picked up his career “on the land” that had been so dramatically interrupted eight years earlier. He also picked up a promising rugby career that had seen him play one game for Wairarapa during his time as a youngster at Castlepoint, and later representation in Navy teams, as well as one game for an Auckland XV.

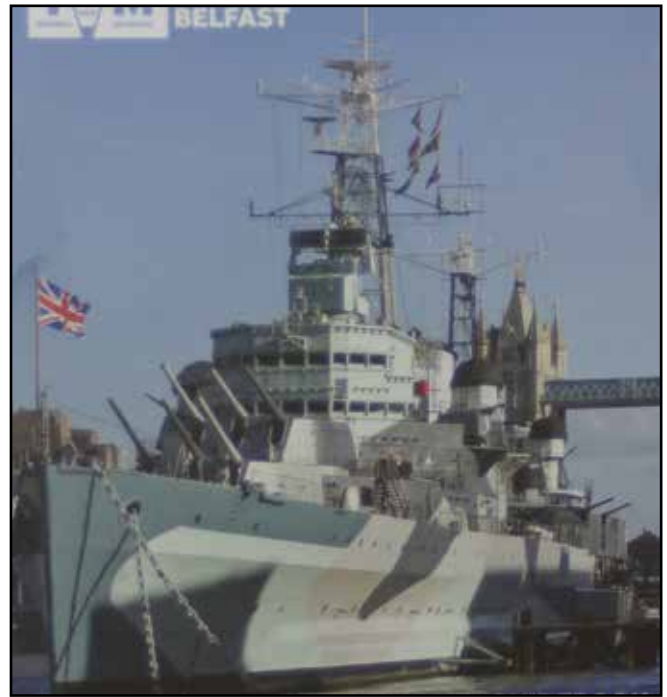
“I was playing for Palmerston North High School Old Boys against Kevin Nesdale’s Kimbolton side when we had that life-changing conversation.”

Soon Alan had moved from being “just a shearer” to a shearing contractor, a business that grew quite rapidly to the point where he was employing up to 45 staff and nine or 10 gangs that were shearing 1.5 million sheep prior to Christmas each year. The contacts and reputation he had earned as a representative rugby player stood him in good stead, Alan says, with many farmers at least knowing of him through rugby, if not then through shearing.

Alan became involved in a never-to-be-forgotten experience on Christmas Day 1953. He was working near Hunterville when a mate heard about the Tangiwai rail bridge disaster and, together, they hurried to the scene to offer whatever assistance they could.

“The water was just like porridge but we managed to retrieve some bodies from the river. Then the army and police arrived in large numbers and so we only stayed for that first day. But the memory of the wrecked train and the 151 lives lost took a long time to get over.”

Alan started travelling overseas for shearing, first to the United States where he became involved in shearer training, and then on to England, working for English contractors Brian Goodsell and (later) Les Ramsden, down in Kent. In 1988 he undertook a series of shearing schools in England,



*HMS Belfast, once a war-time home for Alan Barker, now at peace on the River Thames, near London Bridge.*

Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and also judged and did some commentating at British shearing competitions.

During a later trip to England Alan suffered a mild heart attack and ended up in Ashford Hospital. When he returned home, he started contracting again but knew he needed to slow down a bit. Then, a brief conversation with Mr Godfrey Bowen of the New Zealand Wool Board brought another opportunity for Alan.

“Godfrey asked me if I would be interested in running a small shearing school for some learners here in Palmerston North. I’m not sure if he thought that might be less stressful than contracting for my heart condition, but anyway I agreed to do it. Godfrey called in during the day and took note of how I was going about teaching these youngsters but he never really said anything to me so I thought, ‘Oh well, that will be the end of my career as an instructor.’

“But then, a little while later he asked me to do another one and so I became a provincial instructor. After a year or so of that I was invited to a meeting at Levin, where Godfrey told me he wanted to appoint me to the NZ Wool Board shearer training team on a full time basis.”

So Alan found himself one of four full time instructors in the North Island, along with Robin Kidd, Gary Biggs and Garry Read, while in the south were Ian Rutherford, Peter Burnett and Ray Dunick. (Murray Christie would later replace Rutherford, who went off to South Africa.)

“Instructing was no 40-hours a week job that’s for sure, but Godfrey always treated us very well and he always made sure that we got home to our families for the weekends, even if that meant knocking off a bit early on Fridays. Even when we weren’t actually running courses there was always something to do. We had farmers that always kept their sheep available for us to shear at schools and we would help shear left-overs during the off-season. We were each assigned an area to look after and mine covered Northland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty.

(To page 26)



*Laid-back commentator – Manawatu Show, 1992.*

"We also had regular meetings when all the instructors would get together and Godfrey or Robin would ask us if we'd seen anything interesting.

Sometimes you might see an older shearer at a course with an interesting blow, or doing something a bit different and you'd mention it at the meeting. We would then discuss it to see if it might be incorporated into the existing pattern or whether it might lead to an improvement somewhere else.

"That's why the shearing improved so quickly – we were picking the brains out of the best shearers around the country and incorporating their ideas into the Wool Board pattern that we were teaching at our courses."

Alan's earlier involvement with shearer training in the United States also led to the New Zealand Wool Board becoming more formally involved later on. NZWB instructors for several years would travel to the States during their annual holidays and deliver up to 15 or 20 courses in conjunction with Sherrill Wells and the Umpqua Community College based at Roseburg, Oregon. [See 'The American Connection' by Rory O'Malley, *Shearing* magazine, April 2014.]

That American connection also led to a memorable expedition to Mexico for Alan and a team of Kiwi and "Stateside" shearers, including Bob Michie, Ken Pike, Robin Middleton, Ross Alexander and Americans Hilary Gietzen, Randy Helms and Mike McWilliam. The year was 1992 and the mission was to shear 35,000 ewes on a feedlot at Los Mochis. The sheep were fed on imported food and were up to their bellies in water most of the time, Alan recalls, from an estuary running through the lot.

A more comprehensive record of that trip ("Five weeks hard labour") was published in the November 1992 edition of *Shearing*. Suffice to say that when this writer recently asked Hilary Gietzen if he could remember anything about the mission his laughing response was, "Remember it? – I'm still trying to forget it!"

Alan spent about 15 years of his career with the NZ Wool Board. On his retirement from the position he maintained his interest in shearing business by undertaking machinery and handpiece repairs, developing the interest to the point where it still

keeps him occupied, most days.

One subject we might have glossed over somewhat earlier in the story is Alan's involvement with rugby. After that pre-navy outing for Wairarapa in 1944, he next appeared in Wanganui colours for one match in 1955, before starting a 33-match career for Manawatu over the 1958-59-60 seasons.

He also played for a victorious Manawatu side against the Wallabies in 1958 (won 12-6), and for the Manawatu-Horowhenua Combined team that played the 1959 British Isles touring team at Palmerston North, holding those brilliant tourists to a credible 6-26 deficit. The 1959 New Zealand Rugby Almanack described Barker as "a tireless front-ranker". (Prop forward in today's language.)

Among his notable team mates were the likes of Stuart Freebairn (1953-54 All Black), Brian Finlay (1959

All Black), the redoubtable Nesdale brothers, a young fella named Kelvin Tremain and a Junior All Black named Murray Ball, who would later gain fame (and fortune?) as the cartoonist who introduced *Footrot Flats* and *Wal* to the world.

Alan's other life-long sporting interest is golf, having been a member at Hokowhitu for some 45 years. Though his Wool Board commitments sometimes involved weekend work, it was usually possible for him to get to the first tee on time, most Saturday mornings!

Alan has great memories of his time in the shearing industry, noting that most of the top shearers he's encountered over the years were also top people. Though he did have one occasion when he wondered if that would be the case!

"When I was a contractor, I won the contract for shearing at Erewhon, which had previously been held by Colin Bosher. I didn't really know Colin at that stage, though he had a huge reputation and I'd seen him at Golden Shears. I thought Colin might be a bit upset about losing the contract and I walked into a pub one day and he was there. I thought to myself, 'Oops, what's going to happen here?'"

"He saw me come in and called me over. 'You're Barker, aren't you. How's it all going out there, come and have a beer with me!' He even gave me a couple of tips for how to work the shed at Erewhon and never held a grudge against me or anything, so that was a great relief to me."

Like many in the shearing industry, Alan says he would gladly do it all again, though one thing he didn't get to do was shear sheep in Australia. He did do several seasons of pre-lamb in Central Otago for Murray McSkimming, who "organized him" into a small merino shed one season, just to give him a taste of what it was like to shear real sheep.

"I was just an ordinary shearer, never a gun or anything. I shored with Tom Brough while I was down south with Murray but I was never anywhere near his class. But it's a career that treated me well and if I hadn't gone shearing I would probably be living in a State house now."

Though well into his eighties, Barks shows few signs of slowing down. There are three shearing machines out in his car that need fixing ...



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## Farewell famous nick-name

Perhaps it's because he was born in Invercargill, perhaps it's because he was known as a tough bugger, or maybe it's "just because we can". Without further excuse we take these few lines to acknowledge the passing of a New Zealand sporting icon, one who almost certainly never shored a sheep in his life.

Noted horseman (jockey, driver, trainer) Brian Lamont "Baggy" Hillis may, however, have earned a few 'bob' over the years for shearing contractors and shearers who liked to have a punt on the horses. Mr Hillis died at Waikato Hospital on 22 June 2014, aged 77.

With that nick-name, 'Baggy' stood out in an era when other sporting identities also seldom heard their given christian names. 'Snow' Quinn and 'Bing' Macdonald in our own industry; 'Sonny' Bolstad of woodchopping fame; 'Pinetree' Meads and 'Camel' Clarke, the rugby men; cricketer 'Paddles' Hadlee, or those great bike riders, 'Hands' Dalton and 'Huck' Byers.

The story goes that Baggy got his name through wearing "hand-me-down" riding silks from older brothers that left him with plenty of room to grow into. Humble beginnings that no doubt shaped his later character as a real bloke.

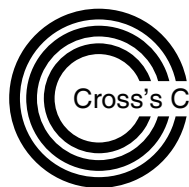
We'll leave it to the racing magazines to record Baggy's phenomenal record in that industry, but one of the better known stories [from *NZ Herald*] is worth recording here. He rode Brockton to victory by 40 lengths in the 1972 Great Northern Steeplechase at Ellerslie, despite having a broken arm. [Shades of Bing Macdonald at Golden Shears 1961 and the afore-mentioned Meads in South Africa 1970.]

The arm, broken in a fall a couple of weeks earlier, was well strapped and hidden from race officials, who would have prevented him from riding, had they known about it.

One who did know about it (commentator Keith Haub) asked him after the race how it (the arm) felt: "It wasn't too bad during the race but it's got worse now because every bastard wants to shake my hand," came the famous reply!

Ride well on your journey to the Great Beyond, Baggy! (Des Williams)

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*And speaking of the famous – who are these two Kiwis with London's famously flamboyant Mayor, Boris Johnson? Mr Johnson, whose hair in many photographs looks like it could do with a general tidy-up with a handpiece, opened the new Lister premises at Stonehouse, to where the company has recently moved after more than 100 years at its previous location, Dursley. Always up for a challenge, the Mayor (with some tuition from Jack and David Fagan, above) became possibly the first person in the world to shear a sheep while clad in white shirt, tie and suit. (A woollen suit, one would hope?)*



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# Blooming silly

By Dr Clive Dalton

We should all feel sorry for Prince Charles trying to save the British wool industry – and hopefully with a bit of a spinoff he could help ours too.

How on earth can he achieve anything when farmers are still bloom-dipping and “dressing” sheep for show and sale? The silly thing is that everyone accepts the practices – and even pay more money for titivated sheep. Prince Charles won’t have a dog’s show of stopping these daft practices. The cost to the industry of scouring pigments never got through to farmers in the past, and it still hasn’t made an impact 60 years after I learned the dark arts.

We young Border shepherds (or daft laddies, as we were called because our comments were always deemed to be daft) were only allowed to assist the experts at “dressing” sheep for show and sale, where bloom dipping was the first part of the process.

The Cooper’s “dip man” came round to sell his range of soaps and bloom dips. We first filled the plunge dipper with clean water to wash the sheep, and then a day or so later bloom dipped them, to be on target for the sale or show day.

A few days after the bloom dipping, we laddies held the sheep for the master dresser who ploated (plucked) the fuzzy wool around the cheeks between thumb and blade of sharp pocket knife, and clipped (without showing shear marks) down the sheep’s front, and along the belly line.



*Orange bloomers!*

Tups (rams) had their scrotums de-woolled and their hooves trimmed. Faces were scrupulously washed, and Cheviot and Border Leicester rams had their faces whitened with chalk powder before sale.

With Scottish Blackface (SBF) rams, we even reset their horns with old engine oil and a blowlamp (now a heat gun) if they had grown too close to the head, or the tips needed bending out to give the horns more spread. This extra horn bend could add big money to a tup when making his entrance before judge or buyer.

The rough serrations on the horn tops

were sanded off, so after being rubbed with linseed oil, they sparkled on their way into the ring on their big day. The owner in best mart clothes always accompanied his/her sheep into the sale ring, shook the auctioneers hand and then guided the sheep around the sale ring, so the sheep and owner had to look their absolute best.

Bloom colours were prone to fashion. Lambs got a light yellow or pinkish bloom, depending on the sale, and now I see that pink, yellow and a dark dirty brown are fashionable. SBF rams don’t have black and white heads any more. Fashion has moved to all-black heads, which means more black fibres in the wool for Prince Charles to get rid of. The poor lad!

Bright yellow bloom was, and still is, traditional for Border Leicester tups at the Kelso sales, and for Blue-faced Leicester tups at Hexham and Carlisle. The poor critters look ridiculous and I often wonder what a ewe thinks when turning around to see a bright yellow ghost creeping up behind her. Sheep are supposed to be colour blind but I never believed this.

The stupid practices of blooming and titivating sheep have gone on for hundreds of years and I can’t see the good Prince Charles changing things any time soon.

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Peedo Fiks of Estonia was one of two shearers representing his country at the world championships (the other being Aadam Kaivo). Describing himself as a farmer - shearer with a special interest in electronics (and at 61, a mere youngster alongside those seasoned



blade shearers Kevin Ford (68) from USA and England's George Mudge (67), father-of-five Peedo from Tallin was the subject of some special interest from spectators and fellow competitors with his "portable" prototype shearing machine and handpiece.

The several-times Estonian Master shearer has no need of the Lister machine or downtube on the Gorey shearing board. Instead, he plugs in his power box (about the size of a Wellington phone book) and his on/off switch is a remote control attached to his belt. ("Careful you don't go opening your garage door with that thing, Peedo," a commentator warns!)

Although it's fair to say Peedo got the job done with his invention, the fact he filled 49th and last spot after the two heats of world eliminations suggests his gadgetry is not yet ready to have those handpiece designers at Lister or Heiniger shaking in their shoes.

"So you'd like to perfect your invention to the point where one of those big companies will offer you millions for your prototype, Peedo?"

The half-smile response suggests that would indeed be a happy ending!



Falkland Islands supporters Vikki Lee, Lucas Berntsen, Samantha Hirtle and Tanya Clarke waved their flag and made plenty of noise while shearers Jan and Stefan Clarke were competing in the world championships heats. Lee and Hirtle were the Falklands woolhanding representatives.

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## Ger Heraty Obituary

Ireland's 2003 world championships blade shearing representative, Gerald (Ger) Heraty died at his home near Westport, County Mayo on 17 July 2014, just seven weeks after watching his nephew Peter Heraty reach the world championships blade shearing semi-finals at Gorey. He was 55.

Known far and wide as 'Ger', the blades exponent and popular shearing judge had been fighting a brave battle against cancer for the past three years.

Ger and his team mate, Dan Kelleher both made the semi-finals at the 2003 Edinburgh world event, finishing 11th and 12th respectively in a contest won by the great Eliot Ntsombo, with New Zealanders Peter Race and Bill Michelle also in that finals line up.

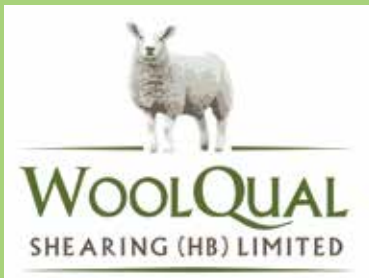
Ger Heraty farmed the property at Tiernacroagha on which is situated the holy mountain, Croagh Patrick (otherwise known as "The Reek"), on the summit of which St Patrick is said to have fasted for 40 days in the fifth Century. It is a place of christian pilgrimage on the last Saturday in July each year, with thousands of worshippers descending on the district to undertake the difficult climb.

Ger was fortunate to be able to make the trip to Gorey, where he caught up with friends and comrades from both home and abroad. He had also made himself available last December for a series of short, videoed "You Tube" interviews, in which he discussed (with Dr Oliver Whyte Snr of Westport) sheep farming, living at Croagh Patrick and dealing with cancer.

Ger Heraty is survived by his wife, Mary and their (grown) children, Kevin, Aoife, Maria and Julie.



*The late Ger Heraty, pictured during the farm tour on Cameron's property at Killen, Scotland, prior to the 2003 world championships.*



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*Merino mattress. The shearmer "resting on his laurels" is Andre Cooper from Nuhaka, North Island. Photographer Olga Kuti says this was a merino wether with four years growth of wool on it. "Andre was so proud to have been the one to shear this shrek and we were proud of him. As he is a crossbred shearmer, he was up to the task of giving it ago. He had shorn another shrek at the same shed the day before this was taken. The fleece weighed in at 16-18kg."*

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### The City-bred Drover

Some go east and some head west who run from tragedy,  
Some take their chance and some tempt fate whatever that might be.  
But he ran far from the crumpled car to the source of the winding river,  
Where the tussock spread o'er their native bed, The Golden, The Snow and The Silver.

And he sensed hope in that far flung scope and warmth in that wide blue sky,  
With never a sign of a fir or pine where the breezes wander by.  
And he was touched by an unseen hand by the banks of that winding river,  
And a voice said stay this is God's own land where the hills roll on forever.

And he found work, t'was a casual job on a station way back there  
And someone gave him a wise old dog with knowledge and guts to spare,  
Who showed him the ways that an old dog learns through summer or winter weather  
How to bring the mobs down to the holding yards and to keep them 'bunched up' together.

And he rescued a strong eyed heading dog it was wasting its life on a chain,  
And he found that he'd had an unknown gift to nurture its heart and brain.  
And he turned it into a willing slave droving mobs to their summer grazing,  
And they mustered them back with the mountain gang when the autumn days were closing.

And he learned how to settle the restless horse in the natural way that he rode,  
As he led the mule train to the big flat tops where he learned how to 'balance the load'.  
As he packed in the wood and the fencing gear or the salt to the far off places,  
Where the water holes shone and the wild birds called out where nature held all the aces.

And he learned how to smile and he learned how to sleep in his old hut down by the bend,  
And he learned how to whistle and sing again when the nightmares came to an end.  
And he blessed the old grey bearded mountain man who guided him over and over,  
Who took time off to care and time out to share and who named him the city-bred drover.

He never went back to the peak hour rush and the crush of the city stampede,  
To the blare of the horns and the glare of the lights and the siren's cruel chilling scream.  
But he never forgot his slim blue eyed wife or the daughter they both loved together,  
They are always out there in his thoughts everywhere sharing his loving forever.

And sometimes at night when the stars are a gleam and the moonbeams drift down the Pass,  
And the Southern Cross hangs in the old Milky Way while a saddled horse grazes the grass.  
He'll be in the bar for a yarn and a drink by the banks of the wide winding river,  
And a grey bearded Hillman will be by his side who nick-named him the city-bred drover.

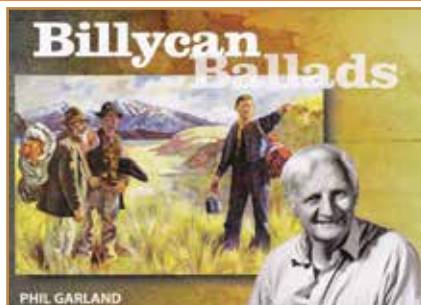
©Blue Jeans (Ross McMillan)

### In tune with the country

Our leading "musical historian" Phil Garland has produced yet another outstanding CD collection of New Zealand folk music, in the form of a tribute to the Kiwi poetry of the late Joe Charles. From Joe's books, *Black Billy Tea* and *Blackberry Pie*, Phil has set these iconic works to music in a collection entitled *Billycan Ballads*.

The song list includes *Boys of the Track*, *Black Billy Blues*, *To The Tall Ships*, *It's Grand to be a Soldier*, *The Old Windwhistle Pub*, *Smoko*, *Somebody's Darling*, *The Lost Bullock Team*, *Ballad of Davie Gunn*, *The Black Stump*, *Mackenzie and his Dog*, *Ballad of the Kiwi* and *Wool Away Jack*.

With well-supported cover notes, Phil describes the Charles works as a "treasure-trove of colourful vernacular



balladry that would not be out of place in any shearing shed or bar ... documenting stories of unsung heroes who helped build this nation."

And, thanks to the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours, he's now Phil Garland, QSM! Overdue recognition for a lifetime spent chronicling and recording New Zealand's rural history. (CD SLC published by Kiwi Pacific records, [www.kiwipacific.com](http://www.kiwipacific.com))

### Shabby work, Ed!

There's a penalty in rugby for what is known as "lazy running" (failure to get your off-side butt back on-side and out of the way of attacking players).

We might now have to think about introducing a penalty in this magazine for "lazy writing". And the first to get pinged would be the editor, who suggested on page 5 of the April 2014 edition that Alun Lloyd Jones and Hefin Rowlands were the first overseas shearers since Canada's Fiona Nettleton in 1988 to win Golden Shears titles.

A comment that is majorly incorrect! Apologies to shearers Alwyn Manzini (Wales), junior champion 1991; David Kingston (Ireland), junior champion 1998; Ian Montgomery (Northern Ireland) junior champion 2003.

Apologies also to Helen Bradley (nee Jones, Wales), junior woolhandling champion 1995 and Heidi Blake (Falkland Islands), who won the senior woolhandling title a year later.

The brain is not always in full gear in the early or late hours when some of this material is written. That is offered as the explanation, not as the excuse!

And well spotted by our Timaru-based reader, Laurence Tyree!



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# Bloody tourists go to world champs

By Des Williams

If you're going to go across the sea (and the oceans, and the continents!) to Ireland for the world shearing championships, you might as well do some exploring along the way, just to break the monotony of those long hours airborne.

That's the way a group of "bloody tourists" approached their task when they became members of the "Harvey World Travellers" (HWTs) group led by Lorrene and Les Te Kanawa, from Te Kuiti. With Gorey the ultimate destination for the 24-25-26 May 'worlds,' the group departed Auckland on 9 May aboard a large Emirates silver bird, with the first brief touch down just four hours later, at Melbourne.

After a quick coffee in the transit lounge it was time for the 16-member group to get back on board and mentally prepare for a 14-hour flight to Dubai. Even for the keenest of flyers, that is a long time in the sky. So between Hollywood (Bollywood sounds like a no-go zone for an oldie), classic albums (yeah, Van Morrison, yeah Elton John!) followed by Bruce Springsteen in concert, the time passes. Interspersed, it is worth noting, by excellent meals and excellent service from flight crew. Why, they would even bring you beers all through the trip if you wanted it. 'Yes Sir, Heineken or Budweiser?' (Weiser now, Bud?)

If you thought you'd been to some warm places in your life – parts of Aussie or even Central Otago in mid-summer – Dubai rewrites the definition. Thirty-five degrees Celsius at 2am. "Those socks and undies you've just washed will be dry in 15 minutes!" (But come back in August if you wonder what 49 degrees is like.)

And if you thought you might have to produce your passport three or four times between plane, customs and the safety of your hotel, well maybe eight or nine times is nearer the mark.

Dubai, extravagance and opulence everywhere to be seen. But hey – we're booked into a hotel that doesn't have a bar! Crisis time for thirsty Kiwis far from home! Don't panic team, someone has quickly sleuthed out a pub with a bar a couple of minutes walk away, just around the corner. Was that you, Erana? Well done!



*Bloody tourists at an organic farm in Wales. Back left: Erana, Ed, Graeme, Alan, Barry, Dennis, Pam, Bud, Frank, with Rosamund and Peter Davies (farmers). Middle: Pete, Jean and Shirley. Front: Ngaire, Lorrene, Les and John.*

Thanks to air-conditioned buses (air-conditioned everything, actually, apart from the great outdoors itself) the HWTs spend an enjoyable afternoon touring the city, dreaming what it would be like to have even a microscopic share of the wealth in evidence, marvelling at the high rise buildings "down town" and the fact that, despite some Formula One-speed driving on the roads, we don't witness a single prang of any sort.

It's apparently one of the more expensive cities in the world, but it may also be among the cleanest. If you walk by and raise a little dust, there will be someone right behind you to wipe the window, table or pathway clean again.

Then a special treat – a visit to the old markets, well hidden from the glitz and glamour, but with gold and silver merchants down every alleyway. Step back in time to the wheeling and dealing of centuries passed. 'Hey, is that one of the twelve apostles just over there?'

After dipping your feet in the warm Persian Gulf and numerous further showings of passports and boarding tickets it's goodbye Dubai and hello Heathrow. More serious examinations of travel documents and then it's off for four days in the big city. First experience of the underground "tube" for many and then a short walk from Tower Hill station to hotel lodgings near the landmark Tower Bridge.

How could country folks possibly occupy themselves for four full days

in London? Let us count the ways – eating, drinking, eating, drinking, eating ...; discovering there are two London restaurants with the same name within a kilometre of each other ... and you're at the wrong one, folks!

Or (Pete) wear your *Where the hell is Te Kuiti* shirt to a bar and have one of London's 8.3 million inhabitants come to you and say "I know where that is, I was born at Taumarunui!"

Then a day in Gay Paree for some, shopping for others, cruising Trafalgar Square ("That Lord Nelson must have been a one-eyed bugger"); checking out Old Winnie's WWII bunker room ... and visiting a famous London Madame: 'Is that David Fagan over there ... or Bruce Willis maybe. Identical bluddy hairstyles!'

That Queen's musical (as in Freddie Mercury's, not Elizabeth II's) *We Will Rock You* (nearing the end of a 12-year season) proves to be a great night out, with everyone in the group old enough to remember Freddie himself, if not admitting to being overly familiar with his "stuff". But 'mercurial' tunes are being whistled and hummed for the next day or so.

Now then, let's take a train down to Cardiff for a couple of days, starting with four taxis to Paddington. Sounds simple enough because there's only one drop off point, see you there and we will regroup on the platform.

Well ... there was only one drop off point – at the public entrance.

(To page 33)





*Jimmy – best driver in the country – and Bernard Creegan – best tour guide in the country, and the city!*

But three cars go instead to the taxi terminal and it's that easy for some mis-mothering to occur. (Just a little test for our tour leaders.)

Aahh, Cardiff, land of dragons, Millennium stadiums and four million fervent people who really do want to beat the All Blacks again some day. But land of relative peace and quiet compared to hustling bustling London.

Then it's Cardiff airport for a short flight to Dublin. One "bloody tourist" checks his bag through to Dublin and then realises he's left his cell phone in the bag and it's still switched on. Should he tell someone – is it true that mobile phones "may interfere with the technical guidance systems on this aircraft ..."?

So he owns up, luckily it's a quiet day at Cardiff airport ("I don't know why they call it Cardiff airport, it's a bloody long way from Cardiff," our bus driver observes on the way out) and the bag is retrieved and phone switched off. 'This



*"Bloody tourists" behind bars where they belong. Oh, wait, that's Erana, Pete ('Where the hell is Te Kuiti') and Bud!*

will be a penalisable offence at our next court session,' he thinks to himself. And then with just three showings of the passport, it's up in the "air we go again".

At last we reach the Emerald Isle. Dublin airport, passports at the ready ... "Hey, are you Kiwis? The first customs man enquires, having spotted a silver fern on someone's item of clothing. 'Indeed we are, mate, pleased to meet you.'

"Hey Paddy, they're Kiwis, they're All Blacks, let them in!" he shouts to his mate in the far corner of the otherwise empty room. And so, with a casual wave of documents in the general direction of Paddy and his checking devices, we enter Ireland.

Soon we meet up with Bernard, our Trafalgar tour guide and 'Good golly gosh,' are we in for an entertaining time, or what! Bernard soon introduces our driver: "Jimmy is the best driver in the country." Just as you begin to settle more comfortably in your seat armed with that knowledge, Bernard adds, "But he's bloody hopeless in the city!"

For the next six days we tour the Republic on our way to Gorey. Dublin (dinner on the Royal Canal); visit the 'black stuff' brewery ('You're from New Zealand?' 'Yep!' 'Do you know Willie Rhind?' 'Yep!'); Galway (they know their Irish rebel songs in Galway pubs), Carhan and the Ring of Kerry (paying homage to the birthplace of the great Daniel O'Connell (1775-1847); Limerick, Bunratty Castle, medieval banquets (*slainte!*), Cork, Blarney. Kiss that stone and (like Bernard) never again be lost for words! Then New Ross, and take a look at the *Dunbrody*, replica of the vessel your fore-fathers and mothers (and America's JFK clan) might have sailed in to new worlds 160 years ago.

Bernard has an entertaining story for every mile of Irish road, be it hedge-lined single lane or gleaming motorway built in more recent (affluent) times. In fact, so many stories, but so little time and space here. And while one could get used to being a "bloody tourist" (this had become Bud's catch-cry whenever he saw a group with more than six people in it!) we all arrive in good time at Gorey where there's some New Zealand shearers and woolhandlers to be watched and supported for the next three days.

It's a challenge to get a decent seat inside the 'Dome' (having tippy-toed through lashings of good Irish mud) but this is Ireland, not Masterton or Te Kuiti, and only the mean-spirited could come away and say they didn't have a fabulous time. Especially when "Have a pint with me" means anything up to three, four or five pints of the black stuff, and your turn to shout is always 'next time'.

And you're there to see Roly hoist the silverware!



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# Lance Kana obituary

By Des Williams

Lance Kana took his role as a shearing judge very seriously, but his sense of humour and flair for 'pranks' against his mates soon reappeared when the competition was over. Speaking at Lance's funeral on 27 May 2014, Te Kuiti's Doug Oliver said his 'friend and mentor' had touched the lives of judges, both locally and throughout New Zealand.

When Lance first started judging competitions it was mainly a "one man operation" – when the sheep had been shorn the judge would follow it from the board to the outside pens and then assess the cuts, ridges and wool left on. It was a system open to bias and Lance was among the people recruited by the New Zealand Wool Board's Godfrey Bowen to produce new rules and procedures. Such was the integrity they brought to the process that the system they came up with remains in place today, pretty much unchanged.

In 1996, Lance Kana gave a detailed account of his involvement in the shearing industry for a book entitled *Top Class Wool Cutters*. Lance related how he "grew up out on the coast at Te Waitere, left school at 17, went to war, came home, became a farm manager and then a farmer, and married Norma" – in that order.

"So which war – the Korean skirmish?"

"No, I joined the navy at the age of 17 and served on *HMNZS Gambia* during World War II. We were off the coast of Japan when they dropped the atomic bombs, and anchored in Tokyo Bay right beside the American warship *USS Missouri* on 2 September 1945 when General MacArthur accepted Japan's surrender."

Back down the trail a way, war's end had seen Lance attending Massey for an agricultural course, before he landed a farm manager's position. Then, in 1950, newly-weds Lance and Norma bought their own farm at Aria.

"We went there with a 10-year plan and stayed for 40 years. We got off to quite a good start with wool prices inflated by the Korean War. I shored my own sheep, and those of the neighbours, and managed to get the wool away to the high price sales. Others weren't so lucky, getting caught up in wharf strikes and so on."

Lance started judging at shearing competitions "even before the Wool Board got involved". Judging was far from being a precise science back then.

"I remember judging at the Te Kuiti A&P show in the early 1950s with Bob Holloway. It was pretty rough and ready, sometimes you'd just about be back in the crowd and you'd judge them on style as much as ability. Then Godfrey Bowen and Claude Waite came and ran through the judging process with me and Bob Holloway and a chap McKenzie from the Bryant Estate, and gave us our first badges."

Having the badge brought some officialdom to the judging process, but there was always something new to learn. The "Aria farmer" recalls judging a former local lad, down south.

"Snow Quinn was shearing in a Waimate final one year and Rex Taylor and I were out the back. I was getting "fours" off Snow's sheep and then suddenly, one comes out and I had to give it 11. That worried me a bit – was it me making a mistake? Then, the next few were all back to four or thereabouts, but late in the event came another one, nine or ten this time.

"I mentioned it to Rex. 'I seemed to get a couple of real roughies from Snow. Very unusual!' And they were Rex's thoughts exactly. Afterwards, Snow came over for a yarn and a drink and I mentioned it to him. He thought it was a hell of a joke.

"I was told afterwards he'd been cruising along and suddenly wrapped a quick one round the field. That made them all panic a bit, but the second time, they were virtually blown away. It was just his tactics."

That might have made it one-all between the Quinns and the Kanas, as Lance reflects on one of many hunting expeditions with Snow's father, Harry. "We often used to go hunting and because Harry was a bit older, I would carry some of his gear for him. One time out in the bush I came across some old mill workings, and found a large hammer which I thought might be useful to keep on the crawler for changing the angle of the blade.

"When we were getting ready to walk out again I quietly slipped the hammer into Harry's pack, and he was pretty bugged when we got back to the landrover. I casually strolled over and took the hammer out of his pack – I can't tell you what he said, but we laughed about it later."

Lance officiated at 17 world shearing record attempts, starting with Pam Warren's 344 lambs at Pioi Station in December 1971. That tally Pam herself later considered to be a fairly modest effort because she'd already done a number of 400s at that time. Lance, however, saw it a little differently.

"I really admired what Pam did because there were so few



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women shearers around at that time. A short while later [January 1972] she was back in the same shed for a world five-stand ewe record. Pam (322) got together with Ata Max (312), Barbara Marsh (259), Lois Boyd (203) and Kristell Sargison (165) to do 1271 sheep between them."

Lance was also one of the judges involved in the famous 10-stand record by Eddie Reidy's gang at Poronui in January 1979. In the "warm up" on the previous day, Lance had occasion to warn the shearers that if their quality didn't improve markedly their record attempt wouldn't last long!

Lance also had a long association with Golden Shears, judging at Masterton for 13 consecutive years between 1974-1986, and at Euroa, Australia's Golden Shears, in 1983. "I always considered myself privileged to be invited to judge at Golden Shears. You just met so many great people, and Doug Buick as referee always used to keep us right on our mettle.



*The late Lance Kana*

Doug Oliver related that Lance had been made a life member of the New Zealand Championships in recognition of his contribution over many years.

Lance is survived by his wife Norma and their grown family Graham, Ross and Tony. He was pre-deceased by another son, Colin.

## Tribute to Neil Sadler

*Shearing* magazine pays a belated tribute to the late Neil Andrew Sadler, who died in his 80th year at Blenheim on 30 March 2013. Information about Neil's death received at the time somehow got lost among other unrelated papers.

Neil was a West Coast-based New Zealand Wool Board shearing instructor for about 20 years and was renowned for his exception job quality.

In January 1965 Neil's six-man crew established a world record of 2488 sheep shorn on nine hours, beating a tally produced by Fred Payton's gang a fortnight earlier.

Neil's line-up comprised of Colin Chamberlin (whose 511 was the best individual ewe tally at the time); Malcolm Love (428), Malcolm Sadler (410), Malcolm Farrell (396) and Bob Win, who did 267. Neil's own contribution that day was 386, his career-best.

Malcolm Sadler described that day's work as a "very good effort that stood for about eight years."

"Neil performed very well at shows and he once took part in an exhibition shear and speech at Hayes menswear store in Christchurch, to promote "Siroset" woollen trousers which were the fashion at the time.

"Neil contributed a great deal to shearing on the West Coast," Malcolm Sadler said.

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# Classers – join the NZWCA

By Dave Carr

As a practising woolclasser, why should you become a financial member of the New Zealand Wool Classers' Association (NZWCA)?

The NZWCA is an incorporated society set up to support the recruitment and the retention of people in the wool industry and in encouraging the up-skilling of those already in the workforce to not only maintain New Zealand clip preparation standards but to ensure there are competent people to undertake the job in the future.

Anyone that is involved in marketing knows that to get out of the commodity cycle you have got to have a point of difference. By becoming a registered classer you have taken the first step of that point of difference. Your number and name become recognizable within the trade, within the industry.

The NZWCA is the only organisation left within the wool industry where the majority of its members are associated under the one umbrella. At a guess there are perhaps 300 people classing in New Zealand and our current membership is around the 230-235 mark. Pretty good really, however I still believe that if you are classing, especially for a living, that you must be registered before you can put your stencil number on a bale.

The only way that our current industry will survive is by being professional in every thing we do – never ever cut corners, always deliver above, never below a standard. That standard is in fact Best Practice and Best Practice is defined by each individual clip and the market that that particular clip is tailored to.

Board members of the NZWCA are there because they share a pride and passion for wool – they wouldn't bother otherwise – because they like the whole Association run on a shoestring budget. If it wasn't for belief in our product and our people there would be no Board, no Association. We rely on Industry support so much, they support our Classer refresher days, they sponsor our Newsletters, and they are right behind our Merit Awards.

These Merit Awards are open to all paid up members and just because you don't class the primo clips out there doesn't mean that you can't win a Merit Award. The Registrar does

a lot of homework on these – supported by the Board and members of the trade. All sorts of consideration goes into it- environmental, numbers of sheep and the physical things – the facilities, the staff you have to work with – all have a bearing on the outcome. It is not an old boys network, I can vouch for that, however if you aspire to be the best you should join the Association now and bench mark yourself against the best.

The Association maintains close contact with all sectors of the wool harvesting industry and includes a representative of the wool brokers on its board. While specifically focussed on setting standards and maintaining the professional skills of wool classers the Association maintains an overview of standards and training relating to all aspects of the wool industry.

In recent times this has been achieved through the participation of our Registrar on the Industry Partnership Group providing advice to Primary ITO on standards and training. The Association is uniquely able to provide such input through the skills and experience of its directors, Registrar and members. A pre-requisite for entry into training leading to registration as a wool classer is achievement of the Level 3 Wool Handling Certificate.

Recent training scholarship winners to the Wool Technology course this year, have developed a Facebook page where current issues can be discussed. This is fantastic and is the sort of initiative that NZWCA is trying to foster and promote the sense of pride in the work that our members aspire to. Many thanks must go to the Federation of Wool Merchants who award this scholarship and support innovation.

Wool classers, how about supporting the Association by becoming a member now. Together we are strong, as a group of individuals we are not.



*No, not wool classing, but classy wool work never-the-less. Scottish team work, in the world teams' event final at Gorey. While international sheep shearing rule 2(g)(i) demands that competitors must stop and start their machines without assistance, there is no actual penalty for non-compliance. (Nor is there in New Zealand's rules, but there is a penalty of one whole point in the British BISCA rules.) Canny awareness of the fine print in this case, Scotland? The hand that holds the cord rules the world, by a quarter of a point!*

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## World Council founder dies

Sir John Colfox Bt.DL, long time member of the Royal Bath & West of England Society (host of the British Golden Shears at Shepton Mallet) and founder member of Golden Shears World Council, has died [13 July 2014] at his home in England, aged 90.

World Council secretary Arthur Rundle reports Sir John was elected an Executive member representing the United Kingdom in 1980, when the



*The late Sir John Colfox, Bt.DL*

World Council was established.

"Sir John's constructive and wise council was much valued and appreciated when the Aims and Objectives and the Constitution were first written. He remained a loyal supporter of World Council and maintained his keen interest in the progress that has been achieved.

"Sir John was a steward and committee member for sheep shearing at the Royal Bath & West for over 50 years and was chairman and chief steward from 1960 to 1986. He willingly gave of his time, wisdom and experience for the benefit of shearing at both World Council and the Royal Bath & West.

"Under his Chairmanship progress was always being sought and in 1964 an application for Bath & West to be a Golden Shears UK Agent was applied for and granted and as a result of his desired progress we have been able to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Golden Shears Competitions this year.

"In 1977 we witnessed the first ever Golden Shears world championships at Shepton Mallet. Under his leadership it was deemed a huge success with twelve countries competing," Arthur Rundle said.



*Didja see it? "Stephen Donald" aka Beaver, in the telemovie The Kick, wearing a rugby jersey with Shearing magazine on the back? An eagle-eyed reader wondered how that came about. Quite simple really. The real Donald played several seasons for Waikato University RFC. Shearing mag's editor sponsors the WURFC Premier team No 15 jersey – the same number he wore for the Club, about 100 years ago!*

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