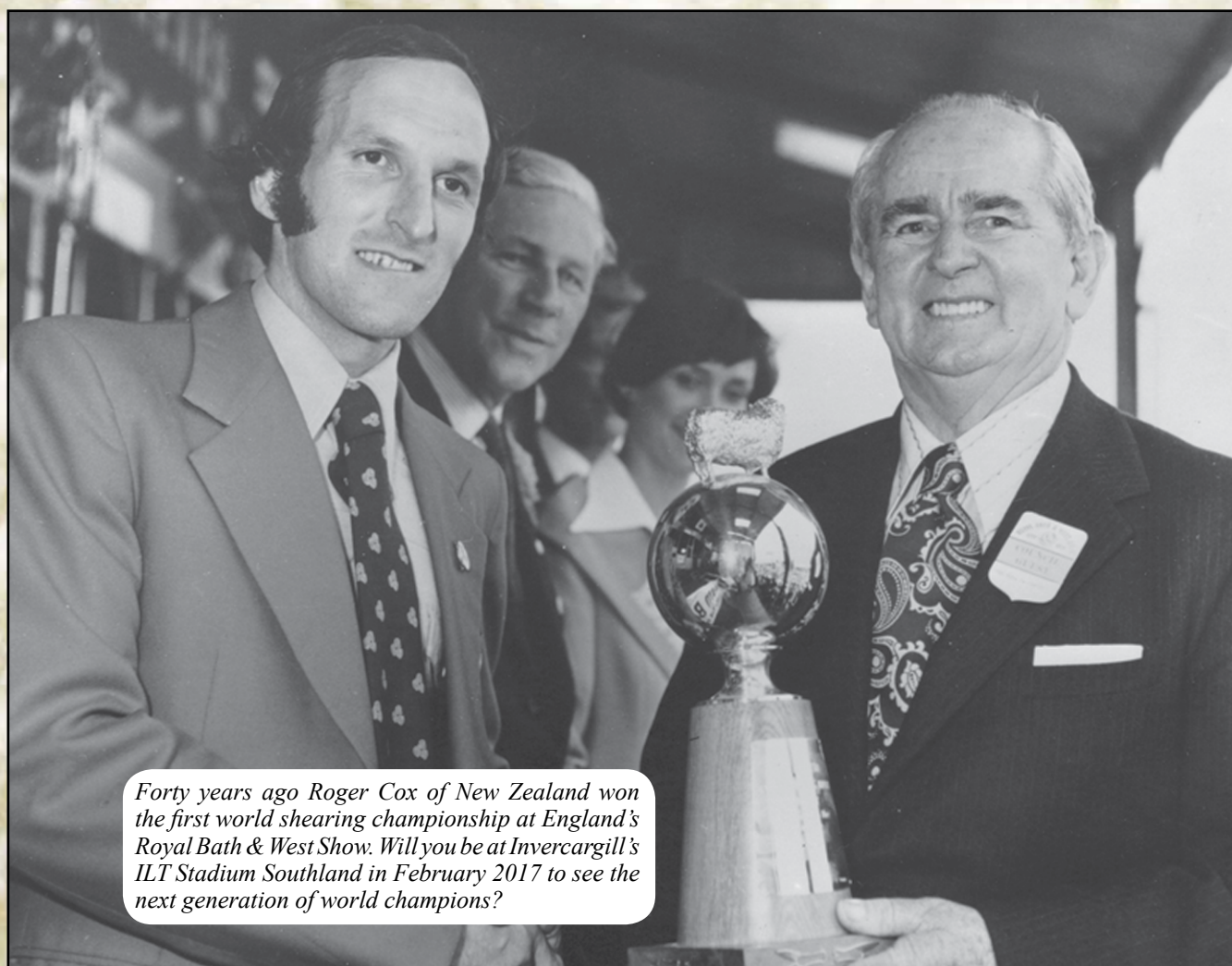


Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

Number 92: Vol 32, No 3, November 2016

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**Next edition due 7 April 2017.
Deadline for all material two weeks prior.**

UNDER COVER STORY

Greetings readers and welcome to our November 2016 edition of the magazine. With *Shearing's* office situated about 200 metres across the road (but out of sight) from Hamilton's Seddon Park, it is possible (for he with an ear experienced in these things) to assess the ebb and flow of New Zealand's cricketing fortunes by the differing crowd noise. Taking wickets good, losing wickets bad!

Just as I write these lines (6.00pm on 26 November!), sustained cheering tells me Pakistan has lost its fourth and fifth wickets, with not many runs on the board. It's nearing the close of play and for a couple of thousand at the ground, the national spirit lifts dramatically as they head away home or to some nearby watering hole.

But it's difficult to place too much importance on these happenings across the road with the Kaikoura earthquakes so recent in the memory, and so ongoing. A major city gets flattened and we with more rural affiliations no doubt know someone who suffered major loss in those events at Christchurch five and six years ago. New Zealand is a small country, after all.

But when the same form of natural disaster rocks and rolls its way through small country towns and farmland leaving utter desolation in its wake, it somehow seems so much closer to home. We know personally many of those pub owners, shearers, contractors, farmers and merchandise store people in the rural heartland. Too far away to offer any practical assistance and feeling like Neil Young ... *'helpless, helpless, helpless ...'*

But that feeling can only last a few moments for those in the middle of it. You pick yourself up, start cleaning up and getting on with life as best you can. Good people of the upper South Island, if our thoughts and prayers and best wishes are any help, you have them.

And so to this magazine - we unashamedly give plenty of attention to the forthcoming world championships at Invercargill, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the deep South / Murihiku. There's good advice on how to keep fit and healthy; the unavoidable obituaries, and interesting photos of our people going about their business.

So 2016 is nearly done and dusted. Here's to a New Year and 2017 moving a little more sedately ...

Ka kite ano

Des Williams (editor)

Cover photo: Roger Cox receives the 1977 world champion's trophy from Doug Carter, New Zealand's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom 1976-79. Very soon after presenting Roger with the trophy Doug became Sir Douglas, knighted for his public services. Coincidence?



Casso wasn't there in 1977!

By Des Williams

A little while back Peter Casserly was reading through a copy of the book *Shear History – 50 Years of Golden Shears in New Zealand*. He got something of a surprise to see himself listed as official world blade shearing champion for the year of 1977. (It's true, page 430!)

That was the year of the first world championships, held at the Royal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet. A New Zealander did win a world title that year – Roger Cox from Taranaki earned the distinction of becoming the first machine shearing world champion.

And with his team mate, the late Godfrey Bowen, the pair won the world teams' event, though that was determined on the basis of combined scores rather than the six-team shear off introduced for subsequent world events. But as for 'Casso' – nope, he wasn't even in England that year, let alone at the world championships.

Fifteen months earlier (13 February 1976) he had made headlines around the greater part of the shearing world, however, by shearing 353 strongwool lambs in nine hours at Colin Gallagher's Rangiatea property, near Mount Somers.

This was the highest blades tally shorn in a working day, beating the 321 clipped by the legendary Jackie Howe at Alice Downs in 1892, during the course of an Australian eight-hour day. Some observers have calculated that Howe might have done 360 or thereabouts had he too worked for nine hours. But the fact is he didn't, wasn't allowed to under



Peter Casserly, world champion blade shearer 1980; world record holder; New Zealand Master blade shearer, legend.

Australian Workers' Union rules and 'might-have-beens' count for nothing in this essay!

So back to Casso – if his 353 ever was regarded as an official world record, it has long ceased to be, as a tally shorn prior to the introduction of minimum wool weights in the mid-1980s.

It was, however, an official New Zealand record. Peter recalls the plan to do a record attempt was at least partly inspired by the efforts of Steve Morrell, who had set a world lamb record of 585 with machines at Mount Hutt in December 1971.

'So the day was organised through the world records committee, which was then based at Masterton. A Justice of the Peace was designated to be the official timekeeper while Bert Loffhagen and Alan Norman were appointed as the official judges. Plus I had to produce a medical certificate to prove I was fit enough to make the attempt.

'The lambs were a Perendale Romney cross, five months old and had not been touched or tidied up in any way prior to the attempt. I worked a one hour run before breakfast, from 5.30am to 6.30am, then had an hour break for breakfast. Then it was four two-hour runs, 7.30-9.30am; 10.00-12noon; 1pm-3pm and 3.30 to 5.30pm.

So how Casso's name came to be listed as world champion for 1977 can only remain conjecture, or perhaps as the result of 'fat finger syndrome' known to afflict all self-taught typists! (To page 5)



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Unofficially at least, he was probably the best blade shearer in the world at the time.

Now, let's put the record-setting efforts aside because Peter Casserly's name does belong on the world Honours Board, for the year of 1980, when the championships were held at Masterton. There's something of a qualifier alongside this honour also, for the Blades event was contested by a 'New Zealand invitation' field.

Peter won the title ahead of Bruce Davidson, Peter Burnett, Mike Marshall, Donny Hammond and Paddy O'Neill. (No other countries were represented at this event, but not exactly 'gift week' in that line up.)

Though dubbed an 'invitation' contest, Peter recalls there was an elimination series of six competitions to find the best half dozen for the contest at Masterton. He just snuck into the top six himself by getting good points at the last qualifier. So the 'invitation' was hard-earned, to say the least.

'Although no other countries were represented that year I think it's fair to say the New Zealanders were the best blade shearers in the world at that stage. It was prior to Chips Reid going to South Africa to start off the blade shearing schools over there, and the United Kingdom countries were still using techniques like shearing the sheep on stools or boxes.'

Peter Casserly's competitive career lasted 20 years, starting with Waimate and New Zealand Golden Blades wins in 1975 and ending with a 'career highlight' victory in the Omarama Merino Shears final of 1995. He had to make a comeback to take that 'home town' Omarama title.

By then well established as the local publican, Casso had, prior to the competition, spent two months in the sheds by way of preparation, with every jest from fellow shearers about being maybe too old (he was 48!) providing a little extra incentive.

'I don't mind admitting it was sweet success to beat that line up by five points,' he told this writer after the event. 'I stopped to touch up the edge of my blades after each sheep but some of the others just kept going. Always keep those blades sharp, that's the key.'

For the record, the other finalists in finishing order were Bill Michelle, Tony Dobbs, Shane Casserly, Peter Race and Oneboy Naunau (South Africa).

The 1984 (Royal Bath & West) and 1986 (Perth, WA) world championships did not feature blade shearing and

thus it was not until Masterton in 1988 that the silent clippers again had a chance to demonstrate their skills to a wider audience. As per 1980, this too was an all-New Zealand lineup, with Tony Dobbs (already several wins into an amazing streak of success at the New Zealand Golden Blades) proving too good for John Kennedy, Peter Race, Peter Burnett (sole survivor from the 1980 final), Dave Gillespie and Peter Corder.

Again, blades were not wanted at the 1992 (Royal Bath & West) (though like Peter Casserly, Tony Dobbs also has 'honours board' credit for winning that year!) and 1994 (Builth Wells) world championships but they came again to Masterton, New Zealand in 1996 for what may now be considered the first true 'world' championship.

Here we saw for the first time the mastery of a Lesotho man named Zingesele Elliot Ntsombo who, with team mate Zweliwile Elias Hans, would dominate world blade shearing for the next 16 years. Tony Dobbs was less than two points behind Ntsombo in second place, while Noel Handley also made the most of his opportunity to finish fourth.

New Zealand's best blade shearers during those long years of African domination have featured in every world final without being able to nail the big prize. Alex McDonald and Noel Handley shore with distinction at Gorey in 1998 to finish second and third, respectively. (To page 6)



Noel Handley (1996, 1998, 2000) and Alex McDonald (1998, 2000) – distinguished performers at world championships.

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At Bloemfontein in 2000, against the might of both Lesotho and South Africa, Handley (third) and McDonald (fifth) kept the New Zealand flag flying fairly high.

To Edinburgh 2003, where Peter Race, Michelle and Scotland's Tom McKellar took the minor placings behind Ntsombo, Hans and Samuel Nkoymoyi (South Africa). Shane Casserly and Bill Michelle both made the 2005 final at Toowoomba, finishing fourth and sixth respectively.

Peter Race was back in the team for 2008 at Bjerkreim, gaining fifth (Michelle missed out); Brian Thomson achieved a 'podium finish' in Wales 2010 with third place, shutting out Mayenzeke Shweni in the process, though team mate Allan Gemmell missed a top six placing.

Back on home soil at Masterton in 2012 Mike McConnell and Thomson excelled themselves with third and fourth placings (Hans and Shweni taking top honours).

And so to Gorey again in 2014. Brian Thomson again represented New Zealand in a team notable for the return of Tony Dobbs after an absence



Phil Oldfield, NZ Blades rep. 2017

of 18 years! Dobbs had last won the New Zealand Golden Blades title in 1996, the same day his daughter was born. When he next picked up the shears to have a go at making the team for Ireland, that same daughter was eighteen years-of-age! Make the team he did, and kept the fairy tale going by qualifying top in the first round. In the end however the man they call 'Dinny' had to bow gracefully to those African masters, Shweni and Hans.



Tony Dobbs, NZ Blades rep. 2017

And so to Invercargill, February 2017. On experience, Dobbs again leads the New Zealand blade contingent, joined this time by Phil Oldfield of Geraldine. Though Oldfield has not previously represented New Zealand, he has shorn (and taught) blade shearing for many years, including extensively overseas. These two veterans of the ancient craft will be doing their best to halt that long winning sequence of the South African and Lesotho exponents.



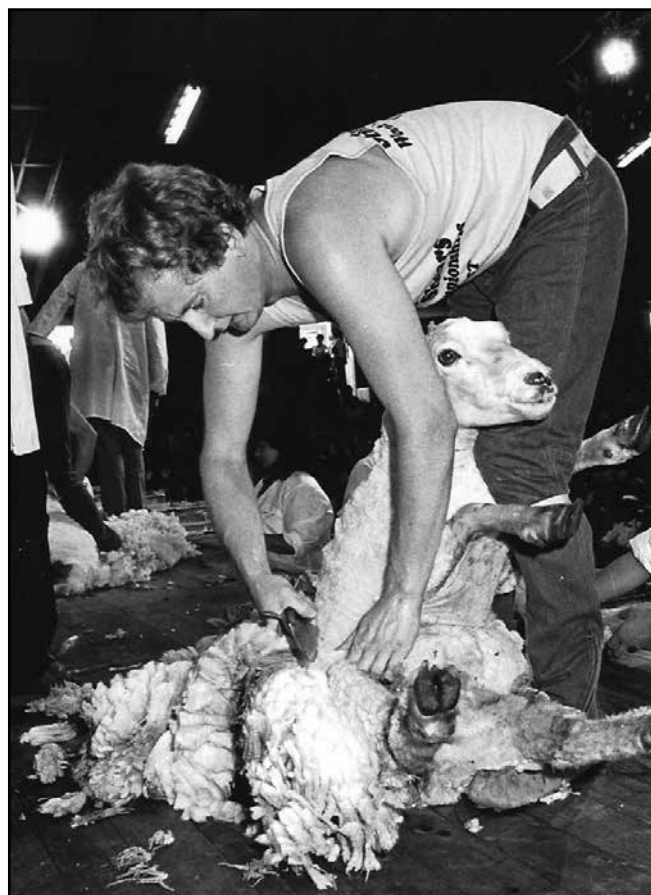
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*Portrait of the artist as a young man – Tony Dobbs 1988.
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NZ WOOL CLASSERS ASSOCIATION

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The New Zealand Wool Classers' Association was at the forefront in forming a group called the Wool Industry Education Group (WIEG) to promote wool-related education (other than that available for wool harvesting) and associated career promotion.

In particular it was charged with finding a new home for the former Tectra-run Certificate in Wool Technology qualification, and exploring the possibility of re-establishing a Diploma in Wool Technology qualification.

Over a period of 18 months this group achieved its aim of establishing new wool courses with Lincoln University/Telford, who would also provide the training.

Teaching of students enrolled for (or who had already commenced) the Tectra Certificate qualification has been taken over and an updated Certificate has been approved, with 16 students commencing in the second half of this year a computer paper that forms part of this new qualification.

Some work is still to be done in provision of course content and TEC funding for the Certificate is still to be confirmed.

With the financial problems that the Lincoln/Telford organisation has faced over the past few months they have decided not to proceed with the delivery of these wool qualifications. This decision is a major disappointment to WIEG and the wool industry as a whole.

A meeting was convened at Christchurch on 16 November 2016, which was attended by a wide range of interested parties, to address finding a new home for these qualifications as well as to determine how the wool industry can better attract young people into the industry.

From this meeting a small group has been established to address these issues. The group has been asked to give high priority to finding a new home and training provider to allow for commencement of the Certificate qualification; ideally this will be achieved early next year but a lot of work needs to be done.

Any person who is considering undertaking the Certificate in Wool Technology qualification and who has not already registered is now asked to contact Laurie Boniface on **0800 200 009**.



Murray McLachlan classing at Mount Nicholas Station.



Wool Preparation Standards and Contamination Issues (Report to NZWCA Board Meeting 17 November 2016)

As a practicing wool merchant I feel the need to bring to the Board's attention what we see as an increasing problem with below par wool preparation standards, cause and effect and reasons we think it is happening. Listed below are the types of problems we have so far found this season.

- Skirting full wool Xbd Flc on the shearing board and not throwing on the wool table for skirting. Very seldom is this practice successful. When grab sampled the missed 1st pcs. are very obvious. This changes the length description and lowers the yield of the line. Price and return to the grower is affected. Main cause in using this system – not enough woolhandlers, driven in most cases by the grower trying to minimise costs.
- Mixed and not divided fadges. Mixed and different wool types in the one fadge without a divider or any indication of the variety of the fadge contents. I feel the main causes for this problem is changing shed staff each day – no continuation and consistency in the workplace, with a lack of care by some shed staff.
- Purse removal at crutching time. Mainly a fine wool problem but a very serious one for us. Requires a lot of time and effort for us to try and remove at the wool press. Tend to be left in the crutching wool, stains or dags. No excuse for this, just plain sloppy workmanship.
- Mobs of trading lambs overwintered and shorn as hoggets. Mixed lots not drafted properly with the down types separated on the table by well-meaning wool handlers. Mostly fine wool lambs with a high value wool. Very dangerous for us if some black fibre is missed. A practice I would very much like to see stopped. Often the fault of not drafting off the different breeds. High risk of oddment mixing.
- Contamination. Same old problems again. Seems to be getting worse. Responsibility lies with the grower right through the wool preparation chain. Items found in bales and fadges in recent months: Press hold down bars, plastic of all sorts, syringes and needles, synthetic bags, sweet wrappers, bale hooks, food scraps, etc.

Summary – Many but not all the above problems manifest themselves from small Xbd clips (5-20 bales) where there is a need to minimise the costs of wool harvesting without being aware of the costs and penalties down stream. Some of the crews out there have good senior woolhandlers who work tirelessly and do a great job but often do not have sufficient back-up and support. (To page 9)



Marie Whiu preparing wool at The Branches

The rest are inexperienced, with their only training being 'on the job'. The senior can only do so much. I suspect we are seeing the results of a period of time where there has been too little training happening and poor returns for strong wool. To be fair, in the most part the majority of wools are well prepared to a good standard but unfortunately the amount of below par wools are growing, causing me to write the above.

This report is not meant to be negative or destructive but borne out of a need to acknowledge our problems in the hope we can make a difference. Wools ever increasingly need to be supplied 'Fit For Purpose' so the need for care and vigilance was never more important.

(Don Urquhart, NZWCA Board member)

End of the Alastair 'Ecky' Era

The NZ Wool Classers' Association AGM in May saw the end of an era with the retirement of Alistair Eckhoff. Always cheerful and helpful, especially to young classers, Ecky's happy approach will be missed from our meetings. He always had a contribution to make to discussion and thought of things from the member's point of view. No doubt Ecky will be around the wool sheds and shearing competitions for a while yet as well as keeping the horses honest at the track. Cheers Ecky (A216). (Bill Dowle)

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New Zealand Wool Classers' Association in conjunction with CP Wools and NZ Shearing Contractors' Association held a field day at Invercargill that was attended by 30 pressers and wool handlers. The morning consisted of grading and typing exercises for crossbred wool, a demonstration on how wool is processed through a grab and coring machine, a demonstration on wool pressing and an update on the problems with contamination in wool and documentation.

In the afternoon a presentation was given by John Galliven from The Drug Detection Agency, which had the attendees' full attention. An update on the wool requirements for the coming season was presented by Mark Greenlaw of CP Wools (pictured above). The team from Te Ako Wools (wool handling and shearing training provider) gave an update on the progress being made in providing training. The day concluded with a presentation by Bruce Abbott (Executive Officer/Registrar NZWCA) about the Association and its involvement in advancing wool training for the wool harvesting industry.



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Above: Allan Oldfield of Geraldine gives Kyle Wear (son of former United Kingdom Blade shearing rep Andrew Wear) some tips on blade shearing at Andrew's Fern Hill Farm in Somerset. Many blade shearers from all over the UK gathered there in early October for training sessions, shearing competitions (novice, intermediate and open) and general socialising.

Below: From left in green top, a Kiwi shearer now from England, Michael Churchouse; Andy Wear, England rep 2012 & 2014 (shearing); Allan Oldfield, (purple Sheer Sheep shirt); Then father and son George Mudge, past England rep and for 2017 (in pen) and Andrew Mudge, England rep 2017 (shearing); Clive Hammer, Wales (in pen), Liz Hughes, Wales (woolhandling); Gareth Owen, Wales rep past and 2017 (with sheep); Katrin Jackson, Wales (woolhandling) wife of Elfed Jackson, Wales rep past and 2017 (shearing down the end).



Things you may find in the fleece when shearing on the Marlborough east coast. No, not the ball-point pen – the lump of limestone found in the lox fadge at the end of the run by Angus Moore. 'I have no idea how lumps of limestone that big stay in the fleece out on the hill, but thought it would be an interesting photo for *Shearing* magazine.' Too true, Angus!

Did you know?

Sydenham Filer of Blagdon was a champion shearer who won the Wrington Vale and West Mendip Sheep Shearing Society first prize for Class 4 at Cheddar on 9 June 1869. He celebrated by quenching his thirst with some good old Somerset cider from a teapot being passed around. Unfortunately the pot was dropped and sustained a fairly large and lasting dent in the lower half.

(Thanks to Morgan Lewis of the Thames Historical Museum – great-grandson of the said Sydenham. And thanks Barbara Reidy.)



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Kirkpatrick and Stratford for NZ



By Nick Jeffrey

Hosting a world championship shearing event in your hometown is rare. Making the team to represent your country in that same event, even rarer.

But, that's the scenario facing Southlander Nathan Stratford after he caused the second boil-over in as many days at the New Zealand world championship shearing team selection finals, held at Christchurch this month.

A ten-month long selection process ended in dramatic fashion at the Canterbury A&P Show with Stratford edging reigning world and New Zealand champion Rowland Smith by the narrowest of margins, to grab the second New Zealand selection spot alongside 2014 world championship team member, John Kirkpatrick of Napier.

'It's very unexpected. I had my thoughts pinned on Rowly (Smith) and Johnny (Kirkpatrick) so I am shocked. When my name was read out I actually turned and looked at my mates, the other shearers, and felt sorry for them because of all the effort they put in. You feel sorry for them and yet happy for yourself,' Stratford said.

In the final wash-up, it was the quality of both Kirkpatrick's and Stratford's work that earned their selections. Kirkpatrick bravely fought back after early trouble, finishing third on time behind veteran Southlander Darin Forde and Smith. Stratford was a full sheep behind the first finishers, switching off for the final time more than a minute later.

'We had a set strategy to keep up with the pace,' Stratford said. 'Halfway through the shear we started falling off the pace and my pen man told me to keep going to the best of my ability. Obviously, it did pay off because another second slower and I would have lost out. My time does need to improve dramatically,' he said.

Whilst Stratford was unnecessarily unhappy with his shear in the selection final, Kirkpatrick was more confident. 'I didn't make any mistakes. I was a little off the pace but everything else went as good as it could on the day so I was confident as we finished,' he said.

'Sometimes time isn't everything. As long as you're sitting back doing the job and you're not making mistakes, to me, that is more important than speed,' Kirkpatrick said.

'Sometimes you get pressured by being in front. When everyone starts coming back at you, you start making stupid mistakes that you normally wouldn't make. You don't have to be first off. There were two spots (in the New Zealand team) up for grabs today, not just one. That's what sometimes you lose focus of, thinking you've got to be first every time. But you don't,' he said.

Both Kirkpatrick and Stratford see advantages in shearing at a home world championship.

'The sheep down in Southland usually comb better than anywhere else in New Zealand. They are bigger sheep, but they aren't usually as wild so they'll actually suit us better than most people around the world,' Kirkpatrick said.

With the world championships under three months away, final preparations for both men will be crucial.

'We'll start doing a lot more training,' Kirkpatrick said. 'We've got a lot of work coming up now so we'll do two months of work and we'll start concentrating on the shows



Nathan Stratford (left) and John Kirkpatrick have won their way through a long and gruelling elimination series to gain selection as New Zealand's two machine shearers to contest the world championships at Invercargill in February. Stratford's 'home town boy' status gives local interest a large boost, while Kirkpatrick will be attending his third world event, having accompanied Paul Avery to Norway in 2008 and Rowland Smith to Ireland three years ago.

and getting fit for them in January and then the Worlds,' he said.

Likewise, Stratford faces a busy few months. 'I was hoping to have a beer and relax but with Darin (Forde) as my boss, he'll no doubt send me to some big sheds,' he said.

Kirkpatrick and Stratford are joined in the New Zealand team by woolhandlers Joel Henare and Mary-Anne Baty, both from Gisborne, and blade shearers Tony Dobbs (Fairlie) and Phil Oldfield (Geraldine). Baty and Oldfield will be representing New Zealand at world championships for the first time.

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Another Ringer at rest

By Bernie Walker

The Queensland shearing industry lost one of its iconic members on 9 August 2016 with the death at home in Hughenden of David Ramsey Parker, at the age of 65.

Dave, as he was better known, was born at Mitchell in the Queensland Maranoa and entered the shearing industry as a shedhand at Winton. He progressed to pressing and was on the lever for the next two years in up to 10-stand sheds in both Queensland and Victoria.

In 1972 he was invited to work the first MacLodge hydraulic press in Queensland at Cunnamulla. Not happy with the new Award for power presses, he asked UNGRA for a job shearing and was sent to Myall Park,

near Roma. Dave described the sheep as 'all big boofheaded wethers and 88 the first day was the best I did for the whole shed.' Dave then went up to Longreach where he shored his first hundred at 'Melrose' Station and four months later he shored 200 at 'Darr River Downs'.

He shored in all States except WA with his best day 308 at 'Vellum Downs' near Hughenden. Dave recorded 300 on four occasions. He also did two seasons in New Zealand.

Dave moved to Hughenden in 1978 where he met and married Judy Della-Bosca in September 1979. They first lived in a 12-foot caravan before graduating to a 22-footer before they settled in Hughenden. They had two children, Tegan and Thomas, who is

the father of their two grandchildren. Len Harman, Dave's employer for 20 years, introduced Dave to competition shearing. Len had famously tied with Laurie McNamara for the Australian Open shearing title in 1963 and died just two weeks prior to Dave. Together Len and Dave began the shearing competitions at Hughenden.

Dave also shored for Tolly Bowden around Longreach. Tolly says Dave was the loudest snorer he ever heard: 'You couldn't stay in the hut with him.' Tolly says Dave knew a lot of people and had a story to tell about nearly every one of them. 'Dave knew the history of the industry and was one of the most entertaining story tellers one could meet, with the ability to see the funny side of any situation and add it to his repertoire.'

Whenever work ran out, Dave would find a job somewhere. He worked at the local Grand Hotel at times and at the Caltex Service Station for two years. He drove 12-hour shifts carting wheat during harvest at Talwood west of Goondiwindi. Dave also did handyman house repairs and when he finally retired from shearing in 1999 he worked at the Hughenden Home Hardware store for 15 years. He also used his own collection of shearing memorabilia as the basis for a display in the Flinders Discovery Centre in Hughenden.

Dave judged at many shows, some interstate, and was chief judge at Diamond Shears for 11 years. He was awarded one of five special Diamond Shears blazers for his services to competition shearing over more than 20 years.

A passionate supporter of the Parramatta Eels in the National Rugby League, Dave also loved camping, and his annual fishing trip to the coast with former shearing mate Bruce 'Browse' Deegan was always a highlight of his year.

Dave was accorded a huge funeral. The Eels theme song and 'Click go the Shears' were part of the service and Browse says every one in Hughenden was there. 'The cortege stretched for kilometres.'

Dave Parker was one of the most popular figures in the Queensland shearing industry and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



A happy Dave Parker after more success at the Diamond Shears, Longreach.

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Baty the bolter for worlds

By Nick Jeffrey

A bolter. It's an oft-used term in the sporting world, thrown about regularly and sometimes inappropriately. But it sits comfortably with Gisborne woolhandler, Mary-Anne Baty.

Earlier this month Baty completed a remarkable three weeks by being named alongside Joel Henare in the CP Wool Shearing Sports New Zealand woolhandling team to compete at the 2017 world shearing and woolhandling championships at Invercargill in February.

Baty had to rely on a strong finish in the final qualifier of the six-event, year-long series at Hastings in October to sneak into the six-person selection final on a countback. She then made the most of her opportunity to qualify third from the semi-finals and take second-place behind Henare to earn New Zealand selection. But it could have been a very different story.

'At the start of the season I didn't think I would make it very far and I was nearly going to pull out at the Hawkes Bay Show a couple of weeks ago but I thought I would give

it another go. I was doubting myself, not thinking I was good enough to make it through,' Baty said.

'The support of my family and the dream of becoming a world team member is what's made the difference,' she said.

'I've dreamed of this for ten years, watching other masters of the game come up, Keryn (Herbert), Joel (Henare), Tina Rimene, Sheree Alabaster. I've been watching them when I was in the lower grades and I always thought I would love to represent my country. It's going to take a while for this to sink in but I'm looking forward to the Worlds and everything that comes with it,' Baty said.

Baty was part of a three-person final alongside Henare and Alexandra's Pagan Karauria after the semi-final round earlier in the afternoon. She was first to finish on time in the final, while Henare dominated in the board, oddments and fleece points.

The two will form a formidable team for New Zealand in February with Henare, the 2012 world champion, set to contest his third world championship at the age of just 25.

'Joel and I have worked together inside the shearing shed a lot over the last ten years so I know how he operates and I'm just happy to be there with one of the world's best,' Baty said.

Now, the real work begins as both Baty and Henare look to put the finishing touches on their championship preparation. 'It's about a lot of training, getting fit and getting the mind fit,' Henare said.



Joel Henare and Mary-Anne Baty after gaining selection as New Zealand's two woolhandlers for the world championships at Invercargill in February 2017. Henare already has a world title to his name (2012) while Baty gains national honours for the first time.



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Hilary under no illusions

By Tom Harding

A couple of years on from fulfilling her life ambition of becoming wool-handling world champion, it is now dawning on England's Hilary Bond that she faces the daunting task of having to defend the title. And not just defend it anywhere, but in New Zealand of all places, a prospect akin to taking on the All Blacks at Eden Park.

'It's such an honour going to the southern hemisphere as the defending champion, but with it comes expectations which I fear I'm not worthy of fulfilling,' Hilary says.

'My strengths very much lie in the rolling of fleeces as done in the United Kingdom, which doesn't adapt itself well to competing in Australia or New Zealand.'

'Even in Ireland Ronnie [Goss] was better than me on the board – I thought she'd got it after the final to be honest when I saw the board judge's points – but it was the work on the table that pulled me through.'

Since their father died three years ago, Hilary and her sister Rosemarie have run the family farm on their own, a traditional mixed sheep and beef property in Devon. The amount of winter work feeding and moving livestock ruled out any possibility of getting away to spend a season training in New Zealand.

Second shear woolhandling and the increased amount of wool sorting and preparation on the board aren't



Hilary Bond – coming to defend her world woolhandling title at Invercargill

disciplines that Hilary feels she will excel in, but she's determined to go and give it her best shot.

'As much as I would have loved to have worked all season in New Zealand in preparation, I'll have to accept that I'll be a bit rusty, to put it mildly, and just do the very best I can,' she says.

'I'm so worried about the expectations of people when I'm introduced as reigning world champion, especially as I'm so out of touch with southern hemisphere wool handling, but I'll just have to set myself little goals and see how I get on.'



The late Joanne Kumeroa is the only person to successfully defend her world title – winner at Edinburgh in 2003 and again at Toowoomba in 2005, where she is seen above receiving the Des Cook Memorial Trophy. Other champions have been (see page 15 clockwise from top left): Susan Puhipuhi, Patrick Shelford, Angharad Lewis, Bronwyn Tango, Sheree Alabaster and Aroha Garvin. Not forgetting Joel Henare, pictured at page 13.

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**World Shearing and Woolhandling Championships
Invercargill 8-11 February 2017: Programme of Events**
(times/events subject to change)



Wednesday 8 February 2017

11.00am All Nations intermediate shearing heats
12.40pm All Nations blades heats
02.10pm All Nations senior shearing heats and
senior woolhandling (rolling draw)
04.10pm Afternoon finish
06.30pm World Teams' Dinner, Ascot Park

Thursday 9 February 2017

07.30am All Nations open shearing and open
woolhandling heats (rolling draw)
09.30am Morning tea
10.00am All Nations open heats continued
11.40am All Nations intermediate shearing semis
12.10pm All Nations senior shearing semis
12.40pm All Nations senior woolhandling semis
01.10pm All Nations open woolhandling semis
01.40pm World machine shearing Round One
04.10pm Afternoon finish

07.00pm Speedshear (lambs) open and senior only

Friday 10 February 2017

07.30am World blades shearing Round One
09.30am World machine shearing Round Two
12.00pm World woolhandling Round One
01.45pm All Nations open quarter finals
02.45pm All Nations senior woolhandling final
03.15pm All Nations open shearing semi-finals
04.00pm Afternoon finish
06.30pm World teams presented on stage

Friday 10 February 2017 (cont'd)

07.30pm All Nations blades final
08.00pm All Nations intermediate final
(instant prize-giving)
08.30pm All Nations senior shearing final (instant
prize-giving)
09.00pm All Nations open woolhandling final
09.30pm All Nations open shearing final
10.00pm Prize-giving All Nations open blades,
open woolhandling and open machine
shearing. Master shearer/world record
presentations.

Saturday 11 February 2017

08.00am World blades shearing Round Two
09.25am World woolhandling Round Two
11.30am World machine shearing Round Three
12.00pm World woolhandling semi-finals
02.30pm World blade shearing semi-finals
03.15pm World machine shearing semi-finals
03.45pm Afternoon finish

Evening programme

06.30pm Speeches
06.45pm World teams blade shearing final
07.20pm World teams woolhandling final
07.50pm World teams machine shearing final
08.20pm World blades individual final
08.55pm World woolhandling individual final
09.15pm Break
09.20pm Laser show
09.30pm World machine individual shearing final
09.50pm Speeches
10.00pm Prize-giving



Share – Sheer – Shear

The specialists from many lands – are gathered on the board
To sort it out between themselves – but not with bomb or sword
Their council's not security – or talk of war and peace
But separating lots of sheep – all cleanly from their fleece

While some have sunk resources in – machines to kill and maim
The specialists have better ways – the shearing 'World' to claim
Explosive is the energy – that's needed for this craft
The stadium is perfumed with – the smell of honest graft

The starter asks for readiness – of shearer, judge and time
Then 'Go!' the stylish poetry – of rhythm, pace and rhyme
The banging of the catching pens – and tension in the air
The belly, fribs and dusty socks – are flying everywhere

The cheering crowd encouraging – in many varied tongues
The UN of cacophony – ten thousand screaming lungs
The little squares of staging floor – have shearers judge and sheep
Among this perfect synergy – the rousies dart and sweep

The best the world of shearing has – is here upon the stage
The skill that's needed for this task – we'll leave for you to gauge
The talent in their fingertips – the where, the why, and hows
Are seen in flowing elbow joints – and sweat upon their brows

Like wars the shearing must be won – one nation to prevail
And to the victors, boasting rights – the hero's bar-room tale
And when the stadium is still – the handpiece golden won
The shearers and the sharers too – we say to you, 'Well done!'
Roger Leslie 2016

Things looking a bit Grey? Where to get help

Lifeline (open 24/7) – 0800 543 354

Depression Helpline (open 24/7) – 0800 111 757

Healthline (open 24/7) – 0800 611 116

Samaritans (open 24/7) – 0800 726 666

Suicide Crisis Helpline (open 24/7) – 0508 828 865 (0508 TAUTOKO). This is a service for people who may be thinking about suicide, or those who are concerned about family or friends.

Youthline (open 24/7) – 0800 376 633. You can also text 234 for free between 8am and midnight, or email talk@youthline.co.nz

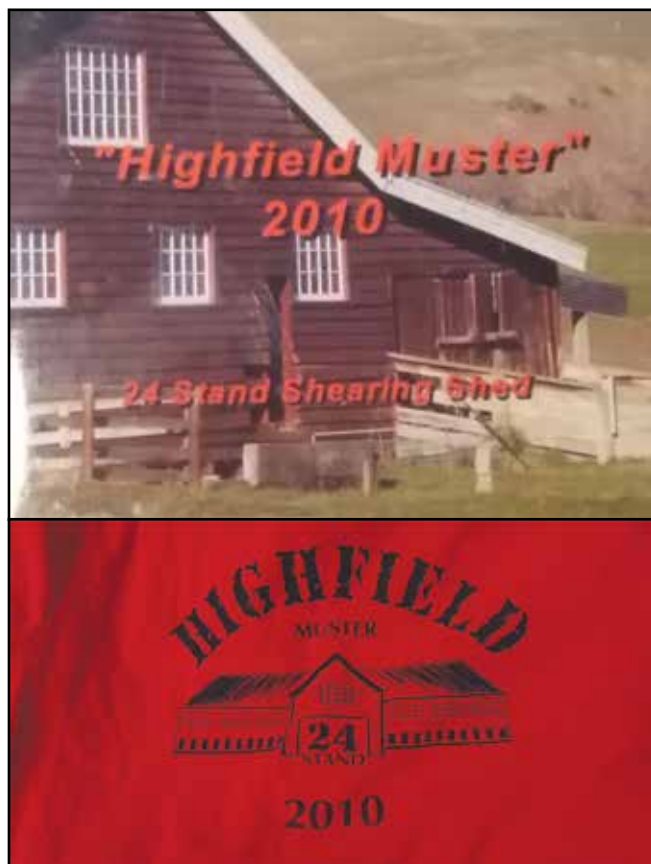
0800 WHATSUP children's helpline – phone 0800 9428 787 between 1pm and 10pm on weekdays and from 3pm to 10pm on weekends. Online chat is available from 7pm to 10pm every day at www.whatsup.co.nz.

Kidslines (open 24/7) – 0800 543 754. This service is for children aged 5 to 18. Those who ring between 4pm and 9pm on weekdays will speak to a Kidslines buddy. These are specially trained teenage telephone counsellors.

Your local Rural Support Trust – 0800 787 254 (0800 RURAL HELP)

Alcohol Drug Helpline (open 24/7) – 0800 787 797. You can also text 8691 for free.

For further information, contact the Mental Health Foundation's free Resource and Information Service (09 623 4812).



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The DVD does focus on blade shearers but still gives a great feel for the day with lots of faces in it. Top: photo of the DVD. Above: logo from shirts worn on the day.

Cost \$35 per copy (including post). Please contact: Highfield Muster: greg_netty@yahoo.co.nz.

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Awards added to Rural Games

Organisers of the Norwood New Zealand Rural Sports Awards have announced Olympic rowing gold medallist Mahé Drysdale as guest speaker for the inaugural event that takes place at Awapuni Racecourse, Palmerston North on Friday 10th March 2017.

Launched to celebrate sporting excellence among New Zealand's largely unsung rural athletes, the awards are sponsored by CB Norwood Distributors and presented by the New Zealand Rural Games Trust together with strategic partner, Federated Farmers of New Zealand.

Tickets are now on sale for the awards dinner that takes place the night before the Hilux New Zealand Rural Games at The Square in the city centre, where many nominees will be competing.

Four-time Olympian and multiple world champion Mahé Drysdale is one of New Zealand's most successful sportsman. He won gold in the single sculls at both London 2012 and Rio 2016, was the 2006 Supreme Halberg Award Winner and inducted as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2009.

He said he was honoured to be guest speaker at the first ever Norwood New Zealand Rural Sports Awards.

"Being a member of the rural community myself, it is a great honour for me to attend the awards evening and celebrate with those that achieved so much over the past year. An active rural sporting community is so important to New Zealand and I am really looking forward to being involved," he said.

Rural sports associations and other invited organisations have until 31 January to nominate individuals for four separate award categories: New Zealand Rural Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, Young New Zealand Rural Sportsman of the Year and an award recognising Contribution to the New Zealand Rural Sports Industry.

Nominees will be shortlisted by a judging panel chaired by former All Black captain and World Cup winning coach, Sir Brian Lochore that also includes President of Shearing Sports New Zealand Sir David Fagan, Olympic equestrian medallist Judy 'Tinks' Pottinger, MP for Taranaki-King Country Barbara Kuriger, founder and trustee of the Hilux

New Zealand Rural Games Steve Hollander plus three respected agricultural journalists, Craig 'Wiggy' Wiggins, Tony Leggett and Jamie Mackay who will also MC the event.

Entertainment at the awards dinner comes from country-pop star, Jody Direen. Now based in Australia, Jody was nominated for three 2016 Foxtel CMC Awards and last year won both the Country Music Awards New Zealand (CMANZ) Female Artist of the Year and the Variety Artists Club 'Benny Award' Female Vocalist of the Year. Her new album 'Shake Up' is released on 4 November.

Tables of eight are on sale now at \$1,200+gst including all food and beverages. Anyone wanting to reserve a table should contact Nicky Vallender at Event-It on 021 0335605.



If you think you've seen this photo before – you're right. It was on page 30 of our August 2016 edition. But our caption missed out a name – Hayley Coogan, right of centre in the aqua-blue top. Sincere apologies Hayley, (from Mum!).

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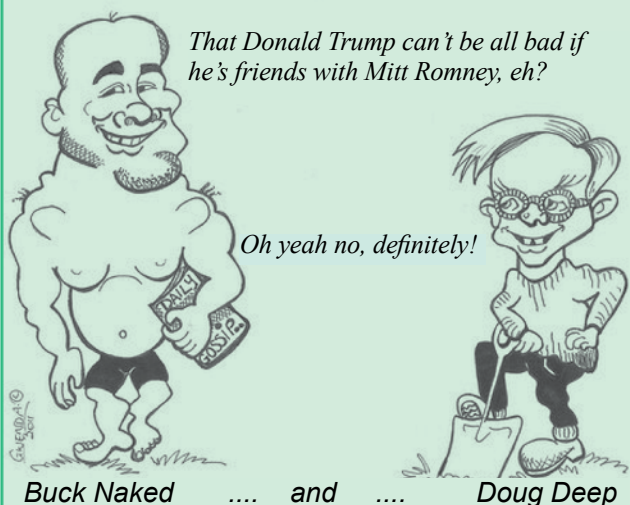
Sarah Higgins on her way to winning the intermediate final at the New Zealand Corriedale championship at Christchurch in November.



Job done at Cecil Peak (helluva task but someone had to do it) and the Peter Lyon gang returns to Queenstown by barge.

Wide-combing it with ...

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The Donald Press - wool industry icon

By Andrew Donald

William Hodgson Donald and family emigrated from the Solway Firth on the English northern border to New Zealand in 1842. He was a trained veterinarian and sheep and beef farmer and started farming at Masterton in 1847.

A letter from the first sheep station in Southern Wairarapa indicates that he was the first shearer in the area.

These pioneers had to develop their inventiveness to survive, and William was no exception. The lateral thinking must have been all used up however when he and his wife named their son Donald, to match the surname!

From his experiences of working on the farm Donald Donald invented his first wool press in 1882 and contracted a small engineering workshop in Masterton to make it for him. He displayed a strong passion for design which led him to travel to the USA to meet Thomas Edison (of light bulb fame).



Donald Donald

His 20-minute appointment was generously extended into an afternoon and the two enjoyed a long relationship by correspondence. Donald ended up being a successful designer with many patents and long living products to his name and has become an inspiration to future generations.

Donald & Sons Ltd. started in 1900 in Perry Street, Masterton (the building still stands today). In the same year, Donald designed the Multigrip wire strainer, one of his greatest achievements, it was so simple and effective and still being made 111 years later.

Vivian and Harley were his two sons, with the former running the New Zealand arm of the business and the latter the Australian. The wool presses in Australia evolved slightly different, but over 30,000 were produced in their factory.

As the sheep industry grew, so did the demand for wool presses, with thousands leaving the Perry Street factory over the next few decades.

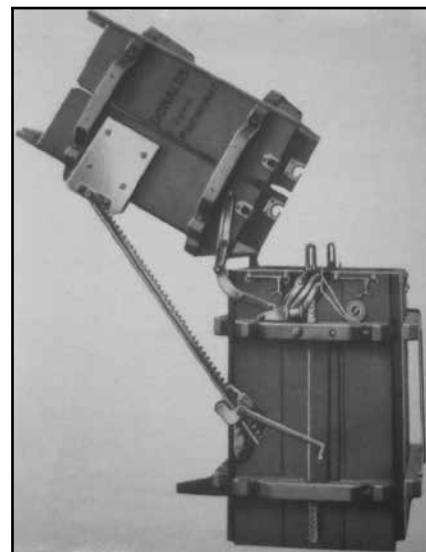
The involvement with the shearing industry grew quickly with the importing of Cooper shearing gear and Lister stationary engines. The industry is notoriously difficult due to variable demand, with sale of wool presses being as low as 70 one year and as high as 700 another. The buoyant periods encouraged other inventors to make wool presses and at one stage there were 13 manufacturing wool presses in New Zealand. Concentration on low cost manufacture and not spending good years' profits was a strength for the business and there were several extended periods when Donald & Sons Ltd., were the only manufacturer.

The 'Sandow' vertical hoist was designed by a Whanganui engineer and because it was so good, we bought the business and moved it to Masterton. Over time this became the main wool press that we made although many improvements and variants were incorporated into the design.

A tip over version was sent to a Palmerston North engineer, Jim Garden of Vanguard Engineering, to have the hydraulics put on. This was a bigger job than at first estimated and after two years Haddon Donald, (third generation) gave up and quickly produced an electric version. This proved quite successful but later the Vanguard press that Jim Garden started producing, sold well.

Haddon expanded the firm by employing successful design engineers and an excellent foreman, Gordon (Bob) Hannan. He and many dedicated engineers stayed with the business for 30 to 40 years and were highly efficient. A South African wool press manufacturing business was started by Haddon's brother Graeme, and his son Anthony still runs that in Port Elizabeth.

Andrew Donald (fourth generation



The Donald wool press

and writer of this article) was involved with the next phase of demand, the single box No Tramp wool press. Several thousand of these were made, with quite a number being exported around the world. A special heavy duty model, that could pack 250 kilos into a bale, was developed for the Falkland Islands' market and approximately 30 were shipped there via London.

When the company was finally sold to Allflex in 1988, Donald's had made just over 36,000 of the Sandow vertical hoist wool presses. With roughly 34,000 sheep farmers in New Zealand, you can see why it became the 'standard' in the industry for New Zealand farmers for over a century.

Thanks: Andrew Donald's account of his family history involvement in the Donald wool press is adapted with permission from a story first published in the Golden Shears souvenir programme 2011.

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Black Dog continuing the tradition

By Des Williams

A strong practical upbringing on the family farm, experience in the forestry industry and a need for some supplementary finance all conspired to get Andy Macdonald started in the furniture making industry. On his way home back to New Zealand from his OE in 1998, Andy had got as far as Sydney, a little bit short of spending money.

He tried a variety of options and then came into possession of some recyclable timber from a building demolition, crafted a few items and sold them at the Paddington markets. That led to his making specific items by request.

'I'd grown up on the family farm at Hunterville and an uncle was farming at Reporoa. Then when I left school I joined the New Zealand Forest Service as a trainee woodsman and learned all about planting, trimming and thinning trees, logging and milling. After three years of that I spent some time with a private sector logging company before heading off overseas.'

Back in New Zealand, Andy again found himself drawn to the timber industry. By now at Te Awamutu, he started making bed ends, coffee tables and other items for which there seemed to be a ready market. Then he saw a wool press advertised for sale in the 'Loot' magazine (a fore-runner of Trademe!)

'It was on a farm at Pirongia and looked like it had only ever pressed about six bales of wool, it was more or less in mint condition. The farmer asked me what I was going to do with it and I said I didn't know. But I paid \$500 for it anyway and took it home to my shed. That's where it stayed for some time until I decided I'd better do something with it.'

So what Andy did with it was take it apart and make a bar leaner, a coffee table, a couple of other things and he used the steel to make a candelabra.

'Then I put my own ad in the Loot magazine seeking wool presses and there were a few available. I continued to convert existing presses into other furniture and then it occurred to me that I could start reproducing that wool press look using other timber, and so the real business of creating Black Dog furniture started from there.'

Andy contacted the Donald family at Masterton and received a whole history of the Donald Company, and also received the family's 'blessing' to continue using the Donald designs and branding.



Black Dog Furniture stools and bar leaner. Every self-respecting sheep farmer should have one at the Quarters!

'That was back in 2000 so we've been going for 16 years. The range of products has grown to include banquet tables, gazebos, chairs, braziers, knife boxes. But the old square box wool press is still the cornerstone of our range. Our products are built in the old Matangi dairy factory (excellent use for an old dairy factory!) and are on display at nearby Bruntwood, just out of Cambridge.'

Andy spent time in his youth working the real Donald wool press on the family and neighbouring farms. Then during a stint of working down south he attended a Wool Board shearing school at Burnham, run by John Hough. 'That was an enjoyable week or 10 days, learning to shear and being taught the importance of rehydration after a long hot day in the shearing shed.'

And by way of retaining links with the shearing industry, Andy Macdonald and Black Dog Furniture are among the proud sponsors of the world shearing and woolhandling championships to be held at Invercargill next February.

And yes, the company is named after a real Black Labrador Newfoundland Retriever named Arnie, who died in 2003. 'He was my best mate for many years. People used to ask me what breed he was and it was always easier just to say, 'He's a black dog,''' Andy Macdonald explains.

**Speedsheer
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www.blackdogfurniture.co.nz

facebook: Black Dog Furniture

Obituary: Larry Langley MD

By Fred Hill

On 15 September 2016 Lawrence (Larry) Langley lost his short battle with a form of cancer known as multiple myeloma. He was two weeks away from turning 56. Larry's life is a good story from a shearing perspective and it deserves to be told, at least from what I saw of it.

Larry was born in 1960, his father and mother had a farm near Rakaia. His father, Jim, was my mother's brother. Larry grew up wanting to be a farmer and there was no other occupation he desired, but unfortunately in 1974 Jim (my uncle) was killed in a car accident and the upshot was the farm would be sold before Larry was at an age to be considered to take it over.

Larry was sent to St Bede's in Christchurch where he was a boarder until the 6th form. He then left St Bede's to begin his pre-Lincoln farm training. He would come back to mid-Canterbury and work for Alex Wright at Hinds and Pat and Hunter Doig at Chertsey.

Two years go by and Larry is at Lincoln College to attack a two-year course, Diploma in Agriculture and Farm Management. It was while at Lincoln he became known as 'Mad Dog' – the reasons for this nickname are a little unclear. Perhaps it was his fearless nature on the rugby paddock or perhaps it was because he would never back down from a fight (and he could fight!). Whatever the reason, the name would stick until the very last time we caught up.

While Larry was at Lincoln he would spend weekends rousie/pressing for local contractor Ken Haldane and he did the 'learner shearer apprenticeship' by shearing the last side and then a couple at smoko. I think we all know that drill. Larry was impressed with Ken's organisation and I remember him telling me that all tallies and hours went through by computer to your wage slip. He then revealed that he was registered on the computer as 'Mad Dog'.

With his Lincoln Dip Ag and Farm Management qualification under his belt Larry ended up managing a sheep and beef farm out of Harihari on the West Coast. He

made the most of every situation and worked that farm as if it were his own. All percentages on the property were raised considerably over the two years of his management.

He played rugby for the local South Westland Club and even got over there this year to watch them play in the Club final. Larry enjoyed all facets of rugby – playing, coaching, managing. Larry also went to a State of Origin game this year as well, perhaps he had a bucket list?

In 1981 I was shearing at Gisborne when I received a letter from Larry which wasn't unusual as we would write to each other occasionally. I would always address my letter to L Langley, MD.. and start with, 'Hi MD.' His would begin with 'Hi Ah Kuoi' – derived from Fred Ah Kuoi the New Zealand rugby league player, while MD was obviously short for Mad Dog.

In his letter he said his bonus for the year was the chance to buy a house at Christchurch at a discounted rate, as the farm owner was a real estate agent in Christchurch. All he needed to secure the bargain was a two-thousand dollar deposit and there in lay the problem – the 'squirrel account' was about 2K short.

But Larry always had a Plan B. He had been sent a Visa card and a Bankcard which was quite common back then, both had a \$1000.00 limit and hey presto, next thing MD is on the real estate ladder. I have always considered this to be a defining moment for Larry.

The next plan was to start shearing full time so he returned to Ashburton and got a learner's stand with Austin Smith. This worked well as I was shearing overseas and Larry would stay at our home with Flint and Annette (my Mum and Dad). Larry helped Flint on the farm when he wasn't shearing and my mother treated Larry like part of the family.

Between Christmas and New Year Larry and I would shear Flint's sheep. It was a family affair and on many occasions Flint's old shearing mates would come out and jump on and shear a couple. Des O'Grady, Gordon Hutt, Jack Dwyer, Austin Lysaght just to name a few. (To page 23)

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My sisters brothers and nephews did the wool – this tradition lasted 30 years until Flint died three years ago and now we have just a handful of sheep.

When Larry started shearing it was a large percentage of power and work. He was incredibly strong and his shoulders and upper body would put an All Black front rower to shame (on a rugby paddock he was extremely fearsome). Even Flint would comment that Larry was shearing too hard but that was just the way he liked it (this would all change later when Larry developed a really easy shearing style and his quality was always second to none).

I remember Larry and I driving home from the pub one night and the conversation went something like this: 'Ah Kuoi, I've got this theory. If I am going to buy a farm I need to marry the right 'dolly' and I think for me she would have to be a school teacher. That's a guaranteed income paid by the Government, but heres the kicker – the school holidays coincide with the shearing season so she could go out rousing over summer. 'Brilliant!'

In 1985 Larry married Wendy St John, a school teacher from Dunedin. Wendy would indeed play a very important part in Larry's plan for farm ownership.

The shearing season of 1985/86 will always be a memorable one for me. Larry was now one of Austin Smith's gangsters. Austin had some real good local shearers – Grant Smith, Dave McCormick, Murray Bennett are names that spring to mind. Austin had saved me a stand and we were on a three-stand run which started down on the Coast around Wakanui and Seafield/ Pendarves, shearing corriedales, and after Christmas crossbreds were on the menu around the foothills. Larry was now an accomplished shearer in his fourth or fifth season. He was a natural ganger; Wendy was number one rousie (theory now in practice).

Austin had taken on a young farmworker as a learner shearer, by the name of Chris Brooker. 'Brookie' (as Larry called him) didn't serve a very long apprenticeship and eventually went on to shear a three-stand record with Rick Pivac and Dion Morrell.

It was a great season. I look back and smile because we were all good mates and had a lot of fun. I remember one shed and we had just introduced the cockies on the run to a new piece of shearing equipment called 'The Getto



From left: Flint Hill, Cath Langley, Mark Williams, Mat Williams, Jess Langley, Ryan Williams, Fred Hill, Larry Langley (plus inset)

Blaster'. On this occasion it must have been doing its job because 'Tom' came in wearing ear muffs, but every time he asked a question we would mime and when he took them off we would speak normal. I guess you had to be there!

Larry and Wendy later went to Western Australia and worked for Luke Dynen at Wickepin. Larry enjoyed getting away and as per usual made many friends. On return to Ashburton another house was bought and I guess the pieces to the puzzle were beginning to fall in place.

Larry took a spell from shearing full time and got a job as a frostie at the local freezing works, but still went out shearing for local contractors in the off season. He also went down to Kurow and worked for Bill Sheppard. Whenever I bumped into Bill he would always ask about Larry.

But Larry's favourite shearing contractor around Ashburton was a local character Tammy Thompson, or 'The Captain' as Brookie called him. Tammy was the Billy T James of the shearing world, never a dull moment. The Captain had a few sheds around Ashburton and mustered up a gang when required.

Larry has three daughters, Catherine, Lydia and Jess. They are a credit to both Larry and Wendy, all serving their apprenticeships in the sheds. Larry has instilled a quality in these girls and really it's quite simple: hard work never hurt anyone. (Fact, not a theory, eh Larry!)

Larry kept buying and selling property around Ashburton but in 1995 he decided to move South and purchased the Heriot IGA. Thus began his 'Arkwright' days.

The history of Larry buying his first farm was well covered off in a

great *Country-Wide* article by Terry Brosnahan and John Watson. The article is entitled *The Hard Yards* and how fitting, well worth the read. Because the article is a few years old, Larry's other farm won't be mentioned or the fact that he was considering investing in dairying, but as they say that's another story...

Larry was a good bloke. All who met him and worked with him would agree he was tough and determined but also very kind. Up until his death he was doing volunteer work for St Vincent De Paul. Larry enjoyed people, he could meet someone and invariably knew a cousin, uncle or other family member. He had an uncanny ability to link people.

Larry was a front foot man, he spoke his mind but he could also listen. He championed the underdog but never suffered fools. He was successful not only at what he achieved but was a good husband and friend to Wendy; an inspirational father to his three daughters, and a doting grandfather.

I will miss his slant on New Zealand. Politicians and All Blacks with product in their hair were held in low esteem. Federated Farmers were 'National Party in Gumboots...' The list goes on and he was a Highlander to the end.

I received a text from a good mate who also new Larry and I think it sums up how we all felt: '...just heard about Larry sad day mate, he was one of the good ones.'

My sister and I travelled down to Mosgiel to see how he was getting on even though I didn't know it it would be 'Goodbye'. Larry walked us to the door: 'Take it easy mate,' he said. Then he smiled and said 'theres still a bit of fight in the old mad dog yet.'

R.I.P, Larry Langley, MD.

HD Dawson Wools NZ Ltd Development Circuit

The HD Dawson Wools NZ Ltd North Canterbury development circuit is in its fifth year of competition. The circuit was originally set up to actively encourage and develop North Canterbury shearers with a fully funded trip to compete at the New Zealand championships at Te Kuiti.

The circuit encompasses seven competitions, best four to count and with the final held at the Kowai/Sefton show. The participating competitions are Ellesmere, Rangiora, Marlborough, Duvauchelle, Amuri, Cheviot and Kowai/Sefton. The lead sponsor is HD Dawson Wools NZ Ltd with generous support from nine local shearing contractors. Gear manufacturers Lister and Heiniger also provide support with product.

Initially the competitors were chosen from the senior and intermediate grades, with a manager appointed each year to travel with the shearers.

In 2013 Jonathan Rentoul was the senior representative, with Cory Green in the intermediate. Both made their individual finals with Jonathan receiving the overall quality award for the entire shearing competition.

In 2015 the event was changed to the winners of the intermediate and junior Grades. Hugh De Lacy performed exceptionally well with a third placing in the intermediate final and Rob Hervey finished seventh in the junior section.

2016 winner Lionel Taumata shone well and was rewarded with a second placing in the intermediate grade, while Mitchell Hoare placed seventh in the Junior Competition.

This season the top two shearers from the junior and intermediate will win a trip to Te Kuiti. Already there is a great interest in what has proved to be a investment in the development of our lower grade shearers.



HD Dawson Wools NZ Ltd shearers and officials, from left: Dave Brooker, Chris Jones, Gwenda Jones, Kelynn Scott (Lister), Mitchell Hoare (junior), Lionel Taumata (intermediate), Geoff Holmes (Heiniger) and Paul Harris.



Ribbon receivers at the Nelson Shears: left, junior champion Liam Norrie. Right Paul Hodge, third in his first open final.

New Shearing Machine Friction Drive Principle

An industry which promises to become of great importance and benefit to sheep farmers throughout New Zealand and is already creating considerable interest is the manufacture in the Dominion of a friction driven shearing machine. The manufacturers are the Kiwi Machine Company, Limited.

A special feature of the Kiwi plant is the automatic starting and stopping attachment in the handpiece, which is much appreciated by owners and shearers, as they are thus enabled to perform their work more easily and faster. This device, moreover, obviates the necessity for the usual overhead gear, and permits the selling of the machine at a lower price.

The handpiece is made by a well-known English firm, and displays good workmanship. All the materials used in the machine are of the best steel.

Some of the advantages claimed for a machine of this construction are: Interchangeable parts on the automatic handpiece; saving of time in shearing, which reduces costs in big sheds of rations, musterers and shedhands; no broken fleeces, and a shearer can at once stop his handpiece to hold a troublesome sheep; the life of combs and cutters is doubled, as they are not running empty and the fact that the friction drive wheel is balanced.

With such advantages as the automatic starting device in the handpiece, the simplifying of the construction and increasing the efficiency of the machine, as a result of which more sheep a day can be shorn with less effort, this machine is exciting considerable talk among the farmers in the North and South Islands, and numerous enquiries are being received.

(New Zealand Herald 7 April 1932)

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Above: Fine wool judges at Earnscleugh Station for 'training' prior to the New Zealand Merino Shears. From left: Ron Stuart (Alexandra), Philip Parker (Roxburgh), Greg Stuart (Oamaru, sitting), Graeme McNae (Masterton), Fred Parker (Roxburgh), Johnny Fraser (Oamaru), Ken Payne (Balclutha), Bruce Walker (Balclutha), Willy Buick (Masterton), Chief Judge Alan Paterson (Ranfurly), Mark Pringle (Roxburgh) and Richard France (Miller's Flat). Jack Fagan is the shearer trying to make a few second cuts for assessment.

Below: Same drill, different day for crossbred longwool judges at Balclutha. Present in the group are Neville Leslie, Tony Michelle, Grant Bradfield, Steve Culbertson, Jock Thompson, Geoffrey Finch, Kelvin Bassett and Tom Wilson, who all of whom reckon Bruce Walker has left about 15 strokes of nicks and scratches on this sheep. (As Barry Taylor once said to this writer, 'You should judge more often, Des!')



Men Behaving Badly

No, we're not talking about that popular British TV series from the 1990s, or the Chiefs rugby team end-of-season party, but rather about some attitudes seen and heard around the competitions over the past little while.

No need to get too specific here because it can and does happen around the country from time to time. (And despite the headline, there may also be women involved!)

The outcome of any sporting contest can be disappointing, especially if 'we' (read 'you') haven't performed as well as you'd thought, or hoped. The three disciplines of shearing sports – shearing, woolhandling, pressing – all require some subjective assessment by our judges. (Was that fleece overhanging the table a full A4 sheet of paper, or just a half-sheet? Was that cut on the flank worth 10 strokes or 15?)

Competitors – our message is quite simple: If you think you've been hard done by at a competition, keep your mouth shut, grin and bear it. Your luck will even out next week, or the week after. Mouthing off at judges, whether behind their back or to them directly does you no credit. Everyone involved in running competitions does so voluntarily and for little or no reward. Remember that and respect it, or go spend your Saturday somewhere else!

'SWEATING' OF SHEEP Shearing made easier Australian Investigations

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Australia has been investigating the cause or causes of the improvement in shearing secured by 'sweating' sheep – a common practice in most shearing sheds of closely packing the sheep in the shearing shed pens for some hours prior to shearing.

It is generally admitted that sheep so 'sweated' shear much more easily than those not so treated, and it has formerly been supposed that the sweat or 'swint' so produced softened and raised the yolk from the skin surface, enabling the shears to cut easily and closely to the skin without becoming sticky.

In a pamphlet, 'Fleece Investigation', recently published by the Council, however, it is stated that the extra easy shearing does not result from the moistening of the fleece by sweat, and that in spite of the large number of coil, or sweat, glands in the skin, sheep do not produce true, watery sweat on the general body surface.

Experienced shearers will possibly not agree with this contention, and many will assert that the sweat, when transpired, mixes readily with the yolk and so softens and thins it.

As far as the investigating scientists are concerned, however, why wool shears more easily after the sheep have been 'sweated' remains an unsolved problem.

(New Zealand Herald, 2 June 1939)



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Getting the most out of your body?

By Dylan Fowler

Are you getting the most out of your body for your shearing career? I am a full-time strength and conditioning coach based out of Brisbane, Australia and run a fitness programme called *Shear Fitness*.

I have worked with close to 100 shearers to help them improve their fitness, ranging from your day-in-day-out shearer to the elite who are either record holders or will be in the near future. My mission is to raise the minimum standard of health and fitness in the shearing industry and unlock the full potential of our people.

Hopefully this article will show you that we can get so much more out of our bodies and our shearing careers if we do a little bit of homework and treat our bodies the way we are meant to.

Shearing is the most physically demanding job on the planet. On average a shearer will work harder by smoko on a Monday than your average person by Friday. The average shearer is said to burn upwards of 3500 calories a day, which is equivalent to 100 bananas, and has a higher output than most All Blacks do over the course of an 80 minute game except shearers are working for 8-9 hours a day, sometimes seven days a week.

Shearers are among the elite athletes of the world in terms of the amount of work they get through in a day. The amount of oxygen consumed and the average heart rate of top end shearers can be close to 80-85% of their maximum heart rate for the entire day, which is up near what top cyclists work at during the *Tour de France*.

The difference between shearers and pro athletes is that most pro athletes will have a full time strength and conditioning programme and coach, a sports dietician, full massage and rehab team and they spend a good part of their day preparing their body and mind to take on their sport. So shouldn't we as shearers be doing the same?

In my opinion, yes! Shearers and shed staff make their living using their bodies and if we hone in on it as much as we do with our combs and gear, we could not only shear more sheep, make more money, have more energy for the kids and family, but also be in a lot better shape when it's time to put down the hand piece.



A younger Dylan Fowler at his first shearing competition

The demands of a shearer are unique. Every day we can be dragging anywhere from 40-100kg of wild animal in often hot and humid conditions and in poor body positions that, even though the body will put up with it, it is not designed to be like this. So what can we do to help? We must train the body to deal with these conditions by doing the following:

- A combination of weight training for structural balance;
- Energy systems and interval training to build a massive engine to deal with the high heart rate demands of a big day shearing;
- Yoga and mobility practices to help offset some of the damage caused by bad positions shearers face day in day out;
- Quality nutrition to fuel the body with the nutrients and energy it needs to not only get through the day, but to attack it and feel amazing by the end of it.

I believe the shearing industry is full of amazing talent and once we nail this side of our job (the preparation) we will unlock the full potential of the industry, our people will have far less injuries, be able to shear more sheep at a higher quality (less fatigue and better positions) make more money, and ultimately help their families achieve their goals and dreams with all this extra abundance. (To page 27)

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So where do we start? Nutrition is a good place. When I was shearing a good breakfast was a pie and an energy drink from the night and day on the way to work. Now that I've been working with high-level athletes, nutrition has been the one thing that can improve performance ten-fold.

Start the day off right with a high carb, high protein meal with a dash of good fats and you will be ready to tackle the day. My favourite way is smoothies (250ml milk, protein powder, banana, berries, honey and a tablespoon of peanut butter), this will give you everything you need to hit the ground running and get through the first run.

Top up throughout the day with heaps of vegies, good carbs like sweet potato, brown rice, dense whole grain breads and quality sources of protein (chicken/beef/fish) and then repair the body with a smoothie on the way home from the shed at the end of the day.

Then for dinner get some lean meat (protein), good vegies, good carbs and restore your electrolytes with magnesium and you will be charged up and ready to go day in day out.

The *Shear Fitness* programme comes with a full nutrition plan created by a dietician who understands what it takes to fuel a shearer to keep them going all day long. The most common feedback we get is our shearers can't believe how much of a positive difference eating and having a meal plan to follow makes to their energy levels.

The next part would be to attack the mobility. Shearers spend most of their day bent over, which leads to tight hips and glutes, which then leads to lower back injuries and pain. Because being bent over in this position is part of the job and currently the most efficient way to get the wool off, the best we can do is minimise and unlock these positions to reduce the occupational overworking of these areas.

Spend 15 minutes in the morning preparing the body. Five minutes of light cardio (jogging, rowing, skipping); five minutes of dynamic stretching, followed by five minutes stretching the glutes in a pigeon stretch, the hips in a couch stretch and the upper back in a puppy dog stretch.

After each run, spend 2-3 minutes a leg stretching your hips in a couch stretch and at the end of the day spend a good 10-15 minutes stretching and cooling the body down. You will not only help take some pressure off your back, but it will allow you to be looser on the sheep, have more reach and hit positions easier because your body will be moving unrestricted and freely to any position you have prepared it for.

The next part is the strength and conditioning. Shearing has some unique demands. All of our shearers on the *Shear Fitness* programme go through a phase of structural balance, which means we use weights to strengthen all the areas of the body that become weak and overused and bring back balance to the body.

One of the biggest reasons for injury in any sport is muscular imbalance. By strengthening the glutes and posterior chain and a massive focus on the midline and core we can keep shearers balanced and strong. After this, we hit a strength phase to build pure strength to handle those big sheep. Sheep are not getting any smaller and the shearer who is confident deadlifting 100+ kilo for multiple reps and multiple sets of pull ups and a strong upper back can be confident in any shed on any breed of sheep.

All the conditioning is designed to increase aerobic capacity and to prepare the shearer for long periods of time at high heart rate. We also use it as a recovery tool. It's not always about smashing yourself but more about getting some blood flowing to help the body repair and recover for the work we do in the shed. With all training, having a good plan and a goal is key to getting the most out of it.

All three parts mentioned above are only good when we have them all working for us. Get your nutrition sorted, get mobile and get strong and fit. Have all three parts peaking and nothing will stop you.

I believe we are very lucky these days to have so much information available to us on health and fitness. All we have to do is implement it and we will become one of the healthiest and fittest industries on the planet, not to mention one of the most prosperous. If we can start with ourselves it will flow onto everyone else we know and person-by-person we will change the world with health and fitness.

Prepare your body for the season ahead, get in the gym, get ready and hit the ground running this main shear. You wouldn't shear your first sheep on a cold hand piece so why would you do it with a cold tight body.

If you need help or would like to chat about how we can raise the minimum standard of health and fitness in the shearing industry please reach out to me on Facebook or send me an email. (theevolvedaustralia@gmail.com)



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Refugees

By Roger Leslie

As we count down to the world shearing championships being held in our very own Southland, Invercargill is gearing up for what is expected to be the classic event of the year. Many folks are talking about it, even those who have previously had no interest in shearing. There is much excitement about the shearers of many nations being here.

As we seek to (hopefully) make them welcome my thoughts go to the many refugees throughout the world. New Zealand is a nation of people who came here because it seemed better than where they were, or are descended from such. We should therefore be understanding of refugees, but I wonder if we are?

As I travel with my trusty old hand-piece throughout Europe I see many displaced people and when I get the chance I ask them about the land they came from and if there are any sheep there? The answer has always been yes. The sheep do better than people because they don't live in East Aleppo.

The sheep it seems always belong to poor people who are not worth the time and expense of bombing. I have yet to meet a shearer or even anyone who has had anything to do with sheep among these folk. They believe the shepherds shear their own sheep.

The Germans and Danes call them Flüchtlingen and Flygtninge respectively, which means fledglings or those who have flown. Everyone has an opinion on them and we quickly learned not to raise the subject unless we had a lot of time on our hands. Some shepherds need to stand to deliver their views and some even need a table to emphasise their main points. The point is they are a reality that must be faced and I have enjoyed working for the shepherds who have employed some to help with the shearing.

On one occasion we had two Syrians (picture) who had been arranged by an agency and had no German (or English) for communication purposes but seemed to enjoy themselves in spite of this. It brought back memories of my father trying to tell my city cousins where to stand in the pen (and where not to) and with no more success although they all spoke a common language (kind of).

My Syrians gestured, that yes, they knew how to catch a sheep, but alas they didn't. My sheep handling school went on all day but they both still 'needed further development'. They did learn not to stand in the gateway while a 100kg Texel ran at their knees and that if you don't tie the gate properly you will have to chase the lot back in again.

One of them would come to me and point to the other who was trying with an air of eloquent hopelessness to refill the pen. One of their main signs was all four palms pointing heavenwards and pitiful spaniel eyes that said 'can you come and help, again?'

Food time was entertaining too – the lady of the house, ever an enterprising soul, had quite a job finding out what they would and wouldn't eat. She was bent and ravaged with arthritis from too many hard years of farm work, but none of this diminished her spirit or humour.

She wanted me to explain to them what all the food options were; assuming my morning spent working with them would make me a good translator.



Heads down, thumbs up. He'll drink to that!

When this bore no fruit she tried to explain the meat was not pig but beef and chicken. The pantomime of the cow was excellent but nowhere near as good as that of the chicken. It was Oscar stuff and worthy of a much wider audience than we four. But they still only ate bread and cheese.

They never mastered catching and tipping sheep but could hold one by the gate for me to do so and that was a big step forward in international relationships.

I once visited Romania and, with the help of a friend and an interpreter, I visited a shepherd high on the hills of Transylvania. He had 40 shaggy sheep which he milked and from which he sold the cheese. If too much wasn't lost in translation he made about \$4 a day. I told him I had a farm back in New Zealand and that I had about 2,500 sheep. He asked who was standing with them (seeing I was in Transylvania).

I told him my father had that honour but that he didn't need to stand there all day because we had fences. He didn't understand about the fences but asked how my father and the sheep dealt with wolves? He was incredulous that there were no wolves and asked about bears. He found it beyond belief that there were none of these either. It sounded like a paradise to him.

Of course it is. He could never imagine a place where 4,500 sheep could be well presented and trucked in to Stadium Southland to be shorn by the best shearers of each nation. We are a privileged people.

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Health, safety ... and fitness!

By Gabriela Schmidt-Morrell

We seem to hear a great deal these days about health and safety. With the introduction of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 things are tightening up and every industry has to lift their game.

Mostly we worry about safety, preventing injuries and the like. We don't often however talk about health. In the shearing industry, fitness is one large contributor to our overall health. We may think we are fit enough, because we work hard every day, right?

But then we get to the age of 30 or 35 or so, and things start to hurt. We get injured. We stay injured for longer.

So what can we do to delay the advent of our bodies letting us down at work? Start looking after yourself early is best, but it is never too late to begin.

A few years ago our contracting business started an off-season gym programme for our staff.

Twice a year, before main shear and before pre-lamb, we organise a really cheap, six-week gym membership for our crew.

When we first turned up at the gym with a few of our guys and girls, the instructors did a little assessment, just to see where they would sit in terms of fitness. One of our shearers was put on the rowing machine and smashed the local rowing club's record for the 10 minutes speed rowing. (He was some kind of a waka ama champion from way back, but never let on). Here they were, scratching their heads...

Anyway, the programme went from there, with the idea to strengthen the muscles in a balanced way over the quiet time to get ready for the next season. This should help to shear a few more, to work with less effort and to prevent injuries.

Shearers are often not that strong in their lungs, as shearing is mostly done in an aerobic state, meaning you are not huffing and puffing while shearing.

To strengthen your lungs, you could just go for walks up the hill every day. You have to fairly hike up the climbs though, to get that motor of yours going. Rev it up and you will feel the difference when you start shed work again.

Last winter we had a 'past-his-retirement-age' shearer working for us, showing up far too many of our young ones. So what was his secret?

He reckons it's because of the yoga he has been doing for years, regularly and numerous times a week. He swears by it. (Yoga is a stretching, relaxing and strengthening Hindu discipline. It includes breath control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures. Yoga is widely practised for health and relaxation.)

So next thing we knew, he had our other guys doing yoga exercises after work.

Check out your local yoga options, it has become very popular in New Zealand over recent years and most towns have a yoga class going somewhere.

All these fitness options will have to be done regularly to be of real benefit. Fitness training outside the shearing shed is an important part to help lengthen the time you can spend in this career.

It goes without saying, that nutritious food, plenty of water, plenty of sleep, a massage here and there and staying away from drugs and alcohol go hand in hand with that healthy life to create a healthy body.

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Gabriela welcome**



Northern Ireland's world champs woolhandling representative Jayne Harkness-Bones submitted this photo for the 'worlds' souvenir programme. Jayne is a member of a 'girl band' and we (that is, this editor!) suggests the New Zealand Shearing Foundation should get the band's other members to join Jayne at Invercargill in February to provide music for the 'after match' function! Yeah! Jayne says woolhandling is very much like playing the drums: 'You've got to get into the groove, sense what's going on around you at all times – and move fast!'



Team Higgins at the Nelson Shears, from left: Rane Norton (3rd junior woolhandling); Sarah Higgins (1st intermediate shearing); Alex Drake (2nd senior shearing); Chris Jones (winner open and clean shear); Duncan Higgins (3rd intermediate shearing); Stacey Stamatis (1st novice woolhandling).



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We should all learn something new every day!*

World Shearing Championships Associated Events

**Wednesday 1 February and
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Enquiries to: secretary@worldshearingchamps.com
<http://www.mountlinton.co.nz>

**Tuesday 7 February 2017
(9.30am-4.00pm)**

Judges training day for all shearing and woolhandling judges. Facilitated by chief shearing referee, Paul Harris and chief woolhandling referee, Peter Lange. Enquiries to: secretary@worldshearingchamps.com. Cars depart Ascot Park Hotel 9.15am. Lunch provided.

**Tuesday 7 February 2017
(5.30pm onwards)**

Judges and Partners Dinner, Ascot Park Hotel. Hosted by Paul Harris and Peter Lange. Diners to settle own accounts. Enquiries to secretary@worldshearingchamps.com

**Tuesday 7 February 2017
(7.00pm-9.00pm)**

Participants Forum. Ascot Park Hotel. Enquiries to chairman, World Council.

**Wednesday 8 February 2017
(6.30pm)**

World Teams Dinner, Ascot Park Hotel. Participants to be seated by 6.25pm!

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Strattie stops the Aussie rot at Alex

By Doug Laing

Invercargill shearer Nathan Stratford made a big start to the new competition season at Alexandra last month when he ended West Australian gun Damian Boyle's six-year reign as New Zealand Merino Shears Open champion.

The 42-year-old Stratford was, however, the only Kiwi in New Zealand's only finewool competition's six-man showdown, in which Boyle, 39, was runner-up. Third was Andrew Croxon, of Tasmania, followed by Christchurch-based Abraham Berkelaar, Tasmanian shearer Robert Glover, and Mark Buscombe, from West Australia.

Boyle had won the title every year since Stratford last won the event in 2009. Stratford also won in 2006 and was runner-up last year. Each has now shorn the New Zealand Merino Championships open final 13 times, Boyle having first qualified when fifth in 1998, while Stratford has been in all but two of the finals since he first qualified when finishing fifth in 2002.

The victory also won Stratford back a place in the New Zealand team for this season's trans-Tasman series. With seven trans-Tasman tests behind him, Stratford is expected to shear with Golden Shears Open champion Rowland Smith, of Hastings, and PGG Wrightson National Circuit champion Tony Coster, of Rakaia, against Australia next Saturday in Warialda, NSW, and next March in Masterton.

At Alexandra Stratford had a second trans-Tasman triumph when he and Rakaia shearer Grant Smith beat the Royal Perth Show team of Boyle and Mark Buscombe in a merino shearing match, reversing the result of their clash at Perth a week earlier.

It was a big night also for Pagan Karauria (nee Rimene) who won the Open woolhandling title for the second year in a row, with 2012 and 2014 winner Joel Henare of Gisborne having to settle for second place, as he had also done last year. The 2013 winner, Amy Ferguson, of Invercargill, was third, and Tia Potae, of Milton, was fourth.

Karauria, who suffered serious injuries in a work van crash in 2008, took another step towards a dream when she was fifth in the senior shearing final, which was won by

Tasmania shearer Jack Glover. Napier shearer Paraki Puna was runner-up in his first fine wool shearing competition.

Two other woolhandling titles were decided, with the senior final being won by Ebony Turipa, of Gore, and the junior final by Autumn Waihape, of Gore.

Both Stratford and Karauria also featured in a New Zealand victory in an invitation trans-Tasman shearing and woolhandling match in which each team had three shearers and three woolhandlers.

Results New Zealand Merino Shears Alexandra 30 September - 1 October 2016

Shearing

New Zealand Merino Shears Open: Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 1, Damien Boyle (West Australia) 2, Andrew Croxon (Tasmania) 3, Abraham Berkelaar (Christchurch) 4, Robbie Glover (Tasmania) 5, Mark Buscombe (West Australia) 6.

Senior: Jack Glover (Tasmania) 1, Paraki Puna (Napier) 2, Jay Stringer (Ranfurly) 3, Lee Harris (Hamilton, Vic.) 4, Pagan Karauria (Alexandra) 5, Shelley King (Omeo, Vic.) 6.

Woolhandling:

Open: Pagan Karauria (Alexandra) 1, Joel Henare (Gisborne) 2, Amy Lee Ferguson (Invercargill) 3, Tia Potae (Milton) 4.

Senior: Emily Turipa (Gore) 1, Chiquita Tamepo (Tikitiki) 2, Margi Harrison (Dannevirke) 3, Sharni Newton (Gore) 4.

Junior: Autumn Waihape (Gore) 1, Cory Tau (Dannevirke) 2, Trish Booth (Cromwell) 3, Alayne Daysh (Pahiatua) 4.

Teams events

Transtasman Invitation Shearing and Woolhandling Invitation): New Zealand (shearers Nathan Stratford, Abraham Berkelaar, Tony Coster; woolhandlers Chiquita Tamepo, Pagan Karauria, Margi Harrison) beat Australia (shearers Damien Boyle, Andrew Croxon, Robert Glover; woolhandlers Mel Morris, Joanne O'Connor, Elly Michelmore).

Transtasman shearing: New Zealand Merino Champs (Nathan Stratford, Grant Smith) beat Royal Perth Show (Damien Boyle, Mark Buscombe).



Opposite: Alan Paterson was one of a team (including Willie Buick and Graeme McNae) who helped sort the sheep at Alexandra. Above: Jills Angus Burney and Fred Parker compare judging notes while Richard France is busy making up his own mind. 25, 35, 45 ...?

Heiniger News 4 Ewes Summer 2016

Comb Profile Update - The Warrior Returns!

Due to overwhelming demand from our customers we have re-launched the **Warrior** in Spring 2016. The all new modified **Warrior** now has all the new features of our current series including BAT (bevel angle technology) and longer scalloping, enhancing the performance of this traditional full thickness comb. If you are a **Warrior** fan you will love the improved performance of the new profile. Look for them now in your local Heiniger outlet.



For all our **Raging Warrior** fans we have now also applied 'Longer Scalloping' to this popular profile. This has improved the entry and flow of this popular comb, offering improved tallies and a polished finish.



In late winter / early spring we also introduced the **Ninja** profile to our comb range. This comb certainly 'did the business' in the early sticky lambing ewes - where entry was the key. At 97mm wide, with a long bevel, the **Ninja** certainly out performed anything in this class and had the tougher shearing regions looking for more. Your local Heiniger Territory Sales Managers are currently visiting sheds in your region offering these profiles for demonstration.



If you would like to try these new profiles then text Heiniger your Name and the Town you are working from on **+642705342974807** and our Team will 'hook you up'.



Hamish joins Heiniger

In August Hamish Lowe joined the Heiniger Christchurch Team as our appointed Service and Repair Technician. Hamish is an ex-Canterbury farmer from Te Pirita as well as an accomplished machinery repair person. Hamish hails from Glenroy in the Canterbury foothills and like most of us enjoys hunting and fishing and dabbles in professional photography. He will provide our customers and business with key service and repairs to our vast product range, in our purpose built service dept in Christchurch. Welcome to our business Hamish.

'Chill out with Heiniger' Summer Icon Promotion

This summer Heiniger is again looking after our all important customers and are offering a 'BONUS' chilly bin with any Icon purchase in December. Keeping your lunch cool in the hot days ahead is always a 'mission' and the quality Heiniger chilly bin offered in this promotion will keep ice for days.



The Heiniger Chilly Bin is built strong enough to use as a seat to sit on and strong enough to stand on to mount your Evo Shearing Plant - for those shearers and contractors that prefer to use the safer Evo option in their "Daily Grind". The chilly bins won't last long so race in and purchase your new Icon now!

Look out for our "Daily Grind" competition in 2017

Heiniger Sales Team takes to the field

This Spring / Summer season our Sales Team are working hard in the field to provide the high level of service that our customers have come to expect from Heiniger. In November Kevin Thirkell and Geoff Holmes completed a field canvas in the King Country and Taumarunui region visiting working sheds and repairing handpieces and plant.



They also presented a shearers gear night in Te Kuiti, to offer customers product information and grinding technique.



These gear information sessions allow our customers to take valuable information and skills back to the sheds to make their job easier in their "Daily Grind".

If you would like to have a Heiniger gear session in your area then text your Name and Town to **+642705342974807** and we will be happy to come and offer you 'The Edge' to do **Kombat** in the shed!



Happy ending to Jeff's 'Big OE'

By Des Williams

Jeff Dorset is no stranger to the notion that success and failure can be separated by a very fine line, especially when it comes to shearing world record tallies. You only have to do one more than the previous best to get your name in the record book.

He saw success defined by three seconds in a nine hour day when his mate Rodney Sutton got the catch at Mangapehi in 2007 to better Darin Forde's decade-old tally of 720. He's been involved in other successful attempts by Justin Bell, Sutton and Nigel Brown. Plus the Justin Bell and Shaun Edmonds two-stand, and Ivan's two successful eight-hour records. Then he had to watch while Ivan's lambs dehydrated and wouldn't comb on his first attempt at the nine-hour lamb record at Opepe Station.

Ivan Scott has a long association with New Zealand shearing, having come to work for Barry Pullin at Rolleston some 15 years ago. When Ivan mentioned to Barry that he was interested in having a go at a shearing record, Barry's advice to the Irishman was that he should go and work for Jeff Dorset in the North Island, among some faster shearers and fast shearing sheep.

Barry still recalls his conversation with Jeff and his suggestion that Ivan really did have what it takes to shear big numbers. Like doing 500 in eight hours with a cover comb! 'Send him up and we'll see what we can do,' Jeff said without trying to hide his immediate enthusiasm.



Jeff Dorset – happiness is a difficult job well done on the other side of the world!

'What set Ivan apart from many others was his ability to focus, his absolute determination, ability to listen and put into practice the advice offered, and especially an ability to slow his mind down and focus on the small things, Barry Pullin says. 'When you start out shearing your objectives are very broad, to do 200, 300 or whatever. If you want to shear big numbers you must learn to focus on individual sheep, and the individual components of your own shearing pattern. That's the potential I saw in Ivan Scott.'

And they are the qualities that Ivan quickly demonstrated when arriving into Dorset's set up. The journey from shearer doing big tallies under ordinary shed conditions to shearer with serious credentials to undertake the hardest nine hours of work on the planet took a decade. It also took Jeff Dorset to

the other side of the world to play a major role in Ivan's crack at beating the 866 lambs shorn by Dion King at Mangapehi on 10 January 2007.

So why the switch to the northern hemisphere, when all previous crossbred tallies had been shorn in New Zealand? 'Record sheep' are now hard to find in this country, Jeff suggests. 'The tallies shorn here 15-20 years ago were on sheep from the early days of crossing composites and romneys. Gradually the composite influence produced sheep that were too volatile, lost their compact formation and dehydrated easily, making them very difficult to shear in tough conditions.'

'Sheep farmers in the southern part of England are just now starting to do what we were doing here 20 years ago and so the British sheep are now fast-shearing like ours used to be. When the attempt at Opepe failed we said we would find the lambs and get the job done. We found the lambs in England!

But the organisation of Ivan Scott's record was far from a straight-forward business, says Jeff.

The record venue was Matt Smith's farm and shed facilities, where Matt himself extended Rod Sutton's world ewe record out to 731 – adding 10 to the previous tally in what can best be described as a phenomenal effort.

'When we got over there to prepare for Ivan's attempt, Matt had said there were about 800 lambs available, 400 of which were 'ready to go'. When we got access to the other 400 however they were more slabby and with wool on the points, so we didn't get many out of that mob.

'That left us driving around the south of England looking for suitable lambs to add to the tally mob. We would find 20 here, 25 there and a few more somewhere else. Then we had to cart them back to the farm, crutch them and eartag them.

The facilities for handling the sheep were also not great – stone fences and makeshift yards and that sort of thing.

So Chris Kyle and I spent a lot of time driving round and collecting up sheep from small mobs. Then Ivan and some Irish mates turned up to help and Ivan became deeply involved in that part of it when he should have been left to focus on the task of shearing sheep.



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'We even had about 20 romney wethers in the tally mob but then it rained and Ivan's first attempt was postponed. Then by chance I was talking to a digger driver who mentioned he had a mate who had a flock of about 500 Cheviot lambs. Because of the weather delay we were able to check them out, get them prepared and eartagged and added to the mob. Meantime the sheep are being let into and out of the shed, getting covered in mud, having to be lifted over rails – the whole thing came close to being a disaster, and Ivan was still involved in all of this.

The other major issue was the great variation in the line of lambs – they varied in weight from about 18kg to 38kg and the wool weight was anywhere from 0.6kg in weight to about 1.4kg. Ivan doesn't shear smaller lambs particularly well but we were fortunate in getting a line in the draft that met the world record weight requirement of 0.9kg and he is the only man I know that can shear those big ones at record pace and that's what got him home on the day.

'This was without doubt the most difficult preparation for a world record that I have seen or been involved with. After all that going on in the background it is an absolute tribute to the man that he was able to come out and do the business on that day. I don't know of anyone else in the world that could have done that.'

Jeff Dorset gives high praise to all the key people involved on the day, especially judging panel convenor



Jeff Dorset (left) and Chris Kyle keep close watch on Ivan Scott's hard work

Mark Baldwin (Australia) with his experience and ability to work through issues with wet lambs, mud and the facilities we had to work with.

'The judges (Baldwin, Ian Buchanan (New Zealand) and Martyn David (Wales) all did a marvellous job and we had Rowland Smith as our judges liaison man. Rowland was a most valuable asset in that regard.

'Chris Kyle was the man that made this record happen. There is a lot of work to put a record together in New Zealand. We have big mobs and good facilities, but with all the obstacles we had in England it took Chris's

dedication, hard work and stock knowledge to put it together. He was the key player.

'Chris was the timekeeper and did a great job, staying with Ivan all day – that was going to be my job but with all that had gone on in the lead up I decided to step back and keep an eye on other things. Ivan's Irish mates turned up in force to help in the final preparations and on the day Stanley Allingham and Robert Collier played key roles out the back and around the pens, while Beau St George stayed around to help us out after having turned up earlier to help with Matt's big day. And Matt of course, in supplying some of the sheep as well as the shed and facilities was another vital man, and his talk with Ivan at afternoon smoko when the record was in the balance was timely advice indeed.

Jeff reserves a special mention for Ant Bryant, who prepared and looked after Ivan's gear on the day. 'I found Ant to be a very astute chap and he may well have been the difference between success and failure. Ivan didn't start the day particularly well and so the whole day became one long fight so the importance of having the gear right throughout cannot be over-estimated.

Jeff reveals that an item of machinery known as a humidifier also played an important role, both in Matt Smith's and Ivan Scott's tallies.

'You can't use covers to sweat the sheep up anymore but so far the humidifier is not illegal so we had to make the most of it.'

This was not your typical 'Big OE' either, but Jeff Dorset made the most of his time in the UK and brought to reality the dream for an Irishman who proved he is the toughest shearer in the world at the moment.

Footnote: Ivan Scott also holds the world 8-hour record for strongwool lambs, shearing 744 at Opepe Station, January 2012. Earlier this year he set an Irish record of 820 ewes in 9 hours.

Fast Shearing

Shearing for Mr Dickson Jardine, Kawerau Falls Station, Lake Wakatipu, Mr. J. Talbot sheared 202 high-country halfbred ewes in eight hours, his best tally during the time being 54 sheep in two hours. This is a record for the Wakatipu district and probably for New Zealand. (*New Zealand Herald* 9 December 1939)

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Storm's innovation

Shear Pace, a newly launched shearing productivity app has just been lauded with a win in the prestigious David Awards. The first app by physiotherapist Storm Baynes-Ryan, Shear Pace took out the NZ Business – Most Innovative category as a one of a kind app, which aims to boost shearing performance by allowing shearers to focus on their speed and technique, without worrying whether they are beating the clock.

Shearers estimate that their tallies can increase from between 10 and 80 sheep per day when using the app.

The category states "This is a business which demonstrates a new or clever way of going about things, or which is conceptually innovative, or a business which develops and harnesses technology to help it punch above its weight."

The judges stated "this category had some very good entries, but Shear Pace has best embraced a new and clever way of using technology for improving the performance of sheep shearers."

Shear Pace is passionate about sheep shearing and has tapped into their industry knowledge to create an app that will help shearers improve their productivity and outputs. Their staged approach offering a free cut down version and paid for option is well structured to get uptake and paying customers. This has been well researched and developed and is now ready to go to the next level. A great effort and great example of innovation"

Creator Storm Baynes-Ryan, whose family has been involved in shearing for over three generations feels absolutely blown away to be among the top innovators in the country, let alone be the one the judges chose as the leader. Mrs Baynes-Ryan says while it seems a bit unreal, it gives her confidence that what she is doing is not just great for the shearing industry, but that the technological idea is sound.

"I will be able to go forward and test other ideas confidently now. Getting feedback from the judges will be wonderful, and I will be able to ensure that everything within my company and design is robust."

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Shearing recently visited the historic Retaruke Station woolshed, deep in heartland Whanganui. Owner Dan Steele has great conservation projects happening on Blue Duck Station (incorporating Retaruke) but sheep and wool are

still a large part of day-to-day business. Among the things you can do with covered yards is turn them into a flash wedding venue, as the 'before and after' photos at top reveal. Above, Dan reflects on some of the great deeds with a handpiece carried out in the shed over its 85-year history. Names on the wall (opposite) are mainly from more recent times, but S Rodgers from 1985 (31 years ago) is getting back a bit. Is there a story to tell by someone who was there in 1985? Meantime, the next generation of woolly beasts (below) awaits the arrival of the gang ...



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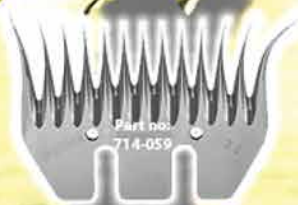
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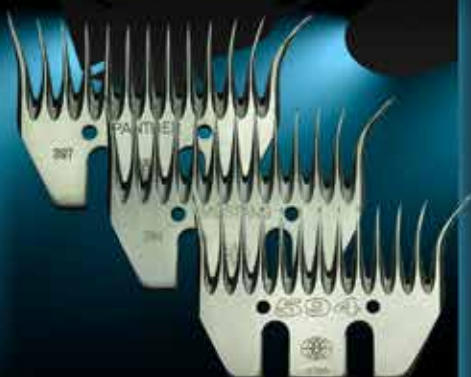


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