

Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

Number 89: Vol 31, No 3, November 2015
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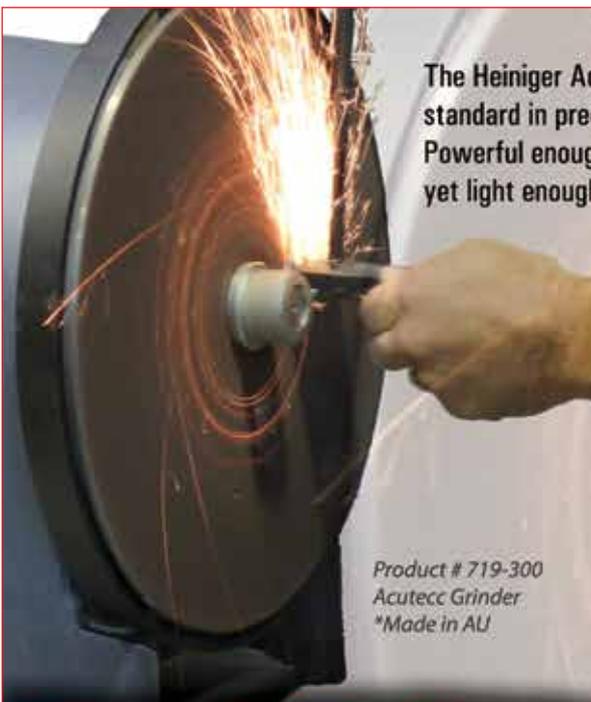


Peter Lyon gang in the pink at Stonehenge, September 2015. See p3.



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Photo credits: Cover: Barbara Newton; p6, Southland Stadium website; p8/35 Bruce Abbott; p10 from Sheep-O!; p11 Queensland Country Life (Rieck) and Scott Harrington (Brinard); p11/24 Jude Gamble; p12 Bruce Manson; p13 Herlihy family; p14 Brendon Potae; p15 Kristal Wilson; p16/23 Tom Harding; p17 RSPCA Canberra; p18 Roger Leslie; p23/35 Philip Oldfield; p25/33 (Chch) Richard Sampey; p27 Dr Clive Dalton; p29 Gwenda Saunders; p32 WorkSafe NZ; p34 Laurie Mutch. All others *Shearing* magazine/Last Side Publishing.

**Next edition due 13 April 2016.
Deadline for all material two weeks prior.**

UNDER COVER STORY

Greetings readers and welcome to this November 2015 edition of *Shearing* magazine. Sorry it's a week later than usual (we know there are people out there waiting impatiently!) and will probably become an early December edition in future.

A word or two about our cover photo, and the general 'cancer awareness' pervading our industry at present. An Invercargill man, Tom Ballantine, lost a daughter and his wife to cancer within a couple of months of each other. He then came up with the idea of selling pink singlets for use in the wool industry, with \$2 from each sale 'going to boost hospice coffers', as the *Otago Daily Times* reported. When Barbara Newton noted that Peter and Elsie Lyon had bought a supply of singlets from Mr Ballantine, she in turn acquired some for the crew working at Stonehenge, where the late Joanne Kumeroa had worked for many years.

Elsewhere in this issue we provide further information about Shearing's Big Day Out, another cancer awareness fundraiser taking place at Waitara Station near Napier on 4 January 2016.

We've managed to visit a few South Island sheds in the past couple of months to bring you several gang photos and individuals hard at work. Here's hoping we can get to some previously unvisited North Island locations in the next little while and capture some similar action.

Elsewhere, we note industry people getting recognition by the wider community, with David Fagan and Philip Morrison winning Maniapoto and Tararua Sports Awards, respectively. Peter Lyon has been made a life member of the New Zealand Merino Shears Society, and Brendon Mahony, as chairman of the Hawke's Bay Rugby Union was on hand to witness that Union's dramatic ITM Cup victory and promotion to the Premiership for next season.

Not so clever – we failed to click the counter on the catching pen door last edition, so magazine Number 87 got shorn twice! April 2015 was edition 87; August 2015 edition 88 and this edition is Number 89! All going well we will celebrate No 100 in August 2019 ...

Meantime, merry festive season and New Year best wishes.

Ka kite ano
Des Williams (editor)

Cover photo: People in Pink at Stonehenge, September 2015, from left: Tony Gutsell, Blair Rhodes, Phillip Rangiuaia, Chenell Waihape, Melanie Smith, Jake Rangiuaia, Samantha Yardley, Kelly Luke, Miriama Power, Krome Elers, Margaretta Harrison, Jim Hore, Dylan McKinley, Brett Roberts. (Barbara Newton photo.)

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Managing health and safety

By Anna Cox

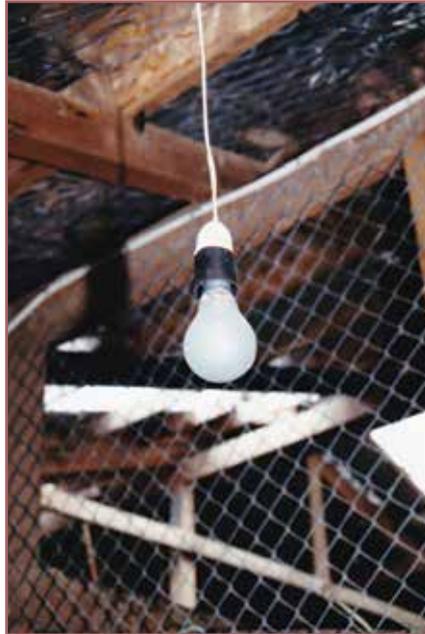
Health and safety is the 'hot topic' of the moment. 'How do the legislative changes affect me and business?' This is the question we're frequently asked at Primary ITO. People are also uncertain about what is actually needed to ensure their business is safe and compliant.

So, what are the answers? There are many information seminars running that will help to answer these questions, but then, what do you do? How do you begin to develop your plan, or where do you start reviewing your current plan and checking that it's still fit for purpose?

Primary ITO has developed a new workshop 'Managing Health & Safety' that will help you overcome these initial barriers, and get you on the road to developing a safer primary industry business.

Firstly, you'll need to bring your existing health & safety plan with you. Then, the hands-on session will help you identify what you already have that meets requirements, what you already do that is good practice and should continue doing, and the gaps in your plan and how to fill them.

There'll be an interactive discussion session on the recent changes to the health & safety legislation and what they actually mean for your business. You'll also have time to talk to other business owners and managers about the problems they've faced and techniques they've used to overcome



Have you seen the light and got your act together over health and safety?

them. Most importantly, you'll begin to develop your plan. At the end of the workshop, you'll know what you need to do next and how you are going to do it. Information is useful, but knowing what to do with it once you get back to your business is absolutely key.

'The workshop helped to remove the fears we have around the health & safety requirements for our business. It was also great to meet other business owners and share ideas about the situations we face, and how we can manage them. It's the realisation that

this good health & safety is good for our business, and good for our staff and families; we need to just get on with it,' Lina Castles from Dannevirke Carriers says.

'The most important aspect is ensuring that we look after our people, and we can do that by managing the risks they face in our businesses on a daily basis. What will help us achieve that is developing a health & safety system that's straightforward, easy to use and relevant to each individual business. It's not just a series of templates, it is a system that is used every day by everyone in the business,' concludes Linda Stewart from Primary ITO.

If you're interested in enrolling in Primary ITO's new Managing Health & Safety workshop then enrol online today at www.primaryito.ac.nz / shortcourses or call 0800 273 337.

Further supporting health and safety upskilling, Primary ITO is now able to access discounted nationwide first aid courses via Red Cross. Bookings can be made online using a specific Primary ITO First Aid Portal which can be accessed through the internet at www.primaryito.ac.nz/shortcourses or by phoning 0800 RED CROSS.

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Change of venue for world champs

By Doug Laing

The next world shearing and wool-handling championships will be held at Invercargill on 9-11 February 2017.

The event, which is expected to attract competitors from about 30 countries, will be held at ILT Stadium Southland and be known as the Golden Shears World Championships, Southland 2017.

World championships are held every 2-4 years, and the event at Invercargill will be the 17th, marking the 40th anniversary since the first was held at the Royal Bath & West Show in England, 1977.

At the 16th championships in Ireland last year, it was announced the event would be held in Christchurch. But a new location has recently been confirmed in an announcement by Shearing Sports New Zealand chairman David Fagan and fellow former world champion (1984) Tom Wilson, chairman of the New Zealand Shearing Foundation, a trust formed to manage revenue from the event. Sponsorship and other funding is now being sought with the cost of staging the championships likely to be several hundred thousand dollars, Mr Fagan said.

The facilities at Invercargill will be possibly the best ever used for shearing world championships and there is a huge groundswell of support from the Invercargill City Council, other local bodies in the area, and rural Southland, which already hosts three of the major events on the Shearing Sports New Zealand calendar each summer.

The venue, already known as a significant indoor sports stadium, will hold 7-8000 people, numbers which organisers hope will be attracted to the major titles showdowns, the individual and teams machine shearing, blades shearing and woolhandling finals.

The championships are run under the auspices of the Golden Shears World Council, which takes its name from the Golden Shears international championships held annually at Masterton since 1961.



Invercargill's ILT Stadium, venue for the next world shearing and woolhanding championships to be held in February 2017. Lower image shows the stadium and the Invercargill velodrome, another world class facility.

Invercargill is the southernmost and westernmost city in New Zealand, and one of the southernmost cities in the world. It is the commercial centre of the Southland region. It lies in the heart of the wide expanse of the Southland Plains. Invercargill sits amid rich farmland that is bordered by large areas of conservation land and marine reserves, including Fiordland National Park covering the south-west corner of the South Island, and the Catlins coastal region.

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New Zealand team qualification

Meantime, Shearing Sports New Zealand has agreed on two circuits from which to select the machine shearing and woolhanding representatives for the 2017 Golden Shears world championships.

Each series will comprise six qualifying rounds, starting with the long wool and lambs events at the Northern Southland Community Shears and the Winton A&P Show in January 2016. Entry in each event will be compulsory for competitors to be eligible for the finals at the 2016 Canterbury Show.

Points in the qualifying rounds will be awarded from eight points for first down to one point for starting, according to final placings at each of the venues. The top competitors will qualify for the finals in Christchurch, where the winner and runner-up in each final will be selected to represent New Zealand at the championships.

The finals will take place in world championships conditions, the shearing final being on full wool, lambs and second-shear sheep. The team selection series events are:

Shearing:

15 January 2016: Northern Southland Community Shears (fullwool) at Lumsden.

16 January 2016: New Zealand Crossbred Lamb shearing championships at Winton A&P Show.

12-13 February 2016: Otago Shears (second shear) at Balclutha.

3-5 March 2016: Golden Shears (second shear) at Masterton

31 March - 2 April 2016: New Zealand championships (second shear) at Te Kuiti.

21 October 2016: Great Raihania Shears (full wool) at Royal New Zealand Show, Hastings.

9-11 November 2016: Canterbury Show (final: full wool, lambs, second-shear) at Christchurch.

Woolhanding:

15 January 2016: Northern Southland Community Shears (full wool) at Lumsden.

16 January 2016: New Zealand Crossbred Lamb shearing championships at Winton A&P Show.

3-5 March 2016: Golden Shears (full wool), at Masterton.

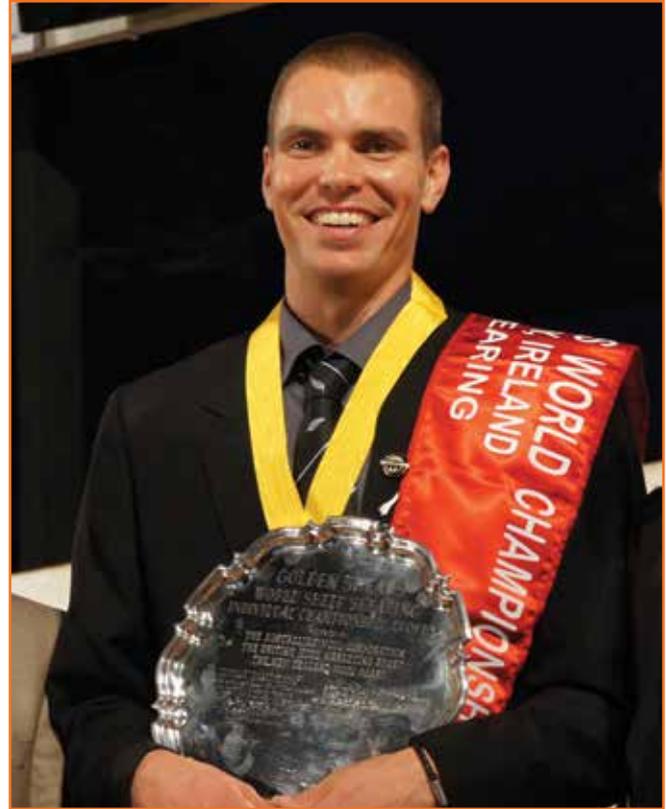
31 March - 2 April 2016: New Zealand championships (second-shear) at Te Kuiti.

8 October 2016: New Zealand Spring Shears (full wool) at Waimate.

21 October 2016: Great Raihania Shears (full wool) at Royal New Zealand Show, Hastings.

9-11 November 2016: Canterbury Show (semi-final and final) at Christchurch.

Entries are to be lodged by email to doug_laing@xtra.co.nz before 8 January 2016, including name, phone and email contact details.



Current world shearing champion, Rowland Smith. Will he be back to regain his title at Invercargill in February 2017?

Other reigning world champions are: team shearing: Scotland (Gavin Mutch and Hamish Mitchell); Blade shearing: Mayenzeke Schweni (South Africa); Woolhanding: Hilary Bond (England); Team woolhanding: Wales (Meinir Evans and Aled Jones).

New Zealand has staged the world shearing championships on four other occasions, all at Golden Shears, Masterton. (1980, 1988, 1996 and 2012.)

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NZ WOOL CLASSERS ASSOCIATION

Napier Field Day

On 1 September 2015, the New Zealand Wool Classers Association organised a field day at Napier, for all wool industry people. We had 54 people attend the day, these being a mixture of wool-handlers, shearing contractors, pressers, trainers, shearers and farmers.

People travelled from Cambridge, Piopio, Gisborne, Raupunga, Manawatu, Pongaroa, Bay View and Napier. PGG Wrightson in Napier were our hosts and greeted everyone with a hot drink and a quick bite to eat on arrival. We then were given an informative tour through the wool store and all aspects of the operation including the core and grab sampling, the mechanical tuft sampler for length and strength testing, wool inwards receivables, bin room and show floor.

From there, we toured the New Zealand Wool Testing Authority laboratory and our guides did an excellent job explaining all the technical procedures that included testing for yield, seed content, micron, and length and strength.

The programme also included seeing scoured wool tested for moisture and grease content. It was unfortunate that more time was not allowed for this part of the day as the tour had to be cut short to meet the deadline of our visit for the wool scour.

After lunch we went through the Whakatu wool scour, where once again, our very knowledgeable guides did another excellent job explaining the scouring procedures. This tour showed up one of the major problems in the wool industry – **contamination** – the scouring feeding mechanism stopped while the tour was in progress

due to a metal object in the wool.

So a reminder to all working in the shearing sheds: put only wool into the bales, not phones, jerseys, towels, bale clips, press bars, bale hooks – these were just some of the objects shown to us. One highlight was the high density press; this presses bales of wool in excess of 700 kilograms into the size of a normal bale.

We finished the day back at PGG Wrightson's Napier office for a cuppa and discussion from broker representatives – Carrfields Primary Wools (CPW), Wright Wool and PGG Wrightson Wool. These discussions included contamination, the Campaign for Wool and wool preparation. Laurie

Boniface from Lincoln University then gave an update on the progress for training of wool classers.

On behalf of the NZ Wool Classers Association, we would like to thank everyone who was involved and supported the day. If not for you these days would not happen! It is great to see the support shown to our industry, by our industry.

(Trudi Landreth, Director NZ Wool Classers' Association)



NZ Wool Classers Association Board members at a recent Christchurch meeting. Standing from left: Sarah Dalzell, Trudi Landreth, Annette Gamble (secretary), Rose Barnett, John Sanders and Dave Carr. Seated left: Alastair Eckhoff, Bruce Abbot (executive officer), Bill Dowie (chairman) and Allan Fraser (deputy chair). Absent: Don Urquhart.

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Action from Mount Pisa, August 2015. Above: Luke Mullins lays the carpet on the floor. Top right: Troy Pyper in the early stages of doing the same. Opposite: Russell Knight: "They tell me you're going to win the Canterbury Show this year, Troy." Troy: "Yeah that's a good one Russell, you got me laughing out REALLY loud!" (Daryl Ainsley gang.)

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 3. No man to shear more than 100 sheep per day.
 4. Every sheep to be shorn closely and cleanly, and the fleece taken off whole. "Tomahawking" will in no case be allowed, neither will clipping or chopping be tolerated; the wool must be taken off at first blow. Every breach of this rule will subject the shearer to a fine or or deduction of a score [20] of sheep from his tally.
 5. All sheep to be carefully handled. Any shearer ill-treating a sheep by kneeling upon, kicking, compressing the nostrils, violently wrenching the neck, or otherwise abusing the animal, or in the habit of making cuts and gashes, will be discharged; and no money shall be paid to such shearer until the termination of the shearing.
 6. Any shearer guilty of drunkenness, using obscene or abusive language, or being absent from work without permission, will be fined in sums varying from 5 shillings to 20 shillings, at the option of the superintendent. Any man found bringing grog to the station will be discharged.
- (*Otago Witness*, 18 September 1875.)

The man who toppled Howe

By Bernie Walker

It took 58 years but the blade shearing record of Jack Howe was eventually, perhaps inevitably, broken. A new record was established with machines on 14 September 1950 when a young South Australian from Port Augusta, W.E. (Ted) Rieck, 24, shore 326 at Brinard Station, 140km north of Julia Creek in Queensland.

Rieck (pronounced 'Reek') began shearing aged 18 before moving to Queensland where he was working for Cloncurry contractor Merlin Jenkin when he set the new record. He quickly established a clear margin over the rest of the team which included some outstanding shearers.

Merlin Jenkin told *Queensland Country Life* newspaper, 'Teddy Rieck is a most unassuming person. His temperament is always the same and I have no hesitation in stating that he never, on any occasion, ill-treated a sheep in any way'.

Mr Jenkin pointed out that Rieck received no assistance whatsoever in setting the record and used a thin narrow gauge comb with straight teeth. His pen mate was a first class shearer, taking his sheep pick for pick. Jenkin suggested Rieck may have shorn more had his pen mate been a learner. It is reported Rieck set his record on stand 7 of the 10-stand Brinard shed, and on the day of the record the full board of 10 shore 2322 sheep. The record was established in a mob of 7127 ewe and wether weaners, 9 months old cutting over 3lb (1.38kg) of wool.

Merlin Jenkin produced a certifi-



Ted Rieck

cate, signed by himself and Ted Rieck, which read: *To whom it may concern. This will serve to testify that the bearer Mr W.E. Rieck whose signature appears hereunder, has been in my employ as shearer for the 1950 season. Mr Rieck carried out his work in an exceptionally good manner, and registered a single count tally of 326 sheep on 14th September during the Brinard shearing.*

Ted Rieck was a member of the 1950 Jenkin team from 12 April until 19 October. In that time he shore 24,022 sheep. His highest tally for a week was 1334, also set at Brinard. One of his teammates on the day of the record, Jim Vaughan, writing in Valerie Hobson's book *Across the Board* in 2002 said, 'The best shearer I ever shore with was Teddy Rieck. [He] was a great fellow,

the cleanest shearer I ever saw..... the day he shore 326, I shore 253; that was the best I'd done over there'. Born near Rockhampton, Jim Vaughan later moved to Western Australia.

After Ted set the new record, promoters tried hard to arrange a contest between Ted and Elmer Latt, from Rockford, Illinois, USA. Latt had won a contest at the Chicago Exhibition for the World's Champion Shearer. Luke Kite, a New South Wales shearer with extensive experience shearing in America, told *The Australian Worker* a top tally there would exceed 300 per day, due mainly to longer work hours and the wide combs used. Merlin Jenkin told *The Courier Mail* in Brisbane he would back Ted Rieck against anyone as Ted was the best and fastest shearer he had ever seen.

During 1951 AWU General Secretary Tom Dougherty sought details of the new record and permission to publish them in *The Australian Worker*.

In response Ted Rieck sent documents vouching for the new record and said he had been in touch with Mr W.E. Cornelius of the Sunbeam Corporation in Illinois and Mr LaVor Taylor of the Sheep Shearers Union in Montana in respect to going over there to compete. He said, 'I anticipate going into business and the future points that I have finished with practical shearing now.' Although the match with Elmer Latt did not eventuate Ted went on to say, 'I shore for eight years which took me to every State in Australia and to New Zealand. I am now 26 years of age.' (To page 11.)

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Above: Jim King and Ted Rieck helping themselves to smoko. Below: Brinard Station woolshed today



(From p10.) Ted's widow Pam thinks he may have gone to New Zealand as part of a wartime essential service/labour exchange scheme, and was there for up to nine months. Ted told her losing some of his earnings playing cards cured him of gambling forever.

With his brief but spectacular shearing career now over, Ted, his twin brother George and another brother Fred began an earthmoving, dam sinking and water boring business in the north east of South Australia, extending into the Northern Territory as far as Tennant Creek and the Barkly Tableland. The Waggaridgee Dam at the Peko Mine east of Tennant Creek was one of their biggest contracts. They also took up vacant land in South Australia, west of Cameron Corner, (where 3 States meet), which they named 'Bollards Lagoon'.

When the former Kidman property 'Merty Merty Station', further northwest on Strzelecki Creek, became available, Ted and George took up an option they held. Their sister Gert lived there for a short time before Ted and his wife Pam, with three daughters and one son, moved to 'Merty Merty'. Now owned by oil and gas giant Santos Ltd but leased back to the Rieck family, it is managed by their son Martin, who lives on 'Merty Merty' and also works for a transport company. Martin says his Dad's name can still be found in the famous old 'Murnpeowie' shed on the Strzelecki Track.

Five years after heart surgery, Ted Rieck died unexpectedly of a heart attack on 5 February 1990 at the relatively young age of 64. His twin George died exactly two weeks later on 19 February of heart failure.

The record Ted set lasted seven years before it was broken by Kevin Sarre who shored 327 at Pyramid Hill, Victoria.

Ted's record was equalled by Tasmanian Gordon Cahill at 'Woodbury Estate' in Tasmania's Midlands in 1960. His widow Pam now lives in Adelaide and at 'Merty Merty' while his sister Gert resides in Port Augusta.

Who knows what this great South Australian shearer might have achieved had he had a longer career on the shearing board.



The Robertson Shearing gang from Lawrence had an extra guest for lunch while shearing at Richard Frances' Hazeldale Stud at Moa Flat, in September. Jude Gamble reports young Hogsnot was something of a picky eater however. He completely ignored the bacon and egg pie, ham rolls and pork sandwiches. 'He eventually wandered away, looking somewhat dis-grunt-led!'

And on a similar theme (below), young Dylan the presser (we can't reveal any other embarrassing personal information) had what you might call a pig of a hangover upon arrival at a Central Otago shed. He'd been led astray the night before by a couple of more experienced practitioners, so rumour has it. (But we can neither confirm nor deny ...)



Get with the rules!

I have been shearing in New Zealand for 28 years. This may sound like a whiny reformed smoker, but I am disgusted by the way that some of my fellow workers treat the 'No smoking in the work place' rule.

I have no problem with people smoking, it's their choice. You are your own boss you do with your body as you please, but please show some respect and give the non-smoking people a chance. Recently while working in a fine wool shearing shed I was disgusted to see how many people were actually smoking while we were working. I found butts on the floor on a number of occasions and even found one in a fleece which had been placed in a bin. There were people smoking on the table on the board and while shearing.

Come on guys, take it out side, give us non-smokers a break, there is no smoking in work places in New Zealand and that includes the woolshed.

Get with the times and show some bloody respect for your mates! (Bruce Manson) (Adapted from Facebook posting.)



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Sheep Faking

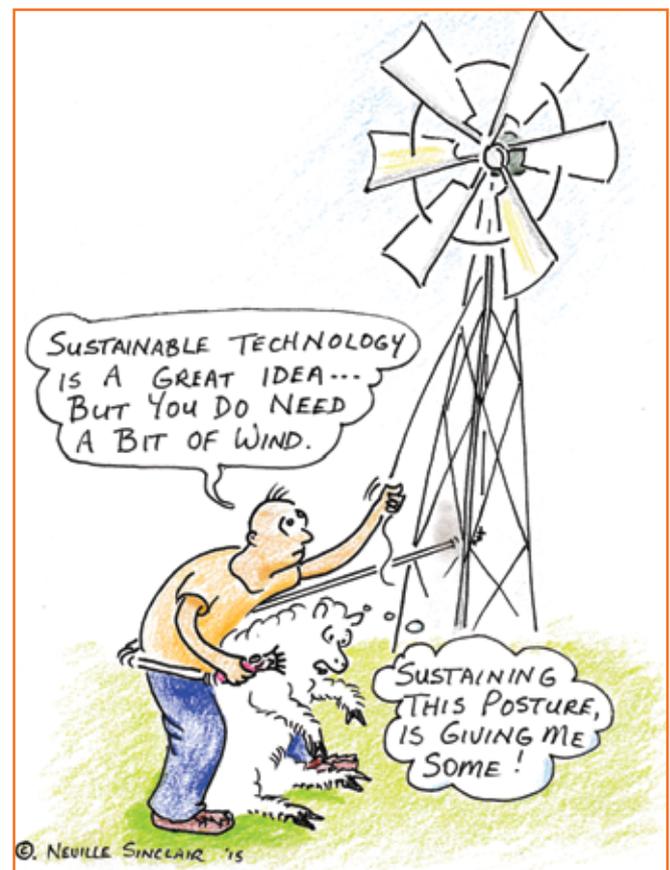
Mr J Mungavin of Porirua, a well-known Romney sheep-breeder, exhibitor and judge, stated to a *Dominion* representative recently that he feels very strongly upon the subject of sheep faking. He does not rest the blame so much on the associations as he does upon the judges.

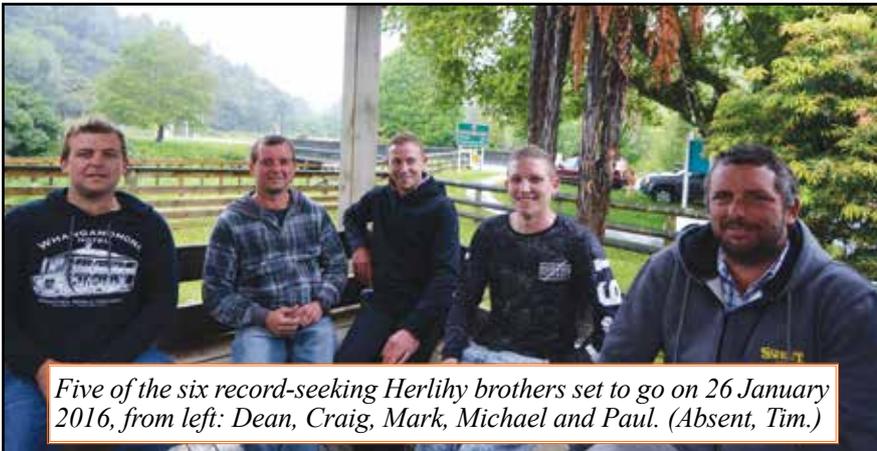
He is of the opinion that 'faking' could have been nipped in the bud a matter of only a few years ago. He was present, and was an exhibitor at one of our foremost shows, when he drew the attention of the judge to the fact that 'trimming' was being indulged in, even while the actual judging was being carried on.

Trimming was then only in its infancy, and he was most emphatic in his protest to the judge. He pointed out that the 'faking', about which the controversy at the present time is so keen, was sure to follow; and by his awarding the prizes to the sheep which that day had been trimmed, he was only winking at a dishonest practice and 'creating rogues among men who would otherwise be honest.'

Mr Mungavin had not long to wait to see his forecast prove correct. He is certain that the correspondence in the *Dominion* will do a great deal of good, but regrets that it will also create a certain amount of ill-feeling that could easily have been avoided had the judges taken the stand when they had the power. He believes in showing sheep 'as they are'.

Certainly all agree that a certain amount of extra attention is necessary in the way of feeding, especially of sheep coming from poorer country to compete with stock from rich and well grassed lands. The 'faking' of sheep, he considers, can only be described as a dishonest practice. It is of no benefit to the small farmer, for whom the breeder is supposed to be setting the example and striving to bring about improvement to their flocks. (*The Dominion*, 16 March 1911.)





Five of the six record-seeking Herlihy brothers set to go on 26 January 2016, from left: Dean, Craig, Mark, Michael and Paul. (Absent, Tim.)



A Mike Bool gang at Lake Ohau, August 2015: Back left: Jarrod Bool, Matt Parsons, Malcolm Boyne, Michael Brian, Ross Kelman, Jamie McKeown. Third row: Neil Strachan. Second row: Sam Fleming, Fern Ormond, Ashleigh Bool, Caleb Makuch, Mike Mulcahy (classer). Front: Jacob Shadrock and Shanie Mennie.

Not just any old 6-stand gang!

On Tuesday 26 January 2016, six shearers will attempt to set an eight-hour lamb shearing record. The attempt will take place at Papatutu Station near Gisborne. The unique thing about this attempt is that all six shearers are brothers. Born and raised in Taranaki, they are the sons of John and Pat Herlihy of Whangamomona. John and Pat ran the largest shearing run in Taranaki for many years, doing most of the large Landcorp sheds and many more private farms as well.

With the brothers brought up in this environment it was inevitable they would have a crack at shearing. Paul 35, Mark 33, Craig 32, Tim 30, Dean 29 and Michael 20 are all very capable shearers in their own right. They are a mix of full time shearers, farm managers and farm owners and have travelled the world shearing.

The brothers live in different parts of New Zealand and are teaming up to shear for Marshall Contracting based in Matiere in the King Country for mainshear leading up to the event.

The public are invited to attend at Papatutu Station where the hours of work will be 6am-4pm. (*Pork Hutchinson*)

Other record attempts coming up:
22 December 2015: Errol and Kalin Chrystal with Shelford Wilcox, 3-stand gang 8hr ewes at Hastings;

05 January 2016: Stacey Te Huia, 9-hr strong wool ewes at Masterton;

07 January 2016: Mark Barrowcliffe 3-stand gang 8-hr strong wool ewes at Te Kuiti.

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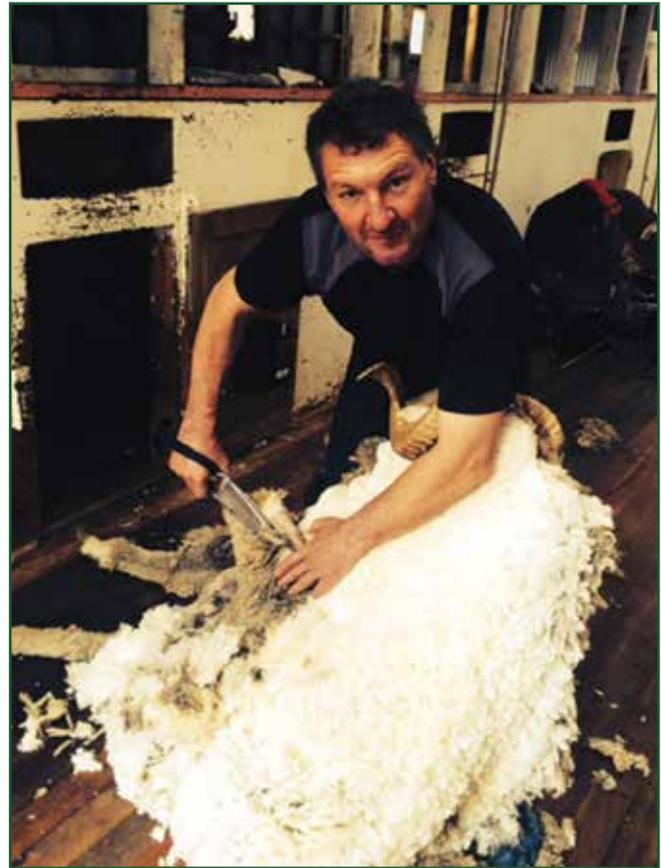


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Above: Blade shearer Walter Thompson plies his ancient craft at Stonehenge Station, shearing the merino rams. Opposite: Not to be out-done, Chris Vickers swaps his combs and cutters in favour of the old technology.



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Barbara on a roll

It's about time this wool industry identity was caught on the other side of the camera! Wool classer Barbara Newton of Dunedin is seen here plying her profession at Stonehenge in August this year.

A frequent contributor to *Shearing* magazine with photos and stories, Barbara has been classing the Hore family's fine wool clip for the best part of 25 years, an association which led to her writing a history of the property in 2012 – *Stonehenge & the Hore Family of Patearoa*. (Reviewed in this magazine April 2012.)

Prior to that Barbara had compiled a Golden Jubilee review of the New Zealand Merino Shears (1961-2011); as well as local histories of St. Clair (Dunedin) and Albert Town (Hawea).

After gaining her Diploma of Wool and Wool Classing from Massey University in 1976, Barbara spent her early working life with wool brokers in Dunedin before embarking on her wool classing career. This she undertakes between mid-July (pre-lamb) through to October.

Barbara fits in her photography and writing interests on a freelance basis, specialising in farming and shearing, including shearing sports. She has been a Shearing Sports NZ woolhandling judge for close to 20 years.

Barbara's most recent story in this magazine was her fine tribute to the late Joanne Kumeroa, published in the August 2015 edition.



Above, pictured from left: Clayton McGee (shearing), Arihia Tuwhangai, Rose McGee, Garth Rowley (shearing) and Tumerekara. Below left: Robyne O'Donnell, Tumerekara, Hauora Tuhakaraina, Arihia Tuwhangai, Rose McGee, Kahu Paul and Bruce Abbott.



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Just because he can!

By Tom Harding

When asked by a passing Londoner why on earth he would want to dress up in tights and medieval clothes, and spend his afternoon herding sheep across London Bridge, Leicestershire farmer Andrew Brown's succinct and rather bemused response was, simply, '... because I can!'

As a Freeman of the City of London, Andrew is indeed entitled to drive sheep across London's oldest bridge. This right is in addition to others, including, being allowed to have his sword unsheathed; if apprehended by the law for intoxication to be not arrested but instead sent home in a taxi; and if to be hanged, to be so hanged by a silken rope.

'Very useful perks of the job, I'd say!' noted his interviewer when reporting for BBC Radio 4's *Farming Today* programme.

Along with around 600 other Freemen, Andrew was taking part in the annual Great Sheep Drive on 29 September 2015.

'It's my right to take sheep across London Bridge – so I'm exercising that right today,' Andrew said.

'I'm very interested in history and the old institutions our country is famous for. I think if younger people don't start to get involved with these institutions some of them start to die out and we lose something of our national identity and that would be a great shame because the tourists love this sort of thing.

'I've had a lot of people asking to take pictures of me – I've got a sword and buckle shoes and tights!'

The event raised around £34,000 in profit, to be split between the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Worshipful Company of Woolmen's Charitable Trust.

As well as fundraising, having a bit of fun and allowing people like Andrew to exercise their long-established rights, the event also aims to give publicity to the British lamb and wool industry.

Organiser Bill Clark said, 'We are very conscious that young people – and not so young – are clueless about where food comes from and healthy eating. We have an underlying theme of education, bringing the countryside into the city, and showing people where their food comes from.'

A year or so ago, a young butcher, unable to park his van outside his shop, had to carry a huge joint of beef down the street on his shoulder. Noticing a group of London schoolgirls staring at him open-mouthed, he wondered if blood had dripped down all over his white coat or something. As he walked past them, still pondering what could possibly be so wrong to cause them to stare with such incredulity, he overheard one of them say, 'O – M – G – . . . did you see the size of that chicken?!'

It could be enough to drive a man to drink. But at least with his Freedom of the City, Andrew would be entitled to a free taxi home courtesy of the London Metropolitan Police!



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Wool aweighed

By *Bernie Walker*

New Zealand's heaviest sheep fleece producers, 'Big Ben' (28.9kg) and 'Shrek' (27k) have been comprehensively outweighed by a newcomer from Canberra in Australia.

Guinness World Records announced on 30 September 2015 that the Australian challenger now held the official world record for the 'most wool sheared from a sheep [in a] single shearing', having yielded 41.1kg (90lb 9oz). Previous challengers 'Shaun', a Tasmanian merino, and 'Samson', from the Monaro region in the New South Wales (NSW) high country threatened the Kiwi 'Big Ben' but were unable to produce the goods.



Discovered by bush walkers in the Mulligan Bush Reserve on the ACT-NSW, the big old wether was finally mustered and shorn on 3 September 2015. The shearer handed the job of de-fleecing 'Chris' as he has become known, was local Canberra shearer, Ian Elkins.

Ian was one of a group including the great Mark Conlan inducted into the Australian Shearers Hall of Fame at Hay NSW during Easter 2015. Having also demonstrated shearing for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (Will and Kate) at the 2014 Sydney Royal Easter Show, Ian relieved 'Chris' of the new record fleece.

Such was the staple length of the fleece, an incredible 47cm (18½ inches), Ian wondered if the wether had ever been shorn as "there could be six or seven years' worth of fleece". He said, "It is quite amazing he survived all those years in the wild".

Ian also said he had never shorn such a sheep. He usually shears 5kg from a merino wether in less than 3 minutes, but 'Chris' took him 42 minutes. Despite 35 years experience Ian admitted to feeling a bit nervous about the job. 'It was difficult because the weight of wool pulled the skin and I didn't want to cut the skin,' he said.

Without his wool, 'Chris' still weighed in at 44kg. 'He's half his size, he's a new man,' Ian said. 'Imagine the weight he would have been carrying in wet weather.'

RSPCA ACT Chief Executive Tammy Ven Dange told ABC news it would be hoped the record is never broken because it would be unlikely a sheep would survive long enough in the wild to do so.

The huge fleece has now gone to the National Museum in Canberra for display as it would not be able to be processed conventionally because of the staple length, and it also contained twigs and burrs.

As for 'Chris', he now lives the life of Riley on a NSW hobby farm after an all-clear from the RSPCA vets.



Move aside Shrek and all you other pretenders, Chris from Canberra is now the wooliest of them all. Discovered in a bush reserve near Canberra, Chris was brought to town where he met his match in Australian Shearing Hall of Fame member, Ian Elkins. Ian (pictured above) was able to remove the 41kg fleece at the rate of one kg per minute.

Time travel

By Roger Leslie

Getting to work is an issue for everyone but particularly so for shearing teams. Whether it's walking distance only or getting into the Hunter Valley Station the shearing gang still has to get there safely and in good enough condition to do a reasonable days work, then get back afterwards.

When I think of my years of shearing, it was probably good luck rather than good management that we got there intact. We had the odd skirmish with the scenery and occasionally someone walked home after refusing to travel again with a particular driver. I still have vivid memories of searching for combs, cutters and other assorted equipment in the long grass following an altercation with the bank. Sheep, it seemed, were found proportionately in greater numbers where the road conditions were worse.

Sadly some have lost their lives in this part of the days work. We casually piled eight or nine people into old Falcons, without seat belts and made sure a rousie was on the outside in the back in case any gates needed opening. We have got better and more task focused about travel, but I'm sure Peter Lyon's comment on his TV show 'there are 11 people in this van and not one of them is licenced or fit to drive it' has been on the lips of many contractors.

When we started shearing in Europe

the problems changed from winding gravel roads and farmers' tracks with multiple gates, to autobahns, gridlock and constantly being lost. Coming from the Catlins did nothing to prepare me for autobahn driving and, in spite of what the Germans may think, I have developed a certain flair and liking for it, and gridlock can mostly be avoided.

Thirty years of time and travel



Getting there is only half the fun

has seen the introduction of such navigational aids the road atlas, cell phones and in-car GPS. Even with these we are still sometimes hopelessly lost because wander shepherds have no interest in such trivia. They will wave away the map, refuse to pass on addresses and start long winded explanations based on rocks, trees and old houses, handed down over generations of moving sheep along the lanes and byways. I still have old notebooks filled with pages of drivel about Aral Garages, windmills, oak trees, sharp corners and ivy covered houses with barking dogs, but no actual address.

Following them in the car is also fraught with risk. While holding up shearers is a sport in Germany honed to Olympic precision, when they drive in front to point out the way, they throw caution to the wind and engage in activities like running red lights and excessive speed. Both of these attract serious teutonic frowns and fiscal discouragement from the authorities.

When they drive like this I tend to pull up and await their return. They usually come back with palms raised in mute but incredulous enquiry, sometimes more than once in a single journey.

Shearing hobby sheep in Europe has for me seriously increased the distance travelled by car per sheep shorn (on average 2 km each) but decreased the mental anguish in finding them because hobby sheepers (that's what the Germans call them) are happy to use modern technology in navigation and

text their address and post code.

In my German collection of old local road maps (which preceded the national road atlas) I have kept some instructions written on the back of a pantyhose packet. This was written by a young student who did our ringing and organising pre cell-phone. She didn't like to waste anything and we always knew what she was eating (and wearing) any particular week.

The neatly written precise details have such things as the national road number and the particular mile stone to turn off. This worked a treat in 1986 but the GPS has never been able to find that farm. Go figure!



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Shearing's Big Day Out

By Des Williams

More than twenty of New Zealand's elite shearers and woolhandlers will assemble at Waitara Station near Napier on Monday 4 January 2016 and take part in a day's work aimed at raising more than \$50,000 for the Cancer Society.

Dubbed 'Shearing's Big Day Out', the extravaganza will feature a standard nine-hour day in the Station's eight-stand woolshed, with more than 5000 full-wool sheep to be shorn by two teams of eight shearers, supported by teams of woolhandlers.

Waitara Station's Lloyd Holloway says the organising committee has assembled a generous-hearted team of wool industry workers and supporters who have all agreed to donate their day's labour to the Cancer Society. As well as the actual shearing, there will be numerous other fundraising activities taking place at the station on the day, allowing the public to contribute funds to the cause.

'While the shearers and woolhandlers will be seriously hard out shearing sheep and processing wool, we are planning lots of more leisurely activities that will appeal to town and country people alike – helicopter rides, dog trial demonstrations, guessing weights of animals and similar novelty events. There may even be some 'wild food' on offer. Plans are still evolving,' Lloyd Holloway says.

Mr Holloway says the idea for the Big Day Out arose earlier this year in a conversation with Hawke's Bay shearing contractor Colin Watson-Paul and Pongaroa-based Heiniger representative, Tony Hoggard.

'We found it astonishing that the Cancer Society receives no funding from Government sources and is totally reliant on donations received from the public. Like all sectors of society, the shearing industry has lost many of its members to cancer over the years, so we decided we were in a position to do something about raising some money.

'So the idea of the Big Day Out was born and we are seeking support from everybody in rural sector industries to show solidarity with our shearers and woolhandlers.'

Mr Holloway says the day will be built around the primary task of the first team of eight shearers tackling 5000 woolly sheep between 5am and 5pm. If each shearer can produce an average tally of say 500, the remaining sheep will be shorn by a second team of eight, starting shortly after 5pm.

'This is not any sort of world record attempt because the strict rules surrounding record attempts will not be followed. But whatever the shearers get through in the nine hours will certainly be a new shed tally.'

The main team of eight shearers will be current world and former New Zealand champion, Rowland Smith (Hastings); former world champion Gavin Mutch (Taranaki); multiple Golden Shears winner Johnny Kirkpatrick (Napier); former New Zealand fine wool champion, Nathan Stratford (Invercargill); multi-stand world record holders, Eru Weeds (Ohai), Leon Samuels (Invercargill), and two rising stars,



Shearing's Big Day Out organisers, Colin Watson-Paul (ShearingNZ), Lloyd Holloway (Waitara Station) and Tony Hoggard (Heiniger).

Aaron Haynes (Feilding) and Shaun Mathieson (Riverton).

They will be supported by former world champion Paul Avery (Stratford); past or present world record holders Justin Bell (Taihape), Doug Smith (Hastings) and James Mack (Weber); together with David Buick (Pongaroa), Paddy Mason (Masterton), Luke Mullins (Taihape) and Rocky Wegner (Australia).

'The only other place you could see the likes of that group of world-class athletes all on the same board together would be at Golden Shears, shearing a few sheep each. Add in our world class woolhandlers like Joel Henare (Gisborne), Sheree Alabaster (Taihape), Keryn Herbert (Te Awamutu), Ronnie Goss (Whanganui) and Tia Potae (Milton) - to have them all going hard out together with support from Colin Watson-Paul's team for nine hours in a typical working woolshed is probably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.'

Mr Holloway says support from the Hawke's Bay business community has already been immense with Elco Direct Wool Buyers, Meridian Energy, Bayleys Rural Real Estate, Blue Water Hotel, Mountain Valley Adventure Lodge, the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association and Farmlands all making substantial contributions toward financial, organisational, operational and accommodation costs.

'The generosity of those entities together with Heiniger (shearing equipment specialists) and Colin Watson-Paul (ShearingNZ contractors), in supporting the Big Day Out means that all other revenue raised on or before 4 January 2016 will go straight to the Cancer Society.'

'We also put the challenge out there for all other rural industries to support our shearers and woolhandlers by donating whatever they can to the cause. What if all rural workers could donate say even an hour's wages to the Society – wouldn't that be a great way to support the Big Day Out.'

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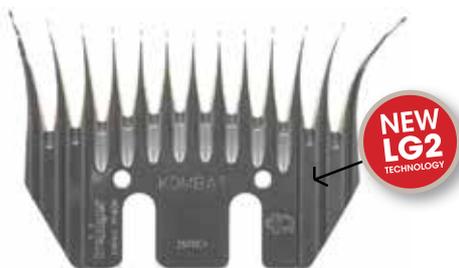
*please note: we suggest the following replacement profiles.

- Pro Legend = ***B-Evil / Proflex**
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- Awesome = ***Rebel**
- Warrior = ***Kombat / Raging Warrior**
- Reflex = ***B-Evil / Proflex**
- Quantum Plus = ***Kombat/ Quantum**

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***LG2** profiles deliver improved entry and flow and are “the buzz” in shearing sheds across New Zealand. This has seen demand for the above profiles recede.

The above profiles are currently still available at your local rural merchant but will gradually be eliminated and will not be available from early 2016.



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News 4 Ewes



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Pictured above is Kevin Thirkell, Upper North Island TSM hosting a gear night with PGW Dargaville.

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Brendon Potae, Lower North Island TSM conducting a gear night at Farmlands Gore.

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By far the most common issue Territory Sales Managers encounter in the field is customers complaining that their handpiece is not cutting or it is vibrating excessively.

Handpieces are similar to a modern motor car engine where the bearings in the motor are designed to wear out before the engine does. Likewise the bearings in your handpiece are designed to provide you with smooth running but they will wear out before the rest of the handpiece. Once the bearings begin to wear vibration increases and this leads to cutting and heating issues.

Be sure to check your bearings regularly and replace if needed - this will ensure a perfect cut and keep your tallies at the “top end”.

See your Icon manual “troubleshooting” guide on page 15 for the best way to check for any worn component issues.

If you are still experiencing problems please contact your local Heiniger Territory Sales Manager:-

Upper North Island
Kevin Thirkell - 027 252 8484

Lower North Island
Tony Hoggard - 027 252 8585

Upper South Island
Geoff Holmes - 027 252 8787

Lower South Island
Brendon Potae - 027 252 8383

Xmas Message

Heiniger would like to thank all of our loyal supporters for their business over the 2015 calendar year.

We wish you all a very Merry Xmas and a safe and Happy New Year and look forward to servicing you in 2016. With a brand New Year in front of us we ask you all to “watch this space” as the industry innovators look to offer you new and innovative products to make your job easier in the “front line”.

Hope to see you all at the “BIG DAY OUT” - 4th January 2016!



Welshman Tom Harding at the Westpoint Exeter Exhibition Centre, venue for the Devon County Show. It's the open final and he's leading, with sheep number 20 on the board. But the Show was last week ...



Top: Nine shearers going for gold on a blade shearing course held at Tony Keely's station, "Fernlea" near Apsley, Victoria. From left: Phil Oldfield, Jamie Tippet, Ken French, Richie Foster, Sam Larkin, Stu Jennings, Christina Stewart, Rebecca Clayton and nearest the camera, Ben Obst. Both girls are Kiwis. Above: Richie Foster, Jon Dalla and Ken French discuss strategy at Beaufort in Victoria Australia, November 2015.

Wide-combing it with ...

© Last Side Publishing 2015

Would that Ronda Rousey last five minutes in a woolshed against Ronnie Goss or Rocky Hape-Taite?



Oh yeah no, definitely!



Buck Naked

.... and

Doug Deep

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How do I get there?

We all have goals for our life. There are things we want to achieve, places we want to go, skills we want to learn.

They may be short term goals like learning how to grind gear properly or they may be long term goals like buying a house.

Often they are little more than dreams and are never acted upon or end at the first hurdle.

So how do we turn a dream into reality? With a strategic plan. Firstly you need to clearly identify what it is that you are trying to achieve and why you want to achieve it.

What is the driver behind it, what motivates you.

The bigger the driver, the easier it is to follow through, particularly, when things get tough.

Writing it down helps. Your pathway is more assured when it is written down:

Next, put a time frame around it. Identify the steps and goals you will need to tick off on the way. Can anyone help you with these steps?

Make a plan, number your steps and put a time frame on each step. You start with No.1 and then keep referring back to your plan. Regularly revisit the plan and adjust the steps, if necessary, as you go.

A total commitment to your plan often means a lifestyle change is necessary and sacrifices have to be made, i.e. putting aside the partying, smoking, driving a V8, etc.

Keep your goal flexible and negotiable, because life changes and so do the things that matter to you.

For instance, at 20 it was a flash car, and by 23, after saving heaps of money, buying a house may become more important.

At any one time you can have various goals: a financial goal, an emotional goal, a sporting goal, etc.

Goals give your life structure, purpose, direction, focus and fulfilment.

And yet, never make it all consuming, there must always be room in your life for ice cream.

(By Gabriela and Dion)



Rangi loves hard work, but sometimes he just has to sit and watch it! A sad case of wool piling up while the press is broken down. (He's getting 'de-pressed' while waiting on the Fix-it man to arrive!) (It was one of your mates from Robertson Shearing that sent us the photo, Rangi!)

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Do You Know This Man?

Probably not, although he is the father of a very well known and outstanding shearer. No, he is not the father of the Bowen brothers or any other Kiwi gun.

This old chap is none other than Jack Howe Snr. of Warwick Queensland. He was born at East Stonehouse, Devonport, in England in 1832. His parents were Abraham and Mary Howe. It is believed the family arrived in Australia soon after 1841.



Jack Snr. claimed to be the first clown to tour Australia with a circus. His pay was £3 (\$6) per week, all expenses paid, with a benefit every two months. This was with the pioneer of circus in Australia, James Ashton. Jack left the circus in Warwick in August 1855, and became the town crier and bell ringer, a position he held for more than fifty years.

He married a young widow, Louisa Chadbourne, in 1860. Her first husband, William, had drowned trying to cross the flooded Condamine River early in 1857 as he sought to register the birth of their son, William. Louisa Stokes had come from Ireland as companion to Mrs Patrick Leslie, and was housemaid on the Leslie's 'Canning Downs' station near Warwick.

Jack Snr. was the first man to receive the pension in Warwick. This was on Saturday, October 3rd 1908 with about sixteen others. This photo, taken by MH Poulsen, was published in *The Queenslander* in April 1908. It is thought he would have been aged 76 when it was taken. His famous son, Jack (John Robert) Howe Jnr. was born on 'Killarney Estate', SE of Warwick on July 10, 1861.

Credit for finding this photo goes to Des DeBelle of Canberra – a mine of information with items of interest related to shearing. (Bernie Walker)



Winning Cantabs: Top left: Alex Drake, intermediate shearing. Top right: James Webster, junior shearing. Above right: Tony Tobbs, Blades maestro again. Above left: Paul Hodges, senior shearing. (Richard Sampey photos.)

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Should only take an hour ...

By Des Williams

Cricket has its T20 format, rugby has the sevens, league has joined in with nines and even netball, in recent times, has flirted with a 'fives' competition.

So abbreviated forms of competition in popular sports is nothing new. As Jack Dowd related in a recent conversation, shearing too used to have a short form of the game, namely one-hour records. From the mid-1970s to the early 1980s there were several one hour tallies posted.

Jack remembers an event at Warkworth, where the one-hour concept took hold, with Norm Blackwell shearing 72 and Jack 71. In 1976, with a bit more organisation, Blackwell lined up six shearers for another assault on the tally. The Warkworth Show venue saw Dowd, Eddie Reidy, Ivan Rosandich, Derek Gregory Ray Alabaster and Martin Ngataki facing the starter's gun. From a 'cold start' on sheep given a light tail crutch, Dowd shored 83 sheep in the hour to set a world record that he believes still stands.

Derek Gregory (Dargaville) reckons he had the hardest job that day at Warkworth: "I just came up with Ray Alabaster to be in his pen. Then Norm Blackwell said he couldn't shear and suddenly everyone's looking at me! I'd had a beer with my dinner and next thing I know I'm up there with handpiece in hand, having a race!"

Then, an event organised by Rongo Wetere at Te Awamutu in November 1981 saw Jack lined up with John Fagan, Stephen Dodds and Samson Te Whata. What was meant to be a straight out speed contest and a crack at the '83' then had outside judging introduced and Dowd lost to Fagan on quality, but the record remained intact.

A year or two afterwards, the late Godfrey Bowen as chairman of the National Shearing Committee, announced that the whole record business had become a bit messy. Conditions were varying from week to week and there was no longer any basis for fair comparison of tallies.

All existing records were therefore frozen in time [my description, not Godfrey's!] and official records given a fresh new start. And though the conventional records -



'Which one of these combs did I use in my one-hour record – was it the Aussie narra comb or this old Burgon from the 1960s?' With no bent gliders in sight, we'd have to suggest it was neither, Jack!

single stand eight and nine hours; multi-stand eight and nine hours on ewes, lambs and merinos, etc. have all been re-established, the one hour tally has fallen by the wayside.

Jack Dowd says he's been carrying the tally on his shoulders for 40 years and he would like to see one of today's young guns have a crack at it. "The hard part about a one-hour tally is having to start cold. It always takes a few sheep to warm up before you really hit your straps. Then you have to keep popping them out every 43 seconds. It's a bit like doing four open finals in a row!"

Footnote: The writer is reliably informed that Darin Forde shored 84 in the first hour of his first run (total 143) after lunch on the way to his then world record 720 ewes in nine hours at Wairaki on 28 January 1997. That would count as a 'cold start'!

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Stupid Sheep ...

By Dr Clive Dalton

There wouldn't be many of us who hadn't called sheep 'stupid', when in fact, we were the stupid ones because we didn't understand sheep.

In my 'herd laddie' days with wild horned Scottish Blackface and Swaledale sheep, and rocket-propelled Cheviots without handles, brute force was the weapon of choice. If you couldn't wrestle a big horned Blackface tup to the ground, making it pay for its lack of cooperation on the way down – you were a wimp.

It was all so wrong, but then research on sheep behaviour didn't figure in our academic or practical training, and it wasn't till I got to Whatawhata Research Station and worked with the late Dr Ron Kilgour that I realised how ignorant we were.

Ancient Celts must have built the stone sheep yards on the Scottish Border farms and in Wales where I worked, as sheep psychology played little part in their design. Thank goodness early Australia and New Zealand farmers took sheep behaviour into account, although Kilgour's work showed that there was still room for improvement, as yards and woolsheds still relied on a lot of brute human and huntaway force.



We were blessed at Whatawhata with farm manger Joe McLean's skills in building sheep yards, as he understood sheep behaviour and was a skilled builder. His bible was the 1951, Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 353, "Design and construction of sheep-drafting yards", which I have put on my blog <[woolshed1](#)>. It cost 1/6d.

Ron and I did some work with our different breeds of sheep timing them along the farm race, then through the yards up the ramp into the woolshed. There were enormous breed differences, which is not news! The Cheviots always won the race and were into the woolshed and out again before you could get the door shut. The Merinos were the worst for as soon as they got baulked, they'd squeeze into a tight circle which you then had to unwind to get them going again – risking cardiac arrest in the process. They hated confined spaces.

Ron used to insist that we looked at problems down at a sheep's eye height, which was always revealing – even if

you looked stupid doing it. Sheep's eyes give them nearly 360 peripheral vision, with only a narrow blind spot at the rear, which we all know is where you can creep up on them if you are quick enough.

Here are some basic sheep behaviour points:

- Sheep are a flocking species, so they will always move to other sheep for company. So decoy sheep can be used in blind ends of races, or even mirrors.
- Sheep love escaping from fear, so a very attractive sight is the rear end of another disappearing sheep. So where possible single file races are best with bends in them, although this makes them more difficult to make.
- Long single-person handling races work well, as they fill easily because sheep think they are escaping along.
- Sheep like solid ground, so grating on ramps into to the woolshed and into the catching pens needs to be laid so sheep see it as solid, with no light coming up through.
- The angle of the neck exiting the crush pen is critical, so one jammed sheep can push past another up the drafting race. A roller on one side has been used to help this.
- The angle of the drafting gates is also critical so a sheep doesn't see a complete block ahead, but can get a sneak view of a gap to escape. Solid doors seem to work best although they are heavier than metal gates.
- Rubber blocks on drafting gates, especially with multiple drafting cuts down noise, which can scare the next sheep coming up to them.
- Close-boarded crush pens and races stop sheep baulking by seeing others in adjoining pens and wanting to stay in their view. Solid boarding also helps woolled sheep slide along the sides better.
- At certain times of day sun reflections from windows are enough to baulk sheep and are worth checking out at sheep level.
- Slope. Sheep always run better up hill, so it's worth taking this into account in yard design.
- Noise. Barking dogs, rattles, yahooing and flapping plastic bags work for so long until the sheep get used to them, or just baulk in total fear. The bigger problem is they drive staff crazy and add stress to the job! If you need all that noise – there's a serious design problem that needs fixing.

I once visited a completely flash new sheeppark layout built under a massive roof. The yards were all metal and the noise was diabolical requiring staff to wear earmuffs. I was not impressed, and I'm sure the sheep agreed. The echo from barking dogs would have driven you mad for a start.

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Tony Clutterbuck, Northland Icon

If you speak to ‘young shearers’ from up north of the Auckland Harbour bridge about how and when they learned to shear, chances are the name Tony Clutterbuck will soon get a mention during the course of conversation. (The boys from Sheepworld that we featured a few editions back, and Roger Cook August 2015, for instance).

Pictured above with son, Dawson, (and opposite, shearing), Tony and his wife Sylvia farm at Broadwood, just a few kilometres south of Kaitiaki.

Brought up at Feilding, Tony started in the industry as a teenager at Taumarunui, shed-handing for open gangs before moving on to work for the likes of Alan Barker at Palmerston North, Graham Hughes at Halcombe, as well as Elbert De Koning (Orawia) and Brian Galvin at Nightcaps. He and Sylvia also spent some time in Western Australia.

Shearing sheep provided Tony and Sylvia with the opportunity to acquire their own property and in 1980 they moved to Broadwood, where they have remained ever since.

Tony continued shearing, in company with a succession of youngsters, including Kevin Marshall, Glen Berghan and Vaughan Craig. He had a natural rapport with the younger brigade and when the New Zealand Wool Board’s provincial instructor Kevin Boyd went overseas, Tony got the call up to step in and help with training in Northland.



*“Whew, managed to miss the pizzle again,” Tony Clutterbuck says, with the intense scrutiny of *Shearing* magazine’s camera adding extra pressure to his careful job.*

With the likes of experienced NZWB tutors Robin Kidd, Peter Taylor and Robin Middleton providing encouragement, Tony too gained great satisfaction from seeing learners develop as both shearers and as people.

Tony says the Broadwood community expanded quite rapidly about the time he moved there, with new families moving in to take up ballot farms offered by the Department of Lands and Survey.

‘Broadwood became a bustling community with a large Maori population and became a most enjoyable place to live. There were 40,000 sheep to shear almost at my back door until the advent of Rogernomics in 1987 started changing the face of farming forever.’

Tony had received an introduction to competition shearing during his days at Halcombe, and in 1982 he was instrumental in organising the first Broadwood Show. ‘Despite the declining sheep numbers we have managed to keep the show going ever since and next year [20 February 2016] will mark our 35th year.’

Tony says he’s grateful that shearing has given him the opportunity to work with great people over many years – Percy Kara, Jock Heke, Basil White, Alan Barker and others. ‘But perhaps Kelly Hokianga was the biggest influence on my own career as a shearer. I’d say he brought me through to be a proper shearer, rather than just someone who cut wool off sheep.’

And Tony Clutterbuck has played his own part over many years in helping Northland youngsters on their way to becoming ‘proper shearers’.

An advertisement for Matson Shearing Ltd. The background is a photograph of a shearing shed. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts.

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Two out of three will have to do

New Zealand won two of three trans-Tasman shearing and woolhandling tests during the Australian national shearing and woolhandling championships at Hamilton, Victoria, on 28 September 2015.

The big successes on the Saturday were scored by woolhandlers Sheree Alabaster and Joel Henare and blades shearers Tony Dobbs and Brian Thomson.

But a new-look machine shearing side of experienced Tony Coster and first-time internationals Troy Pyper and Aaron Haynes was unable to reverse a trend which has now seen Australia win five of the annual home-and-away matches in a row.

The woolhandling success was a particularly big moment for former world champions Alabaster, of Taihape, and Dunedin-based Henare, from Gisborne.

They beat Australians Sarah Moran and Tara Smith by over three points, avenging the Australian pair's defeat of 2014-2015 Kiwi teams Ronnie Goss and Keryn Herbert at the Golden Shears in Masterton last March.

The event included a tribute to New Zealand woolhandling legend Joanne Kumeroa, who died earlier this year and who had spent considerable parts of her career working in around Hamilton and western Victoria

Dobbs, of Fairlie, and Thomson, of Christchurch, successfully defended New Zealand's unbeaten record in transtasman bladeshearing tests with victory by 21pts over Australians John Dalla and Ken French.

The machine shearing test, the latest in a series dating back over 40 years, was dominated by the Australians, masters of the fine wool sheep and winning by over 26pts.

They were headed by South Australian legend and two-times world champion Shannon Warnest, who claimed individual honours for at least the 13th time in his record 26 Trans-Tasman matches, which includes every test since 2004. He was two points ahead of teammate Daniel McIntyre, who was first to finish the 12-sheep contest.

Results of the trans-Tasman tests:

Machine shearing (12 sheep): Australia 271.68pts (Shannon Warnest 18min 18sec, 88.32pts; Daniel McIntyre 17min 42sec, 90.43pts; Nathan Meaney 18min 47sec, 92.93pts) beat New Zealand 298.18pts (Tony Coster 19min, 93.25pts; Troy Pyper 19min 36sec, 96.13pts; Aaron Haynes 19min 46sec, 108.8pts).

Blade shearing (4 sheep): New Zealand 189.55pts (Tony Dobbs 14min 46sec, 92.55pts; Brian Thomson 16min 15sec, 97pts) beat Australia 21.75pts (John Dalla 14min 42sec, 105.35pts; Ken French 18min 28sec, 106.4pts).

Woolhandling: New Zealand (Joel Henare, Sheree Alabaster) 42.28pts beat Australia (Sarah Moran, Tara Smith) 45.53pts.



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Scenes from the Australian National Championships and trans-Tasman test series at Hamilton, Victoria, in September. Top: who needs a referendum – those flags are 'poles apart'. Centre – a tight circle of friends (as New Zealanders have to be whenever contest against Australia is involved). Above: the two friendly rivals being presented on stage prior to the shearing test. The Australians extended their winning sequence at home to five in succession, with Shannon Warnest again taking individual honours.



*This Dion Morrell gang at Matakau Station, Central Otago, August 2015, obligingly stopped for the photo during a run:
Back left: Nephi Clarke, Hemi Power, Dave Gower, Harry Staples, Sam Wilson, Mike Biemond, Caleb Wakefield.
Front: Tyler Hira, Foonie Waihape, Barbie Gilmore, Khochyze Forward, David Ropiha.*

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Risk and return

By Barry Pullin

Recently I was asked what was the greatest risk to my business? In a heartbeat I responded – people. My staff and my management people.

Shearing businesses are based on people. Shearers, shed hands, pressers and the people who manage them. People are the businesses extension and they are its biggest constraint and resource. Labour content on job costings are high.

These are cold plain hard facts. What is required is the understanding and the commitment that investing in people is the best investment that your shearing business can make.

Since the 1950's the shearing industry has relied primarily on other people for this investment – farmers through levy and more recently government. The environment has changed from 50 years ago. Shearing businesses and indeed everyone in our industry must recognise, realise and understand that they are now themselves responsible.

It is very easy to lump this all under the aspects of training and look at only the task specific of shearing a sheep, skirting the fleece and pressing the bale. It is much more than that. It is about developing a culture, developing an awareness of how the picture is built up to have the most efficient and effective team.

This team also includes the management or person that directs



Barry Pullin, shearing contractor

the operation and development of the whole entity.

In a nut shell we are talking about training in its fullest sense and the understanding that training has a cost. It should be budgeted for, it should be discussed and it should have a commitment. It should provide the opportunity for leverage for government funding and it should be the primary concern immediately after, or some could say before, getting those sheep out there shorn. If \$1 is offered up and it is matched by \$1 that allows \$2 to be spent.

Consider this – if everybody com-

mitted 1% of gross of turnover into a training budget, whether it be a contract shearing run or an open run operator, there would be ample resource for investment in people development.

There is nothing new here and some business have been doing this for a long time. Some of the knockers to this philosophy say why should they do this when the staff are transient and move around? Consider this from Roberta Matusan, (January 22, 2013) in a Forbes publication:

Why investing in your people makes good business sense.

Many organisations hold a tight reign on training budgets because they fear people will leave the organisation after they've invested all this money in them. This may occur. However, just as many people, if not more, leave organisations because they don't feel valued by their employers. "If everyone comes to Deloitte for however long it is and they are energized and leave Deloitte as a well-rounded leader, they are departing as an advocate of Deloitte," states O'Brien. "We refer to our people as alumni for life. We believe that people have strengths and that you must nurture them. When they leave, they will remember us."

Done properly, employee training and development can provide a company with a considerable return on investment. After all, people are usually the biggest asset an organisation has, especially those that are service firms or business that rely on their reputation, which is just about all businesses. Unlocking the untapped potential locked inside employees and channeling this effectively, will surely boost the company's performance a great deal.

This is all grand but the bottom line is don't be a tight arse, don't look at your glass being half empty look at it being half full. Look at the opportunity not the problem. Build the opportunity and that conquers the problem.

People need investment. People need the opportunity to be the best that they can be.

The culture that is developed in the business is reflected in the way that it operates with its clients. Repeat business is always best. Repeat business is the easiest business.

A graphic for Pullin Shearing Ltd. It features a logo with a sheep and the text 'PULLIN SHEARING LTD' and 'SHEAR NZ'. Below the logo is a list of benefits with checkmarks. At the bottom, there is contact information for Barry, Trish & Marie.

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Keeping kids safe on farms

More than 1,500 school children in Waikato have taken part in a pilot initiative to help them and their families stay safe on farms and thousands more are set to take part as the scheme grows. Blue Light, with support from WorkSafe New Zealand, developed the Farm Safety Activity Book to improve kids' knowledge of rural safety in and around the farm. The book tests their knowledge through a series of quizzes on a range of subjects, such as chemicals and poisons, firearms, behaviour around livestock and vehicles.

Seventy three students from Wairakei Primary School are among the 1,500-plus students from 24 primary schools in the Waikato that are now graduating after completing the activity book. The initiative is being rolled out to another 48 schools across Waikato and the Bay of Plenty regions over the coming months.



Front left: graduating students Gypsy Edgeworth, Rose Abbott, Taryn Drysdale and Will Fowler. Back left: Al McCone, WorkSafe Agriculture Programme Manager, Mike Jackson, Operations Manager at Blue Light, and Mary Hodren, Senior Constable.

"The activity book is helping kids and their families understand the simple steps they can take to reduce the chances of an accident happening on the farm," says Al McCone, Agriculture Programme Manager at WorkSafe.

"It's a fun and engaging way to reinforce how kids can still enjoy a traditional life on the farm, and stay safe and well. Growing up on a farm gives New Zealand children valuable life skills, but that great lifestyle comes with specific risks and this programme helps them manage those."

Mike Jackson, Operations Manager at Blue Light, said the activity book had been welcomed by both school children and their families. "The idea is for kids to take the activity book home with them and complete it alongside mum and dad. This initiative is not just about teaching kids to be safe on the farm, but also changing the attitudes of parents. This will help their families gain a better level of awareness of the dangers of living, working and visiting farms."

- Twenty three children have died in workplace farm accidents since 2000.
- One in 12 people who die on farms are aged 15 years or under.
- Children are over-represented in farm-related deaths involving large animals, ponds, and light vehicles, including quad-bikes.
- Blue Light is a national youth charity that works with the NZ Police to empower youth.

For more information on staying safe on farms, go to www.saferfarms.org.nz

Results: New Zealand Merino Shearing Championships, held at Alexandra on 2-3 October 2015:

Shearing and Woolhandling Trans-Tasman Challenge: New Zealand Merino Shears (shearers Dion Morrell, Grant Smith, Tony Coster; woolhandlers Pagan Rimene, Erana Smith, Alpha Wade) 711.631pts beat Royal Perth Show (shearers Damian Boyle, Todd Wegner, Nathan Meaney; woolhandlers Sarah Rogers, Mel Morris, Janice Heberman) 802.997pts.

Shearing:

Open (12 sheep) Damien Boyle (Tambelup, West Australia) 114.316pts, 1; Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 118.416pts, 2; Grant Smith (Rakaia) 123.217pts, 3; Tony Coster (Rakaia) 133.866pts, 4; Todd Wegner (Nungarin, West Australia) 135.417pts, 5; Dion Morrell (Alexandra) 139.266pts, 6.

Senior (5 sheep): Corey Smith (Rakaia) 115.75pts, 1; David Gower (Whangamomona) 119.2pts, 2; Ethan Smith (-) 120.25pts, 3; Jay Stringer (Ranfurly) 132.9pts, 4; Phoenix Hawkins (Ashburton) 137.6pts, 5; Linton Palmer (Dipton) 135.85pts, 6.

Woolhandling:

Open: Pagan Rimene (Masterton) 195.52pts, 1; Joel Henare (Gisborne) 207.556pts, 2; Ratapu Moore (Kaitangata) 246.556pts, 3; Tia Potae (Milton) 271.186pts, 4.

Senior: Alpha Wade (Cromwell) 1; Erana Smith (Ruatoria) 2; Peketai Puna (Napier) 3; Sarah Rogers (Gelantipy, Vic.) 4.

Junior: Beks Osborne (Hamilton) 1; Chenelle Waihape (Mataura) 2; Miriama Power (Gore) 3; Sharni Newton (Gore) 4.

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Daryl Ainsley gang at Mt Pisa, Central Otago, August 2015. Back left: DJ Crawford, Aramiha Te Whata, Pete Hickmott, Luke Mullins, Dave Mathieson, Troy Pyper. Front left: Ian Shaw (classer), Cheyenne Walker, Mary-anne Baty, Jillian Waitere, Beks Osborne, Betty Nicho, Murray McMillan (Station owner).



Woolhandling champions from the 2015 New Zealand Corriedale championships at Christchurch. Left Chonelle Kawana (senior); right Sharni Newton (junior).



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The Mystery Solved

Our mystery photo on page 11 of the August 2015 edition brought forth the required information from Wayne Cooper of Palmerston North. It was a Graham Clegg gang at Pahaua Station in 1964 and taken from a story published in the *Weekly News Annual* of the same year. (Written by former *Shearing* magazine owner, David Grace.)

Among the shearers in the group was Laurie Mutch, who these days resides with his wife Pam (cousin to Wayne Cooper) on the outskirts of Whangarei.

Having been brought up on a Northland dairy farm (born in Auckland), Laurie says he and a mate went to a NZ Wool Board five-day

shearing school at Kaukapakapa, run by instructor, Reg Morgan. Laurie was a member of the Young Farmers' Club and the Club was encouraging members to attend the course. Although the Wool Board only wanted people who intended to be shearers, Laurie went under false pretences, with no intention of making shearing a career. But he topped the school after Godfrey Bowen had "put them through their paces" on the final day.

Before long Laurie decided that he might as well have a go at shearing for a living, but with no one close by to work with, he soon found himself answering an advertisement for staff by Jack Harrison at Taihape.

"Wally Smith was running the gangs at that stage, with Jack Harrison busy negotiating the 40-hour week for shearers and changes to the system that had shearers' wages determined by the price of wool. This caused quite serious fluctuations to the price per hundred that shearers were being paid from season to season in some parts of the country."

After that stint with Harrison, Laurie started working for Graham Clegg and remained there for some five years, working mainly around the lower North Island. He well remembers one season shearing at Siberia Station, in the Turakina Valley near Hunterville.

"There were 40,000 sheep to shear, which took eight shearers six weeks to complete. Then we went to Papanui Station and they also had a big flock."

Laurie also spent a memorable season at Longreach, shearing merinos with narrow gear and receiving tuition from the champion Australian, Kevin Sarre, a member of the Australian Wool Board's Talli-Hi team.

Like many of his era, Laurie's main objective was to shear his way onto a farm and after about 10 years on the handpiece, and having recently married, he started managing farm properties around the North, including Matakana and The Caves property (owned by Portland Cement) before eventually drawing a ballot farm at Te Pora, from the Lands and Survey Department. 'Rogernomics' eventually put an end to that venture.

(Des Williams)



Laurie Mutch (3rd left) with the YFC Blue Ribbon finalists at Golden Shears, 1967. Others from right: Ron Stuart (Sth Auckland); Max McLune (Nth Auckland); Lindsay Signal (Wellington); (Miss Wairarapa?) G Ingram (Wellington) and J King (Southland). And the inset (mystery photo) from left: Ma Flutey, Rangiri, Bryce Crimpton, Jim the shepherd; unknown woman (Diane, Judy or Sally?), Steve Dunn, John Ledwick (Australia) and Laurie Mutch.



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Umpqua sounds familiar

The world is becoming a sad place when we have to read almost on a weekly basis about yet another mass shooting spree, where numerous innocent lives are lost.

(Mainly) disenchanted young men in a hurry to leave this earth for their own good reason decide they want to get their name on the front page of the paper when they go. Most of these tragedies take place in other countries [though New Zealand is by no means exempt – think Aramoana] at places we've mostly not previously heard of.

The recent mass shooting at Umpqua ['Um-kwaa'] Community College at Roseburg, Oregon, may have rung some familiarity bells here in En Zed however, because that's where former

New Zealand Wool Board instructors under the leadership of Alan Barker and others played such a prominent part teaching Americans to shear.

An agreement between Sherrill Wells of Roseburg and the NZWB in the 1970s led to an arrangement where instructors would go to Roseburg during the off-season and deliver up to 15 or 20 courses. This arrangement continued until the early 1990s, at which time the Americans were asked to assume responsibility for their own shearer training programmes.

An item about American shearers published in the *New Zealand Herald* on 3 May 1923 gives a clue to why the Americans needed training. A 'recent visitor' to the States had reported the following on his return: 'It should be of

interest to the New Zealand pastoralist, as well as to the eight-hour day shearer, who can knock up a much bigger cheque in his 44-hour week than his American cousin can in 50 or so hours.

'The range sheep are mostly fine wool, like Merinos and Rambouillets, and coarse wool crossbreds, like half or quarter-bred Lincolns. These sheep shear perhaps eight to nine pounds on the average.

'I have seen several hand shearers who have sheared between 75 and 100 sheep in a 10-hour day, and there are blade shearers that make 125 a day.

'Experienced machine shearers easily shear 125, and very often 140 to 150 head. They seldom work over 10 hours, as it is very strenuous on account of stooping over.'



Wool classers and other industry people on a visit to PGG Wrightson at Napier



Grant Moore (Winton) gang at Alan and Lindsay Baird's property, Five Rivers, August 2015: Back left: Adam Hawkins, Barry Cummings, Jock Mackenzie, Campbell Dyer, Jade Ratima. Front left: Kelly Morrell, Michelle Stanley, Bailey Unahi.



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Old Bob

Old Bob won't come into the bar any more,
On a Saturday night for his beer.
He was horned in the drafting yards up at Mt Poor
By an irate old cow, so I hear.
They were cutting out clearskins at calf marking time;
At work on a wild mountain mob;
Though Bob wasn't spry like he'd been in his prime,
He was still a good man at his job.
But a cow charged and pinned him against the yard gate,
In a melee that left him laid low,
In the dust, when they dragged him away 'twas too late,
He had gone where all good hillmen go.

*So hang up his saddle and stockwhip tonight,
The spurs that he wore, and his hat.
No better mate ever said "Give us a light" –
Could an epitaph say more than that?*

He spent all his life on the range and the hill,
Was well known at the stations about.
And many a heart and clear eye will fill
When they hear he has gone "further out".
But little he cared of a heavenly force,
Nor was he given to prayer.
And no man could break in a dog or a horse
As well as old Bob I declare.
He could steady the rash ones and gentle the bad,
(*Tis a gift some men have and a knack)
Till the wildest outlaw that a mountain run had
Would carry a child on its back.

*So hang up his saddle and stockwhip tonight,
The spurs that he wore, and his hat.
No better mate ever said "Give us a light" –
Could an epitaph say more than that?*

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Letter from the Coast

Shearing reader Kevin Ryan of Hokitika has written to the editor with some stories of his involvement in the industry, starting as an eight-year-old.

"My involvement in the industry began in 1950 when I caught the "wool boom bug" by living next door to a freezing works siding at Belfast. I used to take my mother's empty cotton flour bags to sheep rail carriages on sidings and collect woolly dags and also from fences. Then I'd bike about 4km to the wool store. Following that I had my first pet lamb who lasted 13 years and I began blade shearing it when I was 11.

"After leaving school in 1958 I headed to the MacKenzie Country, shepherding at Haldon Station. The sheep there were shorn by Hart's blade gangs from Blenheim. Three-and-a-half years later I became a musterer in the Hurunui District, at the Lakes and Lake Taylor Stations. Over the next 10 years I also worked at Mount White, Grasmere, Cora Lynn, Craigiedown, Flock Hill, Castle Hill and Avoca.

"After three years at Oxford I then spent the next 28 years on my own Pastoral Lease at the head of the Wairau Valley, 80km west of Blenheim. There I shored my own merinos with blades for a few years, before switching to machines.

"A two-years stint (1967-68) on Falkiner Merino Studs in the Riverina District of New South Wales saw me assisting with the blade shearing of their show sheep – having to leave one inch of wool and inspected afterwards before showing.

"I retired to the West Coast ("back to nature") in 2000 with a 56 ha lifestyle block, running merino sheep as a hobby. They require an open fleece and need to be bred here to cope with the climate (condensation)."

Kevin concludes with assessments of shearers he's seen during his years in the industry. "The most stylish shearer I saw was Paul Karaitiana; the neatest was Alan Norman and the toughest, Les Richards. But for my money, David Fagan is the world champion athlete of two centuries!"



Mike Bool's woolhandlers at Lake Ohau. Front: Fern Ormand. Back left: Caleb Makuch, Jacob Shadrock, Shanie Mennie, Ashleigh Bool and Sam Fleming.

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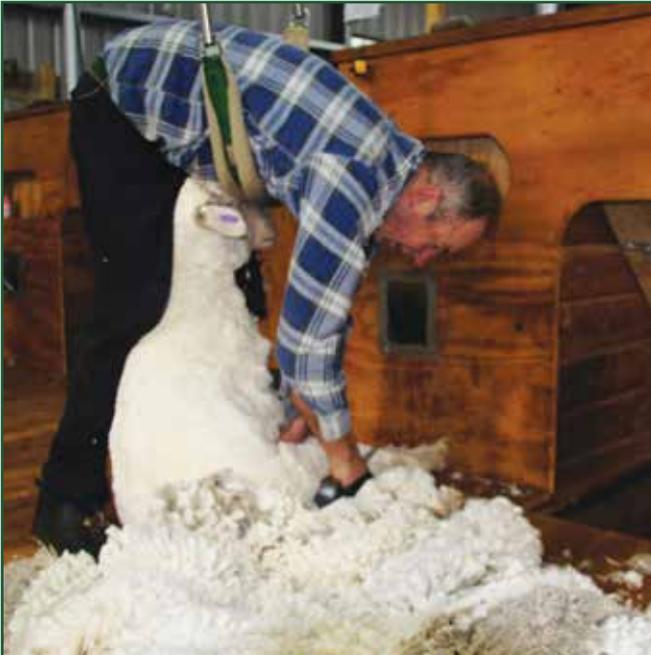
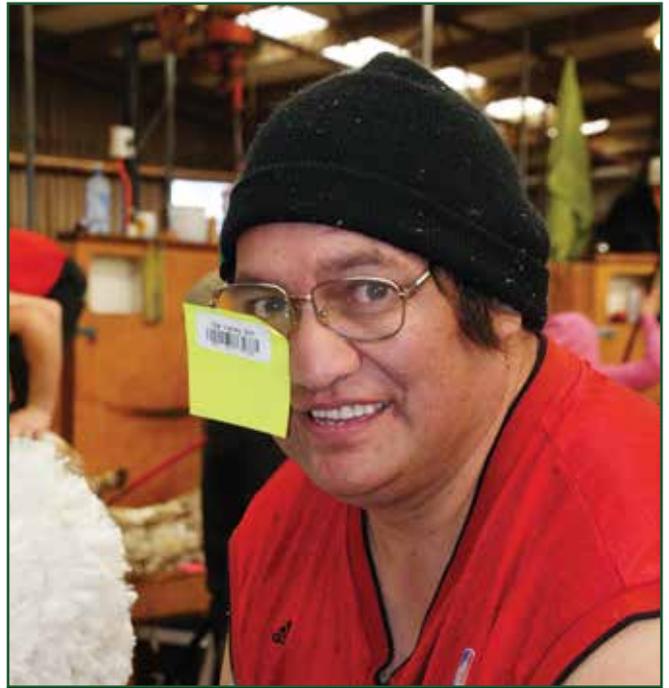
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Southern sheds, August 2015. Clockwise from top left: Foonie Waihape and Tracey Paterson at Matakanui. The barcoded George Hawkins at Ida Valley Station; Mike Bool blade shearers at Lake Ohau: Neil Strachan, Jamie McKeown, Matt Parsons and Michael Brian.



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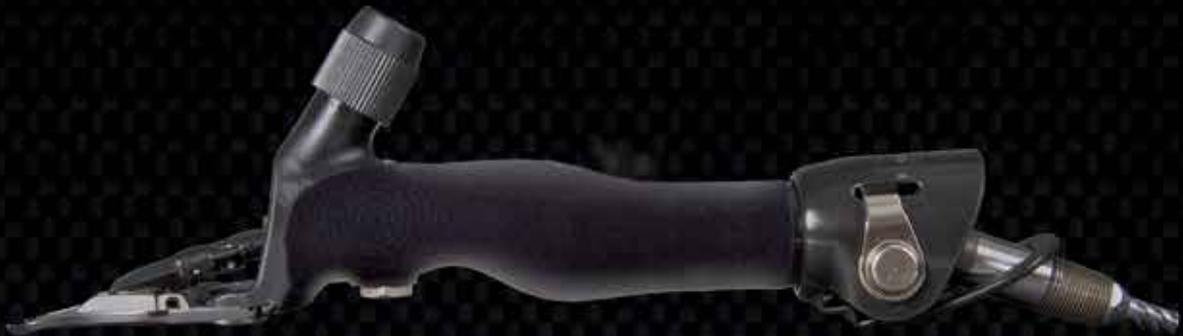
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