

Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

Number 94: Vol 33, No 2, August 2017
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Mitch Tamati and Diane Chilcott, classing the clip at Ngamatea Station, February 2017.

FREE
See inside for
mailing rates

Inside:
Rowly's new record
Canada's Metherral brothers
Les and Lorrene Te Kanawa
Matt Smith joins machine Masters



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Deadline for all material two weeks prior.**

UNDER COVER STORY

Greetings readers and welcome to our August 2017 edition of the magazine. I hope we've managed to pull together an interesting range of stories from within and around our industry for your entertainment.

Our cover photo and centre spread this time takes you to cut out day at Ngamatea Station, earlier this year. Truly a magnificent spectacle to see nearly 50 people working in unison around the 18-stand woolshed.

We offer congratulations to Waimate Shears, about to celebrate 50 years of competition, and to Matt Smith, acclaimed by Shearing Sports NZ as New Zealand's 67th Master machine shearer.

Like most other New Zealand publications that have a mainly rural flavour, we acknowledge the passing of Sir Colin Meads. Apart from being (arguably) one of New Zealand's best known sheep farmers, Colin was a great supporter of the New Zealand championships at Te Kuiti and was almost always somewhere in the front row on Saturday nights. He was also at Golden Shears in 2005 to hand the open championship trophy to another sheep farmer, Paul Avery of Stratford.

Sir Colin redefined the meaning of humble. A couple of years ago this writer was enjoying a chat with the great man during the Saturday afternoon session at Te Kuiti.

'Are you coming back to watch the finals tonight?' I asked. "Well, I'd like to, but I haven't got a ticket." At my suggestion he could just walk in and take whatever seat he wanted, there came that customary chuckle by way of confirmation he wouldn't be that presumptuous. (Someone found him a ticket!)

We also note the passing of another King Country legend, Colin Boshier, who died in Australia on 30 May 2017. Boshier was, coincidentally, also a useful rugby player and former club footy opponent of CE Meads.

*Ka kite ano
Des Williams (editor)*

Shearing Sports NZ Calendar 2017

October: 6-7 NZ Merino Shears, Alexandra. 13-14 Waimate Spring Shears. 14 Poverty Bay A&P Gisborne; Ellesmere A&P, Leeston. 20 Great Raihania Shears/New Zealand Royal Show, Hastings. 21 Northern A&P, Rangiora. 26-28 Australian Nationals and trans-Tasman tests, Bendigo; 28 Wairarapa A&P, Carterton; Ashburton A&P.

November: 4 Manawatu A&P, Manfeild, Feilding. 11 Central Hawkes Bay A&P, Waipukurau; Marlborough A&P, Blenheim; Pleasant Point Gymkhana. 16-17 Canterbury A&P, Christchurch. 18 West Otago A&P, Tapanui. 25 Stratford A&P; Nelson A&P, Richmond Park.

NZ WOOL CLASSERS ASSOCIATION

Senior Wool Handlers

Do you hold a Level Four Woolhandling Certificate? If so, did you know you qualify to hold a Q stencil from the New Zealand Wool Classers' Association providing you are a member (Membership fee is \$69).

Our Association is endeavouring to promote this stencil class to show the wool industry that if specifications and bales have a NZWCA stencil number on them the wool clip has been prepared by a person that has gone to the trouble to upgrade their skill level. What do you need to do to obtain a stencil number? Contact the NZWCA Registrar Bruce Abbott either on Mobile 027 228 0868 or email eo@woolclassers.co.nz. You will need proof of your Level Four certificate and if you have misplaced it we may be able to help you obtain a copy. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Since the last Magazine the Association has held field



days in Christchurch, Gisborne, Mosgiel and Omakau. These days have had an average attendance of 35, and the attendees carried out a range of wool exercises such as crossbred wool grading, breeds types and oddment recognition, visit to a wool store showing how they process wool and a number of speakers that cover topics such as wool preparation in the shed, WorkSafe, drug detection and contamination in wool.

We have planned to hold a field day in Timaru in late November and details of that will be on our web site (www.woolclassers.co.nz) and Facebook (Nzwca).



Above: Rob Cochrane of PGG Wrightson discussing fleeces for wool judging at the NZWCA Field Day at Christchurch in May. Opposite: Struan Hulme of Canterbury Wool Scours displaying contamination at the NZWCA Field Day.

Recipients of our Merit Award are listed in this magazine [page 30] and our congratulations go to them. We would like to see more of our Q stencil members being nominated for these awards by the wool industry but if you do not put your number on the Bales/Specification or are not a member of the Association you cannot be nominated.

Just a clarification on the NZWCA stencil numbers, under the Rules of the Association to use the number that has been allocated to you, you must be a member of the NZWCA. If you want to use the stencil number on the work you do and are not a member, contact Bruce Abbott (registrar NZWCA) on email eo@woolclassers.co.nz or mobile 027 228 0868 to re-register.

The New Zealand Wool Classers' Association, in conjunction with Wool Industry Education Group (WIEG) have worked with Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre to deliver the Certificate of Wool Technology.

This course has not been available for over two years and will be delivered by Laurie Boniface who is based at the Massey University Campus. Those interested to do this course contact Laurie on free phone 0800 200 009.

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Russ Tibbotts: Wool Classer – Wool Tutor At Lincoln

Russ is retiring from CP Wools as its Head wool classer after 46 years in the industry. He started as a skip boy at National Mortgage Agency (NMA) in 1966. Since then he has worked for Wrightson's for 30 years and Elders Primary Wools (now CP Wools) for seven years. He has worked in other stores that include PGG, Dalgety's and NZ Farmers. He also was around when a number of mergers took place.

Russ is a fully registered wool classer in all breeds and holds a New Zealand Stock & Station Certificate. He completed and passed his Wool Certificate at Lincoln in 1967. The highlight of his career, he says was the eight years teaching at Lincoln University of the three-month Wool course which ceased in 1999, due to a lack of funding and student numbers.

Russ has a number of ex-pupils still working in the wool industry as company representatives, wool classers in sheds or farmer classers. He remembers fondly his association with senior tutor Bruce Tinnock, who mentored him with his tutoring skills. It was when Bruce retired in the mid-1990s that Russ took over full time work at Lincoln, which included smaller wool course teaching, buying and selecting suitable teaching wool and setting exams for students. All wool teaching was done with full fleeces, not samples as of the present day.

In his career Russ has performed many duties in wool stores including grab-core operator, head classer, presser and group and lot wool typing, as well as all work involving show floor presentation and many days wool canvassing. Over 46 years Russ has seen many changes in the wool industry including grab/core sampling for test results,



Russ Tibbotts - retiring after 46 years in the industry

computerisation, more wool sales per year and with box samples on a show floor showing the wool replacing the open bale line stacked show floor.

Russ says one of the worrying things in the wool industry for the future is the lack of young people coming on the scene to do wool classing, wool buying, wool scouring, wool research.

Russ says he would do it all over again because of the wonderful people and many friends he has met in the wool industry. Also the enjoyment he gets out of wool classing even though store wool classing can be difficult, even for the best, but you have just got to know there is a bin for every fleece and you have to know your company's bin system.



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Let them rust in peace



New life to old combs, Ron Saltmarsh style.

Several 'dead' handpieces; piles of old ground-out combs, so thin you daren't even crutch with them anymore; chewed-out cogs; assorted pieces of old shearing plant and boxes of cutters that used to float in your gear pot last time you used them. Every shearer's shed is littered with the stuff. You know it's never going to be used again, but it was so expensive to buy you just can't quite bring yourself to chuck it out... And so it just sits there, year after year, incrementally blackening with grinding dust.

Ron Saltmarsh is a former pipe fitter and welder, now retired and living in South Wales. His former industry is a lot like our own: long periods of living away from home and family, doing hard and skilled work in sometimes less than pleasant conditions for the reward of seriously good money.

He spent a lot of time working on the North Sea oil rigs, getting flown out by helicopter from Great Yarmouth or Aberdeen, and also welding pipes on the 'lay barges' – basically ships that lay a steel pipe onto the ocean floor as the welders construct it, section by section.

Once these pipes were in place on the ocean bed, pumping oil back to the mainland, leaks were unthinkable so the top welders in the country would be cherry-picked for this work, a bit like a super-fine merino station picking its shearing team.

Each weld in the pipe would be x-rayed on the ship and mistakes were a big no-no. The slightest hint of a fault on an x-ray would mean the pipe would have to be cut, completely

re-ground and re-welded. In a work contract that could go on for months you could make this mistake only once, Ron explains; second time and you're off. The expense and lost time meant oil companies couldn't afford to have anyone but the best working for them.

'You got known,' Ron says. 'You'd get a telegram. There were no mobile phones in those days [late 60s – early 70s] and not everyone had a phone at home. The telegram would say, "Job at Redcar. Six-month contract. Phone so-and-so if interested".'

'Sometimes you'd end up out of work as you'd get a telegram but the contract would start before your current one ended, so you'd have to turn it down. People's attitude to finding work was so different back then – if you were out of work and you saw a lorry carrying steel pipes you'd jump in your car and follow it. You might end up getting a twelve-month contract with them. It would seem mad to people today, but that was just how we got work,' he said.

'It was a young man's job though – by your mid-thirties you were knackered, but the money was very good – you'd have a good house at a young age.'

Ron likes to keep his hand in and his latest hobby is making bespoke weathervanes. If you happen to be his neighbour and he tells you he'd like to make you one and asks what you'd like, suddenly all those old shearing parts get the chance of a new lease of life after all! (*Tom Harding*)

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Another record Rowled

By Tom Harding

Rowland Smith sheared 644 adult sheep in eight hours on 24 July 2017, on the farm run by brother Matt Smith and sister-in-law Pip – the same English farm where the nine-hour ewe and lamb records were broken last August by Matt and Ivan Scott respectively.

When a shearer is going for a tally in the shed, other [usually older] shearers have been known to make comments along the lines of, ‘No good doing it, unless you can do it again tomorrow, son’. You could argue it’s just hard, old-school bravado, or more cynically that it’s even a direct attempt to demoralise them and put them off achieving their tally.

Either way, it is almost certainly unfair; the whole point of a tally is that it’s a personal best. You are going to push everything to the limit of what you are capable in order to achieve that goal, whether you’re a young shearer pushing for that first 200 or a gun striving to join the 600 Club.

After all, who would expect a marathon runner achieving a PB to do it again the following day or a mountaineer returning from Everest to turn around and re-trace their steps?

Watching 30-year-old Rowland smash the eight-hour record however looked so controlled and efficient you could be forgiven for thinking that if he had to step up and do it all over again the following day, it wouldn’t have been a problem for him. The military precision of his pace, delivering an unprecedented four identical runs of 161 to give the total 644, was like it had simply been programmed into a machine: ‘Speed: 20 sheep per quarter all day, plus the catch at the end of each run’.

Just as consistent was the quality of the shearing, comfortably within the rating at 10.02 and leading South African judge Eddie Archer to joke later that it was “too boring for the judges out the back – we knew what each sheep was going to come out like!”



Rowland Smith in full control as he places one of the 25,000 blows needed to shear a world record 644 sheep in eight hours.

Was it really as easy as it looked to achieve a feat like this though? Of course not. ‘I suppose anything looks easy from the outside,’ Rowland says, ‘but look – I was at my limit all day. Six-forty was my personal target – I didn’t know if it was achievable. The preparation that we did was very thorough and we left nothing to chance so there was never any panic.’

As with Matt’s record, a key ingredient of the preparation was getting to an elite level of fitness. Record organising team member Huw Condron described the personal trainers Matt Luxton and Mike Goodman as ‘terrific’.

‘They’ve tailored the training specifically to the records,’ he said, ‘and they’ve taken shearing fitness to a whole new level.’

Rowland agrees: ‘That really shows how fit you are when you can stay at that consistent pace. There was never one point in the day where I felt as if I didn’t have enough in the tank – that’s pretty awesome.’

At the end of the day Jimmy Samuels congratulated Rowland on behalf of his brother Leon, the previous record holder, and the whole Samuels family. ‘It was an honour to watch you and you are an inspiration,’ he said.

In his speech Rowland thanked his support team wholeheartedly, including his gear man Ants Bryant, and emphasised the importance of gear to young shearers.

Also there to support him was wife Ingrid – seven months pregnant with their third child; his other brother, Doug, and father, Allan.

Earlier, at afternoon smoko, Matt had spoken movingly about those who were absent, with Beau St George at the forefront of everyone’s minds – Beau had been a key member of the support teams to both Matt’s and Ivan Scott’s records a year earlier. A picture of the three of them on the walls of the shed had the caption, ‘*There are special people in our lives who never leave us . . . Even after they are gone. Rest in peace Beau Beau*’.

Had Beau been there, no doubt he would have been a part of the haka performed for Rowland that wrapped up the official proceedings of the day.



Happy Smiths – Rowland, Ingrid, Matt and Pip enjoy the moment of elation that comes when you’ve just set a new world record.



The Herlihy family and friends after their fund-raising Shearathon. They challenge others to match their efforts in supporting Suicide Prevention. 'Get sponsorship, get your friends together and start shearing!' (Taranaki Newspapers photo)

Shearing for a good cause

When the Herlihy family of Taranaki hit upon the idea of doing something to raise suicide awareness they thought – why not something we do best – like a 24-hour shearathon, at home? Having lost their youngest son and brother to that sad act 18 months earlier, nobody needed any convincing about the appropriateness of such an event. *Rochelle Herlihy* explains:

'At 12 noon on 25 March 2017 brothers Paul, Mark, Craig, Tim and Dean Herlihy and their friends started shearing. Organiser John Herlihy, father of the six boys and two girls also took part in the shearathon.

'The shearing took place at Whangamomona, where the family had been brought up, after moving from Kaimata where John had run a shearing gang around Taranaki for 20 years.

'After Michael's death in 2015, the family made it a goal to help others who may be going through a hard time, or families going through what we have. With the help of our good friend Ceri we set up a give-a-little page aiming to raise \$10,000.'

With only weeks to organise, John was sorting the sheep, Rochelle had a roster for woolhandlers, pressers and extra helpers and Mother Pat and her sister Marion took control of the food to feed all the workers and supporters.

'Four different farmers had sheep spread out in six different sheds to keep dry. We had two main men shifting sheep to and from. At 8pm we had a shed change, then again at midnight. The neighbour also started trucking his sheep to save another change at 3am.

'An estimated 200-300 helpers, from

friends, extended family, friends of friends and even strangers turned up to show their support. At 2am there were 40 people in the woolshed helping in some way. We can't thank them all enough.'

Twenty-four hours later at 12 noon on 26 March the shearers stopped shearing and the crowd erupted with cheers and applause. A tired and emotional John Herlihy choked back tears when asked what Michael would have thought.

'He would be pretty rapt. We shouldn't have had to do it, but we did. We can't help what has happened in the past, but our efforts will help someone in the future.'

The team aimed at shearing 3000 sheep in the 24 hours and surpassed all expectations with 3722. The effort raised \$22,183.04, which couldn't have been done without all the sponsorship, including an auction held at the end of the day.'

Donations were made to Lifeline; Taranaki Rural Retreat; a family of young children who had lost their mother; author Nikki Cockburn (*Through the Other Side*, a book to be published); Taranaki Rural Support Trust, and Supporting Families in Mental Health.



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Think Canada, think Metheral

By Des Williams

The name Metheral has been synonymous with shearing in Canada for nigh on 45 years. The second of three brothers – Clifford – got started in shearing while finishing his high schooling in 1972. Older brother Neil had acquired a farm by then but his customers wouldn't let him quit shearing so Cliff was coerced onto the handpiece to help him out.

'I grew up on a farm just on the outskirts of a little village named Dunedin, in the Blue Mountains of Ontario, 80 miles north of Toronto. My brother Donald owns that place now.

'After school was over I left home and hitch-hiked to western Canada, Cliff explains. 'A ride found out I knew how to shear so dropped me off at his neighbours, who had sheep that needed shearing. That's how I ended up in the province of Saskatchewan.

'In the spring and summer of the following years I slowly build up my business and worked on farms through the winter. Then in October to March of 1974-75 I went to New Zealand and worked for a season at Milton for Spike (Arthur) James. While I was there I attended a New Zealand Wool Board shearing course.'

In 1977 Cliff married Kathleen and the couple bought their house at Nokomis [population 400], Saskatchewan, where they still live today.

'I have been shearing now for 46 years, doing about 20,000 a year. My run goes from the mountains to the Ontario border. A thousand miles. I do it mainly by myself. I try hard to keep my travel under one mile per sheep for the season, which starts in early March and goes through to early August.

With a career-best tally of 400, Cliff has an impressive record of attendance at shearing world championships, having first come to the 1980 championships at Masterton. [He 'runs into' Brian Quinn at ILT Stadium Southland: 'Hello Snow, I shore against you at Masterton in 1980.' 'Hello Cliff, that wasn't yesterday, was it!']

Cliff then went to Wales in 1984, Perth in 1986, Gorey in 1998, Bjerkreim in 2008, Builth Wells 2010 and Masterton again in 2012. At Invercargill Cliff placed 43rd overall in a field of 54.

Cliff and Kathleen have three grown children, one of whom (Jennel McKenzie) lives with husband Ryan and two children on a farm at Clinton (south Otago). Cliff and Kathleen visit New Zealand most years to retain a tight connection between the two countries. Cliff's other interests include hunting, fishing, gardening, renovating and cutting firewood.

Younger than Cliff by some 16 years, Donald (47) has been shearing for more than 30 years with a best tally of



Brothers Cliff and Don Metheral at Invercargill for the 2017 world shearing championships. Between them they have represented Canada 11 times at world championships, and previously as a team together in 1998 and 2008.

411. He lives on the family farm near Glen Huron and rents it out to a neighbour while he travels about 45,000km a year to shear 25,000 sheep, mostly lambs and pre-lamb ewes. Five of the farms have shearing sheds and at the rest he sets up a portable board and chute. He mainly works alone but has another shearer with him part time. Don enjoyed several seasons shearing in the Clinton area 20 years ago.

He has represented Canada at the world championships of 1998 (Gorey), 2008 (Bjerkreim), 2010 (Builth Wells) and 2017 (Invercargill), where he finished in 23rd place overall. He has four times won the shearing competition at the Calgary Stampede, the USA open championship at Denver and several other major titles in Canada and North America.

Donald is married to Kelly and they too have three children.

When he's not shearing sheep Donald might be found playing ice hockey, hunting, curling or spending time with family and friends.



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Shearing built business success

Les and Lorrene Te Kanawa epitomise the concept of hard working successful 'Kiwi' business people. Born and bred in Te Kuiti, the couple are strengthened by their family, friends, customer and community support. Both are very well known for their successes in the shearing, farming, travel and commercial business worlds. What's their secret? Well, it's a great combination of sheer hard work, determination, destiny, listening to advice, working together as a strong team and not being afraid to take a leap of faith when new opportunities presented themselves. This is their story.

At 13, when most boys nowadays are playing with 'electronic devices', Les Te Kanawa started out in shearing sheds helping his father Tiwi, working for Te Kuiti contractors - Geoff and Christine Fagan. Les fondly recalls, 'Dad was more of a fencer than shearer, though he did enjoy a spell on the handpiece. And I wouldn't say I was a wool handler, but I did move some wool!' So began the strong foundation for both Les' work ethic and shearing experience that would prove vital for years to come.

In 1982 Les worked for his uncle Sonny Te Kanawa, a Te Kuiti contractor and shortly after his apprenticeship started full time with Geoff Fagan. These were the days of 5am starts and nine-hour days. Despite his young age, Les proved himself as a skilled shearer with daily tallies steadily growing. At 15, he did 350 sheep at Wainui Estate during his first main shear. 'The gang stopped for a few beers at the Piopio



Lorrene and Les Te Kanawa

Hotel after work but I was still way too young to come in [legal age then 20 years'] so I had to wait out in the van. John Fagan and Tom Brough happened to be inside and when they heard of my tally they came and brought me in.

'If you are good enough to shear 350 sheep in a day you deserve a beer, just this once anyway!' they said.

The tallies began to mount, with Les building up to a couple of 600s on lambs. Looking back, Les wisely advises young shearers against going for big tallies too soon. 'Too hard on the body of a youngster that you might pay for later on in your career!'

In 1980, Les met Lorrene when she started working for Geoff and Christine Fagan prior to her planned trip to the United States for a short term contract with Camp America.

There, Lorrene worked as a youth counsellor, based at Camp Mendocino, three hours north of San Francisco, in the idyllic redwood forest. 'I was an 18-year-old Kiwi passing on life-skills

wisdom to 14-year-old Americans!' So began the spark that ignited Lorrene's passion for travel.

But another spark had also been ignited which saw Lorrene join Les in the United Kingdom, after the New Zealand shearing season ended and her contract at Camp Mendocino finished. Together they travelled around Britain and Europe on a Contiki tour before returning to New Zealand in 1985.

In 1989, Les started shearing for David and Wendy Fagan and in 1991 Les seized the opportunity to work for four months in Japan at the Agrodome. This venture established by the Bowen/Harford partnership, was an extension of the successful Rotorua business.

On return, Les and Lorrene began their first business venture – Te Kanawa Shearing following the purchase of Geoff and Christine Fagan's shearing business. The next 15 years would prove to be very challenging, yet a very rewarding time for the young couple. Their strength of working together in partnership saw Les manage the shearing side and Lorrene manage the business accounting and contract cooking as well as the home front which included (by then) four young children.

Te Kanawa Shearing operated throughout the King Country with many familiar names taking their place in Les' gangs. Colin Thirkell, Lois Kyle, James and Neil Fagan, the Brill family (Mike, Loretta, Kelly and Daniel), Gavin Mutch, Rae Strickland, Mark Grainger and the Te Riini Brothers to mention a few.

As their shearing contract business prospered, sound advice received from John Fagan underpinned Les and Lorrene's keenness to expand and diversify. In 1994, they identified a completely new business opportunity and Te Kanawa Livestock Services was established to provide sheep ultra sound pregnancy scanning and dipping services to local and regional farmers. They were still working in the farming industry, and these services complemented their shearing services where they were already well known and respected. The new business also provided opportunity to develop alternative cashflows during the shearing off-season with scanning involving a short but intensive time.

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Les says; 'The scanning season is relatively short, from the end of May through to about mid-August. The sheep are handled via a run-on crate and scanned with a hand-held probe that can identify a foetus from about 45 days into the five-month gestation period. Scanning is a one-man operation with the farmer keeping the sheep up the race and I am looking for signs of a foetus rather than a heartbeat, so the images are usually quite clear.'

'On a good day I scan from 3500 to 4500 ewes and I work the [eight-hour] day in runs pretty much the same as shearing. My work is mainly throughout the King Country, although there are some farmer customers further afield.'

With sheep scanning and dipping services doing well and desirous of a change from the shearing contract business, Les and Lorrene contemplated selling their business.

'Most people don't appreciate the pressures and stresses of being a shearing contractor. There are long hours involved in organising customers, logistics and in particular staff, as well as the seemingly never-ending contract cooking. After 15 years we realised our time was up. The contracting business had been good to us but it had served its purpose and it was time to move on to new challenges.'

In 2006, the shearing business was sold to Colin Thirkell. 'We wanted to make sure that the contractor taking over from us would keep our staff and customers who had been loyal to us for so long, well cared for and happy. Colin was an established good shearer, he had been loyal to us, and therefore we decided to give him the opportunity, just like Geoff and Christine gave us 15 years earlier, and he has carried on as we expected him to do.'

With spare time on his hands, Les decided to look outside the farming industry. In 2015, the business savvy couple started 1st Scaffolding after identifying a gap in the local construction industry. 'I have a brother-in-law in Melbourne doing the same business so he gave me plenty of encouragement.'

'There was no such service in Te Kuiti so I saw it as an opening, even though I had to start developing it from scratch. After doing a two-day course with the AMS Group in Hamilton in 2014, I was suitably qualified to start the business, though I almost walked out on the training at one stage. I didn't have a clue what they were doing or talking



Tour leader Lorrene Te Kanawa (left) at Paddington Station en route to Cardiff.

about, but eventually I got the gist of it.

'As soon as someone gets a couple of feet off the ground they legally need scaffolding to support them so I provide scaffolding services to new home builders, house painters, roofers, farmers, homeowners, small to medium commercial - anyone that needs it. We now have two trucks and crews and about 90 tonne of gear.'

While Les is sometimes 'one of the boys' on the truck and erecting scaffolding, he spends most of his time out on the road looking to expand the business. Much of it involves 'door-knocking' to introduce himself and the nature of his business. I get out with clients because the business will not grow otherwise.'

During the above period, Lorrene qualified as a legal executive, later changing her career towards the travel industry working part time at a local travel agency. Spotting another business opportunity, Lorrene and Les acquired the Harvey World Travel franchise in 2010. The business rebranded to helloworld in 2015.

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Lorrene also took on the workload and responsibilities of a Waitomo District Council Councillor for six years as well serving the local community as a Justice of the Peace. She also chairs the Te Kuiti St John Area Committee and Te Kuiti Community House.

Their adult family also enjoy their travel passion. Twins Krystina and Laree (32) live in Hong Kong. Cole (27) lives in Tauranga, and Todd (22) Melbourne. Getting together as a family usually involves international travel.

The busy couple combine their love for travel and in depth shearing experience. In 2014, Lorrene and Les took a tour group to Ireland for the world championships at Gorey. The group of 16 (including this writer!) travelled via Melbourne with a two-day stop in Dubai, four nights in London and a stay at Cardiff before arriving in Dublin. We had a great time and were well cared for by Lorrene and Les.

At helloworld Te Kuiti Lorrene provides expert travel services specialising in unique group tours.

'We found group tours to be a most enjoyable experience and have since taken similar-sized groups to Las Vegas, Hawaii, Canada and New York.' Her foodie group tour to Adelaide earlier this year was a great success and they have a sold out tour to Vietnam and Hong Kong in October which will continue to keep this business savvy couple busy both escorting and ensuring their clientele get the best travel experience.

Amongst a host of other future group tours, including to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Africa, Tasmania and the Southern States of the USA, Lorrene and Les are now organising unique group tours to France for the next world shearing competitions in 2019. Lorrene has strong French connections and the couple are promising this to be a fabulous experience rich in culture, history, gourmet foods (and drinks), lots of fun, great friendships, and of course the piece de resistance, will hopefully be coming home with New Zealand being world champions again!

These very popular group tours will have limited seats so get in quick and express your interest by contacting Lorrene at helloworld Te Kuiti.

Les and Lorrene remain proud yet humble in their business successes and achievements. Both continue to provide the local community with employment opportunities and inspiration to the next generation.



The New Zealand Shearing Sports annual meeting at Christchurch on 8-9 August 2017: Back row (from left): Doug Laing (media officer), David Baigent (delegate), Bill Gaskill (delegate), Philip Morrison (delegate), Robert McLaren (delegate), Paul Grainger (delegate), Norm Harraway (South Island Shearers' Rep), Michael Hogan (South Island chairman), Noel Handley (delegate), John Kirkpatrick (North Island Shearers' Rep). Seated (from left): Kelly Macdonald (South Island Woolhandlers' rep), Warren Parker (North Island chairman), Hugh McCarroll (life member and executive director), Sir David Fagan (chairman), Sheree Alabaster (North Island Woolhandlers' Rep). Absent: Jude McNab (secretary).

New secretary for SSNZ

Shearing Sports New Zealand has a new secretary with the appointment of South Island committee secretary Jude McNab to the position at the annual meeting in Christchurch on 8-9 August 2017. She replaces Lara Russell who had resigned after deciding she was unable to continue because of family and work commitments.

Married with a son and a school-age daughter, Jude McNab runs home business The Catlins Soap Company on the family property at Owaka in South Otago, but managed to do the full-time role of event manager/secretary for the 40th anniversary World Championships at Invercargill in February.

Initially taking on only the voluntary position of secretary to the New Zealand Shearing Foundation, which

was set up as the entity to run the event, Jude applied for the management position when it became available and became responsible for the entire event management.

It started with liaison with sponsors and event funders at the highest levels, including the Government and the Invercargill City Council, Licensing Trust, stadium management, and 30 teams around the World, in addition to the basics of the job such as being secretary of committees.

It involved building an event for 130 competitors, for crowds up to 4000, including the Prime Minister on the last day, a 60-exhibit Wool and Trade Expo, and the championships dinner for 450 people at the Ascot Hotel.

There were two other new faces at the meeting table in Christchurch, with

Sheree Alabaster having accepted the role of North Island woolhandlers' representative, and Kelly Macdonald that of South Island woolhandlers' representatives. World shearing champion John Kirkpatrick remains the North Island shearers' representative, and commentator Norm Harraway as South Island representative.

Having stepped into the role of SSNZ chairman mid-term, Sir David Fagan was elected unopposed to a new term, while other other appointments were those of Ken MacPherson as manager and shearing judge for the upcoming trans-Tasman series at Bendigo at the end of October, and at the Golden Shears in Masterton. Other appointments were Fiona Walker as woolhandling judge for the series, and Russell Knight as manager and judge with the CP Wool New Zealand Team to the United Kingdom in mid-2018.

Johnny Fraser will continue his role as manager of the 2017 UK tour team for a home series against Wales during the summer, in which Wales is also likely to have a small number of matches against provincial sides chosen from top non-national representative New Zealand competitors at the shows where the matches will be held.

The meeting also agreed on steps which will see a broadening of the media and communications approach, with more involved in Facebook, upgrading of the website, and also greater communication direct with shows, including newsletters.

The committee was particularly pleased to confer Master Shearer status on world record-breaker, Matthew Smith. (See full list of Masters page **)

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Matt joins the the Master Shearers

By Doug Laing

World record breaking England-based Northland and Hawke's Bay shearer Matthew Smith has reached one of his ultimate goals by being acclaimed a Master Shearer by Shearing Sports New Zealand.

The honour was bestowed at the SSNZ annual conference in Christchurch earlier this month and recognises, in particular, Smith's taking of world record shearing to the Northern Hemisphere with the ultimate record of 731 strong wool ewes in a nine-hour day on 26 July 2016 at Trefranck Farm, St Clether, in Cornwall, where he farms with wife Pippa.

Smith's effort sparked a flurry of record-breaking activity in the United Kingdom, including two world marks in Smith's same Trefranck shed – Irish shearer Ivan Scott's lambs record of 867 and the eight-hour tally of 644 shorn by brother and New Zealand team member Rowland Smith.

Rowland Smith was made a Master Shearer at the age 29 in 2016, recognising mainly his competition shearing triumphs including a 2014 world title and multiple Golden Shears and New Zealand championships' Open victories.

Matt Smith was far from new to world records shearing, having also once held the eight-hour record with a tally of 578 shorn at Waitara Station, between Napier and Taupo on 15 January 2010. He said after learning of the award that



Masterful Matt Smith

he's now going to devote more time to competitions – the Golden Shears and New Zealand championships finals being on 'the bucket-list'.

A big target is a place in the Golden Shears Open final for the first time, having twice won the Open Plate (for the six eliminated semi-finalists). He first became a contender when he reached the Top 30 (quarter-finals) 16 years ago, at the age of 17.

In 2014 he was called-on to substitute for injured New Zealand team member John Kirkpatrick in Wales, and was the best individual in a Kiwis' win at the Royal Welsh Show. It was also in Wales in 2011 that he scored possibly his biggest win, beating David Fagan and that year's New Zealand team members,

Dion King and Rowland Smith, in the Open final at the Corwen Shears.

Matt Smith said the Master Shearer Award is the 'icing on the cake' after the big team efforts that went into the records in the UK. He becomes the 67th machine shearer acclaimed a Master Shearer since the awards were introduced with the naming of 28 Master Shearers at Masterton in 1975.

The Smiths are the fourth set of Masters brothers, following Godfrey and Ivan Bowen, John and David Fagan, and Darin and Edsel Forde.

The full list of Masters, with year of appointment are as follows:

Machine shearers (67)

Ivan Bowen 1975
Claude Waite 1975
Godfrey Bowen 1975
Manu Rangiawha 1975
Robert 'Bing' Macdonald 1975
George Hawkins 1975
Joe Ferguson 1975
Murray McSkimming 1975
Ian Rutherford 1975
Stuart Symon 1975
Brian Waterson 1975
Allan Williamson 1975
Morrie Anderson 1975
Colin Boshier 1975
Dave Wolland 1975
Danny Holland 1975
Morry Lawton 1975
Joe Te Kapa 1975
Kerry Johnstone 1975
Brian 'Snow' Quinn 1975
George Potae 1975
Eddie Reidy 1975
Norm Blackwell 1975

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Tom Brough 1975
 Ray Alabaster 1975
 Jack Dowd 1975
 Martin Ngataki 1975
 Don Morrison 1975
 Roger Cox 1975*
 Ian 'Snow' Harrison 1975*
 Harry Hughes 1975*
 Bill Richards 1976
 Ivan Rosandich 1977
 John Henson 1977
 Adrian Cox 1977
 John Fagan 1978
 Ken Pike 1979
 Samson Te Whata 1981
 Colin King 1983
 Alan Donaldson 1984
 Rick Pivac 1984
 David Fagan 1985
 John Hough 1985
 Larry Lewis 1985
 Peter Lyon 1985
 Robert 'Bob' Michie 1986
 Stephen Dodds 1987
 Edsel Forde 1989
 Alan MacDonald 1991
 Kevin Walsh 1993
 Paul Grainger 1996
 Darin Forde 1999
 Paul Avery 2001
 Keith Wilson 2001
 Dion Morrell 2003
 Dean Ball 2007
 Richard 'Dig' Balme 2007
 John Kirkpatrick 2007
 Rodney Sutton 2007
 Grant Smith 2010
 Dion King 2012
 Cam Ferguson 2012
 Nathan Stratford 2014
 Tony Coster 2014
 Rowland Smith 2016
 James Fagan 2016
 Matt Smith 2017

Blade shearers (19)
 Peter Casserly 1979
 George Karaitiana 1979
 Alan Norman 1979
 Alan 'Chips' Reid 1979
 Alan Roffey 1979
 Donny Hammond 1979
 Peter Burnett 1979
 Mark Marshall 1979
 Richard Perry 1981
 Les Richards 1981
 Jimmy Deer 1983
 Bruce Davidson 1985
 Tony Dobbs 1985
 Paul Rose 1987
 Alex MacDonald 1998
 Noel Handley 2004
 Bill Michelle 2008
 Peter Race 2008
 Brian Thomson 2014

Woolhandlers (22)
 Graeme Bell 1992
 Ron Davis 1992
 Des Pringle 1992
 Mavis Mullins 1992
 Raelene Howes 1992
 Jeff McKenzie 1993
 Joanne Kumeroa 1995
 Aroha Garvin 1995
 Patrick Shelford 1996
 Oti Mason 1996
 Mii Nooroa 1996
 Huia Whyte-Puna 1998
 Leanne Peeti 2000
 Tina Rimene 2000
 Gina Nathan 2001
 Gloria Shelford 2001
 Veronica Goss 2002
 Ailsa Fleming 2004
 Sharon Lawton 2004
 Sheree Alabaster 2008
 Keryn Herbert 2012
 Joel Henare 2014



Enjoying an early finish after unseasonal rain at Tuatapere are Gage Haora, William Banks and Carmen Fluerty, all presently working for Zane Barrett Shearing. Local man Gage has had a few years in the industry now, having worked for local identities such as Jim Malcolm, Mana Te Whata and Jamie McConachie. He posted a nine-hour tally of 725 lambs at Robertson's Nightcaps property a couple of years ago. William hails from Tokomaru Bay and takes work wherever he can get it. He also operates his own dagging trailer. Carmen moved 'back home' from Christchurch after the big shakes and has been in the sheds for about five years – 'It beats sitting around on the dole doing nothing!'



* Roger Cox, Ian Harrison and Harry Hughes were added to the original 28 Master machine shearers by resolution at the National Shearing Committee meeting later in 1975.



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Coster calls time on the big shows

By Doug Laing

Tony Coster, the Canterbury shearer who effectively climbed the mountain to win more times in the North Island than just about any other Southern gun, bowed out of top competition after the MacKenzie A&P Show Open final on Easter Monday. Hoping to win the title at Fairlie for the fourth consecutive time, Coster instead had to settle for fourth place behind Rowland Smith, Ringakaha Paewai and Jack Fagan, in the event that doubles as the New Zealand lamb shearing championship.

In 2014 Coster repulsed the challenge of another northern invader, winning by more than seven points from runner-up Sir David Fagan, who was back again on Easter Monday to open the Mackenzie A&P Show's new six-stand shearing pavilion. Of that famous win, a highlight because of who was there rather than that he won, Coster said: 'It wasn't really his [David's] type of sheep, but I wasn't worried.'

Coster secured more than 70 Open final wins, mostly in Canterbury and most prolifically at Mayfield, with 11 wins including five in a row up to the 2017 final when he was second to up-and-coming Pleasant Point shearer, Ant Frew.

He thinks his first competition was at Methven or Mayfield, in the late 1980s, but his first Open win was the Mid-Canterbury Circuit final at Ashburton in 1993. Tony made seven finals that season, including another win at Mayfield. There were 85 competitions that season, which compares with the modern calendar of just over 60.

His speciality became multi-breeds events, regularly the Canterbury All-Breeds title but with the greatest successes coming in the North Island where he had five PGG Wrightson National Circuit final wins over five different sheep types at the Golden Shears in Masterton and two in the New Zealand Shears Circuit final in Te Kuiti. Both events include merinos.

The only South Island shearers with more individual wins at the Golden Shears are thought to have been the great Snow Quinn (six Open titles, one Senior and one World title) and Colin King (three Open titles and six in the Circuit).

The successes in Masterton, including a string of placings, launched him into 12 trans-Tasman tests against Australia and two Shearing Sports New Zealand team tours of the United Kingdom, and he was acclaimed a Master Shearer in 2014.



Tony Coster, one of the best all-rounders of the past 20 years

Among the more memorable was the first test trip to Warrnambool in Australia in 2007 with Paul Avery and Joe Paewai. 'We got our arses kicked, but we still had a good time,' he said.

Sadly, Paewai passed away before they could reunite for the home test in Masterton a few months later. Another was the 2010-2011 series, with fellow Rakaia shearer Grant Smith, also a Master Shearer.

Coster, who runs a courier business with wife Sheryl, says he still shears about 25,000 sheep a year, and while this decision signals the end of the serious part of the competition career he expects he will still shear occasionally at local shows, especially if there's a need to make up numbers and provide competition for younger shearers trying to reach their goals.

'I'm still enjoying it,' he said. 'But the body starts to wear down a bit, and you do have to do a bit extra if you are following the shows around.'

There aren't any young Costers around to step into his moccasins. Twin daughters Samantha and Jamie helped out in the sheds when they were younger, but he reckons that while they may have enjoyed it, he did point out that it might be what they were doing for the rest of their lives if they didn't do well at school.

He said if there was one regret it was that he hadn't taken the chance to work in the North Island when he was younger, to develop the speed needed to be competitive in the major North Island championship finals. This factor was highlighted in his only Golden Shears Open final in 2006, when winner Dion King shored his 20 sheep in 16min 56sec, Coster taking 19min 44sec.

Coster was particularly hopeful younger shearers would compete at the Mackenzie Show, and other venues, taking the opportunity of learning from shearers like Grant Smith. 'The competitions, that's where they learn to be good shearers,' he said.

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Truck days in the West

By Valerie Hobson

The Shearers and Pastoral Workers Social Club Inc of Western Australia has captured on DVD 33 minutes of an era of the West's distinctive shearing culture. Luckily, many of the men involved in unknowingly creating this page of history are still alive and were able to participate.

At the time it was just the way the shearing industry developed in the pioneering days of sheep in WA's north-west pastoral areas. Early last century this area was isolated in the extreme. There were no made roads only windmill tracks. Until the advent of motorised transport station people relied on horses or camels to transport goods and muster stock. Little did they realise they would be part of a unique era in shearing history.

Sheep were introduced to the Kimberley in the 1880s. While sheep numbers were small shearing was undertaken by station people and/or Aborigines wherever they could muster a few sheep. Sometimes neighbours worked together. As numbers increased conditions for shearing improved. Sheds were built and professional shearers – mostly from the Eastern States and using machine shears – undertook the job. Until 1918 the wool was loaded onto ships which called at jetties along the coast and went direct to London. Eventually the State Shipping Service was formed and provided a good reliable service for passengers; goods and livestock.

There were no shearing contractors as such then. Sydney-based contractors Young & Company and the Federal Sheep Company arranged for shearers to travel over to WA and up the coast. From there they went out to sheep properties by

whatever means they could – walk; bicycle or horseback.

Despite the isolation, news spread rapidly throughout the station areas and station people knew who was shearing. When the shearers arrived at the shed the station owner picked his shearers from those who turned up. Eventually local contractors took on the responsibility of shearing the sheep.

The Pastoral Shearing Company was formed and, as well, Frederick Arthur Synnot began his own contracting business in 1918. He was later joined by Arthur Dunbar and they formed the contracting firm of Synnot & Dunbar which operated for close to eighty years. In the late 1920s Synnot introduced trucks for transporting his men. By the 1930s several contractors were operating in a similar manner throughout the pastoral regions.

Thus began the era of the 'Truck Days'. Within a few years the pastoral area was criss-crossed by shearing trucks. The men usually travelled up the coast to one of the ports from which they could access the stations. Trucks were also taken up by boat in the early days, usually March, hopefully after the end of the cyclone season.

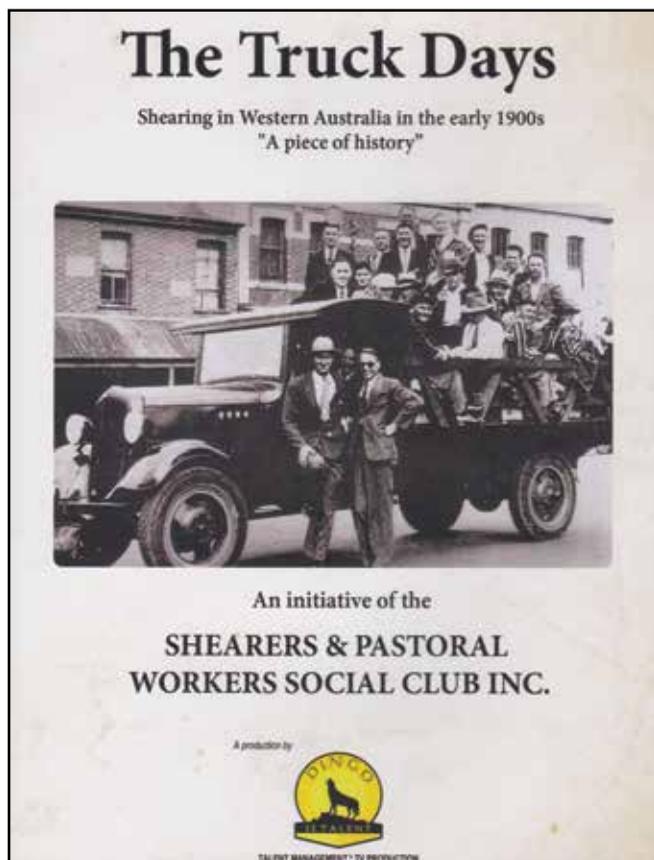
From then on, the men travelled from shed to shed until late in the year, often close to Christmas. They worked together, ate together, relaxed together and travelled together for almost twelve months. Thus was formed the strong bonds between the WA 'Truck Day' shearers which is still evident today even if they have not caught up for thirty or more years.

When they get together they swap stories of various incidents that happened during their time away shearing; the jokes they played on each other, but they never speak of how many sheep they shored.

The lack of properly formed roads caused problems if there had been rain. A lot of time was spent pushing and pulling the truck onto firm ground. They were charged truck travel but as one fellow said we pushed it more than we rode on it. Even in isolated areas they never felt lonely or even isolated as they were all in it together.

Truck travel was a great leveller. This system of moving shearing teams from shed to shed over vast distances in WA is recognised as being unique in the world.

For a copy of the DVD *The Truck Days* contact Valerie Hobson: valerieh@iinet.au



Sheepy McSheepishface playing among the bales

Jack Fagan wins French shearing title

New Zealand shearer Jack Fagan has won the French championships All-Nations Open final. The event was held at Martel in southwest France, and about 190km south of central France town Le Dorat, where the next World shearing and woolhandling championships will be staged in 2019.

Shearing his 20 sheep in 12min 7sec, Fagan, from Te Kuiti, finished more than a sheep ahead of the rest in the four-man final, and overall claimed the title by a margin of 4.55pts from defending champion and France world championships representative Loic Leygonie, of Martel, who has also shorn regularly in New Zealand summers since 2011.

Third was Christophe Riffaud, the France world championships organising committee chairman and who recently was one of a pair who established a French two-stand shearing record of 1328 in nine hours.

Another feature of the championships at Martel was the Six Nations blade shearing championships win by Welsh pair, Elfed Jackson and Gareth Owen, who were sixth in the world championships teams final at Invercargill five months ago. Result: French Shearing Championships Open final (20 sheep): Jack Fagan (New Zealand) 12min 7sec, 46.2pts, 1; Loic Leygonie (France) 13min 17sec, 50.75pts, 2; Christophe Riffaud (France) 12min 41sec, 53.6pts, 3; Pierre Grancher (France) 13min 23sec, 59.1pts, 4.

Below: finalists in the French Shears Open final from left: Pierre Grancher (fourth), Christophe Riffaud (third), Jack Fagan, and runner-up Loic Leygonie. (Doug Laing)



Anything seem wrong with this photo? Rowland Smith, Johnny Fraser and John Kirkpatrick somewhere in England on their recent test tour. (Certainly a level-headed trio!)



The week after making both the PGG Wrightson National circuit and Golden Shears open finals at Masterton in March, Murray Henderson was busy passing on shearing technique to farming cadets at Moonlight Woolshed, Waipaoa Station, an hour north-west of Gisborne.



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ZZZZ the golden chain

By Roger Leslie

Sleep, according to the philosopher, is the golden chain that ties together health and body. It is a thing we tend to take for granted assuming it will come easily when we need it and will stay away when we don't. The lack of it is grossly underestimated as a root cause of problems. Two famous Europeans, Hitler and Attila, well known for causing sleeplessness in others, were both reputed to hardly ever sleep.

My mother-in-law would diagnose and offer remedy for a wide variety of life's issues from hysteria to poor decision making to the need of a big sleep. My own mother once told a doctor that she had been managing her own sleep medication well before a young whippersnapper like him was born. He ignored the name-calling and suggested if she needed medicated she wasn't managing her sleep at all.

Churchill once said 'we work for eight hours and we sleep for eight hours, but it's best if they're not the same eight hours.'

I've never heard of a shearer falling asleep while shearing, but a lack of good sleep certainly affects the outcome of day's labour and how pleasant that person is to work with.

When I began shearing in Europe the work involved long days shearing and long drives between jobs. Sleep was infrequent and seen as an added bonus. I am definitely older now and hopefully wiser. I stop the car if I feel sleepy and take a nap. I plan sleep. I remove sleep interrupting objects like flies, mossies, animals and small children, from the room before embarking on the ocean cruise of blissfulness.

I have been known to go to extraordinary lengths to ensure sleep is had. I have found few things as satisfying as the yelp of surprise from a barking dog when a random missile found its mark like a well aimed mortar round.

Sleep problems are often associated with scheduling. We want to sleep when there's no time for it and conversely want



Roger Leslie tying health and body together

to be awake when there is. Children must needs rise early until they are of an age where there is a use for them in the early part of the day, then they want to sleep until mid-afternoon. They want to party then, when everyone else is trying to sleep.

If you subscribe to the notion that sleep in some way enhances beauty, look around you at breakfast time in almost any shearing quarters in the country.

I am happy to find sleep where-ever it may be hiding, and while it might not make me look better, it certainly makes me feel better and gives me a better perspective on life.

The Germans have a wide variety of wheelbarrows from ancient steel wheelers to modern wonders of comfort and transportability. They use them to carry food to the animals and at times, the animals themselves, to and from the shearing. I never saw a barrow in New Zealand I could comfortably sleep in. But ah, the wonders of German engineering (photo).

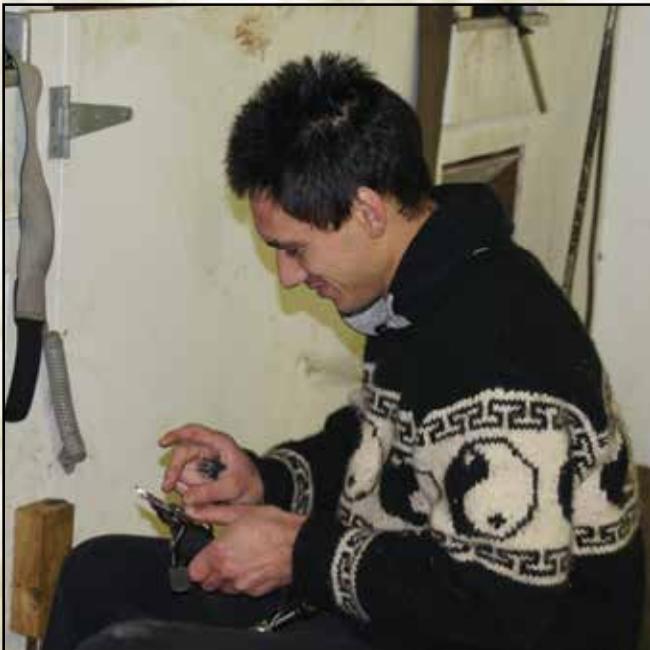
The shepherds themselves can find the shearing a bit soporific and I've seen the odd one enjoying a good kip while all about them are sweating the heat of the day. One such was sitting on the tractor and had fallen into deep slumber at the wheel. There wasn't much room between the wheel and his well formed belly, but he had slumped into this space and his arms were hanging happily down. We had our machines and bungees suspended from a bar on the front-end-loader and this would have been great except that the hydraulic system on this tractor was of the creep down variety.

As the hour wore on our elbows got ever closer to the ground until it became very difficult to continue. One of the farm boys shouted and poked him with a stick. He flared to life with confusion and alarm, and stared about wildly. The tractor roared into life and the FEL reared skywards well beyond the predetermined good shearing height.

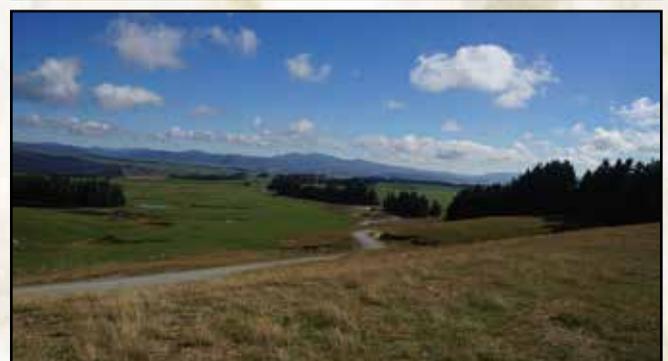
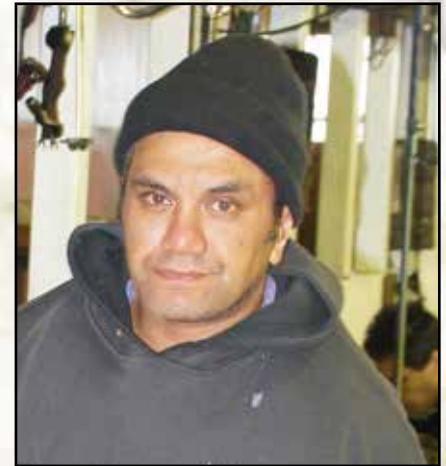
The bungees stretched tight and pandemonium ensued. In his state of fresh wakefulness he was in no condition for problem solving and dropped the FEL right down. I've always found that everybody shouting at you is never basis for well thought out action, even if you are fully awake, and so it turned out. In the end calm and balance were restored.

On another occasion a wild and large sheep (never a good combination) jumped out of the pen and as it headed for the open heide, its flight path took it over the soft hand packed wool bales where the shepherd was having a quiet snooze. When he had restored his wakefulness and dignity he said 'Roger, die verschlafene sind immer gefährdet' (the sleepy are always vulnerable) True enough.





Wednesday 1 March 2017 was cut out day at Ngamatea Station for Rudy Lewis and his large gang of shearers, woolhandlers, pressers and classers. Top photos show a panoramic view of the 18-stand shed with action-a-go-go in the run leading up to morning smoko. Middle, Puna Eriha and Jeffrae Allen (with shepherd) taking advantage of kai time to stock up on energy, while above, station owner Renata Apatu with Brent Gillespie and Rudy Lewis with the smiles that mean all the sheep left to be shorn are in the shed. Opposite middle: Marcus Tanner loads up the gear for the next run, with bottom left, Ray King already back in action. Page 21 (across top): Johnny King, Hoera Eriha and Jim Taumoa. Left descending: Betty Grant, Geraldine Turipa, Diedre Chase, Japz Clarke and Pania Eriha (at back); "They are all up!" The last of the sheep are on the business floor; Seline Tiepa and Pania Eripa processing a fleece. Right descending: Opae Steedman with Pango and Diesel; three happy customers heading for greener pastures and (bottom) the greener pastures (and summer sky) to which they are heading. (See page 38 for the whole gang.)



Te Ako pioneers new training approach

A bold new approach to training which makes extensive use of video analysis and online learning is being rolled out in the wool harvesting industry.

The new system was piloted in July and received the thumbs-up from trainees and contractors. A dozen contractors and 35 trainees around the country tested the accessibility and user-friendliness of online resources on Te Ako's new online platform, Te Ako Live and were very impressed.

The general consensus was that the new system was very practical, convenient and tailor-made for the smart-phone generation. Those involved in the pilot agreed it had great potential to raise standards across the industry.

The new system adds online learning to the traditional face-to-face training courses and workshops. After a two-day introductory course, trainees receive monthly skills modules in the form of short video clips. They can video themselves performing the skill, upload it to a website and receive feedback from one of Te Ako's trainers. Over time, trainees build an e-portfolio of video assessments which count towards their national wool harvesting certificate.

Contractors on board

Mark Barrowcliffe runs a shearing business with around 50 staff. He was involved in the pilot and thinks the new system is going to be great.

"There's lots of little bits of learning that are accessible

and not too onerous. The information is going to be clear, precise and uniform.

"It complements the face-to-face training and allows skills development to be ongoing. If you are in a training workshop and you don't quite get something, you can go back and revisit it. It's good to be reminded how things should be done. It will set a benchmark for the industry."

Mark thinks the new approach will be a winner with young people.

"Young people like modern ways of learning, they like the technology. They'll be pulling up training ideas and tips in a normal lunchtime. Before training was confined to training days and they are good but this new system will allow a more consistent flow of upskilling. The trainees are going to be bouncing off one another all the time, showing themselves shearing and picking things to bits. It definitely has a fun element."

Another great advantage to the industry is the cost, says Mark.

"It's a big cost putting trainers out there, getting someone to trundle out to a woolshed in the middle of nowhere and they've had to come from another province to get there, then the sheep aren't dry or there's a power cut and the whole day is lost. This is cost effective and practical. The industry is notoriously transient – you can have a course planned and then something else comes up and those guys are away.



WOOL INDUSTRY – Exciting Opportunities for Trainers

Te Ako Wools is looking for a full-time North Island Shearing Trainer, and Casual Woolhandling Trainers.

Experience in the industry and knowledge of best practice in training and skills development is essential.

We are looking for trainers with strong verbal and written communication skills. They must be able to relate well to people of all backgrounds and cultures, and know how to motivate and influence others. Our trainers are well organised with a proven ability to prioritise, meet deadlines and work under pressure.

Te Ako Training combines traditional face-to-face workshops with online learning, using video technology. Successful candidates will need to be computer / tablet literate or keen to learn. Te Ako will provide computer training and support for the successful candidates as required. Candidates will also need to be available to travel as required – these positions have a reasonably substantial travel requirement.



QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants will be required to have, or be working towards:

- National Certificates in Levels 3 & 4 Shearing and Woolhandling
- NZQA unit standard 4098 (Generic Education and Training – Assessment of Learning)

Te Ako is an industry leader in its approach to training. If you are interested in joining our motivated and supportive team, please forward your CV to:

Jock Martin
Te Ako Operations Manager
Email: jock@teako.nz



TE AKO WOOLS
WORLD LEADERS IN WOOL HARVESTING TRAINING

Organising training in the traditional way is always a challenge.”

Shane Ratima, who runs a shearing business in the Rangitikei, was equally impressed with what he saw at the pilot and is keen to be part of the new system.

“I really enjoyed it. I liked the grassroots feel of the videos, not glossy. I think workers in our industry will relate well to it. There’s still some work to do on it but the information was very relevant, it was what you need to know.

“I think this new approach will have a huge impact. It was only a couple of days ago that one of my intermediate shearers asked for a bit of help. With the new system, there will be a great opportunity for him to get his cellphone, video what he’s doing, send it in to a trainer and get some quick feedback on how to improve a particular skill.”

Shane believes the new system can be applied not just to the technical and physical sides of training, but also areas such as nutrition and recovery – those areas that really make a difference career-wise.

“We want to have people who see it as a sustainable career for the long haul.”

Visual learning

Jerome McCrea, Te Ako’s North Island shearing trainer, says the shearing and wool-handling industry lends itself to visual learning.

“When you film someone shearing and slow it down and compare it to best practice, it shows the difference at once.”

“At the pilot in Southland, the trainees latched onto it straight away. They saw huge benefit. The biggest thing is that they can see what they’re doing, see the things we are talking about and then see the difference that training is making. And all it takes to make it happen is a phone.”

“Using video and mobile phones is nothing new to our trainees. The trainees I’ve met are already buying into it and I’ve got guys sending me short, two or three-minute video clips of themselves shearing to get my feedback.”

The new approach passed with flying colours, says Te Ako general manager Martin Eadie.

“We’re delighted with the response to Te Ako Live. People love its practicality and convenience. We want to extend the reach of quality wool harvesting training to woolsheds everywhere. Te Ako Live will help create the skills the industry needs for a successful, sustainable future.”

‘All Te Ako trainees in Level 2 Shearing, Level 2 Wool-

handling and Level 3 Wool Pressing training programmes will be given access to Te Ako Live in September.’

You can check out training course dates and more about Te Ako Live on Te Ako’s website www.teako.nz



Te Ako Live – the new online learning platform for the woolhandling industry



Wayne Roore, shearing trainer from Te Ako Wools, demonstrates shearing skills to the students from Collingwood Area School.



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Open 1st \$
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Lynmarie Edwards
Tel 027 208 1601

Colin Boshers obituary

By Doug Laing

Legendary New Zealand shearer Colin Boshers died in hospital in the West Australian town of Boyup Brook on 30 May 2017. He was 84.

Boshers missed the first Golden Shears in 1961, having at the time never shorn in competition. He would eventually appear in four Golden Shears Open finals, finishing fourth to winner Bing Macdonald in 1962, second to Brian Waterson in 1963 (he had been top qualifier into the semi-finals), fifth to Stewart Symon in 1964, and fifth in Macdonald's second win in 1966.

As a 1962 finalist Boshers shored before the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in a Royal Command performance at Fraser Park, Lower Hutt, on 11 February 1963, and finished fourth behind Allan Williamson, Symon and Macdonald.

His performances in the woolshed were also notorious, in particular his 565 ewes at Awakino in North Taranaki on 13 April 1964, smashing a record of 463 shorn by Godfrey Bowen in January 1961.

While never again competing at the Golden Shears after his fourth final, Boshers was, in 1975, in the first group of 28 shearers accorded Master Shearer status by the New Zealand Wool Board.

Towering almost two metres tall,



Above: Colin Boshers (third right) with contemporary legends: Brian Thomas, Ken Pike, Joe Ferguson, Tom Brough and Brian Savage. Below: Boshers in action, customary cigarette plainly visible!



Boshers was, however, possibly wider-known for his physical strength, constitution and dexterity which were displayed in a vast array of antics, tricks and pranks in woolsheds and bars on both sides of the Tasman. Many defied description and were often retold in disbelief, stories that have been published over the years.

Having lived in places such as Otorohanga, Te Awamutu and Taihape, Boshers left for Australia in 1977 after a period shearing in Hawkes Bay and made few trips home in subsequent years.

New Zealand-born shearer and contractor David Johansen of Boyup Brook, who has lived and shorn in West Australia for many years, said Colin Boshers was well known. 'He died with no regrets, a shearing legend like no other,' he said.

Eddie Reidy says stories about the tricks and antics that Colin got up to in the hotels after work are all true. 'But I remember staying with him one night at Rotorua and he was a completely different person – normal as, you would say. Then when he was getting ready to go to the pub he would start hyping up, so it was all just an act.

'There is no doubt Colin was good enough to with the Golden Shears, and should have done so. It's just that the powers that be back then were not certain he would behave himself to appropriate standards in England – the trip being part of the prize.'

Colin is survived by two brothers, Kelvin and Ray, who live in Auckland. His own son, Kevin, died in 2009.

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World champs big earner

By Nick Jeffrey

The 2017 World Shearing and Woolhandling Championships, held in Invercargill in February, was widely heralded as the best event in the competition's 40-year history.

Now, independent analysis has backed that up, revealing a \$6.78 million to \$7.48 million economic impact to the Southland economy.

The economic impact report, commissioned by the event and undertaken by Venture Southland, has revealed that international visitors to New Zealand for the event stayed an average of 31.3 days in New Zealand, 14.5 of those in Southland.

Each international spent \$316 per day on accommodation, food, retail spending and other activities, higher than the usual tourist spend of \$235 per day, with domestic visitors to the region spending an average of \$260 per day.

Additionally, the total impact on the New Zealand economy (not including time spent in the Southland region) was between \$7.78 million and \$9.30 million.

The event also generated online news coverage with an advertising value equivalency of over \$3.4 million, along with significant print, radio and television coverage not captured by the research.

World Shearing and Woolhandling Championship Organising Committee Chairman Tom Wilson said the numbers exceeded all expectations.

'We are blown away by the impact the event has had. The feedback we received during and following the Champs has been overwhelming, but to see the number in black and white really brings home what a special event it was for our sport and for Southland,' Mr Wilson said.

'Right from the start, we set ourselves the goal of delivering the best World Championships in history. We didn't want to leave any stone unturned and looking back now, I think we gave it as good a crack as we could have hoped,' he said.

Post-event feedback for the event was overwhelmingly positive, with 97% of respondents rating the event and its organisation positively.

Key to the World Championships' success was the venue. ILT Stadium Southland and the event facilities were rated in the highest-possible terms, with 98% of attendees surveyed rating the venue positively.

'We couldn't have asked for more from the ILT Stadium team. Competitors and spectators were blown away by the

venue and the set-up. To turn a world-class facility like the Stadium in to a wool-shed for a week and have everything run so smoothly was no small feat,' Mr Wilson said.

ILT Stadium Southland General Manager Nigel Skelt said the response pointed to the huge amount of work the event organisers and his team had put in to make the event a success.

'This event was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the true multipurpose, multifunctional nature of ILT Stadium Southland. Southland has always known that they have created a world class facility and to get the feedback from our international guests was something special,' Mr Skelt said.

'It was fantastic working alongside the Organising Committee to create an event that will live long in the memory of all those attended or who watched around the country and the world,' he said.

Invercargill Licensing Trust Sales and Marketing Manager Chris Ramsay was also full of praise for the event and the support it received from the Southland community.

'When the opportunity presented itself to help bring the World Champs to Invercargill the ILT board were unanimous in their support of funding the event. It once again showcased the world class venue that ILT Stadium is. The event also highlighted the fantastic Southern Hospitality that we provide, which was recognised and commented on across International media by the participants and judges,' Mr Ramsay said

A total of 12,607 paying spectators attended the event over the four days of competition, including sell-out crowds on the two final evenings of competition.

'We knew that we could deliver a great event for our competitors and the level of competition and performances we saw on stage proved that. But, in the end, the support we received from the shearing community, sponsors and funders and from the Southland community is what I'll remember most about this event,' Tom Wilson said.

'The atmosphere on that final night and the roar of the crowd, especially when Johnny (Kirkpatrick) and Joel (Henare) won their world titles is something I will never forget. We can't thank Southland enough.'



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(NOT) INTO THE MYSTIC VAPOUR

I am going out to buy myself a vaping tool
People I've seen using them look very cool
With electronic smoke all around their face
Like some bridal veil made from finest lace

I have mastered the art of texting one hand
Creating mobile phrases friends understand
Now in my other hand I'll hold the cigarette
As close to multi-tasking as a bloke will get

I've tried texting while holding a flat white
But the words I produced didn't spell right
But txtng and vaping will be such a breeze
And I'll step outside for my e-ciggie sprees

I can just see myself at some sidewalk table
Blowing out vapour like a broadband cable
Expelling the plumes up and over the street
People will stop and applaud this grand feat

I tried the old smokes about fifty years ago
Doing the drawback and a two-nostril blow
But those tailor-mades left a lingering smell
On clothes and hair the stench would dwell

I then briefly tried smoking baccy in a pipe
Just loved the aroma but some had to gripe
Tobacco and beer glass went hand in hand
Tho' some sought to get both vices banned

I cadged a page from Willie Nelson's book
Just the once you know, had a close up look
At the famous green leaf and cannabis seed
But it wasn't to my liking, marijuana weed

Vaping isn't listed as a greenhouse emission
And doesn't harm health like nuclear fission
So I'm keen to catch up with this latest craze
Rest assured it won't be just a passing phase

Then one more thing will make life complete
I will take some time and learn how to tweet
Your #Hashtag is akin to a university degree
Soon I'll amuse you with educated repartee!
Yeah nah!

© desperado 2017



This hovering belly trick is probably not in the Joel Henare Book of Best Woolhandling Practice but it created laughs a few years ago – back when a now-respected shearing judge was more of a larrikin open class shearer (but no naming and shaming here). The photo was published previously when the magazine was printed mainly black and white on poorer quality paper and didn't reproduce so well. Thanks to technological advantages we can now better demonstrate this wonder of the modern world. (And, er, how long did it stay up there, Rabbit?)



Junior finalists, NZ Championships 2017, from left: Corey Barrowcliffe, Reuben Alabaster, Steve Hakaraia, Keith Swann, Liam Norrie, Mark Ferguson, Russell Knight (Lister/Acto Agriculture, sponsor.)

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Ouch! Off work ... rehabili ... what?

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Most employees in the shearing industry would have been injured on the job various times during their career. Sometimes it's a 'Phew, I am good to go tomorrow', other times it's a 'Oops, that hurt, still hurts, what now?'

Key question is, how can we avoid an injury in the first place, which is the preferred scenario and, how do we come back from an injury. On any given day we may be dealing with a less than ideal situations in the shed, maybe wild sheep and old machinery.

Johnny, hypothetically, say, has been on the piss the night before, hungover and dehydrated, or he played the play station til 2am, tired, or he did some drugs, mentally not quite with it. In each scenario his gear is not ground properly because he rushed, could not quite keep his hand still, left it until dark or worse, until the morning....One can be sure, the big, stropy sheep will put his back out.

Jimmy on the other hand, he ground his gear right after work, ate a wholesome dinner, drank a big glass of water before he went to bed and slept a solid eight hours. The same stropy sheep will only slightly annoy him. He will adjust his speed and technique to suit and cruise through the day uninjured, looking totally cool and in control.

So far, this is easy: To cope with a difficult work situation, you must be fit, well rested and well nourished, so you can focus, stay calm and have enough strength for the task at hand.

However, injuries happen, and they happen to the best of us, even to the Jimmys: The back is out, the shoulder hurts, the hand piece cut your hand. We hit the panic button.

Our Johnny, he will go home, sit in front of the TV, not knowing what to do next and just wait and hope for it to go away.

When he finally has to go back to work, he is unfit, and therefore may re-injure himself soon after. Because he lost his fitness, he now struggles even more than before on those stropy sheep. And on it goes.

Jimmy however, he dials it in. He goes to the doctor, gets the paperwork sorted, goes to Physio and Chiropractor, goes to massage, gets advice from everywhere. He goes to the gym to keep fit and walks up that hill behind the house every morning. As soon as he is able he hops in his car or catches a ride with the van and goes out to the shed where the boys, and more importantly, the girls are working and tries out what he can or cannot do.

He is positive and upbeat because he stays connected with his workmates and keeps his body moving. First he may just shear a couple, then for 10mins, then for half an hour.

He talks to his employer regularly, turns up to every rehabilitation appointment and soon goes out for short work days. Not long after, he is back on the stand full time.

He seeks advice improving his technique and avoids a repeat of the same injury. He works smarter, starts slower and gradually ups the ante.

He is now a better shearer than ever. The employer, who by the way should have a clear process in place to help and support with rehabilitation, loves and fully supports Jimmy for taking responsibility and being actively involved in his own going back to work process. Everybody is happy.

We all have seen it – strong and healthy people still working happily in our industry closing in on 70 years of age. Wouldn't it be cool to be that guy.

(Gabriela Schmidt-Morrell)

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Ant that the truth

Every day, a small ant arrived at work very early and started work immediately. She produced a lot and was happy.

The Chief, a lion, was surprised to see that the ant was working without supervision. He thought if the ant could produce so much without supervision, wouldn't she produce even more if she had a supervisor!

So he recruited a cockroach who had extensive experience as supervisor and who was famous for writing excellent reports. The cockroach's first decision was to set up a clocking in attendance system. He also needed a secretary to help him write and type his reports and he recruited a spider, who managed the archives and monitored all phone calls.

The lion was delighted with the cockroach's reports and asked him to produce graphs and production rates and to analyse trends, so that he could use them for presentations at Board meetings. So the cockroach had to buy a new computer and a laser printer and recruited a fly to manage the IT department.

The ant, who had once been so productive and relaxed, hated this new plethora of paperwork and meetings which used up most of her time!

The lion came to the conclusion that it was high time to nominate a person in charge of the department where the ant worked. The position was given to the cicada, whose first decision was to buy a carpet and an ergonomic chair for his office. The cicada also needed a computer and a personal assistant, who he brought from his previous department, to help him prepare a Work and Budget Control Strategic Optimisation Plan.

The department where the ant worked became a sad place, where nobody laughed anymore and everyone had become upset. It was at that time that the cicada convinced the boss, the lion, of the absolute necessity to start a climatic study of the environment.

Having reviewed the charges for running the ant's department, the lion found out that the production was much less than before. So he recruited the owl, a prestigious and renowned consultant to carry out an audit and suggest solutions. The owl spent three months in the department and came up with an enormous report, in several volumes, that concluded:

"The department is overstaffed ..."

Guess who the lion fired first? The ant, of course, because she 'showed lack of motivation and had a negative attitude'. (From Web email.)

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Top: Iceland's Heida Guomy Asgeirsdottir competing in the world championships heats, with judge Klaus Keifer of France. Middle: New Zealand woolhandler Mary-Anne Baty with partner DJ Crawford. Above: Three Argentinians – Arsenio Saihueque, Pablo Barrera and Shaun Burgess (manager!)

Wide-combing it with ...

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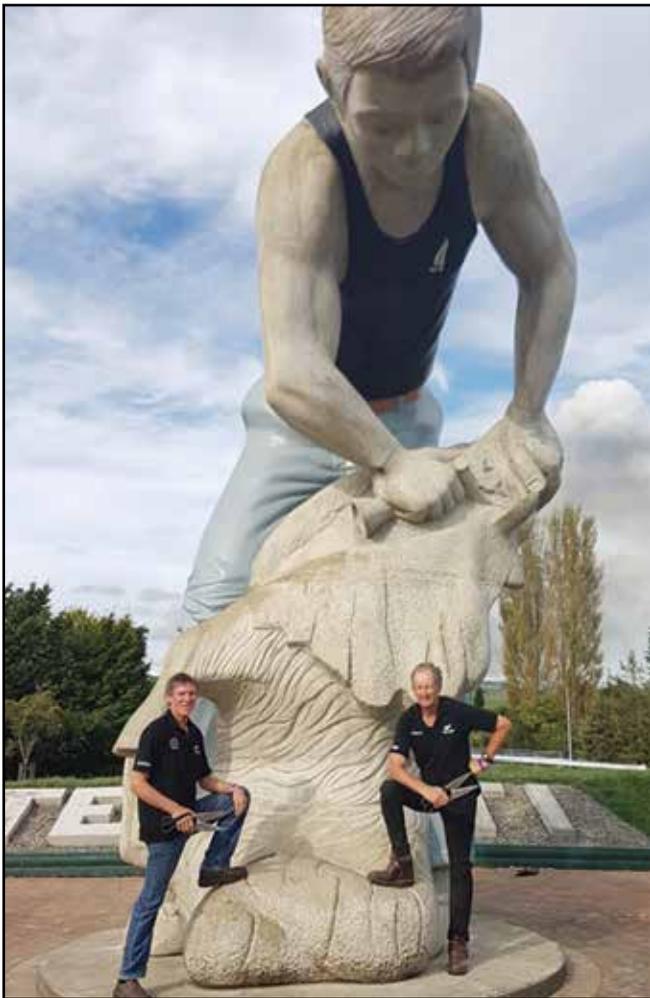
Do you think that Jacinda could raise the popularity of wool like she's done with the Labour Party?



Oh yeah no, definitely!



Buck Naked and Doug Deep



Probably too late to do anything about it now, but there's a design flaw in the famous Te Kuiti statue, according to these southern blokes who came north for the New Zealand championships in April. 'That gear he's holding in his hand just doesn't look quite right, said the one called Tony. "Yeah nah, absolutely," said the other, named Phil.



Opposite extremes of things to do with wool. Above: Jack Fagan's photo of burning wool in Corsica. 'It's worth nothing, farmers want the sheep shorn for their health.' Below: Michael Hogan in keen discussion (at the world championships in February) with former NZ soccer representative Tim Brown who has developed popular footwear (the AllBirds wool runners) using New Zealand wool. Go hard, Tim!



We are a busy run shearing out of Amberley in North Canterbury. We have sheds all through North Canterbury and are always looking for good, keen, motivated shearers and woolhandlers for our busy periods mid-November until end of March and from mid-April until October. We are also on the lookout for permanent staff if you are considering a move to North Canterbury. Text Jason Price on 027 444 7662.

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NEW ZEALAND WOOL CLASSERS ASSOCIATION MERIT AWARDS 2016/17

Merino Awards (sponsor NZ Merino)

Merit: Murray McLachlan (Mt Nicholas Station)
Commendation: Rose Barnett (Moutere Station & Otamatata Station); Anne- Marie Parcell (Mt St Bathans); Pagan Karauria (The Gorge); Sarah Dalzell (Mount Noble); Jason Nahona (Lindis Downs)

Mid Micron Awards (sponsor CP Wools)

Merit: Kelly Paku-Taylor (Black Rock)
Commendation: Phyllicia Jorgensen (Idavale)

Owner Classer Awards (sponsor PGG Wrightson Wool)

Merit: Angus Sandall (Upton Fells)
Commendation:
Juliet Jones (Matarae); John Sanders (Matangi)

Q Stencil Awards (sponsor Peter Lyon Shearing)

Merit: Jerrard Ramsden (Ware Ware)

Crossbred Awards (sponsor Canterbury Wool Scour)

Merit: Vivienne Lewis (Ngamatea)

North Island Awards (sponsor Brendan Mahony Shearing)

Merit: Sonya Johansen (Timahanga)



Nineteen-year-old Martin Hopkins and his 17-year-old brother James from Westport, County Mayo (pictured here with Republic of Ireland team manager, Mike Walshe) represented Ireland in the Six-Nations Blade championship at Martel, France, and finished fourth. They both shored their first full sheep as eight-year-olds, having been taught by their father, and began entering competitions at the same age. (Eileen Coffey)



Classy woolclassers: top Vivienne Lewis (with Bruce Tinnock) receiving her merit award for the Ngamatea clip. Above: John Sanders with his Commendation certificate for the Matangi clip, also presented by Bruce Tinnock.


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Fifty years of Waimate Shears

Early in 1968 a public meeting was called to gauge if there was enough support in the District to hold a Spring Festival over the week leading up to Labour weekend and including Labour weekend.

I never attended this meeting but read in the local paper that the meeting agreed to such an event. Within a week of that meeting I attended a farmer's field day and mentioned to Peter Ponsonby about calling a meeting to see what interest there would be to include a shearing contest on the weekend prior to Labour weekend.

An approach was made to the newly formed Spring Festival committee to see what response we would get to hold a shearing contest. This committee was in full support, so it was decided to call a public meeting to gauge the community support for such an event.

This meeting was held on 27 March 1968 with an attendance of 51 people. A lot of ground work was done prior to the meeting, (phone calls, visits,) to ensure we had a range of skills and talents in the audience to enable a top line competition to be held.

After much discussion, it was moved that an investigating committee comprising Allan Kelly, Owen Richardson, Bert Elgie, (MAF), Livestock inspector, Dick Harrington, Mick Scott and Fred Henshaw investigate all avenues such as suitable venue, sponsorship, sheep, cartage of sheep, judges, catering, timekeepers, sound, lighting, woolhandling and the list goes on. This committee worked very hard and after a visit from Godfrey Bowen we called a second general meeting for 22 May 1968 and 50 people attended.

The investigating committee reported in detail of its findings. Sheep were available and sponsorship was on board if we decided to go ahead. Every avenue investigated had a positive finding. All we needed to proceed was a dedicated and positive committee of 22 members to make it happen.

I believe that aside from the hard-working committee for that first competition the Executive of Vice Presidents Matt Goodwin and Richie Harrington, Treasurer Ivan Schrader, the appointment of Mrs Grut as secretary and her husband Stanley with his wealth of knowledge of accountancy plus his ability in drawing up the constitution set the Waimate Shears up on strong foundations. (*Allan Kelly, President 1968-1979*)

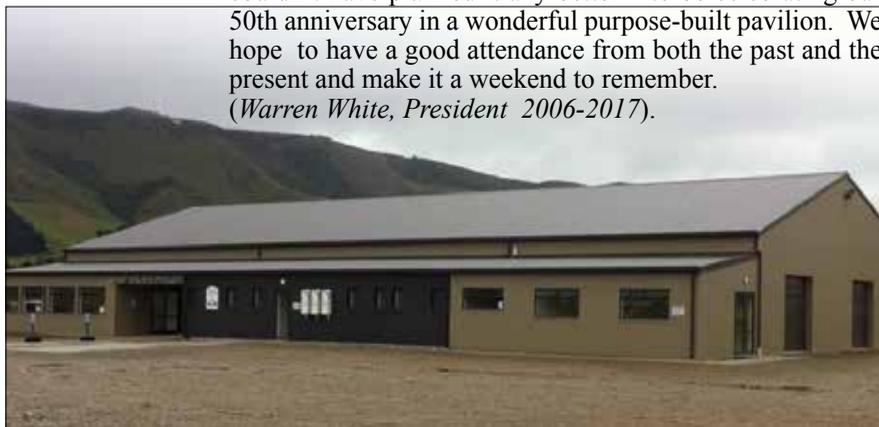
Building on those early foundations

The current committee are very grateful to Allan Kelly and his committee for the work done in the early years, establishing a solid foundation for the Waimate Shears to grow. In the early 1970s that committee built what they thought would be a home for the life of the shears.

But with changing times, about three years ago, that home became unavailable and it became necessary for the present committee to look once again for a new home for the Shears. The hard questions were asked do we fold or do we fundraise for a new home. The committee negotiated and formed a partnership with the Southern Canterbury A&P Association to build a new pavilion at the A&P Showgrounds.

After two years of planning we have finally got a wonderful new building complete with toilets, showers, bar and kitchen facilities plus outside BBQ area (pictured below). We couldn't have planned it any better – to be celebrating our 50th anniversary in a wonderful purpose-built pavilion. We hope to have a good attendance from both the past and the present and make it a weekend to remember.

(*Warren White, President 2006-2017*).



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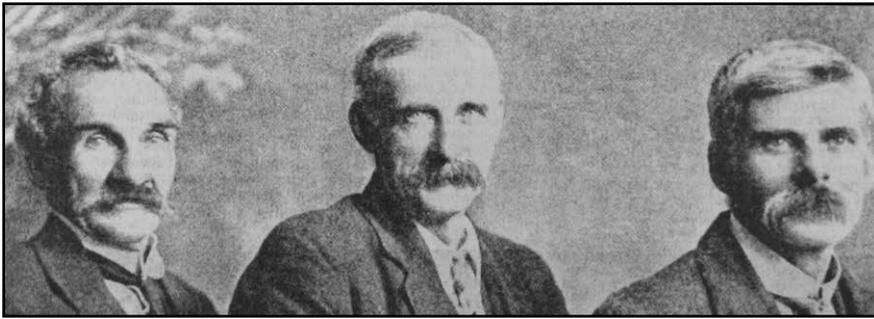
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Well spotted, Barbara Newton. This item from the *Otago Daily Times* of 13 June 2017, with photo from *Otago Witness* 100 years earlier: 'Three well known old time shearers: Steve Boreham (60, highest tally 172; Jacob Boreham (54), highest tally 158, JA Boreham (53) highest tally 172. The story noted the brothers had not shorn for more than a decade but came out of retirement to shear sheep during World War I, when most of New Zealand's younger men were pre-occupied on important business overseas – at the Somme, and other grim places.

WAIMATE SHEARS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Programme of events:

Thursday 12 October 2017: Opening Speaker Allan Kelly President 1968-79; Guest speaker Sir David Fagan KNZM; Closing Speaker Warren White President 2006-17

Friday 13 October 2017: Friday morning – Pre- shears course with Judges and shearing instructors. Tips & info for competitors. Woolhandling competitors also welcome. Free but need to contact Warren 027 489 2866 if attending.

Competition begins mid-day: Woolhandling and team heats and semis

Evening Speed Shear: \$10,000 prize pool; Fleece Throw – 1st prize \$1000; Young Farmers Competition; Junior/Intermediate clean shear 1st prize \$700; Senior 1st prize \$1000; Open 1st prize \$1500; Elite (invitation) 1st prize \$2500

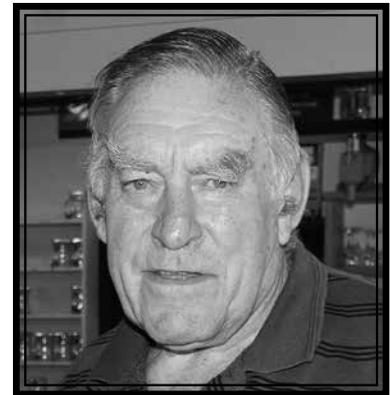
Saturday 14 October 2017: All day competition beginning at 7:30am

Saturday Evening: Live entertainment with local band 'Top Shelf'

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CHUCK-OFF ABOUT SENT-OFF

About the time that he was Cambridge born
Colin Meads was made an 'Earl'
Did his parents receive a tip-off?
Colin played his first club rugby game
In the Waitete team's colours
He specialised in the push-off
Colin played his first game for King Country
And drop-kicked a goal against Counties
Team mates called him a show-off
When Colin was just a young man
He tried his chances with a young lady
She gave him the brush-off (*just kidding, Verna*)
For a little while on the 1967 tour,
Mr Meads was neither 'Pinetree' nor Colin
Kel Tremain renamed him 'Sent-Off'



Meads and Murdoch had a disagreement
During an All Black trial match
Tree tried to knock Keith's block-off
(*'By the way, your king-hit is not working!'*)

Then Colin went on tour to South Africa
Those East Transvaalers got at him
His arm nearly broke-off

Colin was involved in a serious car crash
And injured his back quite badly
Very close to being a write-off

Colin was ready to play against the Boks
In the winter of 'Seventy-three
But Big Norm had the tour called-off

At the end of that winter Pinetree retired
He reckoned he'd had a good run
'It's about time to bugger-off.'

Colin has a brother many said was better
Stanley Thomas too could lock a scrum
But on reflection no ... Pinetree is a one-off

Now Colin 'Tree' is a New Zealand icon
Rightly our Government made him a 'Sir'
John Key loved doing that sign-off

But the man is our hero and has been for long
The Number Five Club worships his ground
To the 'Tree' we all takes our hats-off

Though the Big C has felled Tree in the end
His legendary deeds will never die
The Rugby World came to his final Send-off

RIP Sir Colin



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Know your bow

By Heather Henderson

On a recent trip to New Zealand's South Island I attended the World Sheep shearing and Woolhandling Championships at Invercargill. Being a collector of sheep hand shears, the highlights for me were the blade shearing events.

I thought it may be of interest to readers of *Shearing* to write about the different types of hand shear 'bows' I have in my collection. Some are still in use today while another few are from past days and most likely only seen in shearing collections. Following are photographs and a brief description of each 'bow'.



Double Bow (above): The choice of hand shears. They are the most popular and preferred bow used around the world. The softer squeeze makes it ideal for finer and clean fleeces.



Regulator Bow (above): These shears are a 'double bow' with a tension adjuster which allows the blades to be used as a single or double bow. This makes the shears adaptable to a range of fleece conditions.



Slot Bow (above): Is another variation to the double bow but not manufactured today. The slot movement unhooks or separates the bow for ease of sharpening.



Single Bow (above): Is the earliest manufactured pattern which can be traced back centuries. It is an excellent multi-purpose shear most popular for dagging in later years. It has a firmer squeeze making it beneficial for coarser or greasy fleeces.



Incurved Bow (above): Is still manufactured today and are particularly good for heavy duty work on matted or coarse fleeces as they have the firmest squeeze.



W Spring (above): This bow was popular in the nineteenth century. I have a number of examples from English, German and American manufacturers. A smaller hand shear all round with blades averaging only five and half inches or less.

'Blade shearers are so pure they could wear a white shirt for a week and it wouldn't get dirty.'

(Alex MacDonald, New Zealand team representative to world championships, Ireland 1998 and South Africa 2000.)



Equalizing Spring (above): An interesting bow design that was manufactured by Ward & Payne of Sheffield England featured in their catalogue of 1911. They are quite rare if found with the spring still intact.

Companies like Burgon & Ball in Sheffield England still manufacture the double, single, incurved, and regulator bows. Their Combination T.U.S. brand would have to be the best marketed sheep hand shear to New Zealand and Australia. They have been in production since the 1890s which is a testament to their quality.

Another company renowned for excellent steel qualities is Vicker Tools in South Africa. They manufacture the professional 'Rosa' brand sheep hand shear. These are the blades we saw in action at Invercargill 2017 by the current world blade shearing champion Mayenseke Shweni.



Blade shearing supremo – Mayenseke Shweni of South Africa in action at the world championships at Invercargill in February 2017.

Looking good for blades

By Allan Oldfield

Things are looking good for blade shearing in England after a great turnout at the Bath and West show on 2 June 2017. Seven shearers entered in the novice and there were plenty more interested, with 15 in the open blades event.

It was great to see so much enthusiasm for the blade shearing and I hope everyone there enjoyed their day. There was lots of positive energy and friendly rivalry and plenty of high quality blade shearing. It was great to see only 20 points between the 15 open blade shearers.

It was also really good talking among everyone in the crowd and in the machine shearing and finding that there is a lot of interest from younger shearers to get into blade shearing including some very young aspiring shearers who now have fresh sets of blades to start practicing with. Hopefully with a bit of practice and encouragement there will be a good strong field of young blade shearers turning up in a year or two.

On top of all this I am very pleased with my results for the day and especially with the two-stand blade gangs result in the team invitations relay shearing for New Zealand against England and Wales. It was my first time competing as a New Zealand team member for blade shearing even if it wasn't an official team. Well done to everyone who took part.



Above: Novice blades shearers at Royal Bath & West: from left, Marie Prebble, Nick Flux, Fred Bonestroo and Gerallt Jones. Below, teams: Allan Oldfield and Michael Churchhouse (New Zealand), George Mudge and Andrew Mudge (England), Elfed Jackson and Gareth Owen (Wales).

Results from the British Golden Shears at the Royal Bath and West Show, England, on June 1-2:

Open machine shearing final (20 sheep): Matthew Smith (New Zealand) 13min 52sec, 53.65pts, 1; Gwion Evans (Wales) 14min 43sec, 55.1pts, 2; Richard Jones (Wales) 15min 15sec, 56.05pts, 3; Jack Fagan (New Zealand) 16min 9sec, 58.1pts, 4; Ian Jones (Wales) 16min 12sec, 59.25pts, 5; Dean Nelmes (England) 16min 28sec, 66.85pts, 6.

Open blade shearing final (5 sheep): Allan Oldfield (New Zealand) 17min 18sec, 82.2pts, 1; George Mudge (England) 18min 28sec, 87.1pts, 2; Andrew Mudge (England) 18min 25sec, 87.35pts, 3; Elfed Jackson, (Wales) 18min 37sec, 91.55pts, 4; Danny Wilson (England) 21min 57sec, 101.65pts, 5; Clive Hamer (Wales) 20min 1sec, 107.35pts, 6.



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Shearing in Aussie 1959

By Peter Lacy

My family sent me off on a plane from Auckland. I arrived in Sydney, stayed with a friend one night and then went on to Port Kembla to stay with Mum's sister.

There was a massive steel works there. I landed a job making special shaped bricks for the steel works. An Aussie guy and myself were the only two out of twenty five that could speak English. This was not the job for me. I lasted two to three weeks.

Wondering where to go next... I was looking at a map of New South Wales and spotted a place called Wellington – the same name as the capital of New Zealand. That will do. I went there. Talking with a guy in a bar he mentioned sheep and the fact that we had so many in New Zealand – eighty million or there abouts. 'Can you shear a sheep?' he asked. 'Yes,' I said. 'Go on to Dubbo,' he said – 'that is the hub of the West and you will get plenty of shearing.' How right he was.

First I had to overcome the narrow comb with only ten teeth and the cutter with three – I was used to a comb with thirteen teeth and a cutter with four. This took some getting used to. But as they say when in Rome – do as the Romans do.

Then the day's work was four two hour runs which equalled eight hours. In New Zealand we worked nine hours per day and every day the sheep were dry. We thought nothing of shearing for a month without a day off.

I started shearing sheep at fifteen years of age. In 1951 the price of wool went to five pound a pound due to the war in Korea, with wool needed for uniforms. Shearing was five pound per hundred. There were nearly as many shearers as sheep. Seven pound eight and six per hundred they were paying in Aussie.

In Aussie that was forty pound per week which was good money. I could shear 150 a day no trouble. That was sixty pound per week. One could buy many bottles of beer at two and six a bottle – the big bottle that is. There being eight - two and six's to the pound. The pound equalled twenty shillings.

I needed to get out and away from the towns like Dubbo and get back into the sheds. There you could work your



Peter Lacy, some years later ...

forty hours from Monday to Friday then the weekends were spent washing and repairing clothes, relaxing and fishing for the big cod in the river. Cod, catfish and bream – we caught them all. It was great fun and a change of diet. We often went kangaroo shooting at night in the paddocks that were planted in wheat. The young wheat plants drew kangaroo from miles away. We shot a lot. Mostly out of a vehicle - one driving the other out of the window knocking them over.

We shot fox at night as well. You put the high powered light on them and their eyes shone – but being cunning like a fox – they would not stay still and moved about so you had to keep in touch with them and shoot quickly. Killing these pests kept one in the cocky's good books.

The actual shearing of the sheep was extremely competitive. One worked like a dog to stay in front of the nearest rival. If you could stay there day after day well and good – but to falter for various reasons was total calamity. The pressure of the challenge certainly kept one on the ball.

To miss the catch at the end of a run was a disaster. I have seen men that had this happen to them walk out of the shed, collect their pay and head away down the track never to return.

And of course the then new gun was unstoppable, crowing like those big black birds that wake people up in the morning. His performance generally improved but he was forever looking over his shoulder at the nearest rival. Competition was what kept the tallies up – much to the ganger's delight.

I shore in one shed where there were twenty seven shearers. There were fifty seven men in the mess. I was pen mates with a young fellow and he and I were the only two shearers shearing over two hundred per day. He was a better shearer than me. I tested him several times early but he was too good for me. So we soon settled down and shore sheep there for a month.

Of the gang of men I knew perhaps seven by name and conversed with the rest – it was a nod of the head and 'Hi' as you passed. The ringer of the shed was usually a shearer. The ringer being the one that earned the most money.

I shore in one shed where the ringer was the presser. He was paid by the cwt (hundred-weight, 112 lbs) and generally worked the same hours as a shearer. There were about eight shearers and he was the only presser. He was an extremely capable young man who had spent several years in a seminary studying to become a Catholic Priest. He also showed me that salt was not the only thing you put on lettuce – he used sugar.

However the good money and the good times could not go on forever and there was romance in the air and that tended to bring a different outlook on life.

Shearing magazine

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Boxing tough in a league of his own

Three young Te Kuiti lads on bikes cruised up alongside the editor as he was walking back to the Les Munro Centre for the Saturday evening session at the New Zealand championships. 'Where are you going?' one asked.

'To the shearing.'

'Oh, are you a shearer?'

'No, I take photos and write stories about shearers.'

'Oh!'

'So what's your name?' Ed. asks the smallest of the three.

'Riddick.'

'Oh, you might be named after a former world heavyweight boxing champion [Riddick Bowe].'

'I'm named after my Dad.'

'Okay. And you (to the middle one)?'

'My name is Madison.'

'You might be named after the famous place where they hold world boxing title fights (Madison Square Garden, New York).'

'I don't know.'

The boys ride off ahead and Ed. reaches the outside of the hall and stands talking with two New Zealand Shears committee men. The boys reappear moments later and one asks if they can come in.

'No, you need to buy tickets. This man is Joseph Parker, I am Mike Tyson and this other man is David Tua, so you'll have a tough job getting past us without tickets.'

Says the biggest boy, who hadn't revealed his name in the earlier exchange:

'Well, I'm Manu Vatuvai!'

(He could do it!)



*There's a misquoted saying that's been around for a couple of thousand years, warning that one should 'judge not, lest ye be judged.' The top photo, taken during the first quarter-final of the All-Nations event at Invercargill in February, was published in the New Zealand Championships programme and (so this editor understands) drew some harsh judgements upon the inattentive judge. The other photo, same sheep, same shearer, same judge a few seconds later tells an entirely different story. Judge not? A quick flick through a few photo albums in *Shearing* archives turned up at least a dozen photos [never published!] similar to the top – eminent judges caught momentarily distracted. Would any judge critical of the top photo want to gamble that they are not among them?*



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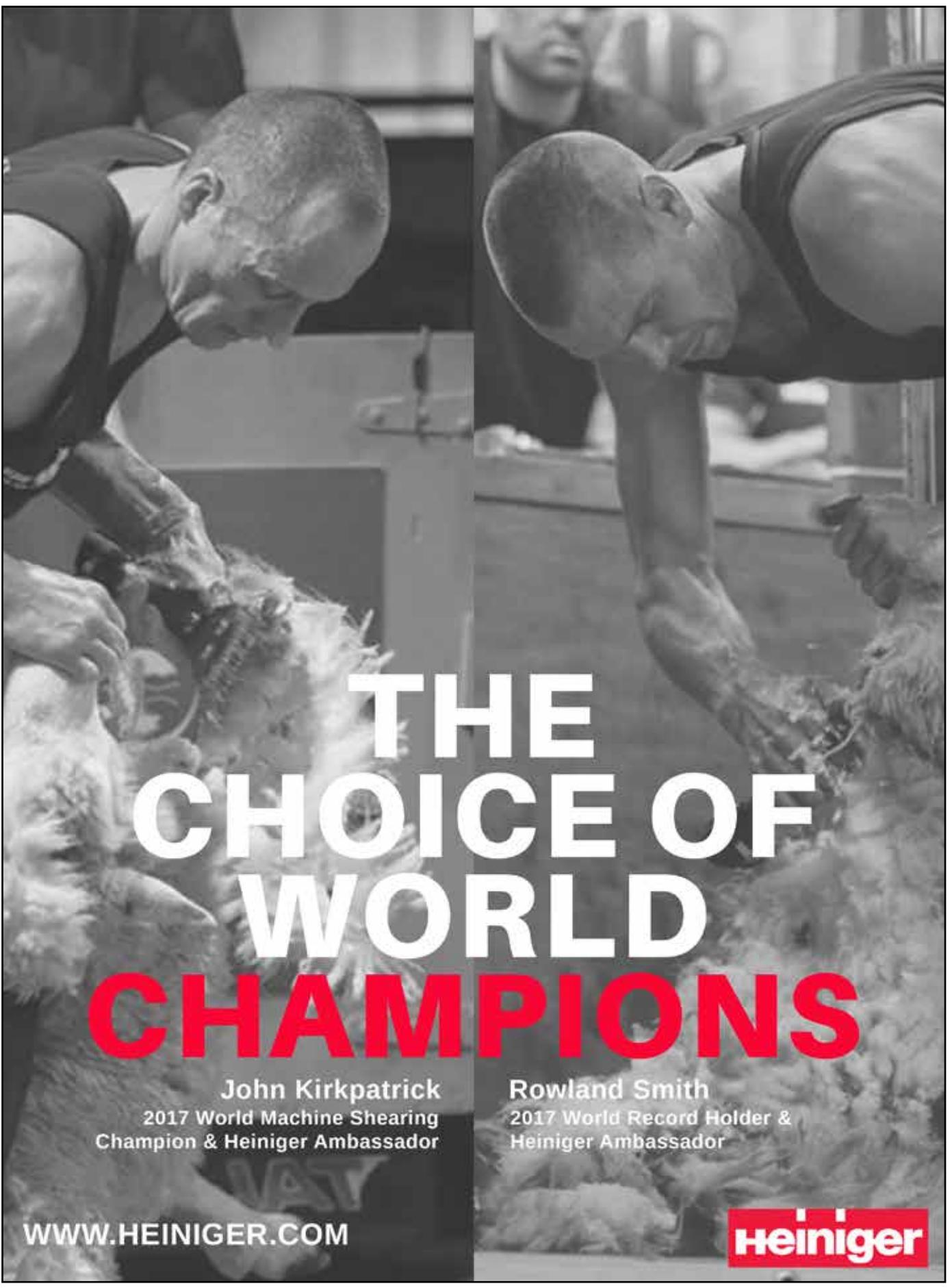
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or Steve Bool 027 204 7067



Rudy Lewis Gang at Ngamatea, 1 March 2017. Back (row 5) left: Tipene Brown, Jean (Japp) Clarke, Geraldine Turipa, Puna Eripa, Peter Hiroti. Row 4: Willie Rigby, Diedre Chase, Zar Taunoo, Amos Ross, Marcus Tanner; Lung Irirangi Nukau, Izach Johnson, Tim Anderson, Hamuera Metekingi. Row 3: Patricia Hesketh, Seline Tiepa, Rangī Tuhi, Mere Te Pania, Betty Grant, Dallas Johnson, Reece Johnson, Jackson Rahui-Aramui, Shannon Birkett (shepherd), Tony Birkett, Ihakara Pene (shepherd), Matt Gayler (general hand), Blake Walker (shepherd). Row 2: Ngahuia Hurumui, Pania Eriha, Hoera Eriha, Rahera Lewis, Jeffrae Allen, Mitch Tamati, Jim Taunoo, Tristan Mackey, Aaron Edmonds, Johnny King, Sian Parks (King), Hellie Hamilton, Echo Hekenui, Vivienne Lewis, Jesse Kereopa (2IC Ngamatea). Front row: Bonnie Ropiha, Trudy Landreth, Missy Edmond, Ashley Boyce, Diane Chilcott (classer), Boss Armstrong (general hand), Ray King, Rudy Lewis, Ari Walker (with Spookz), Opae Steedman (with Pango and Diesel), shepherd.



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