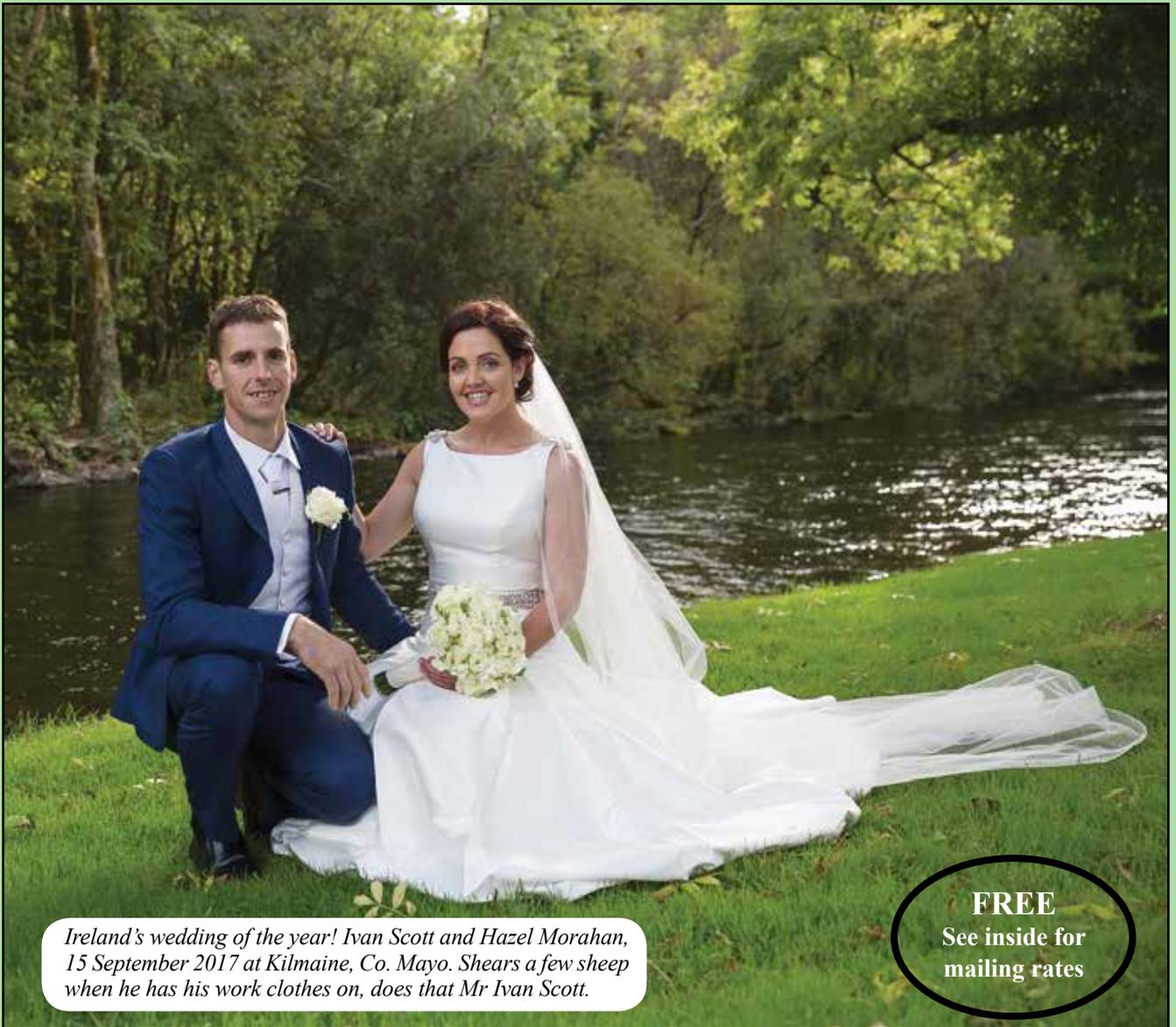


Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

Number 95: Vol 33, No 3, November 2017
ISSN 0114-7811 (print) ISSN 1179-9455 (Online)



Ireland's wedding of the year! Ivan Scott and Hazel Morahan, 15 September 2017 at Kilmaine, Co. Mayo. Shears a few sheep when he has his work clothes on, does that Mr Ivan Scott.

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Inside:
Lee Matson looks back
Celebrating 50 years at Waimate
Chatham Islands wool harvesting
American wool manufacturing plants



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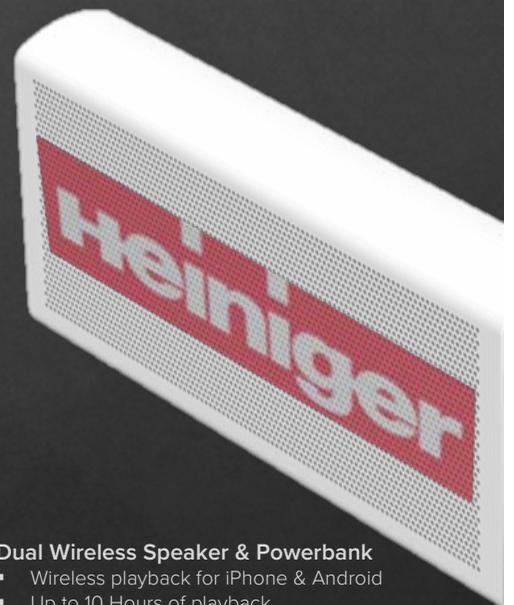
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**Next edition due 10 April 2018.
Deadline for all material two weeks prior.**

UNDER COVER STORY

The New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association has recently reminded its members of the need for professionalism in everything they do, with the age of social media being the age of instant communication. Association President, Jamie McConachie, put it this way:

Let's set a target to make this season our best yet in terms of positivity and professionalism in our businesses and the shearing industry in general. It's really important that we put the welfare of our people and the animals that our industry is based around at the top of the list.

With the incredible growth in communications technology and social media we're potentially all on camera – wherever we are, whatever we're doing, at work or at play. Remember – not everyone likes farming and many of its practices that most of us take for granted. Make sure we're under the spotlight for all the right reasons. Let's talk to our staff about it and keep ourselves, our businesses and our overall industry safe and secure for the future.

Jamie made reference to a certain website (I can't quite bring myself to give it the time of day here) and a couple of world famous celebrities (can't quite remember their names either, or what they are famous for) who would proudly go naked rather than wear wool from an animal that apparently gets grossly mistreated while being sheared of its wool. Indeed, [let's here redefine the meaning of dumb-arse] the animal has to die in order to give up its wool, according to American research from not so long ago.

One assumes that the 'celebrities' featured in the recent publicity campaign did not have leather shoes on their feet, but maybe something made from environmentally unfriendly plastic or some other synthetic material.

Despite my cynicism (I do let it show occasionally) Jamie's reminder about our needing to maintain the highest professional standards at all times in everything we do is timely indeed. One stupid move at this minute can be Twittered or Facebooked 60 seconds later and all around the world by lunchtime. Taking hard-earned reputations with it.

And speaking of hard-earned – here's hoping you can have a little bit of time with friends and whanau over the next few weeks before we launch into 2018 and do it all over again! Take care meantime and we'll see you in April.

*Ka kite ano
Des Williams (editor)*



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NZ WOOL CLASSERS ASSOCIATION

Where has the pride in our New Zealand Wool Classers Association Q Stencil gone?

The Q Stencil is a worthy qualification we have been promoting over the past few years. The Q stencil is for Senior shed hands that have passed their Level 4 wool handling and permits them to grade crossbred wool.

Disappointingly, it would appear that many holders of this qualification are not putting their stencil on the clips they are overseeing. The question I put to the wool industry is why? Below I relate some of the reasons why this could be happening.

Low prices for crossbred wool have seen a number of farmers demand cheaper contract rates to shear and harvest their wool clip. For this to happen, shearing contractors are forced to reduce their wool handling staff. This has several negative effects. Firstly, the wool clip is not prepared to the high standards New Zealand wool has been recognised for. Even at these present low prices it makes it very hard to sell and is even more discounted at sale.

I am sure farmers don't rush to purchase a product that is not well presented and prepared so why do they allow their wool clip to be presented so poorly? It's taken the farmer six to 12 months to grow and in a few minutes in the shed they discount all the work they put in growing this unique fibre.

Reduced numbers of wool handlers in the shed has meant they are very much over-worked and under-valued. This has contributed to the problems of attracting staff into the wool harvesting industry.

We are now witnessing a very big move to have accountability and traceability applied to wool. This requires proof that the clip has been prepared by a person with a qualification. This requirement is not only happening in the fine wool area but also, in a minor way, in the crossbred area.

So back to the question, why are Q stencil holders not branding their number on their work? It is my opinion that they do not want to be associated with poor workmanship which would reflect on them. I also feel these people have not been recognised by many farmers for the hard work and effort they have made in preparing their wool clip.



Teresa Aporo-Hall has bin locked in at Cecil Peak Station



Wool is an amazing fibre and we should be proud of the product that is produced. We need to lift our game on preparation, especially when prices are so low, so that the world will come back to our natural, sustainable fibre.

Notification of Annual General Meeting, Merit Awards and Field (industry) day:

The NZWCA is holding this day in Christchurch on Wednesday 2 May 2018. It is early in the planning stage but we have arranged for two high profile speakers: first Renata Apatu, Chairman of the Campaign for Wool, owner of Ngamatea Station and holder of the Certificate in Wool Technology. Second, Martin Eadie, CEO of Te Ako Wools.

Both these speakers will have a very interesting presentation. There will be wool exercises that should test us all and displays of products that are made out of the exquisite product we handle. This day will be open not only to our members but for a small cost to all in the wool industry.

Put this day in your diary and keep it free so you can attend. (Bruce Abbott, Executive Officer/Registrar NZWCA)



Mr T pressing wool at Cecil Peak Station

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Lee Matson reflects on fabulous industry

By Des Williams

He might have ended his 40 years as a shearing contractor just over a year ago, but that doesn't make Lee Matson any easier to 'catch' on the phone. But it does give a clear indication that there is a busy life to be had away from the shearing shed, even after four decades and more in the business.

Born and raised to the end of his high school days at Whanganui, Lee admits to being an out and out 'townie' until he left school and started working on farms and in shearing sheds. His first experience of shearing came in 1965 when he started work for Dick Coleman in the Parapara Valley, north of Whanganui. He has an idea his father helped organise the job for him because he (Dad) thought the youngster 'might be a bit useless' for office work or some other city job.

'Dick more or less taught me how to shear and I ended up staying with him through to about 1971. During that time I was also doing fill in work for Wally Williams, another local contractor. Then I was working full time for Wally and going back to fill in as required for Dick.'

When Lee and Eris were married they moved to a job on Hardings' property in the Turakina Valley, doing shepherding, straggle muster shearing and general farm work. Later they moved to Kai Iwi and a similar job at Ford's property.

'Then I got offered a lease block farm at Upokongaro and we moved onto that,

managing to get the dough together to buy stock, with some help from Dick Coleman. Finding money for that sort of thing wasn't all that easy in those days.

'After moving to the farm at Upokongaro I also started shearing for Wayne and Tommy Allan who were operating in the Papapara Valley with a four-stand gang. Eventually Wayne got me to take over the run, so Eris and I were suddenly running the farm and a shearing business. That would have been in 1975.'

Lee gradually built up the shearing run by taking over other sheds from contractors who were moving on to

other things – these include big sheds from Tom Bartlett (Parapara) and Nolan Kraiger (Wairarapa) and later, Red Morris, who was operating in the Whanganui area. Later still Lee and Jerome McCrea joined forces in a partnership that lasted for a couple of years.

'By that stage I probably had 50 shearers and shed hands working for me and it became quite a substantial set up. I had quite a few Welsh boys coming over to work for me each year and I had a warehouse building in Whanganui that was used as an accommodation unit.

(To page 7)



Lee Matson and crew, 25 years ago (1992). At Kakatahi, inland Whanganui. From left: Charlie Osborne, Graham Metekingi, Bart Hadfield, Lee Matson, Mere Potaka-Osborne, Ruby Christiansen and Sean Edmonds.

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But that was a very sub-standard arrangement so then I bought a block at Upokongaro and built specialist quarters and that was a lot more satisfactory for everyone. From there we operated with gangs going all over the central North Island, to Raetihi, Waimarino, Wanganui, Mangamahu and further afield.

‘It was always a fantastic industry to be involved in and I had many great people working for me over those years. We had employment contracts to use but it’s fair to say we never really needed them with the quality of people that worked for us. From conversations I’ve had with friends in other industries and businesses, it would make you cringe to hear about some of the employment-related issues that they have to put up with. I never had anything like that to worry about.

‘And many of those people have gone on to be highly successful at other things. People like Bart Hadfield who came to work for me straight out of school and acquired a farm at Taihape before moving to and eventually taking over Mangaroa Station on the East Coast. There’s also Keith Manunui who now owns and manages dairy farms in the Waikato.

‘Many more young people have come to work as shed hands during their school or university holidays and gone on to successful careers as doctors and lawyers and other professions. I would often get a phone call from someone interviewing a person who had worked for me and I was always happy to vouch for their character and reliability because they were as good as you’d get anywhere.’

Lee spent several years on the executive committee of the New Zealand Shearing Contractors’ Association (from 1987) and admits to enjoying those meetings with members. ‘We used to meet in Wellington and do business like negotiating wage rates with Federated Farmers and the Workers’ unions.

‘We would get there on a Wednesday and no one would agree to anything through Wednesday and Thursday. Then



Same boss, different faces, four years later. A Lee Matson gang from 1996.

by about lunch time on the Friday agreements were being reached and signed off so people could take off to catch flights home again! Later on the Federated Farmers dropped out of it and then of course the unions folded too but it was great experience working with them all.’

NZSCA President Jamie McConachie acknowledges the long service that Lee gave to the Association, representing the wider geographical region around Whanganui. ‘Lee gave the Association and its members many years of dedicated service that was very much appreciated at the time, and still is. He always had the interests of the people from his region at heart.’

Lee’s outside interests include horse racing and breeding, golf and rugby. He is a long-time member at the Castlecliff Golf Club and was manager of the Wanganui representative team some years ago when his ‘good mate’ Ian Hadfield (Bart’s father) was team coach.

Ian Barton recalls coaching the Wanganui Under 18 team for a couple of seasons in the late 1980s, with Lee as the team manager. ‘We used to play in a tournament with teams from Wanganui, Taranaki, Wellington, Manawatu and Wairarapa. We had an unbeaten team with some very good players, including the likes of Glen Osborne, who later went on to become a very good All Black.’

And Lee acknowledges the huge support he received from his wife Eris during their four decades in the shearing and farming industries. Eris died two years ago after a long battle with motor-neurone disease (MND). Their three grown children Kristie and Lana (both Whanganui) and Sally (Auckland) are all enjoying successful careers in restorative justice, teaching and floristry, respectively.

And there are no regrets about that decision more than 50 years ago for the ‘townie’ to go looking for work in the country, which brought him a satisfying and rewarding career working with so many wonderful people.

‘It’s such a shame that the people of our industry don’t get recognised for what they do – getting up in the early hours to go to work, carrying on right through long dry spells and then being off work because of wet weather. They are virtually on call the whole time and are ready to go again as soon as the sheep are dry. You don’t get that sort of dedication anywhere else.’

Wide-combing it with ...

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I was starting to think I’m too old for contact sports but you think I might be able to make the Kiwi league team?

Oh yeah no, definitely!



Buck Naked and Doug Deep

Investing in wool research

Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand (WRONZ) is investing \$3 million in the future of New Zealand's wool industry and following industries like coffee, honey and wine by funding research for a test that can confirm the authenticity and origin of wool. The investment is designed to protect, enhance and grow the New Zealand wool industry.

Using concepts already commercially proven in other agriculturally based industries, traceability of wool can now be determined by measurement of stable isotopes. Research at AgResearch and elsewhere has demonstrated how measuring differing levels of stable isotopes – in wool's case carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur – corresponding to wool from different countries can be used for a traceability system.

The distinctions between conditions on which the fibre is grown are 'hard wired' into the chemical nature of the fibre. Aspects such as temperature, altitude, rainfall levels, soil, air purity combine to generate unique reproducible levels of stable isotopes in the fibre. These levels survive the various severe challenges that the fibre undergoes during processing and use, such as dyeing, cleaning, and pressing.

WRONZ Chairman Derrick Millton said the ability to verify the source of your product is increasingly important to consumers and tests have already been widely adopted in industries like coffee, honey and wine.

'It's a real step forward for the New Zealand wool industry that we can now do the same. The test will provide New Zealand wool users with a tool to protect their marketing initiatives in the future.'

WRONZ has published its annual report revealing the \$3m worth of projects it supported in the 2016/17 financial year.

Other projects have included:

- A partnership with New Zealand company Lanaco to create the

world's most breathable filters using a special filter technology combined with pure New Zealand wool. Their new MEO antipollution mask designed by Karen Walker is a nominee in the Best Design Awards. Lanaco recently partnered with Healthy Breath Ltd which owns a large chain of pharmaceutical stores and distribution networks in China and Asia, and will spearhead marketing and distribution of the Lanaco products.

- A partnership with the New Zealand Merino Company to promote the eco credentials of NZ wool, working with the Sustainable Apparel Coalition who are creating sustainable industry standards across a range of fibres.
- Developing a New Zealand Certificate in Crossbred Wool Handling, with Taratahi planning to run the first course (<https://www.taratahi.ac.nz/programmes/new-zealand-certificate-in-crossbred-wool-handling>)
- A project with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment looking for new high value and high volume uses for NZ coarse wool.
- Supporting Lincoln Agritech to find new uses for crossbred wool.

Derrick Millton said the New Zealand wool industry is traditionally a significant contributor to the country's economy but the latest quarterly forecast from the Ministry of Primary Industries showed wool exports fell 28 per cent to \$550m to the year through June as a lack of demand from China weighed on prices.

'This decline, combined with PETA's (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) recent campaign, 'I'd rather go naked than wear wool', highlights challenges the industry faces and illustrates how essential it is we continue to promote the value of wool as a natural 21st century fibre, as well

as the high animal welfare standards in New Zealand that protect our sheep and other animals.

'Research and development is vital to the future of the wool industry in New Zealand. WRONZ is committed to developing innovative solutions that showcase the intrinsic natural properties of wool, find new and novel uses for it, and enhance fibre, fabric and product performance.'

Other key statistics:

- * \$10m per annum – contribution to export receipts from products developed or significantly improved by WRONZ through its research manager Wool Industry Research Ltd
- * 29m – total number of sheep in New Zealand (Source: Beef + Lamb)
- * 9.5 per cent – New Zealand share of global wool production (Source: Beef + Lamb)



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Double delight for World Champs

There was double delight for the World shearing and wool-handling championships at the recent New Zealand Event Association's Annual Awards in Auckland.

The shearing and woolhandling was named Best International Event while ILT Stadium Southland took out the Best Industry Supplier category as venue for the 2017 Championships held in Invercargill in February this year.

New Zealand Shearing Foundation chairman Tom Wilson was elated with the accolade: 'It was an honour just to be short-listed as a finalist but to win it is something else. I think it's a real boost for our sport and industry.'

'We've got amazing athletes who are incredibly skilled at what they do and to open up the spectacle and drama of the sport to a whole new audience as we did in February makes all the hard work worthwhile. It really was a team effort. To have all our organising committee and our event manager Jude (McNab) at the Awards, I'm just so happy for all of them and for the shearing and Southland communities and our wonderful funders and sponsors who made this event what it was,' Mr Wilson said.

ILT Stadium Southland General Manager Nigel Skelt believed it was a great night for Southland: 'It's been some night for us. I think it really shows what's possible down here. I remember our first chat with Tom and Jude about hosting the world champs and we saw the potential but to be honest I had no idea what it would turn into.'

'It has certainly been one of the most successful events we have been a part of and I think it sends a great message to the country about the level of delivery and community support we can provide in Southland. I'm thrilled for the ILT Stadium team, who dared to dream and worked tirelessly over massive hours to pull off a world class event.'

The Awards followed earlier successes for double shearing world championship winner John Kirkpatrick, who was named Hawke's Bay Sports person of the Year and his team mate Nathan Stratford who won the People's Choice Award at the Southland Sports Awards. Organising committee member Mike Hogan was named Southland Administrator of the Year.

We pay further tribute to the success of the world champs with a five-page photo essay elsewhere in these pages.

Te Puna Speed Shear, 13 January 2018

Te Puna Speedshear will take on a new format and venue for 2018, reports organiser, Maree Morton.

'We have come away from the club that we have been a part of for the past five years and we are now stand alone and things are going to run a little differently.'

'We have decided that Te Puna Speed Shear 2018 will be a fundraiser with our cause being to raise funds for Digger and Cheryl Balme to help their family get an Assistance Dog for their son Kyle. Digger has supported the Te Puna Speed Shear each year so we think that it is the least that we can do.'

Contact Maree on **021 399 793** for further information.



Recent show-stoppers: Right descending: Marohi Kennedy at Waimate (Open blades), Ebony Turipa (Waimate senior woolhandling), Linda Duncan (Waimate junior woolhandling); Monica Potae (here competing at the Great Raihania competition 2016 with leg in plaster), came back to win the open in 2017.

Bruce Wynyard, legendary hard man

By Des Williams

Bruce Allan Wynyard (1943-2017): If the stories related at Bruce Wynyard's recent funeral at Hamilton are anything to go by, nobody ever needed to tell him to harden up.

A hard worker, hard soldier, hard shearer, hard friend. And if this writer's one interview with Bruce back in 1993 was typical, to those descriptions of the Waingaro farmer we can safely add 'hard case'.

By the time he was aged 16, Bruce was shearing enough sheep in a day to challenge the tallies posted by legendary Godfrey Bowen in his prime. Within two years he had his eye on the lamb record of 606 set by Colin Boshier, at an Awakino woolshed in 1961. Bruce recalled how he then came to challenge Boshier's mark.

'In 1960 I'd had a go at beating Godfrey Bowen's world ewe record. I was 16 at the time and just missed by a sheep or two. By the time I was 18, Boshier was seeing me as something of a threat to his reputation.

'After his 606 he suggested to me, with a few colourful adjectives thrown in, something along the lines of, 'Well that settles that argument.' Meaning, you'll never break that record.



Bruce Wynyard, hunter, soldier, shearer, all-round sportsman and hard man. Photo above, just one of many. Photo p11, taken from his early days in the New Zealand Army, c1965.

Not one to resist a challenge, Bruce with all the confidence of youth, informed Boshier that he'd add another 20 to it, no problem. The attempt was set up, early in 1962 at Harry Kerr's Matira property.

'Brian Ashton, Tuakau, was the official New Zealand Wool Board representative there, while Dan Hart, JP and Jack Bouskill were official timekeepers. I shored the standard nine-hour day of one two-hour and four one-and-three-quarter hour runs.

'The sheep were brought in from the paddock the night before and given a light tail crutch, otherwise they were shorn "just as they came out". The shed held 90 sheep, full up.'

Bruce says a stake of several hundred pounds rested on the outcome, more than enough to keep him motivated.

'I even jumped the gun by a couple of seconds at the start of one run, but of course the judges wouldn't allow that one on my tally.'

Bruce recalled he had Boshier's tally beaten with 13 minutes still left in the day – and they'd run out of lambs to shear. 'The farmer had to run in about 15 extra sheep so I could do 626, enough to put 20 round Boshier as I'd promised.'

The story wasn't all happy ending. Bruce (in 1993), still with a little bitterness about the episode despite the passing of more than 30 years, recalled everyone left the shed that day perfectly happy they'd witnessed a world record, but the tally never received official ratification.

Great mate Ross Bishop recalled that Bruce did most of his shearing around the Waikato area, and never ventured 'down south' as he himself had done for several seasons to shear with George Potae at Milton.

'Despite his doing all these great tallies while still a teenager, someone suggested to Bruce he should go down to Massey and do a New Zealand Wool Board shearing course.

'Three of us – Bruce, Rex Sloane and myself, piled into a car and drove down to Massey to attend a course being run by Claude Waite. We had a helluva a good time while we were there but I'm not sure Claude was able to teach Bruce much more about shearing sheep. When Claude set us the task of shearing one sheep in five minutes, Bruce had his done in about one minute 30 seconds.'

Two and a half years after taking Boshier's money with that big tally, Bruce decided to enlist in the New Zealand Army. He signed up in August 1964 and was soon serving with the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment in Malaya and Borneo.

Three years later he transferred to the Royal New Zealand Artillery Regiment for service in Vietnam with 161 Battery.

He'd only been in 'Nam' a matter of weeks when he had to deal to a fire in an ammunition bay on a gun position at Nui Dat. A massive explosion was imminent. Bruce's actions that day would earn him a Queen's Commendation (QC).

The Official Citation records: *Gunner Wynyard ran to the fire and, from a position on the parapet of the ammunition bay directly above the blaze, attempted to extinguish it with*

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sandbags which he threw onto the blazing ammunition. As a result the fire was brought under control allowing other soldiers to approach and extinguish it completely.

Gunner Wynyard's initiative, calmness and bravery and his complete disregard for his own safety prevented a disastrous accident, with almost certain loss of life, and reflect great credit on himself, his Regiment and the New Zealand Army.

The Citation doesn't mention how Bruce was also able to 'acquire' large quantities of pork from the Americans, put down a hangi to cook it and then invite the Americans back to (unknowingly) help eat some of their own meat!

Shearer, soldier, farmer, sportsman, pig hunter, proud family man and grandfather to a clan of mokos. A man who started his day with a cup of tea, went and did some work and came in later for breakfast. No need to ask where that habit came from.

There's a quote at the end of that old classic western movie *The Man who shot Liberty Valance* that says 'when the legend becomes fact, print the legend.'

With Bruce Wynyard, one could be excused for reaching the conclusion that the legend and the fact are one and the same. RIP, hard man.



'Is that the photographer from Shearing magazine, John?' 'So it is, Wyn.' 'Well if he puts this photo in the magazine I'd like to think he will get my name right this time because I see in the world championships programme he's called me Wyn Davies. Who the hell is Wyn Davies?' (John McBride and Wyn Jones in imaginary conversation at the world championships. And this by way of long distance apology, Wyn!)

Below: the sort of world championships action that Messrs McBride and Jones and their competent cohorts were describing during the four great days at Invercargill in February. South Africa's Thomas Caldo in the world championship open woolhandling.



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ANOTHER WORLD'S RECORD TALLY



with **WOLSELEY** Shafting Plant and **WOLSELEY** No. 10 Handpiece

Percy de Malmanche who shored 409 big sheep in 9 hours with a Wolseley No. 10 Shear.

Messrs. Dalgety & Co. Ltd., WELLINGTON.

Pihassa, Taranaki, 22nd December, 1934.

Dear Sirs,—

I take much pleasure in congratulating you on the outstanding performance of the Wolseley Sheep Shearing Machines which enabled me to establish a new World's Sheep Shearing Record.

The gear used to achieve the above record was a Wolseley No. 10 Handpiece, Wolseley Gilder Combs and Wolseley patent No. 6 Hollow Ground Cutters driven by Wolseley Shafting Plant run at 500 Revolutions per minute. I might state that the above Wolseley Shafting Plant has been in use for over Twenty-five years, the cost of repairs during that period being Nil.

The No. 10 Handpieces was in operation continuously during each run, being placed on the floor while catching my own sheep from the pen. I attribute the cool, smooth running of the Handpieces to the quality of the workmanship and material in the Handpiece, and special mention must be made of your Special Wolseley Machine Oil used by me in the Handpieces to achieve my record, and also in the shearing of 16,000 by me this Season.

Consequently I have put your Sheep Shearing Machine to a severe test, and consider it superior to any other Shearing Machine on the market (in fact, the World's Best).

(Sgt.) PERCY DE MALMANCHE.



Lest We Forget: 100 Years Ago

Private John (Jack) Morris of Ballarat, Australia, was shearing in Southland, New Zealand before the First World War started. He joined the 2nd Battalion, Wellington Infantry Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Force and was killed in Belgium on 15 December 1917. He lies buried at the Lijssehoek Military Cemetery near Poperinghe, West Flanders. His brother, Frank Morris served in the Australian Infantry Forces and died of wounds in October 1918 after being invalided home to Australia from Europe.

This item was among a number of old advertising 'flyers' found at Claxby Farm and sent to *Shearing* by keen magazine reader, Vince Witham of Rangiora. Vince works at Claxby, having previously shorn through the Nineties and 'Eighties with Allan Reid and Don Toshach, when the property carried 8000 half-bred ewes and replacements. 'Those days of sheep are long gone and Claxby Farm now carries 2,200 cows. A typical story for much of Canterbury, unfortunately.'



WELL YOUNG'N, OF COURSE YOU WONT REMEMBER THE DAYS WHEN MOST OF THE SHEARERS HAD ONE OF THESE THINGS GLUED TO THEIR BOTTOM LIP. I DO, AND A VERY CATCHY HABIT IT WAS!

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GET THE EDGE, MAKE THE CUT



Laura Bradley, Peter Lewer, Ian Hopkirk and Tegwyn Bradley engage in some serious business at the Manawatu A&P Show senior shearing competition.



Busy as, like Tuatapere on a Friday night back in 1965.

Remember old Com?

Many are mourning the passing of a beloved old friend by the name of Common Sense, who has been with us for many years.

No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were lost long ago in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm and that life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not kids, are in charge).

His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student suffering from a headache, but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than victims.

Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, spilled a bit in her lap and received a huge compensation settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers, Myrights and Imawhiner.

Not many attended his funeral – so few realised he had gone. If you remember him, pass this on to others who might care ...

(Reprinted from *Shearing* magazine August 2003, by popular request!)

'Sport breeds a society where 50% of the population are losers.'

(Neal Harding c2001)

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Joe Graham shore with the guns

By Des Williams

Joe Graham came out from Scotland in 1959 and started working on a Whanganui sheep farm. A nice property with a lovely stand of native bush all fenced off and protected. So nice, he quickly aspired to having a property of his own just like it, some time in the future.

Joe had shorn a few sheep back in Scotland and that seemed a logical way of making some good money in his new home. Further work in that sheep stronghold around the Hunterville area saw Joe back on the handpiece again, soon working for an Ohakune-based contractor named Allan Williamson.

“I spent about seven years altogether with Allan and he was a great shearer himself and a very good man to work for. Allan of course was very well known for winning that ‘Golden Shears’ event before the Queen at Lower Hutt in 1962.”

Shearing sheep provided Joe and his wife Shirley with the means of acquiring (and keeping) their own property at Te Pahu, west of Hamilton. Joe reflects with a laugh. He spent about seven seasons working on and off for Jim Macdonald around Waikato sheds. Now he’s happy to pass on tricks of the trade and watch good friend Neil Surgenor shear his small flock.

And Allan Williamson it was who put OHAKUNE on the map long before that giant carrot came along. He had the name in large letters on his singlet when receiving his trophy from the young Queen Elizabeth for that 1962 win at Lower Hutt.

When interviewed by this writer many years ago, Allan said he couldn’t remember the exact words Her Majesty had uttered during the hand-over of the silverware. But Murray McSkimming confirmed some years ago he had been close enough to hear and remember the famous incident.

‘Allan and a couple of others had gone to get into some cleaner gear for the presentations but they had a helluva job getting back through the crowd to where the officials were. As Her Majesty handed over the trophy [Borthwick Challenge Cup] she said, ‘Mr Williamson, you are the first man in the world ever to keep me waiting!’



Joe Graham shore with guns named Boshier and Williamson years ago on his way to buying (and keeping!) his Te Pahu farm. These days he’s happy to have friend Neil Surgenor (right) come in and shear the small flock on his drystock farm.

Allan Williamson - the only man in the world to keep Her Majesty the Queen waiting. Prior to 1962, at any rate.

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Above: This group of Chatham Islanders and visitors went back to shearing school for a few days recently. Back left: Alton Devery, Sean (Crack) Chisholm, Ryan Holmes, Brendon Potae, Tim Mahoney, Jessie O'Keefe, Ryan Jones (aka Jake the Muss), Quentin Holer, Alex Meikle. Front left: Bevan Chisholm, Nick Cameron, Oscar Neilson, Raewyn Hunt, Eugene McCormick. Below: shed hands, interested spectators and whanau support, cooks and supporters. Second right in bottom photo is Rock, taught to shear on the island 25 years ago by visiting instructor Tom Brough.



Chathams shearers displaying new-found skills: Ryan Jones (above) and Raewyn Hunt (below).



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A real top story

A brother of Sir Garnet Wolseley (one time commander of the British Army) owned Eureka Station, situated, I believe, somewhere in NSW and to him must go the credit of inventing the shearing machine – but not altogether.

He [Frederick Wolseley] was an irascible man, his superiority complex being probably not lessened by having such a famous brother, and his temper not improved by the incessant strain connected with the invention, so it was hard to keep suitable men around him. But fortune favoured him. There came into his employ an Arab, who at once became intensely interested in the shearing machine, and who, happily in the circumstances, was blessed with a most infectious laugh, no matter how much he was bullied and bounced around. The exact man to fill the bill.

As a race, Arabs are mathematically minded; as an instance, they were the first to use our present day numerals. I shore with El Baddery (Hassan, we used to call him) at Northampton Downs, Queensland, shortly after all this. He shore nowhere else, because he had a scour by the Barcoo River for all the locks and waste wool he collected, gratis, all round the various stations. Very shrewd in everything he either said or did.

He confided to me a lot of the early struggles of Wolseley in trying to perfect his machine. He got as far as one that would shear as well as ever one could wish for, but only for a sheep and a half. After that the handpiece got unbearably hot.

Hassan used to demonstrate in the wool store of one of the Melbourne Stock and Station firms, but never further than one sheep at stated intervals, til the machine had cooled down, but the onlookers didn't know that. Trouble was the flat plate which put pressure on the oscillating fork, and until that drawback could be overcome, the machine was decidedly an impractical proposition.

Well, one Sunday morning Hassan went along to the Melbourne Zoo, not to see the animals especially, but to be out in the open, and by himself. He found a seat in a quiet

spot, sat down on it, and as usual started furiously to think about the problem of the hot machine. Along came some boys who found a spot near him, and with a hard surface that suited them, and at once got to work – for tops were in season. Hassan idly watched a spinning top, and noticed how little friction was caused in the whirling round of such a comparatively heavy toy on such an insignificant point.

Then his eye roved to the upper part of the top and watched it wobble to and fro. Suddenly, he stared with intense concentration, for he noticed that no matter how much the top swayed from side to side, still, any part of the curvature, at some time, always reached a certain specific height.

In a flash he knew he had solved the problem. And so, the tension pin, and the tension nut, was the complete answer, to excessive friction and over-heating troubles in the shearing machine.

(Verbatim from an essay by George Gardner of Christchurch, c1953. Elsewhere in the essay Mr Gardner describes how he shore with Jimmy Power (reputed inventor of the long blow) in Queensland in 1893.)



Hassan Ali and Jack Joy demonstrating the early Wolseley handpiece. Sir Frederick at left, leaning on stick.

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WATCHING FROM THE LAP OF THE GODS

How would you like to be in the Lap of the Gods
Or even the same bar room might be close enough
Can you just imagine the tallies they're shearing?
Trevor Brough, Steve Morrell and one called Duff

Obviously his gang had sheep lined up for weeks
But Blackwell was still combining work and play
Then Godfrey, typical of the old master instructor
Said to Norm, 'Hey Cobber, try doing it this way!'

Higgins and Richards leaned on empty-pen doors
'Every day in the Cloud becomes a long hard slog
Three hundred would fill the five runs in our time
Now we do six hundred just to keep up with Frog!'

Mark Conlan and Pivac were looking for wethers
'Please, the scummiest ugliest sheep you can find
We just called them mongrel down there on Earth
But in this shed we 'PETA' them gently and kind'

Mac Potae and Danny quietly asked for *Sheep-Oh!*
As Sarre and Williamson were attracting a throng
Alabaster and Bosher had both stopped for smokes
Joe Te Kapa told his sheep to not put a foot wrong

Bill Meech and Johnny Hape sipped cappuchinos
While discussing mainshear for the summer ahead
'Between us we have about a thousand good gangs
Even then some won't get the chance to earn bread

'McSkimming and Paewai are both wanting work
We could bring in a few wrinklies for later tonight
Rangiawha and Percy have brought their best gear
And let's not forget John Ferguson or Sonny White

'And I see the shed has two stands for lefthanders
Just for Lou Campbell and that Aussie, Les Seary
They always got going when the going got tough
And wouldn't admit to feeling even a mite weary'

Then Bill pondered how to best train the learners
'There's a hundred or so waiting outside the gate'
Johnny thought that would be least of their worries
'I'll get Red Fleming, Bob Reed and Claude Waite'

'But first of all we have to Facebook Jim Mitchell
And ask if he can find time to renovate the dunny
Dizzy Downs, Bill Morrison, and Lance Kana too
Those chaps will do it for the love, not the money

Right at that moment Joanne and Gina strolled by
'Give them all work, we can keep the board clear
We'll enjoy the shed mahi 'til cut-out day comes
It is full wool remember, there's no second-shear'

Being such a fine day, there were legends outside
A man called Raihania perched high on the bales
John Hart and Jack Harrison listened spell-bound
While the Great One related his century-old tales

Jackie Howe and Paul Rose worked the same pen
Said Jackie, 'The ability of a top man never fades
Now Rosie and I won't be raising too much sweat
But we enjoy the music of our razor-sharp blades'

For some fun, Bing suggested replaying the '61 final
Without a strapped shoulder he might win, for a bet
Kevin, Mac and Godfrey were all keen for the start
But then Ivan said 'Hold on, Harrison isn't here yet!'

© *desperado* 2017



© *Neville Sinclair* 2017

“... Spell-bound, while the Great One related his century-old tales ...”

On the road again

If travelling is in your blood, you are in good company within the shearing industry. You get itchy feet after a few weeks in the same spot and can't wait for the season to finish and for the new one to start up in some far away place, right?

Your next stop brings about a new start, new faces, some old ones to catch up with, some very loud: Chur bro, I haven't seen you in ages, too much bro and lots of hugs and crazy hand shakes.

But after a while it is time to move on, hop in the car or on the plane, up and down the country, across the ditch or even further afield. Great fun when you are young. Places to go, places to see, your hair blowing in the wind ...

When you get a bit older, have kids, maybe a partner who wants to stay in one place, it gets more complicated. You can't just up and leave and criss-cross your way through the world as you see fit, or fun. Or maybe you just simply had enough of living out of a suitcase and the boot of your car, it happens.

Once you hit that frame of mind, it is crucial that you plan out your nomadic lifestyle. The shearing industry dictates to a degree to fit in with the need of some regularity and routine.

By now you should have identified the shearing seasons in the different parts of the country and the world.

It pays to sit down and think about how best to combine a couple or a maximum of three different working places to fill the year with good, steady income. By basing your family in one of those chosen spots, you allow them to integrate into the community more deeply.

Coming back to the town regularly makes you a bit of a local too, which has its perks. Everybody gets to know you, you may even choose to participate in the community somehow: At the school, the local shearing show, at a sports club, giving you a feeling of belonging.

You will get to know the farming community, which brings about other opportunities such as being allowed to hunt on their properties, getting some cheap mutton for the freezer or

picking up other work like tailing or shepherding in the slow season. For another part of the year maybe you are able find work not too far away from home, so you can travel back and forth a bit on days off and see the family.

It is always a good idea to be with a contractor who works in with other contractors in the surrounding areas. That way you pick up extra work whilst being employed with your main contractor.

Once or even twice a year you may have to go further away for a stint, 6-8 weeks maybe, possibly overseas or changing form North to South or the other way around. Make sure you pick the peak season in that area and go back there each year (if you like it of course). That way you again become sort of a half local and your contractor will give you good work.

Going away for less than a month is often not worth it financially, considering travel costs and loss of working days during travel. Your family has to be on board with those times away, as it is a commitment from everybody.

It is important to stay in good contact with your two or three contractors of choice so you can organise your year's work at an optimum, especially considering shearing seasons changing a little each year, depending on droughts, floods and sheep numbers.

Discuss a starting and leaving date with your contractor to suit both and try sticking to it. That way a good and stable working relationship can be established.

As contractors we love seeing the same people back each year. We are interested in hearing how their year went, what progress they have made and the great thing is, they usually slot straight back in to our working systems.

Farming clients also like to see the same faces. It gives them a feeling of security to have people working on their property they already know and trust. They generally enjoy a yarn and a catch up. A fun working relationship is of course the result desired by all.

Safe travels and see you again next year! (*Gabriela*)

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She said 'Guess who' and he said, 'I'd know him anywhere - that's Fleecie McFleeceface.' And she said ...



Clandestine Contract Completed

It is mission accomplished once again for that intrepid team of Southland shearers who each year accept the challenge of shearing the sheep on Rakiura. (er, Stewart Island).

For national security reasons the size of the flock shorn is never revealed for fear some foreign ship may come in the dead of night and rustle them away. (For the finest wool in the world those Italian suit-makers just might be tempted. No sense in alerting them to the location of a veritable treasure chest.)

As part of the surreptitious operation the shearers allow only a small sample to be photographed (but the size of the ship waiting in the bay will give you a clue).

Now for the true story: Farming on Stewart Island is now confined to an isthmus of land called 'The Neck' and is accessed only by boat (that part is true). A group of self-described 'over the hill' shearers from the southern districts in Southland have been travelling each year for the shear and include some notable names. Oldest shearer among them is none other than Ian 'Snow' Harrison, the only surviving finalist from the original Golden Shears final of 1961. Now in his eighties, Snow still does his share each time, although his tallies are getting fewer. (Well, that's according to his 'mates'.)

Other shearers to tackle this annual island mainshear are 'JJ' Crengle, John (Pins) Duff, Herb Glendinning and John Smith. The sheep owner is a well known Stewart Island identity, 'Fluff' Leask.

The top photo shows bales of wool accumulated over a few seasons in front of the old shearing shed, then the bales on the beach after being rolled over the cliff. Bottom left, bales being loaded on a dingy and taken out to the freighter.



Top Class Wool Cutters on Stewart Island, from left: 'Pins' Duff, Snow Harrison and JJ Crengle.

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Promoting wool to the Military

American shearer/rancher Loren Opstedahl from Piedmont, South Dakota, has been on a tour of wool-related industries in North and South Carolina. He's a familiar figure in New Zealand, having been here to represent the USA at 2017 and 2012 world championships (also at Bjerkreim 2008 and Builth Wells 2010).

Loren's tour took in the Chargeurs Wool Scouring Plant in South Carolina, as well as the Burlington Industries (yarn maker) and Nestors Hosiery factories in North Carolina.

'The American Sheep Industry (ASI) along with the Wool Council (a branch of ASI) was the main sponsor of the tour. Some textile researchers from the USA Military were there as well. They were promoting wool to these people to try to get them to use wool in a few more products for the military, although most articles of military clothing already have wool in them to some extent.

'I am on the Wool Council as a representative for the American Sheep Shearer Council, so I was honoured to be involved as well. It was a very interesting tour so hopefully something comes out of it to the benefit of wool.'

Industries visited on tour:

Chargeurs Wool (USA) Inc. is in Jamestown, South Carolina situated on the beautiful Santee River in the Francis Marion National Forest. It is very close to the ports of Charleston and textile areas of North and South Carolina. The company began operations in 1955 and has been continuously providing quality wool tops to its customers across a broad range of worsted styles from 17 to 32 micron.

Burlington Industries is a diversified American fabric maker based in Greensboro, North Carolina. Founded by J. Spencer Love in Burlington, North Carolina in 1923, the company has operations in the United States, Mexico, and India and a global manufacturing and product development network based in Hong Kong with over 8000 employees on several sites in USA, Canada and worldwide.

Nestor Hosiery, Inc. designs and manufactures socks for mountaineers, firefighters, military personnel, and athletes. The company was founded in 1993 and is headquartered in Mount Airy, North Carolina.



Chargeurs wool plant



Raw wool being converted into the plant



Scouring line



Wool heading into the super wash



More wool heading into super wash



Wool tops ready to be packaged and shipped



A tub of dyed wool ready to be spun



Yarn spinning machines



More machines for cleaning wool and yarn



More yarn spinning machines



A sock machine knitting socks

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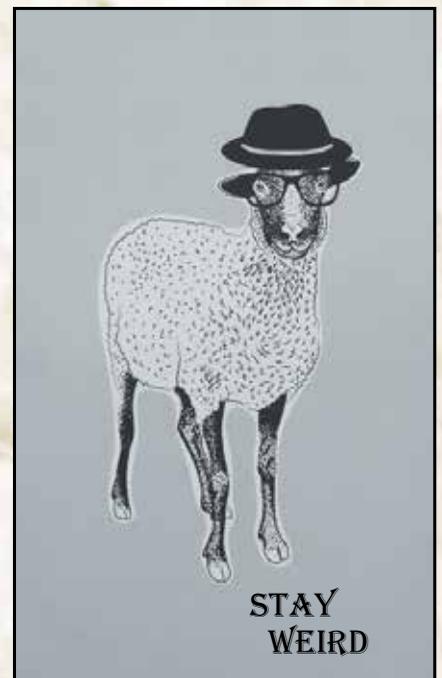
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50th NZ Spring Shearing and Woolhandling Championships, Waimate October 13-14, 2017:

Trans-Tasman Blade Shearing Test (4 sheep): New Zealand (Tony Dobbs 51.753 pts; Phil Oldfield 80.4455 pts) total 132.19 pts beat Australia (Ken French 84.24 pts; John Dalla 89.797 pts) total 174.038 pts.

New Zealand Spring Shearing Championships:

Open final (16 sheep): Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 58.853 pts, 1; Troy Pyper (Winton) 61.81 pts, 2; Paerata Abraham (Masterton) 65.209 pts, 3; Grant Smith (Rakaia) 69.665 pts, 4; Brook Todd 70.576 pts, 5; Stacey Te Huia (Forbes, NSW/Te Kuiti) 78.948 pts, 6.

Open Invitation Plate (10 sheep): Jack Fagan (Te Kuiti) 45.247 pts, 1; Andy Mainland (Invercargill) 47.773 pts, 2; Colin O'Neill (Alexandra) 48.308 pts, 3; Ringakaha Paewai (Gore) 48.371 pts, 4; Ethan Pankhurst (Masterton) 48.924 pts, 5; John Dalla (South Australia) 62.217 pts, 6.

Senior final (8 sheep): Corey Smith (Rakaia) 43.797 pts, 1; Linton Palmer (Dipton) 45.537 pts, 2; Lionel Taumata (Gore) 46.12 pts, 3; David Gower (Stratford) 46.862 pts, 4; Corey White (Waimate) 46.914 pts, 5; Vahni Stringer (Ranfurly) 47.887 pts, 6.

Intermediate final (5 sheep): Liam Norrie (Cheviot) 40.809 pts, 1; Brandon Maguire-Ratima (Winton) 41.158 pts, 2; Jesse Barclay (Gore) 41.243 pts, 3; Duncan Higgins (Havelock) 43.139 pts, 4; Ben Martin (Lawrence) 50.385 pts, 5; Sam Bryan (Darfield) 51.055 pts, 6.

Junior final (3 sheep): Brodie Horrell (Gore) 32.397 pts, 1; Darcy Tong (Taihape) 38.63 pts, 2; Jonah Collins (-) 41.819 pts, 3; Jonathan Painter (Pahiatua) 42.925 pts, 4; Mitchell Menzies (Ranfurly) 48.398 pts, 5; Fred Highton (England) 57.096 pts, 6.

Blade shearing:

Open final (4 sheep): Tony Dobbs (Fairlie) 49.691 pts, 1; Mike McConnell (Cave) 52.571 pts, 2; Phil Oldfield (Geraldine) 59.412 pts, 3; John Dalla (South Australia) 59.970 pts, 4; Ken French (Vic, Aust) 71.537 pts, 5; Billy Michelle (Timaru) 71.867 pts, 6.

Intermediate final (2 sheep): Wiremu Kihi (Springfield) 62.871 pts, 1; Marohi Kennedy (Kaikoura) 65.472 pts, 2; Andrew Murray (Australia) 74.898 pts, 3; Dallas Gorrie (Balclutha) 80.711 pts, 4; Emarina Watson (North Canterbury) 88.514 pts, 5; Paul Gallagher (Fairlie) 101.17 pts, 6.

Woolhandling:

Open final: Joel Henare (Gisborne/Dunedin) 69.556 pts, 1; Foonie Waihape (Gisborne) 100.58 pts, 2; Logan Kamura (Marton) 131.156 pts, 3; Tina Elers (Mataura) 138.844 pts, 4.

Senior final: Ebony Turipa (Gore) 96.588 pts, 1; Nova Kumeroa Elers (Mataura) 110.712 pts, 2; Lashara Anderson (Christchurch) 114.278 pts, 3; Maiden Elers (Mataura) 122.618 pts, 4.

Junior final: Tyler Hira (Onewhero) 82.38 pts, 1; Linda Duncan (Alexandra) 107.94 pts, 2; Shanae Daniels (-) 124.776 pts, 3; Autumn Hiri (Gore) 129.03 pts, 4.



These young chaps were quite good at Waimate in 1990. Anyone remember their names?



Waimate Shears President, Warren White reflects on fifty years of competition and the start of a new era in the purpose-built shearing pavilion.



Past winners at Waimate's NZ Spring Shears: Colin Gibson, John McCone, Barry Black, Brian Green, Brian Quinn, Lester Rowland, Richie Gould and Mike Boyd.

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Josef Winders an absolute first for shearing!

Southlander Josef Winders (had to be, with that surname!) a recently-graduated Hillary Scholar at the University of Waikato, is almost certainly the first person in the history of the world to receive a 'University Blue' for the sport of shearing! (Well, combined with his undoubted prowess in the sport of BMX riding.

Not only did he receive his Blues certificate at the September black-tie event, he was called onto the stage and interviewed by event host Jason Reeves while footage from the world shearing championships featured on the big screen over-head.

Shearing's editor, who happened to be in the hall to receive his own Blue (long service to University rugby) watched and listened in near disbelief as 'our sport' enjoyed some high level and intellectual appreciation rarely (and possibly never) seen before.

Josef came to the University of Waikato from Tussock Creek in Southland in 2014, to study in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. He first started BMX racing at the age of 14 and since then has amassed numerous awards and competed at national championship and international levels, including the 2013 world championships at Auckland.

Josef was very much a sporting all-rounder at school, excelling at rugby, soccer, cricket, kayaking and cross-country running. He has continued his rugby with the Hamilton Marist Club. He can also play the jazz trumpet and was involved in various stage productions at high school. And the shearing success that saw him get the Blue for



Southland's Josef Winders: University Blue for BMX racing and shearing, with the latter now starting to dominate his sporting interests.

both sports was his seventh placing in the All-Nations senior speedshear at the world championships in Invercargill back in February. He also took part in the intermediate competition alongside his brother, Gabriel.

Josef has worked for contractors Spain and Smith, and also Darin Forde in the south and, more recently, has been working for Sam and Emily Welch in North Waikato. He acknowledges the opportunities and encouragement received from Emily and Sam, as well as the tuition from Chas Tohiariki (Te Ako Wools) while in Southland.

Josef has now finished his University studies, graduating with a Bachelor of Science/Agribusiness degree. While he's not yet certain where that qualification might lead him career-wise, for the moment he's happy to do as much shearing as he can, and sometimes thinks how great it would be to maybe represent New Zealand at that sport some day.

Sporting ability is definitely in the Winders DNA. Josef's uncle Jeremy Winders played nearly 50 games of rugby as a loose forward for Southland during the 1990s; grandfather GB (Bert) Winders was a good tight forward in the 1950s and played for Southland against the 1956 Springboks.



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Woolly thinking

By Roger Leslie

Wool has been, and in my view still is, a valuable commodity. It has weathered many a storm of weather and market price. It's been worn by Sir Ed to the South Pole and to the top of Everest, and he wasn't past shearing the odd sheep himself.

Alternatives to wool have never really cut the mustard, though often cheaper, have not been able to match the qualities and environmental sustainability wool can boast. Synthetic is a beautifully descriptive word that can have the right amount of contempt applied as it rolls, crude oil-like, off the tongue.

Wool played a big part in the early economies and development of both NZ and Australia. My dad spoke with shining eyes of 'the late forties' when wool was worth a pound a pound – for some perspective, that's \$5 a kg at a time when you could build a four-bedroom home for £1825 (figures from Stats NZ), less than the value of four bales of wool.

While farming, my wife and I had 600 Drysdale wethers just for wool and they matched it easily with the other parts of the sheep and beef operation, for price per acre production.

Imagine my surprise when I went to Europe in the late eighties and found wool being burnt, given away, or sold anywhere from 7c/kg for schuken wool to \$2/kg for extremely high quality fibre.

Most just wanted the sheep shorn to get the wool off and found the fibre itself an annoying by-product, so it was hard to get anyone to treat it with any respect.

Latterly my wool manager has started a one-girl campaign to lift the game and quality of wool being offered to the



market. She introduced a wool-mark style stamp of approval system, telling the shepherds to let the buyer know it was she that had sorted it so it was worth a decent price.

Her rudimentary German quickly developed into assertive fluency around subjects like dags, rocks and assorted farm rubbish being included in the clip. She was also particularly scornful of black fleeces being put in the middle of the bale so they couldn't be seen. Foolishly they would try to argue that rubbish prices deserved rubbish product, but she would retort, 'rubbish prices are because of rubbish product.'

We saw an amazing variety of things happening to wool. At the high end, one enterprising woman was washing and brushing the clip from her four sheep and selling it on the internet for \$30kg. I asked her how many hours she had put into this and she just laughed and said 'you wouldn't want to know'. At the other end, diesel was being poured on wool and the resulting blaze used as a part of May Day celebrations.

There was also a wide variation in the treatment (or lack) of dags. Some wander shepherds just didn't care about them and didn't appear to be able to see or hear them hanging lushly by the kilogram on the long tails. The lambs of such sheep usually needed dagged at both ends. Other shepherds always had clean sheep. One, whose name was ironically Mr Green, told me he caught the worst six sheep each day and trimmed them up. He had a small set of shears on his belt and although small in stature, could catch and flip a massive ewe over with a flick of his crook.

He was outraged that we might see even one dag on German sheep.

Years ago we shored a mob of double fleeced, seriously cotted heideschnukens. All 450 were in a single pen in the scrubby moorlands, so the helpers were hard pressed keeping the sheep up, let alone dealing with the wool. Soon the fleeces were getting thrown out of the pen and finally kicked.

Being a soccer playing nation, the lads were very good at this and soon warmed to the skill-set required in getting the fleeces to land on top of the growing wool mountain. It was a spectacular sight, fleeces flying through the air trailing comet tails of second cuts and assorted debris. I'm not sure what happened to that wool but it was still sitting there as we left. A Matterhorn of wool.

A woman once told me 'the key to wool appreciation, as with most things, is with the children.' She backed this up with action and invited a teacher friend to bring her class round each time we were there. Judging by the excitement of the kids each time, this farm visit seemed to be one of the high points of their year (see photo).

The shearing was forgotten as the wool manager became the teacher and enthralled the students with stories of wool harvesting in New Zealand. Of over a thousand fleeces in a day being thrown, skirted, rolled, classed and pressed. They stood in wide-eyed wonder and each reverently received a lock for themselves to take home.

I heard the host give some parting advice as they left: 'Tell your mothers to look at how much wool is in the clothes before they buy. This called woolly thinking!'

Indeed.

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Managing hazardous substances

New Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 came into force on 1 December 2017. The changes aim to reduce both the immediate harm to people and longer-term illness caused by hazardous substances in the workplace.

It's no small matter. A hazardous substance is any product or chemical that has explosive, flammable, oxidising, toxic or corrosive properties – and they're everywhere. Around one in three New Zealand workplaces use, manufacture, handle or store them. This includes factories, farmers and growers, as well as printers, collision repairers, hairdressers and retailers. They are in commonly used products such as fuels and LPG, solvents, cleaning solutions and agrichemicals.

'Used safely, hazardous substances can contribute to the nation's economic growth and prosperity,' says WorkSafe's General Manager Operations and Specialist Services Brett Murray. 'But they also pose real risks to the people working with or around them. The harm from inhaling toxic vapours or having contact with some substances is often unseen. Workers may be unaware they are being exposed, and the effects of exposure may not be seen for many years.'

Hazardous substances are a major contributor to the estimated 600-900 deaths and 30,000 cases of serious ill health from work-related disease each year in New Zealand. This is in addition to fatalities and immediate harm through accidents, such as fires and explosions, and unsafe use.

'It's time this changed,' says Mr Murray. 'The Regulations bring an expectation on all those working with hazardous substances to know what those substances are, the risks they pose and how to manage those risks.'

What's changed? On 1 December the rules for managing hazardous substances in the workplace moved from the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO) to the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA). Many of the existing requirements will continue. However there are some changes to improve the management of these substances at work.

'If you use or store these substances, you need to look at what has changed under the new Regulations to ensure you are meeting your obligations to protect workers,' Mr Murray says.

As well as looking at what is changing, Mr Murray says people need to remember there is already legislation in place they should be complying with.

'If you are following the current rules, you may only need to do a few things differently, but now is the ideal time to review your management of hazardous substances and ensure you are doing your duty to protect people from harm.'

'Businesses will already be familiar with the HSWA approach to managing work-related health and safety risks. This now includes hazardous substances. It's another step in helping to ensure our people get home healthy and safe.'

WorkSafe's website has information, guidance and FAQs. Its online Hazardous Substances Toolbox has tools to help. You can also subscribe to the Hazardous Substances Update.

The Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 are available on the New Zealand Legislation website. (*Nicky Barton*)

Questions and Answers

When did the Regulations come into force?

1 December 2017. There are some later commencement dates and transitional arrangements that have been summarised on the WorkSafe website.

What are hazardous substances?

Hazardous Substances are substances that are explosive, flammable, oxidising, toxic, or corrosive. (Substances toxic to the environment will continue to be regulated by the Environmental Protection Authority under the HNSO regime.) A hazardous substance may be a single chemical or a mixture of both hazardous and non-hazardous chemicals.

Why this change?

Hazardous substances were identified by the Independent Task Force on Workplace Health and Safety (set up after the Pike River Mine explosion) as a key area of work-related health and safety that needs to improve.

The reforms will help reduce both immediate harm and longer term illnesses caused by the work-related use of hazardous substances. It will do this by simplifying the regulatory landscape for hazardous substances. This will make it simpler for businesses to understand their obligations and comply with the law by bringing different sets of rules together into one place.

What's changed?

The rules for the work-related use of hazardous substances move from the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996 to regulations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA). Responsibility for administering those rules will shift from the Environmental Protection Authority to WorkSafe New Zealand. The regulations came into force on 1 December 2017.

It's not about wholesale change. The work-related regulation of hazardous substances is moving from one Act and set of regulations to another, but with some changes. If you are complying with the current hazardous substances law, then you may not need to change a lot but this is an important time for all businesses to review their processes for keeping people safe around hazardous substances.

Who does it affect?

Organisations and individuals that manufacture, use, handle, store or supply hazardous substances. Some of the changes relate to specific substances, substance classes or quantities. The regulations also place duties on those who design, manufacture, construct, import, supply, install, or use equipment, such as tanks and cylinders used to contain hazardous substances, and their fittings.

What does it mean for the rules relating to the environment?

Environmental controls for hazardous substances will remain under the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

Shearing magazine

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No Boyle-over at Alex

Bt Doug Laing (Shearing Sports New Zealand)

Australian shearer Damien Boyle won his seventh New Zealand Open Merino shearing championships title in eight years at the opening event of the 2017-2018 shearing sports season at Alexandra on 6 October.

Shearing on stand No 5 in the Saturday night final at Molyneux Stadium, against five others who have all represented New Zealand in trans-Tasman shearing tests, Boyle needed the best of the quality points after being well-beaten on time by Invercargill shearer Troy Pyper, who was facing down the board from stand No 6, and just pipped by Alexandra veteran Dion Morrell, on stand No 1. But it was ultimately a clear victory, by nine points for the Western Australian shearing in his trademark sling to support his back. He had won the final six-times in a row from 2010-2015.

When all time and quality points were calculated, Pyper had to settle for second place in a close battle with Stratford, who was third, and fourth-placed Colin O'Neill, of Alexandra. Chris Vickers, of Palmerston, was fifth, and Dion Morrell, of Alexandra, sixth.

Stratford, O'Neill and Morrell grabbed one back for their Kiwi fans when they won a trans-Tasman merino test match against Boyle, Beau Guelfi and Callum O'Brien.

World champion woolhandler Joel Henare, from Gisborne, started his new season with two wins on the way to a target to reach a career tally of 100 Open final victories. He regained the Merino championships Open woolhandling title, with a win over runner-up and 2015 and 2016 winner Pagan Karauria, daughter of shearer Morrell, and also beat Karauria and Te Kuiti woolhandler Keryn Herbert.

Third place in Saturday night's final went to Monica Potae, of Milton, and fourth was surprise finalist Kelly Macdonald.

The championships attracted 126 entries, with 51 in the two shearing classes and 75 in the three woolhandling classes.

Trans-Tasman Invitation Test: New Zealand (Nathan Stratford, Dion Morrell, Colin O'Neill) 235.3045pts, beat Perth (Damien Boyle, Beau Guelfi, Callum O'Brien) 260.1085pts.

New Zealand Merino Shears Open: (12 sheep): Damien Boyle (West Australia) 104.74 pts, 1; Troy Pyper (Invercargill) 113.82 pts, 2; Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 114.03 pts 3; Colin O'Neill (Alexandra) 114.87 pts, 4; Chris Vickers (Palmerston) 116.02 pts, 5; Dion Morrell (Alexandra) 117.75 pts, 6.

New Zealand Merino Shears Senior (5 sheep): Vahni Stringer (Ranfurly) 116.98 pts, 1; Mitchell Murray (Amberley) 119.84 pts, 2; Alex Smith (Rakaia) 124.16 pts, 3; Luke Pablecheque 126.63 pts, 4; Shane Clemens (Waiau) 129.84 pts, 5; Pagan Karauria (Alexandra) 147.80 pts, 6.

Woolhandling:

Open final: Joel Henare (Gisborne/Dunedin) 107.662 pts, 1; Pagan Karauria (Alexandra) 179.456 pts, 2; Monica Potae (Milton) 203.744 pts, 3; Kelly Macdonald (Lake Hawea) 241.338 pts, 4.

Senior final: Ebony Turipa (Gore) 148.906pts, 1; Krystal Gulliver (Gore) 185.69pts, 2; Teresa Aporo (Martinborough) 227.332pts, 3; Tawhai Cannell (Gisborne) 243.47pts, 4.

Junior final: Linda Duncan (Alexandra) 123.306pts, 1; Paige Adams (Masterton) 225.34pts, 2; Autumn Waihape (Gore) 233.65pts, 3; Renee Porter (Gisborne) 349pts, 4.

Golden Fleece Woolhandler of the Year: Joel Henare (Gisborne/Dunedin) 122.344 pts, 1; Pagan Karauria (Alexandra) 168.106 pts, 2; Keryn Herbert (Te Awamutu/Te Kuiti) 177.806 pts, 3.



Opposite: Ready, steady, handpiece go! Above: Troy Pyper – best New Zealander in the New Zealand Merino Shears open final but a long way behind the best Aussie.



Action from New Zealand Merino Shears, Alexandra, 2017. Top left: Dave Carr, Tina Rimene and Robyne Murray exchanging gifts under the table. Above: Erana Smith takes careful aim. Top right: Beau Guelfi lays them low in the trans-Tasman challenge. Bottom right: Dion Morrell and Pagan Karauria demonstrate teamwork, whanau style. (Barbara Newton photos)



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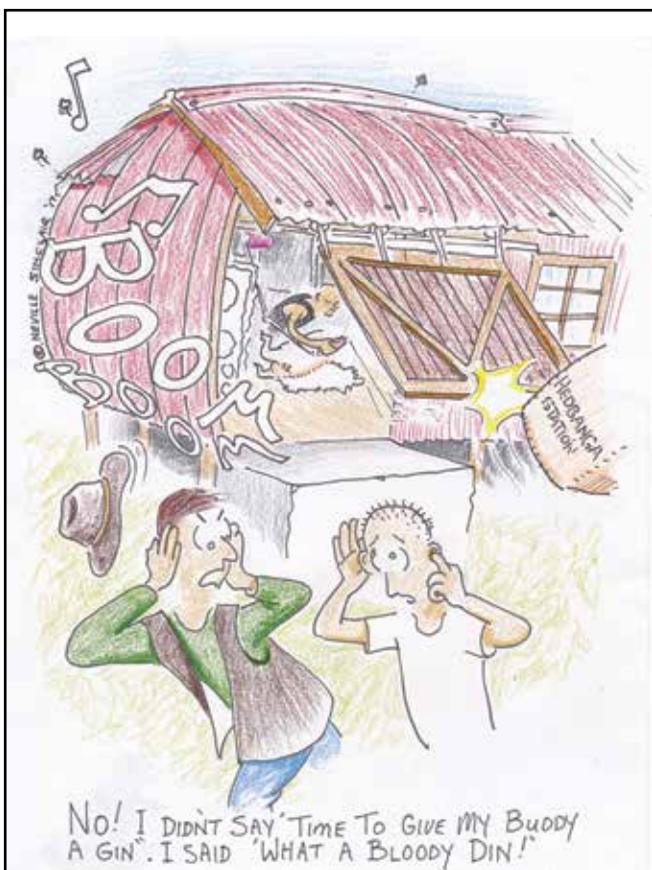
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More action from Alex 2017. Top left: Robyne Murray and Tina Rimene, teams event action. Top right: Perfect Rhythm displaying ... pefect rhythm. Above: Kelly MacDonald with one eye on the prize and one eye on the sparrow (that's an old Mickey Newbury song!)



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Rural Sports Awards Time Again

Entries are now being called for the Norwood New Zealand Rural Sports Awards, New Zealand's premier celebration of rural sports athletes.

There are five prestigious award categories:

- The Norwood New Zealand Rural Sportsman of the Year
- The Skellerup New Zealand Sportswoman of the Year
- The Fonterra Young New Zealand Rural Sports person of the Year
- The Federated Farmers Contribution to the New Zealand Rural Sports Industry
- The Toyota Lifetime Legacy Award.

Nominations close on 31 January 2018.

The Norwood New Zealand Rural Sports Awards are run by the New Zealand Rural Games Trust and will be held at Awapuni on Friday 9 March 2018, the night before the Hilux New Zealand Rural Games in Palmerston North where nominees and winners will be competing.

Margaret Kouvelis, Chair of the New Zealand Rural Games Trust, says the awards are designed to raise the profile of traditional sports like wood chopping, shearing, tree climbing and sheepdog trials and also recognise the important role such sports play in New Zealand society.

Our top rural sportspeople are among the best athletes in New Zealand,' Kouvelis says. 'Last year the inaugural winner of the Rural Sportsman of the Year, Rowland Smith, went on to break a world shearing record in England.

'We aim to showcase their talent, dedication and success at competing on the world stage in their chosen rural sporting discipline,' she says.

Things looking a bit Grey? Where to get help

Lifeline (open 24/7) – 0800 543 354

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

Healthline (open 24/7) – 0800 611 116

Samaritans (open 24/7) – 0800 726 666

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'I would like to thank our naming sponsor Norwood for their support and the various rural sports associations and volunteers around the country for their tireless work staging events and promoting their sports.'

Tim Myers, Chief Executive Officer at CB Norwood Distributors, says many of our rural sports people are better known internationally than at home.

'Norwood is proud to be naming rights sponsor and sponsor of the Rural Sportsman of the Year award – we want to highlight the hard work and dedication of our rural athletes.'

Nominations for the awards are made by rural sports associations from throughout Aotearoa.

Rural sports associations are invited to nominate athletes for the Norwood New Zealand Rural Sports Awards presented by the New Zealand Rural Games Trust together with strategic partner, Federated Farmers of New Zealand.

Nominees will be shortlisted by a judging panel chaired by former All Black captain and World Cup winning coach, Sir Brian Lochore, who is also a founding board member of the New Zealand Rural Games Trust.

The other judges are rural sports icon and president of Shearing Sports New Zealand Sir David Fagan, Olympic equestrian medallist Judy 'Tinks' Pottinger, MP for Taranaki-King Country Barbara Kuriger, founder and trustee of the Hilux New Zealand Rural Games Steve Hollander and respected agricultural journalists Craig 'Wiggy' Wiggins, Tony Leggett and Jamie Mackay, who will also MC the event.

Tickets to the Norwood New Zealand Rural Sports Awards dinner are now available. You can register with Nicky Vallender at Event-It on 021 033 5605 or obtain more information from Margaret Kouvelis on 021 556 383.



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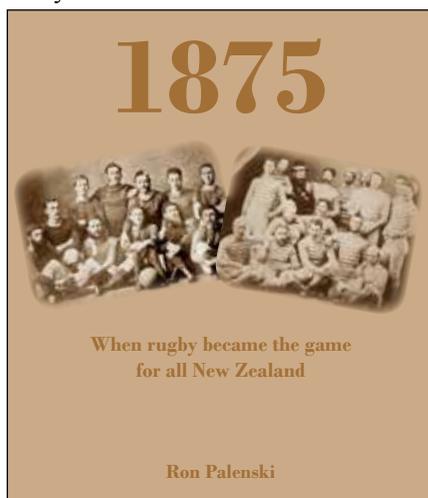
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Books review

1875 – When rugby became the game for all New Zealand by Ron Palenski

If you are searching for the answer to some rugby or other sporting fact or figure, chances are you will be delving into one of Ron Palenski's many books to find what you are looking for. Along the way you might discover a few other things you didn't know. From biographies on the likes of Graham Mourie, Dave Loveridge and Jeff Wilson, Ron's broader rugby publications have generally been of epic proportions, exemplified by *Our National Game* (1990), *The Jersey* (2001), *Century in Black* (2003), *All Blacks v Lions* (2005), *All Black Myths and Legends* (2008) and *Rugby – A New Zealand History* (2012), all of which sit large and heavy and in pride of place on many a bookshelf.



But now Ron has gone to the opposite end of the wide rugby spectrum and produced the first detailed account of a match played between Auckland and Otago at Dunedin in 1875. Because both teams contained players from more than one club, this is generally regarded as the first provincial rugby match played in New Zealand.

In stark contrast to the titles listed above, this is a slim little volume of 66 pages in which Ron relates how the Auckland team travelled via coastal steamer on its first internal tour, with matches against clubs at New Plymouth (not played because of late arrival) and Wellington before the historic match at Dunedin. The return journey was to include further games at Christchurch, Nelson and New Plymouth.

The match itself took place at the Oval before a crowd of some 3000, with the Aucklanders clad in blue and white jerseys and Otago in crimson jerseys, white knickerbockers and crimson socks. The scoring as agreed between the two teams – a goal worth six points, a touchdown two points and half a point to the attacking team for a 'forcedown' when the defending team was forced to ground the ball within its own in-goal area (22 dropout in today's language.)

Ron Palenski's research on this match in 1875 'When rugby became the game for all New Zealand' extends to mini biographies on all but a couple of the players, for whom life details could not be found. Arguably, the best known player to take part in the match was the explorer Quinton McKinnon, with geographic features Lake Mackinnon and Mackinnon Pass in Fiordland National Park named after him (despite the variant spelling).

So, who scored the first try (touchdown) in New Zealand provincial rugby? That might be a question in the next pub sports quiz, so best you buy a copy of this little book to find the answer!

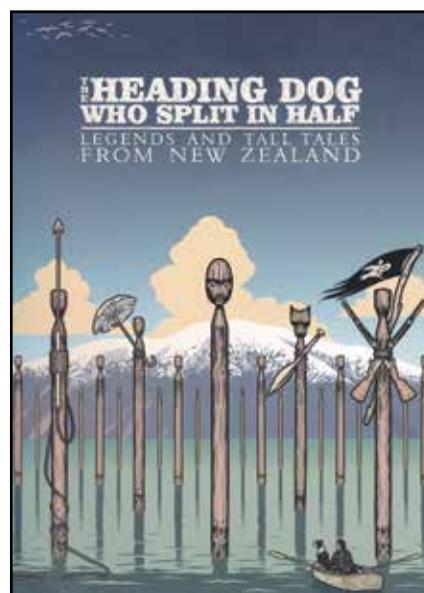
1875 – When rugby became the game for all New Zealand, by Dr Ron Palenski ONZM. Published by Last Side Publishing, PO Box 102, Hamilton 3240. Price \$25.00 includes postage. Order by email to shearingmag@xtra.co.nz

The Heading Dog Who Split in Half by Michael Brown and Mat Tait.

In terms of its size and production, *The Heading Dog Who Split in Half* is about as far from the story of rugby in 1875 as you could get. Fullscap in size with 156 pages containing seven tales tall and true written by Wellington's Michael Brown, all illustrated cartoon comic style by Mat Tait from Motueka.

The title story tells the story of a heading dog, a very fast heading dog. 'Like Bards of old, South Island sheep musterers are rather inclined to spin yarns about their toils. It's tough work bringing mobs of sheep down from high altitude grazing – for shearing or before the winter snows set in.

'Dogs are indispensable for the task, and those with the skills to subdue half-



wild merinos can acquire legendary reputations.'

It is many moons ago now, but the dog was a legend in the high country by the time it was three years old – so fast when running out to head sheep it could not be seen by the naked eye.'

And so unfolds the first of the stories in this neat book. The others all have enchanting titles – The Princess and the Come-ashore Whaler, The Legend of Tunnel Beach, A Tale of old Waihi, The Phantom Canoe and the Day the [Wopakiwi] Pub Burned Down.

A book to suit a wide age range, I suggest, from early teens to those old retired musterers sunning themselves somewhere in Central Otago or Hawkes Bay. Published by Potton & Burton in 2015, *The Day the Heading Dog Split in Half* is available from bookstores and Michael Brown for \$35.00 plus postage. Email Michael at actrix.co.nz for further details.



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Prepping for (shearing) after doomsday?

By Tom Harding

Some experts believe that the world is now closer to nuclear war than it has ever been before. North Korea has developed and successfully tested intercontinental ballistic missiles, potentially capable of hitting mainland USA, and also capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

They proved long ago that they've successfully developed nuclear weapons and in the past year their progress has been close to exponential. A series of highly provocative nuclear and missile tests, including actually firing missiles through Japanese air space has bought tensions close to breaking point.

This would be worrying enough with a cool-headed, stable leader like Obama still in the White House, but . . . Trump? His rhetoric has ranged from the apocalyptic language of 'fire and fury' to the likes of 'Little Rocket-Man'. At one point the tit-for-tat daily insults being traded between him and Kim Jong-un must have been embarrassing for Americans and North Koreans alike, and for the rest of us would have been downright funny if so much wasn't at stake. The Russians hit the nail on the head that week when they compared it to listening to a couple of schoolboys fighting in a playground.

At first impressions it's easy to think that Kim Jong-un is off his head, but many analysts believe he's not as mad as he seems: he's seen what the Americans do to dictators they don't like (think Saddam Hussein) and making war on the Korean Peninsula utterly unthinkable is possibly the best way for him to guarantee his own safety.

The world is like a highly-loaded chess board of nuclear-armed nations, currently all just about holding each other in check. It stays that way because of mutually assured destruction and the fact that no world leader wants to go down in history as the person who started the great nuclear war. But the trouble is if some unexpected event triggers a flare-up in tensions – some situation arises where neither side can back down without losing face and things escalate out of control – all of a sudden all hell could break loose. It won't just be about the USA vs North Korea anymore; Russia and/or China might decide it's an opportune time to assert themselves as the global super-power; Israel could decide it's the ideal cover to launch a pre-emptive strike on Iran; and Pakistan and India have got issues too.

Countries are just like men in a rough bar when it comes to conflict: the three hardest men in the room are happy to let the tension simmer between them for now – although Russia's wearing ever tighter-fitting shirts and increasingly

standing like he's carrying a Scania tyre under each arm, none of them particularly wants a fight to break out because they know none of them would come out of it without getting badly hurt. But North Korea is the cantankerous little weasel in the corner who, although he knows full well he'll get knocked clean out, enjoys stirring up trouble and might just be mad enough to throw the first punch that kicks it all off.

People who prepare for doomsday scenarios like this are known somewhat pejoratively as 'preppers', and to be fair it probably is a bit pointless: if a fifty-megaton hydrogen bomb hits your town and vaporises you, your house and everything in it then having three weeks' supply of food and a water purifying kit under the stairs isn't going to help much.

If global conflict on this scale does break out however, one thing that will be hit for certain is international manufacturing and trade. Everything is so global today that even a factory 'out in the sticks' will be dependent on parts or materials from overseas, not to mention energy supplies.

Us folk in rural communities, and especially most of this magazine's readers in New Zealand, will have more chance than anyone if the worst happens, but keeping good stockpiles of shearing gear, especially combs, cutters, grinding papers and glue could be quite prudent; if it does kick off you won't just be able to buy them at the local store anymore.

And with interest rates so low, holding stocks of gear can make financial sense anyway – \$1,000 worth of gear bought today could cost \$1,200 in a year's time if prices happen to rise sharply: would that same \$1,000 have earned you \$200 in a savings account over the same period?

Hopefully it'll never happen, but it doesn't hurt to be prepared ... does it? Just a thought.



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Legendary Shearers' Reunion

By Valerie Hobson OAM

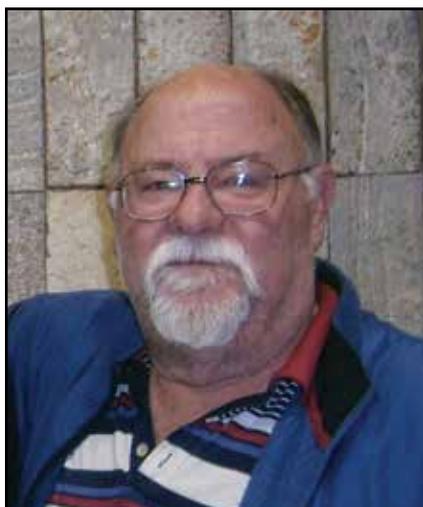
The Legendary Shearers' Reunion was convened by Lance Degenhardt for 30 September – 1 October 2017. It was wonderful for these older shearers to again enjoy competitive shearing and the camaraderie of the shearing environment. Lance invited me to come over from Western Australia.

Lance asked Broken Hill local historian Paul Armstrong to put together two A4 booklets on Broken Hill. One listed competition shearers – current and past – and the other the story of Broken Hill (the Silver City), Australia's first heritage listed city.

Sixty-five year old Paul is the third generation of his family to be born in Broken Hill. He has a fascination with history and at school began collecting sheep ear tags and has 1800 from all over Australia. Local paper *The Barrier Miner* asked him to write a history column and when it closed four years later *The Barrier Daily Truth* invited him to write stories about the city, architecture, characters and important people. He has published a couple of books, about 20 historical DVDs with photos and as well written about 250 short stories about Broken Hill and the surrounding outback country.

Paul was responsible for setting up the two books and he quietly got on gathering stories of the many competition shearers from the past 50 or more years from Queensland, New South Wales; Victoria; South Australia and Western Australia.

Many forwarded their stories and others he enjoyed writing himself and showed his deep respect for the shearers and their love of the shearing industry. Altogether there are 38 – including



Paul Armstrong

two women shearers and a cook – with their stories and photos. Outstanding are champions Cameron Griffiths, Ian Elkins and Philip Pretlove, to name a few. Cameron wrote of the development the Sunbeam shearing equipment.

The other book *The Silver City* is the story of how this isolated mining town in the far west of New South Wales, surrounded by the Barrier Ranges and in the midst of pastoral leases, was named Broken Hill and became known as Silver City.

The story of how boundary rider Charles Rasp picked up a rock which was part of a line of lode on a broken hill in the Barrier Ranges in 1883. Six others joined him in pegging leases. Thus began a story of riches and personal disaster. On 3 June 1884 Broken Hill Propriety Limited was formed. Paul covered the growth of the Australian Workers' Union and bitter battles between shearers and pastoralists as they endeavoured to

reach an agreement. Miners had their own battles for working conditions. Paul included some extremely moving stories.

Paul researched library archives and old newspapers on Trove in Canberra for information. The book is well endowed with local historical photos as well as adverts in recognition of the sponsors for the event. Preparing the book for printing took considerable time—while Lance attended to the shearing competition.

Shearing Sports NZ Calendar 2018

January: 13 Peninsula-Duvauchelle; 14 Tauranga A&P; 19 Northern Southland, Lumsden; 20 Wairoa A&P, Kaikohe AP&H; Golden Bay A&P; Southland Shears, Winton; 21 Horowhenua; 27 Warkworth, Tapawera, Taihape; 28 Agrodome, Rotorua.

February: 2 Dannevirke A&P; 3 Reefton A&P, North Kaipara, Rangitikei Sports Shears Marton; 6 Aria; 9-10 Otago Shears, Balclutha; 10 Te Puke, Northern Wairoa; 16-17 Southern Shears, Gore; 17 Murchison, North Hokianga, Ohura; 18 Counties Shears; 23 Taumarunui; 24 Apiti, Kaikoura A&P; 25 Pahiatua; 28 Pre-Shears woolhandling.

March: 1-3 Golden Shears; 3 Amuri A&P; 10 Kumeu, Mayfield A&P, Cheviot A&P; 11 Sefton; 16 Taranaki Shears, Stratford; 17 Methven Lamb Shears, Waimarino; 24 Waitomo Caves; 25 Flaxbourne A&P; 30/31 Royal Easter Show, Auckland; 31 Oxford.

April: 2 MacKenzie Shears, Fairlie; 5-7 New Zealand Championships, Te Kuiti.



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From all around the world they came ...

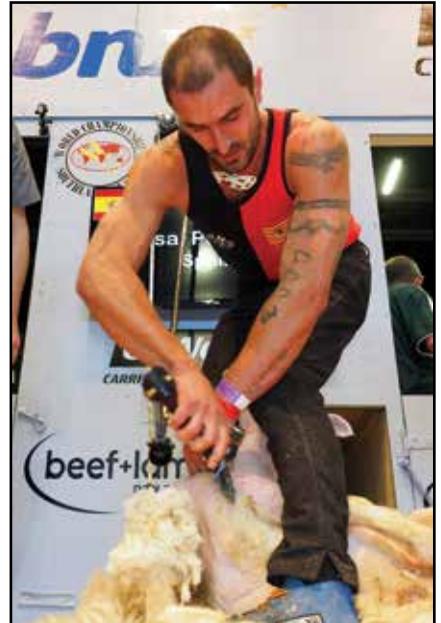


Descending:
Dean Nelmes (England)
Emanuel Gulde (Germany)
Hilary Bond (England)

Descending:
Didier Gitenait (France)
George Graham (Ireland)
Ian Jones (Wales)



Descending:
Ekkehard Reinprecht (Austria)
Gianmarco Scocozza (Italy)
Ian Montgomery (Northern Ireland)



Descending:
Stefanie Kauschus (Germany)
Robyn Charlton (Wales)
Monika Pfuner (Austria)

Descending:
Peedo Fiks (Estonia)
Simon Lenord (Austria)
Luis Pincol (Chile)



Descending:
Mehis Tamsalu (Estonia)
Luis Sorrosal Postigo (Spain)
Simon Zaugg (Switzerland)



Descending:
Kevin Ford (USA)
Joseba Ugalde Olabarri (Spain)
Leann Brimmer (USA)

Descending:
Keiran Jones (Isle of Man)
Karel Svarc (Czech Republic)
Jose Luis Catalan (Chile)



Descending:
Kjetil Torland (Norway)
Kenneth Storm Klausen (Norway)
Loic Leygonie (France)



World championships attenders: Jeannette from the Falklands; Marek Marco (Slovakia) and Rainer Blumelhuber (Germany)



Reba Peck (Falklands) hard at work ... so okay you Aussies - back to work!

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Senior speed-shearing finalists at the All-Nations event held during the world championships at Invercargill. Left: Richard Waddell (Lister/Acto Agriculture, sponsor); Hugh de Lacy, Nick Greaves, Aaron Bell, Lee Harris, Jade Maguire, Raehana Hokianga, Josef Winders and Tom Brewer.



Ype Van der Woude (The Netherlands)



Finalists in the NZ Shearing Contractors' All-Nations open woolhandling competition at Invercargill in February 2017. From left: Jamie McConachie (NZSCA President), Joel Henare, Pagan Karauria, Tia Potae, Robyn Charlton (Wales), Angelique Miller, Dallas Mihaere and Hon. Nathan Guy (Minister of Agriculture). Opposite: Spanish woolhandler Taoya Rossel.





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