

Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

Number 108: (Vol 38, No 1) April 2022
ISSN 1179-9455 (online)



Pressing the wool at the Shear4Blair 24-hour Shearathon, Mitchell Hancox and Steve Bradley, just two of the dozens who came together at Wohelo Station, Moa Flat, West Otago on Waitangi Weekend, February 2022 and raised \$200,000 for the Southland Charity Hospital. Others from left: Chris Vickers, Zach Manihera and Paige Adams.



Last Side Publishing
Hamilton, New Zealand

Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

Number 108: (Vol 38, No 1) April 2022

ISSN 1179 - 9455 (online)

UNDER COVER STORY

Greetings readers and Facebook followers – welcome to *Shearing* mag number 108 (digital number seven). Again, we hope the range of stories gathered up for this edition will provide something of interest for everyone.

You will note at pages 39 and 40, tributes to the late David Grace, who owned and produced ‘The Mag’ as he affectionately called it, from 1989 to 2000. David had taken it over from the New Zealand Shearing Contractors’ Association and turned it into a privately-owned business.

When we sought some retrospective comments from David a couple of years ago to mark our 100th edition, he said he felt he’d ‘done a bit of good in encouraging shearers and woolhandlers to organise to get better rates and conditions.

‘These men and women have given so much to our country and they deserve better recognition for their talent,’ he said.

‘Given so much to our country ...’. David died on 16 February, ten days after the Shear4Blair 24-hour shearathon that raised \$200,000 over Waitangi weekend for the Blair Vining-inspired Southland Charity Hospital. One suspects, however, that David probably wasn’t aware of that happening.

But wasn’t that just a wonderful example of the way our people are prepared to give so much when the cause is right and they can use those unique skills to advantage for raising funds and raising awareness of issues.

For that reason, we have devoted five pages at the end of this edition to the people who made the Shearathon happen with such stunning success. That’s by far the most coverage we have ever given any topic, made possible only by our digital format. It could not have happened under the old 40-page printed format. (Must be even this old codger is getting used to the idea of not have the paper in hand!) And it couldn’t possibly have been made to happen by any other trade, industry, community or segment of society.

As usual, we have to bid farewell to other champions of our industry – Tom Brough, Harry Hughes – and James Smail, only half the age of Tom and Harry, who carried the hand that fate had dealt him with unbelievable courage and dignity.

Keep well, see you in August 2022.

Ka kite ano
Des Williams (editor)

Publisher: Last Side Publishing Ltd, Box 102, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand. Tel 0274 833 465.

Email: shearingmag@xtra.co.nz

Copyright: All material subject to usual arrangements.

CONTENTS

3	Heiniger advertisement
4	Aria Shears photo essay
6	NZ Woolclassers Association
7	The amazing Paddy Tuppin
9	Delwyn Jones giving back
11	Lister advertisement
12	Northern Southland’s 40 years
14	Quailburn
17	Agrodome Shears photo essay
20	Remembering Evan Malyon
23	Tally day at Christie’s
25	Tom Brough tributes
29	‘Blown out of the water’ record
34	Ellesmere man in Wales 1961
35	Harry Hughes tribute
36	Shearing time at Waihuka
38	Te Whare tapa wha
39	David Grace tributes
40	Tia Potae Woman of Influence
41	‘Old Bloke’ Les wins Golden Blades
42	National Circuit finals
43	Jim Morris sets the stage
45	Haere ra ‘Jimmy Eknows’
48	Heiniger advertisement
49	Ron Anderson of Mt Algidus
51	More for Aussie Hall of Fame
54	Richard Gavigan back in wool
57	The Waimate Incident
59	Three Mighty Quinns
60	Scott Clearwater battles on
63	Do we need a Hall of Fame?
64	British Wool report
65	Shear4Blair 24-hour shearathon

Photo Credits:

A History of Wool p39 (inset); *A River Rules my Life* p49, 53; Barbara Newton cover, p12, 13 (Quailburn), 63, 64, 65, 66; Bernie Walker collection p7, 44, 51; Cameron Mochrie p55; Doug Laing p42; Elite Wool Industry Training p58; Gabriela Schmidt-Morrell p38; Internet p34, 40, 52 (Mifsuds); Jayne Harkness Bones p9; Jenny Campbell p12, 23, 24; Joanne Crawford p60; Lorraine Brough p26, 27; Lorraine McCabe p22 (Agrodome); Marg Forde p39; Richard Gavigan p54; Shaun Burgess p16; Sue Muir p20; Te Potae p46; Tom Harding p20 (Tressie). All others *Shearing* magazine/Last Side Publishing Ltd.

Next edition due 7 August 2022.
Deadline for all material two weeks prior.

Heiniger

REVOLUTIONARY EXTRAS

TO PROTECT & MAINTAIN YOUR EVO SHEARING PLANT



NEW *TRANSPORTER* SERIES

NEW

Evo Shearing Plant Transporter

Conveniently carry and protect your Evo during transport with our Shearing PlantTransporters, made from durable, heavy duty and weather resistant material to shield your most expensive shearing asset.

900-310



NEW

Evo Downtube Transporter

Easily carry and keep your downtube safe from damage during transport with our DowntubeTransporters, made from the same tough, weather resistant material as our EvoTransporters. The thick, padded end offers complete protection for your downtube drive, and the strong velcro flap secures your downtube in place.

900-311



Evo Cover

Protect your installed Evo and downtube in the shed too with our protective covers, made from durable, hard wearing material with a drawstring fastener for secure fit and protection from the elements.

Fits the Evo and most modern shearing plants.

900-300



Evo Service Kit

Keep your Evo running smoothly with an Evo Service Kit containing all the parts you need to carry out a full Evo Shearing Plant service.

722-957

NEW

Shearing Oil

Protects and extends the life of your equipment, maintains peak gear performance and prevents overheating. Suitable for high and low temperature environments and reduces residue and corrosion with low foaming formula.

719-036



Heiniger New Zealand | (03) 349 8282 | heiniger.co.nz



Action from the Aria Shearing Sports on Waitangi Day (6 February) when rain proved to be no deterrent for competitors, judges or spectators. **Top left:** Tess Fagan competing in the junior woolhandling. **Above:** Giving new meaning to the phrase, 'judging out the back'. This escapee was eventually mustered close enough for judge Michael Hegglin to do his assessment. No extra charge for travel. **Top right:** Ngahuia Salmond, junior woolhandling winner. **Middle:** Edwin Perry judging, Heath Barnsdall shearing and Keisha Ruki woolhandling. **Opposite:** Keeping time in the rain – Connor Woolston and friends.



MID/SOUTH CANTERBURY

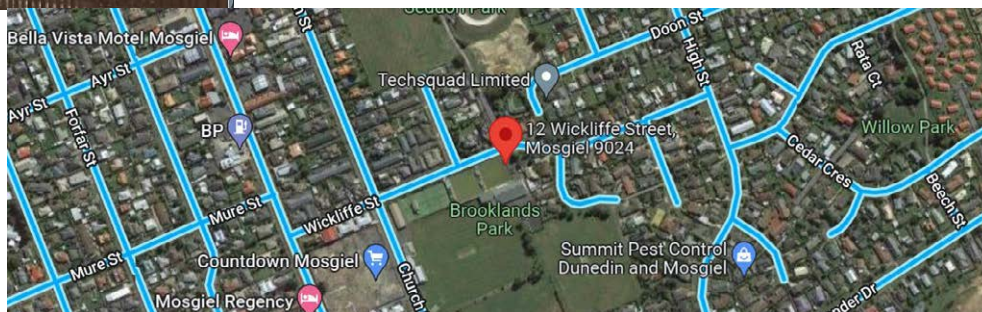
Requires quality shearers and woolhandlers for permanent or seasonal work. Good rates offered, must be drug free.

Phone Tony 027 693 3010

*More Waitangi Day action from Aria. **Top left:** Stella Allen proved best of the two novice shearers on the day and (**middle left**) also competed in the junior woolhandling. **Top right:** Todd Oliver enjoying his stint judging out the back, under shelter. ('What do you think Mr Cameraman? Looks like a six to me.' **Middle:** Aleisha Te Huia taking care of the wool. **Above:** The 'Up and Comers' competition provided a highlight of the day – Tama Maguire, Rikihana Salmond, Ngahuaia Salmond and Rikihana Mason (all six years of him!)*



**NZ WOOLCLASSERS ASSOCIATION INVITES
YOU TO OUR CLASSER PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY/AGM – THURSDAY MAY 5TH
VENUE – TAIERI BOWLS CLUBROOM, 12 WICKLIFFE ST,
MOSGIEL**



**THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY IS DESIGNED FOR OUR MEMBERS BUT WILL BE OF
INTEREST/BENEFIT TO ALL INVOLVED IN THE WOOL AND WOOL HARVESTING INDUSTRY**
Pre-registration is essential MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
NZWCA MEMBERS NO CHARGE – NON-MEMBERS \$25 – lunch included

8am to 8.25am – **Registration**, to qualify for free attendance your membership must be paid and current for 2022
8.25am to 8.30am – **Welcome & Health and Safety briefing**
8.30am to 9.45am – **Wool Exercises**: Style, yield, micron, oddment recognition
9.45am to 10am – **Morning Smoko**
10am to lunchtime – **Speakers**
12 noon to 12.45pm – **Lunch** provided (over lunch you will have the chance to carry on the wool exercises, completed entry papers to be handed in before afternoon session commences)
12.45pm to 1.30pm – **AGM - Wool Classer 2021 Season Awards and Life Membership Award** NZWCA has been advocating for members and promoting industry collaboration and education for the wool harvesting industry. Be there to hear what your executive and board have to say.
1.30pm – 2.15pm – **Wool Exercise group marking, discussion, questions + exercise winners announced**
2.15pm – 3.15pm – **Speakers**
3.15pm – 3.30pm **Afternoon Smoko**
3.30pm – **PGGW Mosgiel wool store tour and demonstrations** (Covid situation permitting – to be advised)
4.45pm – **Finish**

Speakers will include:

- **“From the wool press” – two experienced pressers share their views on “Things that classers do that are helpful and things that classers do that are unhelpful”**
- **Rosstan Mazey new chairman of National Council of NZ Wool Interests Inc**
- **Tahi Ngatahi rep on legal obligations and related health and safety considerations for classers, graders and farmers**
- **NZ Merino Company, PGG Wrightson and Wools of NZ representatives – pre-season key messages and time for questions.**

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 2022

Email: secretary@woolclassers.org.nz

Registration fee \$25 per person (Non-member only)

NZWCA members no charge

Payment by Direct Credit to BNZ 02 0828 0036732 00 -use your name as reference

The amazing Paddy Tuppin

By Bernie Walker

"It's not the wet ones that will kill you, it's all those dry ones" was a statement attributed to a man who would have known, the legendary West Australian shearer Paddy Tuppin. William Patrick Tuppin was born in 1912 and passed away in 1999 at the age of 87.

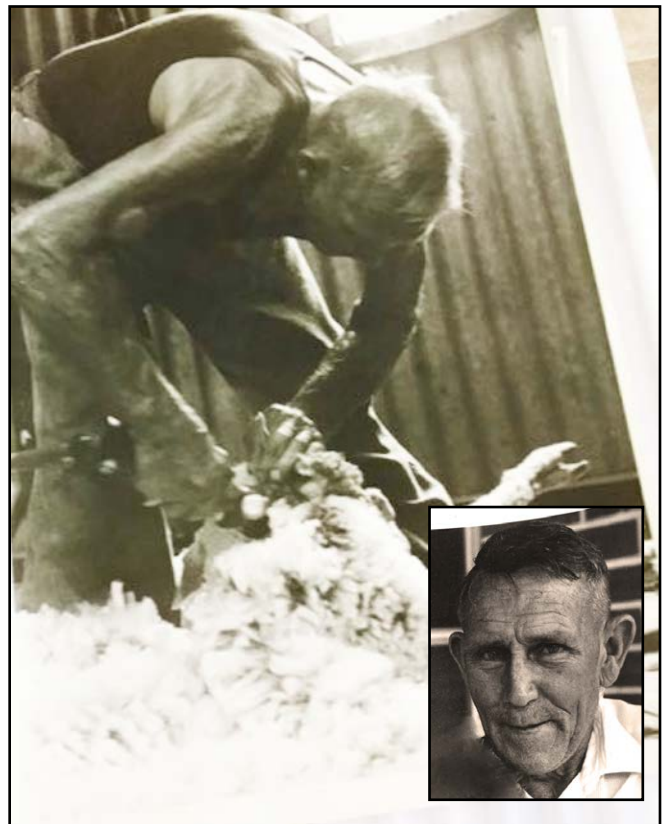
It is believed his parents were Irish immigrants who came to Western Australia individually where they met and married. The staunch Catholic couple had two boys, Paddy and Norman. Little is recorded about Paddy's early years as he was a very private person. His strict Catholic upbringing stood him in good stead all his life, but his religion and his commitment to it was nobody's business but his.

Norman became a Christian Brother at Bindoon, north of Perth. It was an agricultural boys school. It has been reported that after leaving school and prior to learning to shear Paddy spent a couple of years as a drover on the famous Canning Stock Route which runs from Billiluna in the Kimberley region down through the Gibson Desert to Wiluna.

Paddy got a job as a shedhand with legendary shearing contractor Eric Kennedy and soon progressed to shearing at the age of 16. He became, and remained, a close friend of the Kennedy family. Blessed with exceptionally long arms Paddy developed the unique ability to relax the sheep and keep it balanced as he created a shearing style which appeared effortless. Although only a small man in stature, he would consistently shear over 200 every day with his best day believed to be 296 at 'Coongan' station near Marble Bar about 1935.

Paddy loved the big Bungaree blood sheep even though some of them would have weighed more than he did. He countered their weight by rolling the sheep on the long blow to leave less wool for the last side. Interviewed at 'Cardo' stud in 1979, Paddy indicated he had passed the million mark about six years previously. He thought he had shorn 120,000 since and was still shearing.

This interview also revealed that Paddy had spent four years



Above: The effortless style of the legendary Paddy Tuppin. (Bernard Tuppin photos.)

in the Army. He mentioned shearing with the great Vol Day, one of the leaders of the legendary Mad Eight, and he said the rate for shearing when he started was £2 per 100 (\$4.00), while crutching was 5/- per 100 (.50¢).

Paddy rarely swore, but if a shedhand got in his way he would strongly suggest they should move. Such was Paddy's ability that he was sought by leading stud breeders to shear their stud sheep. Station owners, managers and shearing contractors all spoke highly of Paddy's integrity, honesty and outstanding skills. He was always welcome wherever and whenever he turned up.

In the 50 years I have been researching and writing profiles about gun shearers such as Paddy I have not found anyone so well spoken of and as universally popular as him. Managers and contractors were always pleased to have Paddy in their team. There were never any problems if he was present.

About 1947 Eric Kennedy bought a Chevrolet Maple Leaf truck from army disposals for use on his shearing run. After modification it became one of the famous 'ring pounders'. Paddy was appointed the designated driver and being small and just able to see over the steering wheel, in winter he would rug up in a greatcoat to drive the 'air conditioned' vehicle which had no sides and was virtually just a windscreen and a roof. He always got the team to their destination.

John 'Snow' McMeikan has told how Paddy would tell him, "Your heart has to be in the right place for this caper, 'Snowy'. There's good money in shearing, but by hell it's a long way in." (To page 8)

They're coming in for shearing NOT sheep measles.

Keep our sheep sweet NZ!

**MY LAND
MY RULES
MY LIVELIHOOD**

Dose all dogs monthly to ensure we keep on top of the sheep measles tapeworm.

OVIS
MANAGEMENT
PROMOTE PROTECT PARTICIPATE

0800 222 011
www.sheepmeasles.co.nz

Instagram Facebook



(From page 7)

Over Christmas each year Paddy would borrow the truck to take boys from Bindoon to the Moore River for a break and to support his brother. Today there is an accommodation facility at Moore River built by Norman and named 'Tuppin House'. Brother Norman managed the agricultural course for the College and also taught carpentry.

When not shearing, Paddy spent a lot of time at the Kennedys and also with Glen Keamy at the 'Cardo' merino stud at Waneroo where he shored for over 40 years. About 1990 while shearing a ram he caught his arm in its horns and broke his wrist.

Paddy was married and lived a quiet and simple life with his loving wife Lorna. They had two children, a boy Norman, and a girl Glenys. Their son studied medicine and became a doctor. He practiced in Perth for many years. Then after his wife died, Paddy retired to Bindoon to live. He shored the college sheep and instructed any boys who wished to learn. Australian Wool Corporation Chief Instructor for Western Region, Peter Black, says Paddy always took a keen interest in the annual two week course at the college. He said Paddy was marvellous with the young people, showing them how to place their blows and always encouraging them.

From time to time Paddy would meet a shearer or shedhand burdened with personal problems. He would help these men the best way he could by listening to them and treating them with respect and advice. At times he found himself almost in the role of marriage counsellor, where he would advise and comfort those in need of support.

If Paddy had a weakness it was his trotting horse, 'Dark Trigger' and that he loved to have a punt. There are conflicting reports about whether it had ever run a place or did in fact

win a few races. Paddy would become excited whenever the horse was entered in a race and would urge his team mates to back it because the trainer had assured him the horse could not lose. The team would back the horse then present Paddy with the losing tickets. They suggested Paddy change its name to 'Zoomeat'. Paddy was not amused and told them the trainer had suggested the horse may have been in need of a spell.

With a lifetime tally of well over a million sheep Paddy is still spoken of almost with reverence, such is his stature in the industry.

The support of Kevin Gellatly, Doug Kennedy and Ron Ingram in research for this story is gratefully acknowledged.



*Above: A photo from our March 1996 issue. The youngster in the photo (Josephine Keen) contacted *Shearing* to see if we still had the photo. Yes, we did! Henrietta Keen, Vanessa Keen, Josephine and Pat Maraki with the Maraki gang at Waitahaia Station.*

Delwyn Jones giving back to the sport

By Des Williams

Back in the winter of 1969, if you had suggested to any Welshman living in New Zealand that they take up residence on the same King Country road as Colin Meads, you might have been met with a few expletives.

The Welsh rugby team had just completed a five-match tour of New Zealand, drawing with Taranaki, beating Otago and Wellington, and losing two test matches, both comprehensively. They had arrived in New Zealand as reigning Five-Nations champions and 'Triple Crown' winners and hopes were high, as the song goes. Hopes were dashed, when reality took its bite.

But someone big and wearing black had broken the jaw of the Welsh hooker in a second-half lineout of the first test at Christchurch, and fingers were pointing at the Pinetree. I'll leave you to research the rest of the story (a jury may have found him not guilty), but yes, for the moment, the big man was not exactly your desired next-door neighbour, even if you were so bold as to add by way of prediction that he might later become Sir Colin.

When a young Welsh shearer named Delwyn (Del) Jones came to New Zealand to live in 2010, he did head for the King Country. Not to follow in the over-sized boots of a long-retired All Black lock forward, but rather to follow in the path of modern, manufactured moccasins of a shearer named David Fagan. (Can we be so bold as to predict that he also would later be knighted.) Fagan was what you might call Del's mentor.

At least, that's the snippet of information commentator Tom Evans had slipped into his narrative while describing the Royal Welsh intermediate final at Builth Wells in 2004. A final that Del won, and later received his ribbon from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, who was present that day to open the brand new roof over the shearing stadium.

David Fagan had been going to Wales on an annual basis many years prior to 2004, and had worked for Del's father, Arwyn Jones, a contractor based at Llanelidan in north-east



Above: Del Jones (right) with the quizzical look that confirms he has just received his winner's ribbon from HMQ, who in turn looks pleased to have handed it over to such a pleasant young (18-year-old) fellow.

Wales (between Ruthin and Corwen), possibly since before Del was born in 1985. And when the youngster grew up wanting to be a shearer like his Dad and older brother Rhys, he started travelling abroad to shear.

'My first overseas experience was in Norway, when I was 16. I had to rousie that first season where all the sheepo/pressing jobs were mainly taken by the local Norwegians. I've since worked in some hard conditions in the spring in Norway. In some cases, a bad day in New Zealand is a bloody good day on the farms in Norway!

'On the other hand, perhaps Spain is the most interesting country that I've worked in. A day's shearing is a special day for the farmer and his family. Breakfast would be at 10.30am and the wine would be out. The farmers always showed their appreciation to us in that way.

'My first trip to New Zealand was in the 2003/04 season and I was lucky enough to get a learner's stand with David, who was contracting at that time. The New Year started well for me as I went to the Western Shears at Raglan and won the junior title – the only junior competition I competed in. [Does Del remember, the second placed shearer that day, less than half a point behind, was young Rowland Smith, from Ruawai! Ed.]

After that I moved up to the intermediate class and made the final at Agrodome Shears, my only other final that season.'

The northern hemisphere-southern hemisphere routine

JEFF DORSET SHEARING ROTORUA

TO OUR CLIENTS WE OFFER

- Drug-free gangs
- H&S Policy systems in place
- Proven shearing and woolhandling services

TO OUR EMPLOYEES WE OFFER

- A drug-free environment
- (Mandatory testing by NZTDDA)
- Above NZSCA recommended rates
- Accommodation, food, transport, emeries – all provided at no expense

Jeff – 027 492 0758

Office – 021 414 914 jeffdorset@xtra.co.nz

We support all that is best in shearing



Above: Del Jones receives his world record certificate from Records Society chief judge, Paul Harris. Del contributed 729 well-shorn lambs to the team tally of 3740. **Opposite:** Del the shearing judge at Rotorua's Agrodome Shears on 30 January 2020. **Below:** Hanatia Tipene at Golden Shears 2008 when she represented New Zealand with Joanne Kumeroa in the trans-Tasman woolhandling test, which they won.

continued for several seasons until 2010, when Del moved to New Zealand on a permanent basis. He had met his partner, Hanatia ('Hana') Tipene in the UK in 2008 and the eventual arrival of their first child (Cari) helped prompt the move to reside back in New Zealand, though they continued to travel for the next year or so, working in the UK and Norway.

'I didn't really chase the competitions in New Zealand, but I would go if it was wet or if we had no work on. I followed them back home though. I won the senior event at Corwen Shears one year and later shored in some open competitions. I made some finals but never won anything.'

With the arrival of their second child, Del and Hanatia bought a house in Te Kuiti. He has continued to work full time as a shearer (for Neil Fagan) and Hanatia has been teaching at Te Kuiti Primary for the past six years.

Del has been organising the staff for Neil Fagan for several years, which meant he hadn't been doing as much shearing. The two reversed roles last season, however, when the chance came to be part of the five-stand record-establishing team at Te Pa Station, just before Christmas. 'The swap around gave me enough time to get prepared for the record day.' (See pages 29-33 of this edition for a full account of the record established on 22 December by the Neil Fagan gang, Jack Fagan, Del Jones, Llion Jones, Kelly Brill and Reuben Alabaster.)

With that momentous day now behind him, Del is concentrating on new ventures. He has recently bought some sheep pregnancy scanning equipment and is working in association with established contractor, Les Te Kanawa. Del sees that as something he might be able to build on in years to come so he can do a little less shearing.

He has also made a return to the shearing sports scene as a shearing judge. 'Neil Fagan has been judging for a few years now and he suggested I might like to give it a try. I've found it's an excellent way of getting back involved in the sport and meeting new people. I am really enjoying it.'

'You watch the sheep being shorn and you penalise whatever faults you see in front of you. If you don't see it, you can't add any penalty. It's that simple, really, though your concentration has to be top rate while you are on the job. It's also a good way of meeting people who might want to work for you but really, I'm just trying to give back to the sport that I have always enjoyed being a part of.'



'Hana has also been judging woolhandling for the past couple of years. She's originally from Porangahou and followed the competition circuit for a few years until our daughter Cari was born. She got to represent New Zealand with Joanne Kumeroa in the Trans-Tasman test at Golden Shears and still supports local events like New Zealand Shears. Hana won the New Zealand junior title in 2004 and the open championship in 2013.'

Just before the December record, Del and Hana sold their Te Kuiti house and moved 'just over the hill' to a ten-acre block on Pukenui Road, Te Mapara, where they run a few sheep. The block provides some good open space for their growing family, Cari (12); Kaiana (11) and Lewis (7) to enjoy.

But Del admits to being a soccer man – he doesn't need to know that's the same road where big, mean, Colin Meads was living in 1969 ...



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
MANUFACTURERS OF
ANIMAL CARE PRODUCTS
LISTER SHEARING EQUIPMENT LTD.
STONEHOUSE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE



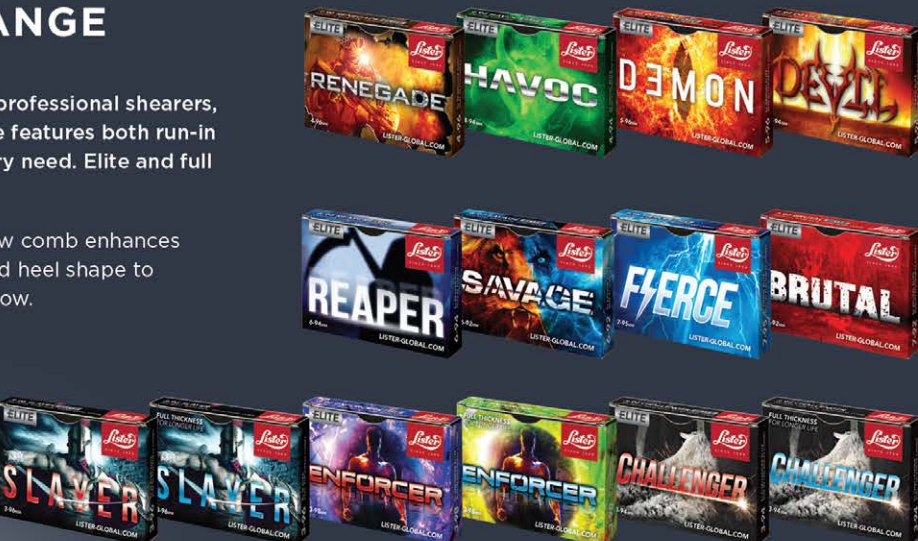
WITH OVER 100 YEARS
OF HERITAGE AND EXPERIENCE,
LISTER DEVELOPS HIGH-PERFORMING
CLIPPING AND SHEARING PRODUCTS
SO YOU CAN PURSUE YOUR
PASSION WITH PRIDE.

LISTER COMB RANGE

Developed by world champions for professional shearers, the extensive new Lister comb range features both run-in and full thickness combs to suit every need. Elite and full thickness comb available.

With a slender tooth profile, each new comb enhances shearing speed and includes a refined heel shape to provide a wider setting for cutter throw.

NEW
STRONGER
RIDER
PROFILE



MEDIUM BEVEL

LONG BEVEL

SHORT BEVEL

THE ULTIMATE IN CUTTING TECHNOLOGY WITH MAXIMUM USER PROTECTION

Lister's high-performance cutters are hot forged and precision ground to ensure reliable consistency



Developed for the professional shearer, the Skorpion's contoured body has been expertly moulded to deliver true precision cutting and effortless results. Perfectly weighted, the Skorpion provides cool running and comfort over long periods of time.

TRIPLE BEARING
TECHNOLOGY
FOR A SMOOTH,
PROFESSIONAL CUT

PRECISION
CONTROL

COOL
RUNNING

www.lister-global.com

ACTO AGRICULTURE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
ACTO AGRICULTURE NZ LTD
www.acto.nz

Northern Southland Community Shears Celebrates 40 Great Years

The 40th anniversary Northern Southland Community Shears was celebrated on 15 January 2022 with a high level of skill, quality and competency demonstrated by the competitors.

A mark of this event was the support from Southland entries in light of overseas and North Island shearers reluctance to travel in this Covid pandemic and, more recently, the threat of Omicron in the community. Our entries were down but it was beyond our control.

We missed the younger people who usually enter intermediate and junior shearing for experience, although all competitors enjoyed the interaction and challenge as they tested each other with their skills.

The decision to have both shearing and woolhandling in the same shed at Selbies continues to be a very effective one for all competitors and support crews. This year our decision to have all the woolhandling events in the morning, followed by all the shearing in the afternoon meant judges and competitors did not have to be there all day. This was a wise decision with the threat of infection a cause for concern, even with the checking of everyone on site to ensure they had a current vaccine pass. We were one of the few shows to continue.

We celebrated 40 years since the NSC Shears first started in Mossburn, moving to Lumsden with a new committee after 20 years. At the end of the prize-giving a delicious buffet dinner for about 80 people was shared after some reminiscing from the initiators of the original events and stories told by others who had been there for many of those years.

Scrapbooks depicting many of the changes, winners and camaraderie always present, built up over such a long and eventful history, were on display. It was agreed by all that it was well worth gathering, sharing and marking this milestone as people caught up with long term friendships.
(Jenny Campbell)



Megan Shirley (left) and Troy Shirley (right) joined parents Nigel and Patsy Shirley as Life members of the Northern Southland Community Shears. Can any other family match that?

Results: 40th Northern Southland Community Shears

Open final (20 sheep): Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 65.377 1; Brett Roberts (Mataura) 65.75 2; Leon Samuels (Invercargill) 67.2175 3; Ringakaha Paewai (Gore) 4; Willy McSkimming (Oamaru) 75.5815 5.

Senior final (12 sheep): Brayden Clifford (Waikaka) 57.806 1; Alex Clapham (England) 61.0587 2; Sais Horrell (Te Anau) 62.8937 3; Mason Adams (Lumsden) 64.1627 4; Corentin Plancon (France) 66.2905 5.

Intermediate final (8 sheep): James Wilson (Ryall Bush) 43.0545 1; Jimmy Napier (Riversdale) 46.6285 2; Jordan White (Winton) 55.0655 3.

Junior final (4 sheep): Handsum McGregor (Raupunga) 35.49 1; Oliver Hogan (Mabel Bush) 40.415 2; James Hogan (Mabel Bush) 41.783 3; Dre Roberts (Mataura) 42.568 4; Jimmy Johnstone (Winton) 45.8045.

Woolhandling:

Open final: Amy-Lee Ferguson (Alexandra) 123.81 1; Pagan Karauria (Alexandra) 146.41 2; Kelly Macdonald (Domett) 171.57 3.

Senior final: Tamara Marshall (Waikaretu) 106.406, 1; Heaven Little (Balclutha) 126.938 2; Charis Morrell (Alexandra) 221.49 3.

Junior final: Emma Martin (Gore) 112.35 1; Hani Ropata (Ohai) 126.812 2; Stoneigh-J Waihape (Invercargill) 133.802 3.

Tararua Shearing Ltd

Shearers and shedhands wanted.

Must have good work ethics and be reliable.

Accommodation, meals and transport provided.

Work from mid-November to end of March.

Phone Lionel or Stephanie

Home 06 376 7877

Work 06 375 8488

Cell 027 440 7021

stephanietisdall@xtra.co.nz

Member NZ Shearing Contractors' Association



Above: We've drummed up another mystery photo. Who is this internationally-known woolhandler? (Turn to page 61.)

HELP US ALL RAISE OUR GAME IN THE WOOLSHED

Tahi Ngātahi is an online platform that uses video clips to pass on skills and safety tips to farmers, shearing contractors and shearers.

Our aim is to:

- reduce common injuries by 30% and prolong careers
- build a stronger, more skilled workforce

- make shearing more attractive to new entrants.

Tahi Ngātahi's part of wider efforts to revitalise the wool industry and will be integrated into the government's new \$1.86m on-job training initiative Kaiaka Wool Industry Training NZ.

Visit www.tahingatahi.co.nz and sign up to show your support for this great industry.

For business support to make the best use of the programme, please contact Bronwyn Campbell at support@tahingatahi.co.nz or 0272436979



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



WORKSAFE
NEW ZEALAND



Quiet Passenger

When there is no more dying left to do
And I am burned and poured into a jar
Then I will leave this land that I came to
So long ago, and having come so far,
Head home to where my life's work was
begun.

But nothing of that last flight will I see
As I ride through the night into the sun:
No stars, no ocean, not the ochre earth,
No patterns of dried water nor the light
That streams into the city of my birth,
The harbour waiting to take down my dust.
So why, in that case, should I choose to go?
My day is done. I go because I must:
Silence will be my way of saying so.

(Clive James, *Injury Time*, Picador 2017)



DON'T DO YOUR BACK IN

Learn Your Warm-Ups

Every year over 9,000 days are lost to injury in the wool sector. That's a lot of pain for no gain. Tahi Ngātahi's videos are designed to help everyone raise their game in the shed. You can learn short warm-up routines that help prevent back strains at www.tahingatahi.co.nz. A few extra minutes of simple stretches a day could save your back and boost your wallet.

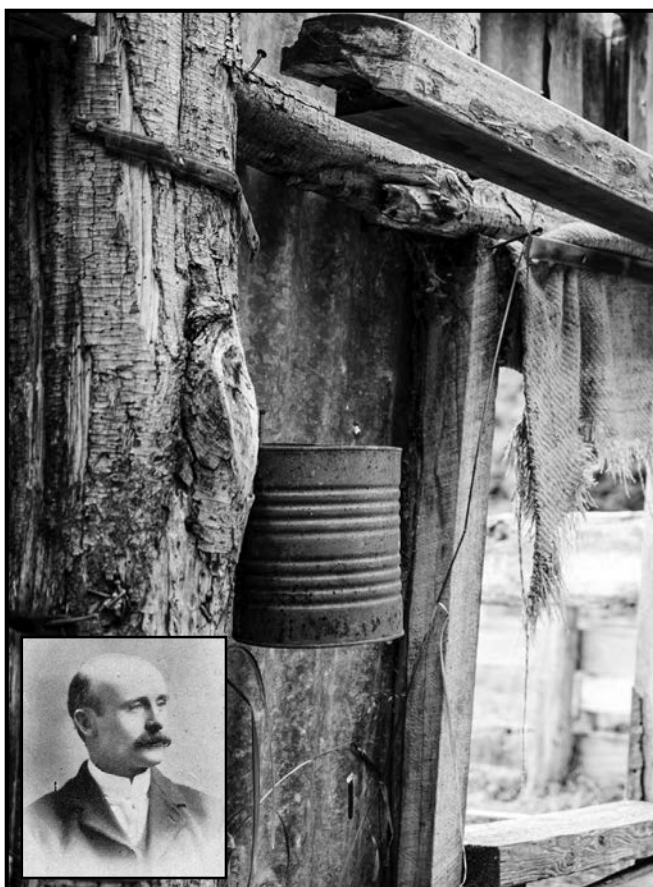


DON'T BLOW YOUR WRIST

Don't Blow Your Wrist

With main shear looming, now's the time to prepare the body for those big tallies. Blown wrists are really common among shearers who hit the board hard after a bit of a break. Just like the All Blacks wouldn't play a test without a pre-season or any warm-up, you need to make sure you're in good nick before you pick up the handpiece. You can learn simple warm-up routines that help prevent blown wrists at www.tahingatahi.co.nz.





Above and next page: Images from the old Quailburn Run woolshed. Quailburn (35,000 acres), established by Mr William Rayne in 1916, was originally part of Benmore. Obituary notes, *Otago Daily Times* 27 June 1946 explain some history:

'Mr William Rayne [inset] was born in Durham, England, 78 years ago, and came to New Zealand with his parents about 1872. After landing at Oamaru, the family eventually settled at Ngapara, and it was from there, whilst still very young, that Mr Rayne set out to seek employment on the sheep stations of the Upper Waitaki. He started on the Omarama station as a cowboy at 12s 6d a week, and eventually became head shepherd, remaining many years on the station.'

Before getting to Quailburn, Mr Rayne spent time as head shepherd at Hawkdun; owned the Omarama store; purchased the Lindis Hotel in 1896, at that time the centre for gold miners of the district. He then owned the Duntroon store for about four years and then purchased the Longslip Station from Mr. James Grant. It was practically unstocked. By 1908 Mr Rayne had stocked it up to 9000 sheep and subdivided the run, which comprised 35,000 acres. He also built the present Longslip homestead. During the years he was developing the property he met with many reverses, but with determination and hard work he made a success of his undertaking.

'In 1913 the property was sold to Messrs Barry and Monro, after which Mr Rayne purchased the Taipo Hill Farm at Kakanui. In 1916 he purchased another property of 35,000 acres on Benmore, which he named the Quailburn run. He built a homestead, fenced and stocked the property and about 1928 sold it to the present occupiers, Messrs Hardy Brothers.

Mr Rayne was noted for his skill in handling young horses. He was never happier than when in charge of an outlaw horse that had been rejected and turned out as untamable, and up to the day of his death, he was still handling horses.'



ACE SHEARING GEAR

FOR QUALITY & SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Get your orders in early as stock is selling fast. **INSIST ON ACE AT YOUR LOCAL FARM SHOPS**



ACE COVER COMBS & FLAT COMBS (Full thickness & pre-ground models in Short, medium or long bevel.

ACE CUTTERS (3 sizes)



Phone: Leon 0275914361

Email: info@acequip.co.nz

Website: aceshearing.co.nz

We are an essential supplier with Door to door contactless service.





Top and Above: Further images from the old Quailburn Station woolshed, situated between Ohau and Omarama, constructed with beech poles in the 1920s. Photographer Barb Newton wonders if any Mag readers ever worked there?



Vale Colin Murray (1922-2022)

You might say it was a happy/sad occasion to note the *Waikato Times* death notice for Colin Murray on 8 February 2022. Colin, you will remember, featured in our November 2021 edition of *Shearing* as the farmer who owned the Ngutunui farm, shed and sheep where Jack Dowd set his world record on 22 December 1977. Born at Hamilton on 5 February 1921, Colin made it three days past his 100th birthday before passing into the Great Beyond.

Raised on the family farm at Koromatua, Colin had returned there after serving five years with the New Zealand Army in World War II (most of that time in Italy), where he rose through the ranks of the 24th Battalion to gain his commission as Second Lieutenant after attending the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, England.

The Murrays eventually sold the Koromatua property to the Mormon Church, which was expanding all around them, and moved to the Ngutunui farm in 1956. Twenty-one years later it attained its own special place in our shearing history and folklore as the place where Jack Dowd shored 637 Coopworth lambs to erase Mark Boot's record of 625 shorn at Poronui five years earlier.

Dowd was already holder of the world ewe shearing record (543 at Lochinver on 22 January 1974), thus becoming the first shearer to hold both ewe and lamb records at the same time.

Rest easy, Colin Murray, and thank you for the five years of war-time military service to our country, New Zealand.

Proud to support N.Z. Shearing Magazine



We require staff July-October and January-May
Accommodation, travel and meals provided
Good attitude towards work and our clients essential
Reliable work and weather patterns in Central Otago

**Employment Agreement based on NZSCA
Work under NZSCA 'SHEARNZ' programme**

All enquiries welcomed. Contact Peter or Elsie

Tel 03 448 6378 Fax 03 448 9201

Email: elsie@peterlyonshearing.co.nz



'The view from my office window': photographic art by Shaun Burgess.

THEY SAY

They say he's always in the bar,
They say he's like a drain,
Glass after glass of Speight's Five Star
He drinks and feels no pain.
They say he's an alcoholic and
They say he lives for grog.
A bottle always in his hand,
And dirty as a dog.

They say the booze has got him beat,
They say he seldom stops.
He'd rather drink than love or eat;
He's captured by 'the hops'.
I've written down the facts 'as are'
And true they are you see.
He's always in that bloody bar –
He drinks not far from me.

© Blue Jeans 2006.

(From *The Mountain Man and Other Verse*.)

IT'S A LOAD OF RUBBISH

I live out in the country
10 miles from nearest town.
In a pleasant rural district
Where you seldom see a frown.
Where the native birds sing in the trees
The sun shines very bright
And when I look around me
It fills me with delight.

For where the fern and scrub did grow
And wild pigs used to roam,
There is now lush, green pasture land
It's the place that I call home.
But when some people come out driving
On Sunday afternoon
It fills me with a feeling
That is very close to gloom.

Because I love our countryside,
It's time I had a bitch.
For things I see round here at times
Fair give me the stitch.
For a person on a Sunday drive
Must be kind of spastic
To litter lovely country roads
With paper, glass and plastic.

Yes there's everything from lunches,
That the children couldn't eat,
To a lot of unmentionable things
You wouldn't find in YOUR street.
So when you're Sunday driving
And you stop to have a beer
Please take your empties home with you,
We don't need them here.

© Mike McGee 1991.
(from *For those who Understand*)

Courela

AUSTRALIA

Clothing & Shearing Supplies

5 Phillip Street
STREAKY BAY
South Australia

Ph: 0011 61 886261285
Email: info@courela.com.au
www.courela.com.au

Supporting the shearing industry

Visit our Online Shop
www.courela.com.au



Agrodome Shears, 30 January 2022: Top: Junior woolhandlers: Tre Sciascia, Amy Bell, Alisha Te Huia and Tia Manson. **Centre:** Senior woolhandlers: CJ Darlington, Destiny Paikea, Sarah Davis and Lee George. **Above:** Open woolhandlers: Chelsea Collier, Keryn Herbert, Lucas Broughton and Nova Kumeroa. **Top right:** Destiny Paikea blending. **Centre right and opposite:** Dane Phillips with a well-travelled singlet, from the 2018 Colac Bay Speedshear. (Where is Colac Bay, you ask ...)



Shearing finalists at Agrodome Shears, 30 January 2022
Top: Juniors, Tana Barrowcliffe, Sam Parker and Ryka Swann.
Centre: Keahrey Manson, Tups Mikaere, Mathew Smith and Shaun Kohinga. **Above:** Seniors, Tama Nahona, Jayden Mainland, Cory Barrowcliffe, Paul Swann, Emily Te Kapa.

paewaimullins
 SHEARING LIMITED

If you want to settle down with good conditions and steady work, shearing or woolhandling, you could find a place in the Paewai Mullins team. We work for some great people and we have some great people working for us. There is always room for one more.

Phone: 06 374 4062 / Aria: 022 374 4062
 PO Box 129, Dannevirke 4942.

Email: office@paewaimullins.co.nz
 Website: www.paewaimullins.co.nz

Agrodome Shears. Top: Judge Colin Couchman brings down his verdict. **Centre:** Committee man Denis Brake toiled all day in the heavy lifting department. **Above:** What could Libby Alabaster and Carol Hodge be discussing behind those masks? Anybody's guess ...!



Agrodome Shears, 30 January 2022. Top left descending: Open shearing finalists. Toa Henderson, Jack Fagan, Dig Balme, Dave Phillips and Matene Mason. Open champions, Chelsea Collier (woolhandling) and Toa Henderson (shearing). Woolhandling judges, Daryl Croad, Linda Tarrant and Bo Clarke. Steve Manson leaning into his work. Above: Nova Kumeroa (woolhandler) and Dane Phillips (shearer) in the jointly-run open heats. Judge Michael Hegglin partly obscured.



PUNA SHEARING

LIMITED

HAWKES BAY NAPIER

VACANCIES AVAILABLE
FOR QUALITY SHEARERS AND
WOOLHANDLERS

ALL ENQUIRIES TO JOE OR WIKI

freephone
0508 743 274

email: laddiepuna@gmail.com

Remembering Evan Malyon (1925-1997)

By Des Williams

The handsome silver cup for the Bay of Plenty open shearing championship, bearing Evan Malyon's name as donor, was presented for the 51st time at Rotorua's Agrodome Shears on 30 January 2022. Kaiwaka's Toa Henderson added his name to the list of winners, a veritable 'Who's Who' of New Zealand shearing for the past half century. Tom Brough, winner of the trophy for the first three years; Rei Rangiawha, Jack Dowd, Martin Ngataki, Ray Alabaster, Colin King, David Fagan, Alan MacDonald, Paul Avery, Rowland Smith ... Champions all, and thoroughly deserving of their names being engraved in the silver.

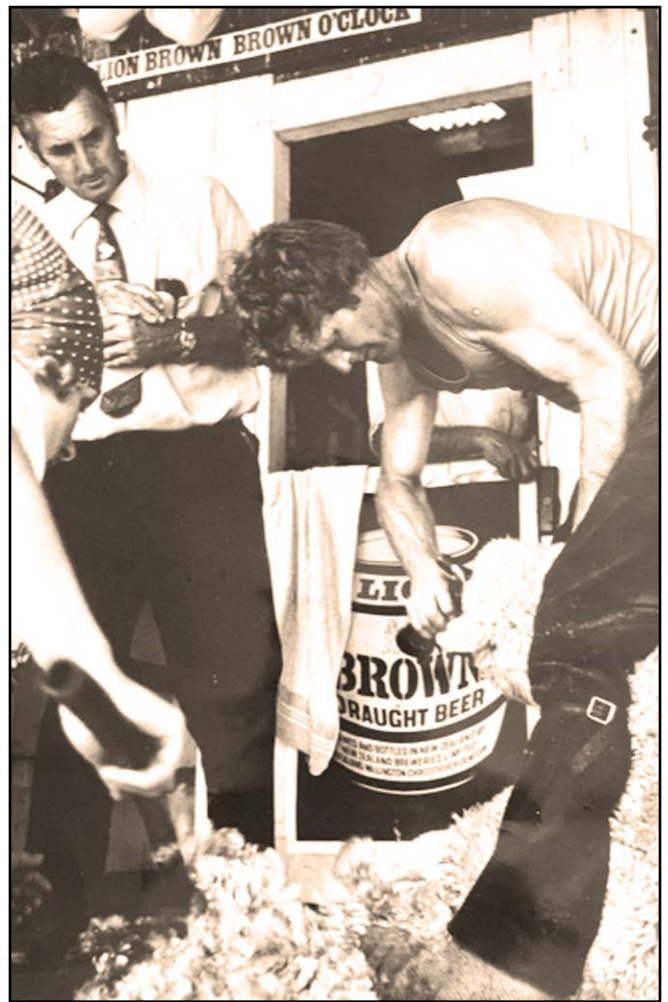
Evan Malyon's own name may not be quite so familiar to the present generation but he too made his mark on our industry. He won some competitions, taught many youngsters to shear, judged at competitions around the North Island, including at Golden Shears from 1975 to 1982. And was a member of the five-stand gang (with Maurie Anderson, Ray Alabaster, Jack Conn and Morrin 'Timber' Wood) who set a world record 2133 Romney-cross ewes in nine hours at Panikau Station, north of Gisborne, in 1963. (On sheep that were 'just bloody terrible', to quote Maurie Anderson.)

Evan was born at Te Puke in 1925, one of nine children born to David and Hannah (nee Pemberton) Malyon between 1918 and 1938. David had returned from 'front-line' active service in World War I suffering from 'shell-shock' (now known as post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD) and life on the family dairy farm, after the War and during the years of the Great Depression, was always difficult.

Evan's walk to school was a daily trip of five miles, always barefoot because shoes were too expensive. Fourth in the family line, Evan and his older brothers always carried 'shanghais' in their back pockets and if they were lucky enough to kill a rabbit on the way to school, their 'game' would be rushed home to Mum to prepare the dinner pot, before resuming their walk to the distant classroom.

For Evan, the economic times he was raised in meant leaving school at age 14 and finding work. He started by helping out on the family farm and his first job away from home was also milking cows. Then for a while he was employed by the local Rabbit Board. But at the age of 16 or 17 he found what would prove to be his true calling – working and shearing with the Bowen brothers, Godfrey and Ivan.

'He was only 16 when his father died in 1941 and shearing



Above: Evan Malyon judging Hugh McCarroll at the Franklin A&P Shears, c1970.

became Dad's whole life, really,' says daughter Sue Muir, who also resides at Te Puke. 'He would shear during the season and then in the off-season he would be doing fencing and other farm-related work. When I was school-age I often used to tag along to where he was shearing and I would help out in the shed as a fleece-o, or shedhand.

He had a wonderful manner with the sheep – I never ever saw him lose his temper or get angry with the sheep. He was always of the opinion there were maybe 300 or 400 of them and only one of him so it was a battle he was never going to win. His focus was on turning out neat and tidy sheep all day long. He also gained much pleasure in teaching youngsters how to shear and he passed on those same attitudes wherever he could.

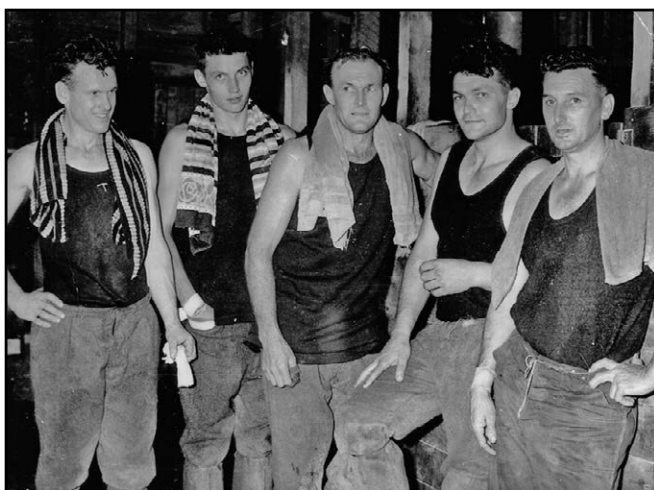
For some years Evan ran his own shearing gang, doing open run sheds around the Bay of Plenty. He also had a spell driving metal trucks, as Sue Muir recalls. 'When he was about 50-years-of-age Dad bought a bulldozer and did track construction and maintenance and other similar work on neighbouring farms. He was always working really hard, that was what he knew best.

Evan had married Nola Brown at Te Puke in 1951 and Sue (their only child) was born in 1952. She says the first year of

Kirkpatrick Shearing Hawkes Bay

We're looking for reliable shearers, woolhandlers and pressers for main shear mid-November to 1st February. Also winter shear, mid-May to mid-July.

Training will be available
Contact John Kirkpatrick or
Raylene Kirkpatrick on 021 887 843
kirkpatrickshearing@gmail.com



Above: Record-setters in 1963 – Morrin ‘Timber’ Wood, Ray Alabaster, Jack Conn, Maurie Anderson and Evan Malyon.

her life was spent living in a caravan as her parents worked hard to establish themselves as a family. By 1955 they were in their first home. ‘We were a one-car family because Mum couldn’t drive and Dad always saw a wet day as a day of rest from the shed rather than an opportunity to go out and do something different.

‘Dad was always working very hard at whatever job he could lend his hand to and of course there wasn’t much men of his era couldn’t do. There was always some tool or piece of equipment that needed mending or repairing and they could do most of it themselves.

One example I remember well was the old McAlpine horizontal refrigerator that Dad and his friend converted into a vertical freezer. It served us very well for years.

‘Dad used to travel to shearing competitions at Auckland, Hamilton and other places and he won some, though I’m not sure how many. He went to the first Golden Shears in 1961 and shored in the same open heat as the Australian champion, Kevin Sarre and Mac Potae, both of whom went on to make that first open final won by Ivan Bowen.

‘He made that trip to Masterton many times after that, every year as a competitor until 1975 and then as a judge for several years after that, often with Alister Simpson. I think his last visit to Golden Shears may have been 1988, just as a spectator because he had finished judging by then. Nervousness was always his main problem when he was competing. Being up on that stage in a competition seemed to be so far removed from what he was doing every other day in the sheds, for some reason.’

‘Apart from shearing, Dad really loved his hunting, be it deer or pigs or duck shooting. I was allowed to go into the bush with him at Te Puke or Rotorua on the condition that I wore bare feet – he didn’t want me slopping around making a noise in my boots!

‘But it was always food on the table hunting for him rather than just a recreational pastime, be it venison or wild pork. The same with ducks – during the season we would be up at 3.00am, headed for Waihi estuary. Any ducks shot were always plucked while they were still warm and brought home for food.’

‘Dad was always a thorough gentleman and I’m very proud of him. He was a gentle, quiet spirit and a true patriot. He instilled in me a love for our country, to stand up for what is right and to love hard work.

‘And I didn’t even know he had donated the cup, until now!’

And some of Evan’s peers agree with Sue’s assessment of her father as a top bloke. Hugh McCarroll says he got into judging after giving the shows away himself. He often travelled with Evan and Alister Simpson and started doing learner judging cards for the lower grades before having a shear in the open. That, of course led to full time judging himself. Hugh says both men had so much to offer in the way of advice and encouragement.

John Magee also has a yarn or two to tell about travelling with Evan. They came across from the Bay one year to judge at Raglan’s Western Shears. In those days the show had a full programme which went through to dinner time and then continued with finals at night. And an after-match function of some reputation! ‘Most people would have their dinner and then drive into town and fill the car up, ready for the drive home later in the evening,’ John Magee recalls.

‘Evan always liked to be the last to leave some of these functions – if there was a barbecue on after the show he was all for it. But this particular year he must have forgotten about filling the car up during the tea break. So, some hours later we started back towards Papamoa. It was just breaking daylight when the car, a Torana, came to a halt, having run out of petrol.

‘Evan looked at me and said, ‘That’s the second time it’s done that to me!’ As if it was the car’s fault! We sat there for a while and then a policeman came along, asked us what the trouble was and then took Evan into town to get a tin of petrol so we could carry on.

‘There was another time, at the Te Puke A&P show when the shearing judges were served what seemed to be an extra fine lunch. Ham, tomatoes, pudding, all the rest. Then the caterers discovered they had given us the Show Society President’s lunch by mistake. That put Evan off completely when he found out. He just couldn’t bring himself to eat anything!’





"He's got the whole world in his hands," sang Laurie London in a 1950s hit song. Here, 70 years later, Edwin Perry has the Evan Malyon Trophy in his hands, representing a whole world of shearing history since 1971, with no fewer than twelve Golden Shears open champions among its recipients. Competed for in recent years at the Agrodome Shears, the trophy has previously been offered at Tauranga and Te Puke, Evan Malyon's home town.

Bay of Plenty Open Shearing Championship (Evan Malyon Trophy)

1971 Tom Brough	1996 David Fagan
1972 Tom Brough	1997 David Fagan
1973 Tom Brough	1998 Dig Balme
1974 Rei Rangiawha	1999 Dig Balme
1975 Bob Michie	2000 Alan MacDonald
1976 Jack Dowd	2001 Alan MacDonald
1977 Martin Ngataki	2002 David Fagan
1978 Ray Alabaster	2003 David Fagan
1979 Ray Alabaster	2004 David Fagan
1980 Ivan Rosandich	2005 Paul Avery
1981 Greg Herrick	2006 David Fagan
1982 Rick Pivac	2007 Paul Avery
1983 Colin King	2008 John Kirkpatrick
1984 Alan Donaldson	2009 Paul Avery
1985 Greg Herrick	2010 Dion King
1986 Jack Dowd	2011 David Fagan
1987 Alan MacDonald	2012 Rowland Smith
1988 David Fagan	2013 Rowland Smith
1989 David Fagan	2014 David Fagan
1990 Alan MacDonald	2015 Cam Ferguson
1991 David Fagan	2016 Rowland Smith
1992 David Fagan	2017 Gavin Mutch
1993 Alan MacDonald	2018 Rowland Smith
1994 David Fagan	2019 Rowland Smith
1995 David Fagan	2020 Rowland Smith
	2021 Not Held
	2022 Toa Henderson



Above: And when the show is over and the crowds and competitors gone home, someone has to stay and do the cleaning up. Young and old on the job at Agrodome Shears.



Above: And 'she' might have a future world woolhandling champion in her hands! Former world champion Hilary Bond-Harding introduces three-months-old Tressie Harding to her first fleece – a Swiss Valaise. Watch this space in 2042!

MAHONY SHEARING NAPIER

TEL 06 835 9571 or 021 423 886 (Brendan)

Email: b.j.mahony@xtra.co.nz



Permanent positions for quality shearers and shedhands

Member NZ Shearing Contractors' Association

Tally day at Christie's

By Jenny Campbell

It was an auspicious day, Monday 7 March 2022, when four members of one of Kane Kahukura's shearing gangs set out to do personal best tallies on lambs at Kevin and Margaret Christie's Mossburn property, Christie Farm Ltd.

'Three generations of Kahukura family members have done our shearing for 53 years,' Kevin Christie said. 'It started with Joe Kahukura when he was based in Lumsden, later moving to Omakau in Central Otago, with his son Paul taking up the circuit from there, followed by Paul's son Kane now running three gangs out of Milton.'

'Kane does pre-lamb in Central and main shear around Clinton,' Paul said. 'There are still plenty of sheep around.'

The four shearers who aimed for their personal bests on lambs that day were Isaiah Gorrie from Clinton, aiming for 300, Brandon Coombe-Gray from Waipawa, Hawke's Bay, hoping for 500, Jack Dobbie from Clinton, also setting out for 500 and Isaac James from Omakau, looking to reach his first 400.

Their normal days start at 7am and finish at 5pm but on their challenging day they started at 5am and finished at 3pm for their eight hours' shearing.

Coombe-Gray and Dobbie went to Lincoln University, studying agriculture together. 'Then the woolshed stole us, with almost all of our flat members ending up shearing,' Coombe-Gray said. 'I am from a shearing whanau so it's in my blood but I can go back to use my Agricultural Science degree after I retire from shearing.'

Dobbie intends to keep shearing as long as he is enjoying it. 'I love the travelling around and go up north to Fagan country at Te Kuiti, in the King County as well as to Pukekohe, on an earlier circuit, where the sheep are smaller and easier to shear,' he said. 'I am heading to Dannevirke in mid-April after this southern season and will start there in May.'

Gorrie was a wool handler for Kane Kahukura, who taught him most of what he knows, although he did attend a short shearing school last year. 'I worked in a furniture outlet but I got bored so changed my career in to the shearing world,' he said. 'This is my first year shearing and I love the process of shearing sheep, the rhythm and working hard, but it would be boring if it was easy.'

James enjoys the company, atmosphere and camaraderie involved over his four



Above: Kevin Christie and Paul Kahukura

years of shearing, although he is tired from this long season. He had been a diving instructor on the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, but with it producing ear problems he changed career.

Coombe-Gray, at morning tea time, could see he was on target to get his first 500, with him achieving his first 400 just three weeks previously. 'We have been working big days doing ewes, seven days a week,' he said. 'I have been coming down here for eight years doing the main shear, which ties in with the shearing circuit in the Hawke's Bay.'

Dobbie had been doing between three and four hundred on ewes. 'It was my first 500 on lambs and there was extra motivation doing this tally alongside my mates. It is one to remember.'

'Hats off to the farmer for well-prepared sheep,' James said. 'It's a pleasure to have the opportunity to get a personal best in this shed as its part of the legacy Kahukura's have here, over 53 years.'

Gorrie surprised himself early in the day when he was only aiming for 200, but after the first run he realised 300 was possible, so achieving 301 was a bonus.

Coombe-Gray was quite happy to have done his 500, finding it physically quite hard with the lambs a bit bigger and a colder, wet day impacting on his ability to achieve his goal, but he was pleased he made it.

'It has been very busy so I was not rested before I started, but I got good support from my partner and other shearers alongside,' he said. 'It was a personal best for everyone which is a kind of a record for them and a challenge accomplished.' (See next page.)



Above: Isaiah Gorrie (300), Jack Dobbie (503), Brandon Coombe-Gray (518), Isaac James (401). All while working for Kane Kahukura at Christie's Mossburn property.



**BRUCE ROGERS SHEARING
GERALDINE N.Z.**

All year round work available for experienced and reliable shearers and shedhands who can ensure we provide a quality service to our clients.

We offer good quality accommodation, meals and vehicles to travel to work.

ACC tertiary accreditation & member NZ Shearing Contractors' Association.

**Enquiries to Pip on
03 693 8087 or 027 432 6932**



Top: The Kane Kahukura gang at Kevin and Margaret Christie's property when four shearers (Isiah Gorrie, Brandon Coombe-Gray, Jack Dobbie and Isaac James) achieved their personal best tallies on the same day. **Above:** Busy board nearing the end of the last run, with tension mounting ...

Tom Brough – the way he was. (Tribute)

By Des Williams

Most writers, when they sit down behind keyboard or with pen and paper to compose a 'piece', have a little golden rule in the back of their minds. It says, 'Always assume your potential reader knows nothing about (your) subject.'

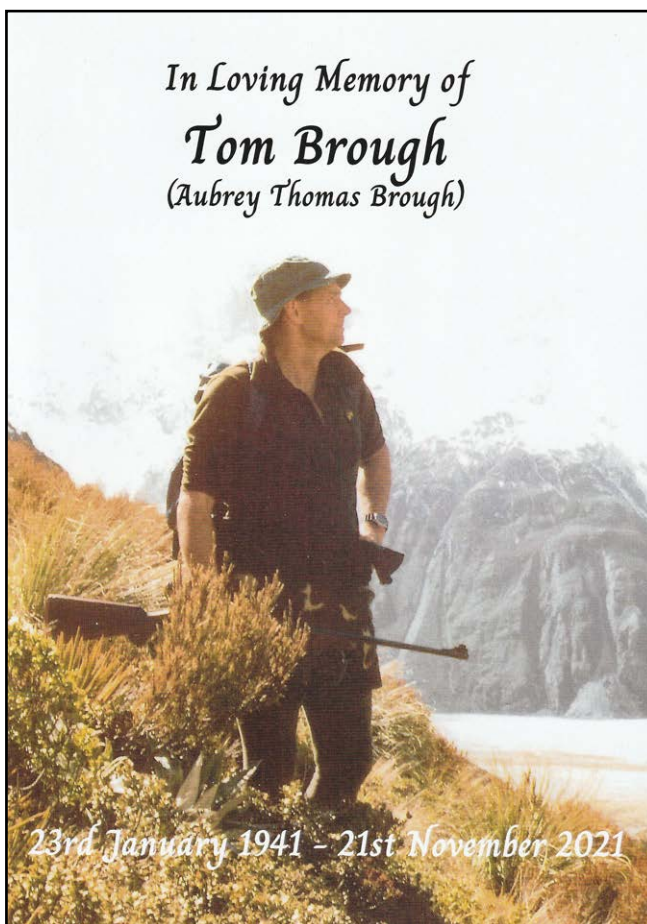
But when your subject is the late Tom Brough, a household name in the shearing world for 60 years, one has to think most readers of *Shearing* magazine will know something about the man! So, if all or some of what follows is well known to you, I can be the person who told you something you already knew (to quote Woody Guthrie).

As noted in our previous issue, Tom Brough died on 21 November 2021, a couple of months short of his 81st birthday. And one of the reasons for my assertion that most readers will know something about Tom is the fact that he wrote a widely-read biography entitled *The Way it Was* (a farming, shearing, hunting life), first published in 2005.

So, rather than repeat all those well-worn facts – Golden Shears champion 1976 in his eighth final and four times runner-up, etc., let's delve into the closing chapter of Tom's book for his own retrospective thoughts.

'What a great era I have lived in. I was brought up in the back-blocks of the King Country in a home with very few amenities and I have watched and enjoyed the progress of the last 70 years. From hunting in the New Zealand bush in bare feet to finding myself accidentally in the middle of a gay parade in London, to everything in between those two extremes, there's not much I'd have any different, given the whole time again.

'What great changes there have been in the last 70 years that my mother never saw and probably never even dreamed of. Televisions, cell phones, the internet, jet aircraft, man standing on the moon, deep freezers, and supermarkets full of pre-prepared meals. Mum got her recipes out of the Women's Division's recipe book and cooked on a wood stove. Now you



can get recipes off the internet and cook in a microwave. All the shops and the Post Office have gone from Aria – Mum would only have expected Aria to have got bigger.

'I often think how lucky I was to have had a home with the Hou family at Takou Bay when I found my way north to join my Uncle Trevor after escaping from boarding school. The extended Rangiawha family from Raglan, Duncan Tonga and Dolly and Napier Paikea in Taihape were kind to include me as whanau. It was always a pleasure to work alongside Maori people in a woolshed where everyone is equal. Their friendly natures, great sense of humour and generosity helped get me through the long days and I'll never forget the Maori ladies singing around the wool tables at Taihape. The contribution by Maori to the wool industry was recently documented in Dr Hazel Riseborough's excellent book, *Shear Hard Work*.

'At my 60th birthday party I was overwhelmed when my friend, Howard Symons, brought the catching pen door from the old Matauri Bay woolshed, in the Bay of Islands, down to Aria and asked Bruce Neill, my old shearing mate, to present it to me. On the door is stencilled my name and tally of 308 – my first 300 on ewes, when I was 17-years-old. The door is now proudly displayed on a cabinet in our home.

'Although shearing was hard on me when I started at the young age of 15, people were very good to me. When I finally put the handpiece away I'd shorn over one million sheep and crutched hundreds of thousands. I'd won that coveted purple ribbon at Golden Shears in 1976 after ten years of working



FOSTER

SHEARING LTD

Pleasant Point - Geraldine

All year round work available for experienced and reliable staff on our local and stay out runs. Fine wool shedhands required from start August until end October.

Quality accommodation available. Friendly and safe working environments.

**For enquiries call Joel on
0274 075 531**

fostershearing@xtra.co.nz



Above: Evidence of a farming, shearing, hunting life well lived. The cabinet door with name stencilled on is from the Matauri Bay woolshed where Tom Brough shore his first 300 as a 17-year-old.

my guts out and coming second four times. I'd also broken in a very rundown farm and put up kilometres of conventional fences. I judged shearing, both competitions and records, for nearly twenty years all over New Zealand as well as overseas and there are not many towns in New Zealand where we don't know someone we met through shearing.

Before I retired from judging I judged at six world championships and now Lorraine and I enjoy world shearing championships and other major shearing events as spectators – there are always people we know there. I have special respect and admiration for some of the Golden Shears committee in the Wairarapa who have been working there for 51 years – they too deserve a purple ribbon for creating a great sporting event, certainly the greatest shearing spectacle in the world.

'Farming has seen some great changes from the days when my father spread fertilizer with a tin and scoop. Digging a trench for the packhorse to stand in while a 180lb / over 80 kilos) bag of manure was loaded onto a pack saddle on the horse's back made a gruelling job easier. Then eventually, along came aerial topdressing with the Tiger Moth when a man would stand near the manure bin and be ready to grab a wingtip to turn the plane around when it came in, ready for takeoff again.

'Quad bikes allow a farmer to be at the back of the farm in the time it might have taken to catch a horse and saddle it. There's no more digging holes for fence posts – just get a contractor to come and ram them in and then use a battery-powered batten-stapler to put the staples in. And a bulldozed line means no more benching with a spade along the side of a fence on a hillside.

My worst job ever – digging trenches and laying tiles for drainage in swampy paddocks has been made unnecessary by alkathene piping. There are also specially-designed sheep crushes to make dagging easier – the sheep don't have to be caught and dragged across the shearing board before they are crutched and then shoved out the porthole.

'... Owning my own farm was always my focus and I consider myself very lucky to have achieved that as a lot of the shearers I worked alongside were not as fortunate. For years after I bought it I had to shear sheep to keep the farm afloat but I got so much satisfaction out of bringing it

into top production. Whether I was cutting scrub, fencing, over-sowing a new paddock or planting trees, I knew I was making progress.

One winter I got a portable mill to make timber for gates and battens out of some old macrocarpa trees and I made 40 gates in my old woolshed. There hadn't been any gates at all when we took the farm over – the few fences had 'Taranaki' gates made out of battens and wire.

'I enjoyed farming for wool and weighing the fleeces off ewe hoggets was an important part of our operations at one stage. The new woolshed and covered yards were marvellous as I could then get 1500 woolly sheep undercover at once; it was a huge improvement from the old shed that held 100. Moving sheep or cattle into a new paddock was one of the most pleasurable things that can be done in farming. I'd just lean on the gate for a few minutes and watch them graze.

'Paying off the last of the mortgage on the farm in the mid-1990s was a very happy day. Although someone remarked that I was crazy and ought to be buying more land at that time I have never regretted that I didn't. Maybe it is because I was born in an era when debt wasn't acceptable.

'...Five years ago I fenced off three large ponds that I'd had dammed for farm water after my experiences with droughts and, along with another 12 acres of native bush, I signed them over to the QEII Trust. Over 8000 native trees, flaxes and toi toi have been planted and it's really encouraged the bird life. There are pukeko, mallard and grey ducks, dab chicks and a few Canada geese. Eleven young swans have hatched out this year and tui are plentiful: kereru are nesting in the native trees. The inspiration for all this was when Phil Bradfield, a DOC officer, called in after duck shooting on the pond one evening and asked if we were aware we had some rare birds,



Busy North Canterbury run
Clean, reliable staff wanted
Mainshear November-April
Pre-lamb May-September

New client enquiries welcome
Phone Mike Morgan
021 251 7742
mike091@windowslive.com

Spotted Crake, on the pond. Watching the trees and bird life flourish gives me a lot of pleasure now.

‘Hunting and tramping are still a big part of my life; at 70 I still can’t get enough of the bush – open tops, mountains, sparkling stony-bottomed rivers – most of all, dogs bailing a wild pig. I’ve nearly always had at least one or two top pig dogs and I’ve been so attached to them they’re just about part of the family. There is nothing better than sitting on a bush ridge on a nice day with the dogs, just listening to the silence and maybe hearing tui or bellbirds also having a good day.

‘I can’t believe everything I own, and the fact that most of the success I’ve had in various ways is thanks to a simple hand-piece. I think life has been very kind to me – I’ve had some really wonderful times and great experiences which have more than compensated for a few downtimes.

‘Writing all this has been very rewarding and has brought back memories, both good and bad and some very emotional times. When we had a set-back it was a simple case of dealing with it as best we could and then moving on.

‘That’s just the way it was.’
(Extract from *The Way it Was*, Fraser Books, Masterton, 2011.

And a concluding note of appreciation from Lorraine Brough: *‘Being part of the Shearing community was always special to Tom and to me. We found that if a person spent time working in a woolshed they were usually pretty down to earth and easy to get along with. When Tom died in November I was contacted by many of Tom’s old shearing mates and people we got to know over the years through shearing. I really appreciated the sympathy and aroha at that sad time.’*

* * * * *

Things looking a bit Grey? Where to get help

Mental Health line 1737 (open 24/7)

Lifeline (open 24/7) – 0800 543 354 (0800 LIFELINE)

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).

Sad but True ...

After dinner a teacher started checking homework done by her students. Her husband was strolling around with a smart phone playing his favorite game, ‘Candy Crush Saga’.

When reading the last homework notes, the wife starts crying with silent tears ...

Her husband saw this and asked, ‘Why are you crying dear? What happened?’

Wife: ‘Yesterday I gave homework to my First Standard students, to write something on the topic, ‘MY WISH’.

Husband: ‘OK, but why are you crying?’

Wife: ‘Today while checking the last notes, it made me cry.’

Husband curiously: ‘What’s written in the notes that makes you cry?’

Wife: LISTEN ...

‘My wish is to become a smart phone. My parents love their smart phone very much. They care about their smart phone so much that sometimes they forget to care for me.

‘When my father comes from the office tired, he has time for his smart phone but not for me.

‘When my parents are doing some important work and smart phone is ringing, within a single ring they attend the phone, but not to me ... even if I am crying.

‘They play games on their smart phones, not with me.

‘When they are talking to someone on their smart phone, they never listen to me even if I am telling them something important.

‘So, MY WISH is to become a smart phone.’

After listening to the note the husband got emotional and asked the wife, ‘Who wrote this?’

Wife: ‘OUR SON’.

Gadgets are beneficial, but they are for our ease, not to cease the love amongst family and loved ones.

Children see and feel everything what happens with and around them. Things get imprinted on their mind with an everlasting effect. Let’s take due care, so that they do not grow with any false impressions...

(Circulating email.)

Are you a good Bugger? Want to work with great people? In a team with a great culture?

Drug Testing, Employment Agreements, Excellent Accommodation, Great rates!

Employing Staff for Mainshear now!

RATIMA SHEARING



HUNTERVILLE

Phone Shane

03 322 8462 or 027 222 0770

MY MATE TOM BROUGH © Bernie Walker

*"You have to want enough" were the words Tom spoke to me,
When I asked him how he did it – it seemed a kind of purgatory.
For many years he tried so hard to win the Golden Shears,
Until the night the purple ribbon was his amid our cheers.*

That's the first verse of a tribute I wrote for Tom Brough's 60th birthday. And I'm really glad Tom won the Golden Shears, because that's how I came to meet him. I first met Tom the morning after he finally won the Golden Shears Open in 1976. I had seen him shear and heard some of the incredible stories about his exploits in the woolsheds of New Zealand.

The occasion was a meeting held each year with the new New Zealand team with John Allan, Sunbeam, Ian Steel, Wrightsons, both team sponsors and myself representing Euroa, their destination come October for a shearing Test Match against Australia. The meeting was to explain to the new team what was expected of them and their responsibilities.

It was obvious to me that Tom was a natural leader, and no surprise when he was elected captain a few weeks later. I got to know Tom when he arrived in Euroa and was to meet him in many places around the world in future years, but mainly at Masterton for the Shears and on his farm at Aria.

As we got to know each other better we found we had many common interests. We were both farmers at heart, but our farms and methods were so different, although many basic truths applied to both – that's farming. We spent many hours comparing the way both farms operated and Tom was always interested and interesting.

We found a common denominator in shearing and would discuss at length what was happening. We found we both loved good country music, although neither of us could play or sing. Good bush poetry was another abiding interest for both of us and we often swapped poems which caught our eye.

We both wrote 300-page books – Tom's was an autobiography, mine was the history of Golden Shears in Australia. Tom's book, *'The Way It Was'* is an honest account of his life written by a humble man who was proud of what he achieved.

I haven't told you of Tom's shearing career – he is a legend and that is well documented, as is his keen hunting prowess. If you wish to know all the other achievements Tom had, you should read his book. I commend it to you. Some may tell you how lucky Tom was – they forget, ignore or simply don't know how hard he worked to achieve his goals.

I was quite honoured when Tom asked me to launch his book at Masterton. It gave me a lot of pleasure to oblige a good mate I now miss very much. I always found Tom to be great company and I really enjoyed and looked forward to spending time with him. We maintained contact at least monthly and we had some great yarns. Perhaps the last verse I wrote in the tribute for Tom's birthday summed up our friendship rather well.

*Many years I've known this man, and known his family too
You couldn't wish for a better friend – those that know him know that's true –
There just aren't any better and he's one I'm glad I know
I think I'm a better person because I know Tom Brough.*



The Magic Land

We took our stock into the hills
We brought our stories out.
Proud stories of our way of life
We loved to talk about.

From Longlands Station in the east
To Temple Peak out west
Through flooded creek and drifted snow
We did what we did best.

We told our tales of camps and cooks –
Swags on earthen floor
Of musters in the spring and fall
One hundred years and more.

Camp oven mutton on the fire –
Mugs of black billy tea.
The open space, the starry skies –
All nature's fare for free.

Those wondrous golden treeless hills
Spread far on either hand.
A painters dream, a poet's theme –
We called the magic land.

But time brings change, and change
can kill
The stock no longer graze.
Instead in search of something new
The tourists come to gaze.

Along the access tracks they stop
To 'ooh and ah' in awe
But they don't hear the things we heard
Or see the things we saw.

The old tin huts – the old wire yards –
The mobs go stringing by.
The mule train and the pack horses
Outlined against the sky

The clever strong-eyed heading dogs
So talented and true
The noisy rowdy hunt-a-ways
That brought the stragglers through.

The sturdy saddle horses
Bred for the mountainside
No climb too steep, no trails too long
We rode them far and wide.

The whistles and the 'Keep out Joe'
Are with me once again
The mateship and the magic land
That grew boys into men.

Ross 'Blue Jeans' McMillan, Naseby
(1926-2016)

*Without freedom of speech we
would not know who the idiots are.
(Indian Hills Community Center)*

*The weak are a long time in politics.
(Neil Shand, British writer.)*

'Blown out of the water' – new record

By Doug Laing (Shearing Sports NZ)

Five King Country shearers have 'Blown all our expectations out of the water' in establishing a five-stand world strongwool lamb-shearing record of 3740 in nine hours.

The words came from Te Kuiti gun Jack Fagan, who topped the day's tallies with 811 – making him 'the fastest Fagan on earth', according to dad Sir David Fagan, who 29 years ago to the day shore 810 to set a solo record in Southland. Also along to watch was Jack's uncle, John Fagan, who shore 804 in the early 1980s, and among the crew for the day was cousin James Fagan, who shore 740 in a still-intact four-stand record in 2007.

Shearing at Atihau-Whanganui Incorporation's Te Pa Station, between Ohakune and Raetihi in the Central North Island on Wednesday 22 December 2021, all five in the latest record hammered their previous best. The 29-year-old Jack Fagan's effort, complemented by 18-year-old Taihape shearer Reuben Alabaster's 774, Welsh shearers Delwyn Jones and Llion Jones, with 729 and 725 respectively, and the 'amazed-to-even-be-here' Kelly Brill, with 701.

Delwyn Jones, who was part of a three-stand record in 2017, is from Corwen and Llion Jones from Llanwrst, may be distant cousins from way-back, but both are now settled in New Zealand.

There were other family connections all around, with Llion Jones having wife Grace as his rousie, Loretta Brill likewise for son Kelly, and Alabaster having sister Lilly as his rousie and dad and shearer Riki in his pen.

Delwyn Jones's rousie was 2020-2021 No 1-ranked Junior competition woolhandler Rahera Kerr, while Kelly Perawiti was rousie for Jack Fagan.

There was no previous record for the nine hours, five stands strongwool lambs classification, but watched by seven World Sheep Shearing Records Society judges – one via an audio visual link from his home in Wales – the shearers showed they meant big business from the start.

Starting at 5am, they shore 810 in the first two hours to breakfast, and separated by morning and afternoon tea breaks and lunch they then shore

successive 1hr 45min runs of 724, 737, 730 and 739 to the finish at 5pm.

Crews had the day before drafted 4000 lambs ready for the record, but even before the record day was halfway through, shearing contractor Neil Fagan, who with wife Stacie managed the challenge, was disbelieving as he said: 'This is unreal.'

With the remote station still in the red zone of the Covid-19 Protection Framework's 'traffic lights' system, general public were unable to be present, but the shearing was live-streamed, attracting a global audience.



Strengthen Your Business Join NZSCA

Every year New Zealand Shearing Contractors Association members shear 70% of the nation's flock, employing 3,200 workers. We give them tools that strengthen their business and streamline their paperwork.

Employment – industry-approved employment contract; recommended pay rates, Employers & Manufacturers Assoc. (EMA) membership; work visa application support.

Insurance – AON coverage included in NZSCA membership fee. Covers Public Liability, Employers & Statutory Liability, Punitive & Exemplary, Directors & Officers.

Health and safety – workbook compliant with the Health & Safety at Work Act 2015. Access to Tahī Ngātahi online learning platform.



President: Mark Barrowcliffe 027 554 4433

Executive Officer: Phil Holden 027 467 1670

Secretary: Suzanne Kennedy 027 551 1500

E: contactus@nzshearing.co.nz

Find out more: www.nzshearing.co.nz





'... Cheeky as hell', he lined up beside the open guns like Ivan Bowen and Claude Waite. In an effort to match these guns Brian exhibited a flurry of blows and second cuts to be laughed off the board. Enjoying a few drinks afterwards, he was then removed from the pub – twice – by the same policeman.' (Brian Waterson, recalling his first competition as a nineteen-year-old, at the Waikato Showgrounds, circa 1953. Last Side to Glory, 1991)

Above: Action from the Fagan gang's five-stand world record on 22 December 2021. Main photo: Jack Fagan and Kelly Brill (black headband) clearly visible. **Middle:** Jerome McRea and Riki Alabaster in Reuben's corner. **Above:** Taking care of the wool, presser Jimmy Haupokia. **Opposite:** Chief referee Paul Harris with Sir David and Lady Wendy Fagan.



Action from the Fagan gang's five-stand world record (established) on 22 December 2021. **Left descending:** Kelly Brill and Delwyn Jones. **Right descending:** Reuben Alabaster, Llion Jones and Jack Fagan.

Palmer Bros Shearing Southland

We're looking for keen and reliable people
for our busy Main Shear, Dec-April:
Shearers, Shedhands, Pressers
Top pay rates, transport and food supplied.

Phone Corey on 0273 265 542

coreypalmer@y7mail.com



9 Hour Strong Wool Lamb World Record Attempt at Te Pa Station					
Record Date	Delwyn Jones	Jack Fagan	Llion Jones	Kelly Brill	Reuben Alabaster
Run 1 5am - 7am	163	176	157	152	162
Run 2 8am - 9.45am	139	156	139	133	158
Run 3 10.15am - 12pm	143	161	142	136	155
Run 4 1pm - 2.45pm	141	158	145	138	148
Run 5 3.15pm - 5pm	153	160	142	142	151
Individual Tally Totals	729	811	725	701	774
Team/Record Tally					3,740



shearing nz.co.nz

Like to come shearing in the sunny Hawkes Bay?

We have jobs available from mid-May to end of September and mid-October through to March for seasonal staff.

If you'd like to move here to live we have permanent positions available for the right people. All you need is a good work ethic and your gear.

Accommodation available.

Sponsor, North Island Woolhandling Circuit

Phone Colin on 022 183 2200
or 06 879 5553
www.shearingnz.co.nz

Above left: Five outstanding shearers, from 18-year-old Reuben Alabaster (right); 35-year-old Delwyn Jones (left) and various ages in between – Jack Fagan, Llion Jones and Kelly Brill, with evidence of their respective day's work below. **Top right:** organising contractors, Stacie and Neil Fagan thanking the large team involved in making this a momentous day. **Centre:** Paul Harris presents Jack Fagan with his record certificate. His 811 made him (in Sir David Fagan's words) "The fastest Fagan on Earth." Jack had beaten by one, the 810 David shore at Riversdale, 29 years ago to the day to claim the record back from Alan MacDonald. **Above:** Three "800 men" in one family – David Fagan (810 in 1993), Jack Fagan (811) and John Fagan (Jack's uncle), who shore 804 lambs on 8 December 1980.



Vacancies available for clean reliable shearers and shedhands from January through to end of March. We have a great working environment with meals, accommodation and transport provided.

SHEAR TECH

For all your shearing and crutching requirements

Phone Ray or Matt 027 948 4512

Servicing Southland and Otago



Opposite: Happy families and faces after the big day out shearing sheep in record numbers. **Top:** Kelly Brill with parents, Michael and Loretta. **Centre:** The Jones boys, Llion and Delwyn (distant cousins) with John Fagan and the Welsh Dragon. **Bottom:** Reuben and Riki Alabaster. ('That boy will be a good shearer when he grows up,' someone murmured, in jest.) **Top right:** Lloyd Rees from Brecon, and Dean Redman. **Centre:** Joanne Barrow (store manager) and Nathaniel Turner (field rep.) from PGG Wrightson Ohakune, among the many sponsors who supported the successful record attempt. **Above:** The combined shearing experience well in excess of 200 years – Dean Te Huia, Jim Edmonds Snr and John Fagan.

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

CONNECT <small>TALK & LISTEN, BE THERE, FEEL CONNECTED</small>	Give <small>Your time, your words, your presence</small>	TAKE NOTICE <small>REMEMBER THE SIMPLE THINGS THAT GIVE YOU JOY</small>	KEEP LEARNING <small>EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES, SEE OPPORTUNITIES, SURPRISE YOURSELF</small>	BE ACTIVE <small>DO WHAT YOU CAN, ENJOY WHAT YOU DO, MOVE YOUR HOOD</small>
--	--	---	--	---

INTRODUCE THESE SIMPLE STRATEGIES INTO YOUR LIFE AND YOU WILL FEEL THE BENEFITS.

FARM STRONG Live Well Farm Well

Ellesmere man returns from Wales

The Press, Christchurch November 1961 (Newspapers Past)
Shearing sheep in the corners of paddocks in England and Wales, giving shearing demonstration at shows in Ireland, appearing on television, chauffeur for a government department in London, and sightseeing in Russia were some of the experiences of Mr MW [Matthew] Horan of Brookside, near Leeston, who has returned home after being two years overseas.

Mr Horan gave shearing demonstrations in England for a manufacturing firm and then went to Dublin to give similar demonstrations at the spring show there. Later in the same month, May, he gave shearing demonstrations at the Royal Ulster Show at Belfast. The sheep were mainly Suffolks.

The system he followed in the demonstrations was to shear two sheep, show how fleeces should be handled, and then give a talk over the loudspeaker. He was in Dublin for a week. There were 800 spectators at his first demonstration and the number increased each day.

He gave similar demonstrations at the Royal Ulster Show and he appeared on television for five minutes each evening in Dublin and Belfast.

Mr Horan's first television interview in Dublin lasted three-quarters of an hour. He was shown shearing a sheep and demonstrating wool handling. He was then asked for his impressions of Ireland and comparisons with New Zealand.

What were his impressions of Ireland? In the countryside things were rather primitive compared with other countries though some of the farms he visited in Southern Ireland were as modern as any in New Zealand.

Mr Harmon took up shearing after he and two others had toured Europe in a car they bought. The chief aim was to see the Olympic Games [Rome, 1960] and this was achieved. When he returned to London he got a job as a chauffeur for the Ministry of Health. His hours were from 10:00am to 2:00pm and his usual job was to drive inspectors and other departmental officers to such places as Smithfield. He was stationed in the borough of Hammersmith, practically the only smoke-controlled area in London, and used to take an inspector on atmosphere pollution tests. Smokeless fuel was now compulsory in that area. His job as a chauffeur lasted for three months and a half.

'I wanted to see something of farming and do shearing so I went to the offices of the Wool Marketing Board,' said Mr Horan. 'They sent me round to Agriculture House where I met Mr Hugh Crowle, secretary of the Hill Farming Committee.



Above: 'Dublin City in the Rare Ould Times' – like when Matthew Horan was there in 1961. They kept their sheep well hidden, back then...

At his suggestion a short article and advertisement were put in the *'British Farmer and Stockbreeder'*. I got about 250 replies in a few days asking me to go shearing on different farms. I started off on a farm near Tamworth, in the Midlands. I did 1000 sheep in the area, half of them in small mobs from various places round about.

I then met a young Welshman, Effion Evans, and we teamed up. He had been to New Zealand for shearing experience. We shored 6000 sheep in the Midlands and then we went to Wales where we did 21,000 in two months. We lost only two days through wet weather. We had our own portable plant and usually we shored the sheep in the corner of a paddock, even up to mobs of 2000. The sheep were all caught for us.

In Wales the sheep are very fast shearing. They are small and practically all are clean bellies, with nothing on the legs and they have clean heads. The average fleece weighs 3lb. The pay for shearing in the Midlands is 2s 6d to 3s a head. In Wales it is 1s 6d a head. Shearing as we know it in New Zealand is taking on fast in Britain and Ireland. This is due entirely to demonstrations by Godfrey Bowen and other New Zealanders.

After the shearing, Mr Horan and two companions toured Scotland. He then went to Russia, travelling by coach from Ostend to Berlin where he changed coaches for the trip to Moscow by way of Warsaw and Smolensk. The Berlin crisis had flared up at this time and the coach could not go from West Berlin through East Berlin but had to make a detour to the north of the city.

Farming in northern Russia was primitive and the land did not seem very productive. It was common to see a woman ploughing with a horse. Accommodation in Russia was good on the whole but a tourist hotel cost £4 a day without meals and in a first-class tourist hotel the tariff was £12 a day plus meals. 'You can travel practically anywhere you wanted to during the day,' said Mr Horan.

He intends going back to Britain early next year for another season's shearing. In the meantime he is keeping his hand in by sharing in the Ellesmere district but he does not find the Romneys as easy to handle as are the Welsh sheep.

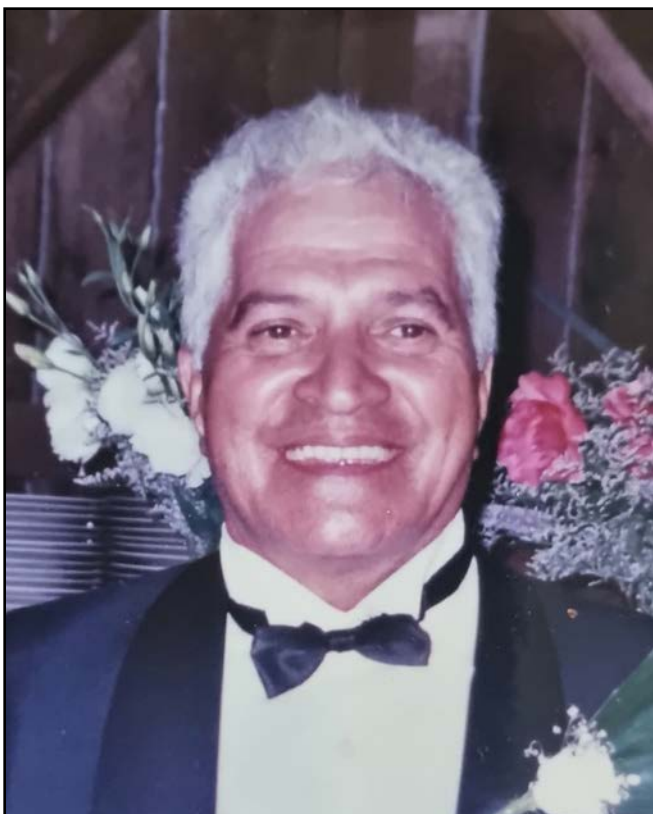
(The Press, 25 November 1961.)

BARROWCLIFFE SHEARING

Fancy work in the King Country, Nov-Feb and May-July periods? Have you got:

- Good work ethic?
- Positive attitude?
- Respect for fellow employees and clients?
- Ability to have fun?
- Training available.

Call Mark on 0275 544 433
Member NZSCA and ShearNZ
mjbarrow@xtra.co.nz



Okioki i te rangimarie, Harry Hughes (RIP)

We remember Harry Hughes (1939-2022) who died at his home in Western Australia on 19 February 2022 after a short illness. *Shearing* magazine profiled Harry in its April 2021 edition – a story we'd been seeking to write for more than 20 years and finally 'caught up with him'.

Harry was born and raised near Kawhia, on the North Island West Coast, youngest of five children born to John Bicknell Hughes and Kawe Hemotitiha Uerata Hughes. He learned to shear at 11-years-of-age and was working full time in the sheds before he was 15 (1954). Before long he was moving about the country, gaining experience with contractors in different locations, including Mate Simon in the King Country and Murray McSkimming in Central Otago. It was there he found himself to be most adept at shearing merino sheep.

At the same time he was coming into contact with the likes of Tom Brough, Brian Quinn, Bing Macdonald, Manu Rangiawha, Brian Waterson, Allan Williamson and Colin Bosher. And holding his own against the best of them, both in the sheds and at top class competitions.

By the late 1960s Harry had tried his luck in Western Australia and he eventually moved there to live and spent the last 54 years of his life in WA. There he met and married Marita and they had one son, Stephen, who farms near Boyup Brook.

The late Tom Brough had described Harry as 'a magnificent shearer' and Brian Quinn described him as 'a terrific stylist and a pleasure to work with.' To Tony Mathews, who worked with Harry in Central Otago in the 1960s, 'Harry Hughes was just the greatest.'

When news of Harry's death was posted on Shearing's Facebook page, tributes came from far and wide. A selection:

A wonderful bloke to work with and a great teacher. A legend working in Ned Elphick's team. (Rhonda Leigh Carpenter)

RIP Harry, a legend of the Ongerup Shears days. Had a lot of knowledge. (Kev Gellatley)

Aww the machine, Harry Hughes! I will always remember your cheeky laugh when you flicked maggots on us roustabouts. (Enid Wythes)

A rare breed, Harry, a true gent in his dotage. (Roberta Faulkner)

I shore with Harry when he first came to Ongerup in WA in 1972, a lot of natural talent, even saw him shear a sheep blind-folded and also sitting on a milk crate! (Allan Faulkner)

Harry gave me my first stand. He always treated me well and I learned the basics from the master. He used to say to me, the shortest way around a sheep is on the skin. (Peter Newbey)

Okioki i te rangimarie, Harry! I shore with Harry at Ongerup in the 1980s. Slick hand, multi-breed legend, merinos and crossbreds. Arohanui mai, moi mai ra e te Hughes whanau. (Jills Angus Burney)



SHEARING

Winton · Southland

027 345 0963

We have vacancies available for Quality

Shearers, Woolhandlers and Pressers

for our very busy Mainshear

- December to April

- **We offer a fast paced team environment with top sheds**
- **Transport provided with quality onsite meals**
- **Top pay rates with excellent accommodation and living conditions**

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES

PHONE: GRANT 027 345 0963

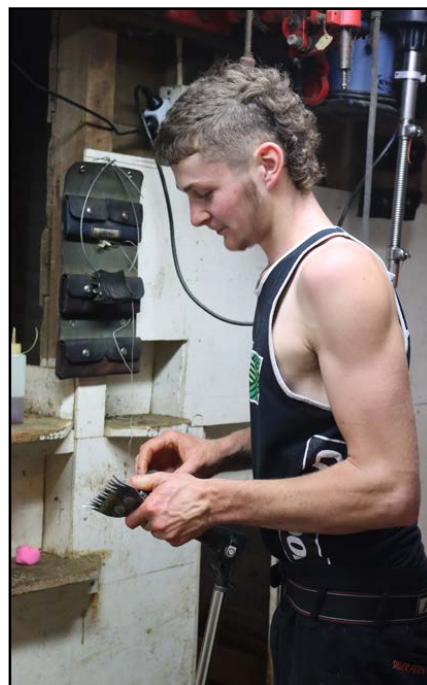
EMAIL: officegamoore shearing@gmail.com





Above: Mark Barrowcliffe's gang at Waihuka Station (near Taumarunui) on 23 December 2021. **Back left:** Isaac Winikere, Wallace Knight (poet and author), Keisha Reiri, Ray Tooman and Klee Reiri. **Front left:** David Woolston (ganger), Clay Harris, Rangimarie Turner, Ray Edwards. **Below left:** Issac Winikere. **Centre:** Keisha Reiri. **Right:** Rangimarie Turner.





More from Mark Barrowcliffe's gang at Waihuka Station on 23 December 2021. **Top left:** Ray Edwards. **Top centre:** Ray Tooman. **Top right:** Clay Harris. **Centre left:** Grand hills for sheep – but they are all down at the shed, being shorn. **Centre right:** David Woolston. **Below left:** Blue the dog, waiting for the call.



**PRO
SHEAR
LIMITED**

We have vacancies for professional shearers, shedhands and pressers to staff our Ashburton-based shearing run. We offer excellent accommodation, top pay rates and steady, year-round work with busy main-shear and pre-lamb runs.

**Phone: Office 03 302 7541;
Grant Smith 0272 413 010**

Te Whare Tapa Wha

By Gabriela Schmidt-Morrell

How has your health been through this crazy time of the Covid Era?

People will talk about this time in 100 years from now. We live in historical times, but how are we managing?

Whilst New Zealand is hibernating through this whole thing, it is still a constant stressor in the back of our mind. What does the future hold, what world will my kids live in, is there an end to this, will it get worse, is my income secure, are the supply chains intact, how much higher will living costs get?

We worry, we disagree, we get angry with decisions from the top, we think about it all the time, we get tired of it, it gets us down.

A while back we were discussing the health model of Te Whare Tapa Wha with our staff.

Sport New Zealand has been using this model with the athletes for a while now as part of their wellbeing strategies.

It's a simple tool for you to check in with yourself and identify what, if anything, is missing in your overall wellbeing.

The 'Whare' is you, or your organisation. The walls, roof and base are the pillars of your health. They are:

(1) Whenua: Where are your roots? Where do you feel grounded, where do you belong? Do you need to go and reconnect with your whanau, your mountain, your river? Do you need to ring your Nana, your cousins? Do you need to plan a trip home or to just sit by the river and remind yourself that this is where you want to be?

(2) Whanau: Who do you consider

your family, your friends? Who are the people you hang out with to feel good, to be yourself, relax and fill your bucket? What do you do to stay connected? Is it time for a dinner together, a diving trip, or a coffee and a chat, a road trip, a walk?

(3) Hinengaro: What have you been doing lately for your mental health? Do you even know what is beneficial to you emotionally? Perhaps pending a day playing with your kids, a day out with your partner? Do you need to go for a long walk by the water or watch a funny movie with your mates? Go fishing and cook your catch afterwards on the fire? Connect with the Kapa Haka group, go hunting or do a shearing course? What makes you happy, what makes you laugh, what makes your heart feel light. When was the last time you actively did something just for that very reason?

(4) Wairua: Spiritual health can be anything that makes you feel whole and complete. Things that make you feel at peace and like you belong. For some this is religious, for others this is sitting by the fire in stillness, or swimming in the lake. Others may walk to the top of the mountain and look around for a bit, meditate or play the guitar and listen to music. You may sing or dance or read a good book. What is your food for the soul, what brings you back to who you are? What makes you realise that you are enough?

(5) Tinana: Physical health is extra important in our job. We are looking at things like eating well, staying hydrated, getting enough sleep and rest. Are we getting a massage every so often, a chiropractic treatment, a

spa? Do we walk enough, stretch our bodies, move our joints, strengthen our muscles? Do we use the health services if there are problems, do we ask for advice? If we don't feel strong and well in the mornings, what is the plan to change that?

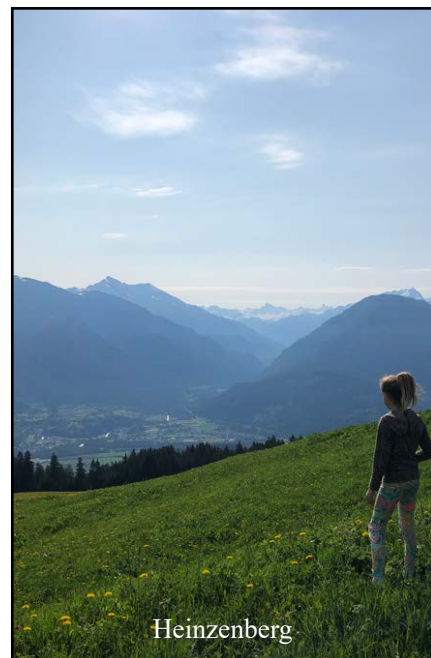
There are no wrong answers or ideas to any of these pillars of our health.

A good option is to write down anything that comes to your mind, then use it as a check list next time you feel under the weather. It may help you identify what you could do to feel better, or you may quickly realise what's missing and what you need to make time for ASAP.

As a business, we would like our staff to:

- Feel connected and belonging to our organisation and our industry (Whenua),
- To see their workmates as friends and family (Te Taha Whanau),
- To feel happy in the workplace and enjoy the job (Te Taha Hinengaro),
- To feel at peace, safe and able to be themselves (Te Taha Wairua),
- To strive physically and upskilling on their shearing, woolhandling and pressing. (Te Taha Tinana)

For me personally, I need the 'whenua' thing seen to, meaning a trip to my homeland Switzerland as soon as New Zealand opens up its gates! Not long now, surely. Howdy, Heinzenberg!



David Grace left lasting impressions

By Des Williams

David Grace, the man who took over the Shearing magazine from the New Zealand Contractors' Association in 1985 and made it a privately owned business, died in Wellington on 16 February 2022 at the age of 93.

Before taking on 'The Mag' as he affectionately called it, David had spent 25 years from 1960 working for the New Zealand Wool Board, mainly in roles relating to public relations, information services and media. His service included a secondment to the International Wool Secretariat in London from May 1964 to December 1965.

We caught up with David a couple of years ago and he had offered some retrospective thoughts for the 100th edition of *Shearing*:

'After working for the New Zealand Wool Board for 25 years, Shearing Mag landed in my lap, I suppose. I ran the magazine from a small home office at Makara from 1985 through to 1998, with Des Williams picking up the editorial responsibilities for the last two years.'

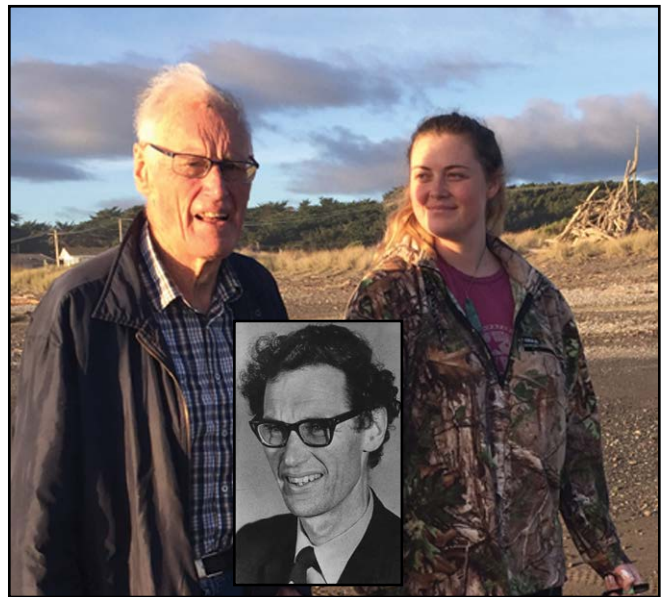
'David's son Mike says David loved his life in wool. He was passionate about wool as a great product, pushing the slogans of the era, 'Wool is best for babies and wool is resilient.'

'Dad was there during the hard years when wool came under threat from synthetic fibre and the Wool Board unsuccessfully sought to amalgamate wool growers into a single marketing organisation. Dad always sought to improve industry profile and conditions through all sorts of creative promotions; fashion shows, woolshed safety and Expo 70 which saw sheep, sheep dogs and shearers showing them how it's done over in Japan.'

'All this from a man who never shored a sheep, never killed a sheep, never skinned a sheep – he couldn't even carve a roast,' Mike said in a wonderful tribute at David's funeral service.

David himself had said in that 100th edition retrospective how he'd found the whole shearing fraternity 'an interesting lot, not an ordinary bunch; all individual characters.'

'I felt I did a bit of good with the Shearing Mag in encouraging shearers and woolhandlers to organise to get better rates and conditions, he said. 'These men and women have given so much to our country and they deserve greater recognition for their talent. That said, I used to have a bit of a job getting the woolhandlers to look at the camera.'



Above: David Grace with his grand-daughter, Matia Grace.

As David mentioned above, this writer took over editorial responsibility for the magazine beginning with the March 1998 edition and ending with August 2000, at which time 'Grace Editorial' sold the magazine to John Hart of Media East Ltd, based at Napier.

As a contributing writer to the magazine since 1990, one had become acutely aware of David's exacting standards in English grammar and matters of layout and production, especially in judicious use of the then eight pages that could be printed in colour or with 'spot' colour – it meant that good enough was never good enough unless it was your very best.

So, we gathered up a good range of stories and photos – David Fagan was still 'the man' (having just won his tenth Golden Shears); Robin Kidd 'revealed all' about the shearing pattern; we had a story about beating injuries with ACC, some tips on surviving the Marlborough drought, and a preview of the 1998 world championships to be held in Gorey, Ireland. Best of all, we were 'creative' with our cover, using a three-photo mosaic instead of the usual single image.

We got the magazine away to the printers on time (always a challenge) and waited anxiously for 12,000 printed copies to return from the printer a week later ... opened it up and everything looked great. 'David should be pleased with that,' he thought to himself.

When 'Mr Grace' got his copy he was quick to call on the phone: 'Yes, you've done well for your first edition as editor ... but I'm disappointed you never had a photo anywhere until page 6!' Wowser – the fledgling editor hadn't even noticed, but never made the same mistake again.

It's coming up 20 years since Last Side Publishing took over the magazine from John Hart (August 2002) and our style and layout immediately reverted back pretty much to the way David Grace had done it. For each of the 60-odd magazines produced since then we pause before pushing the 'finished' button and mentally ask ourselves the little question, 'Would this meet the exacting standards of David Grace?' We hope so.

RIP David. 'The Mag' remains your legacy.

DION MORRELL SHEARING

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND
PH 03 449 3360 • dmshearing@xtra.co.nz

SHEAR NZ
THE NATIONAL SHEARING ASSOCIATION

MNZSCA



- All year round steady work available stretching between Otago, Southland and Northland
- Opportunities to upskill
- Top pay rates, good accommodation in town, quality food
- Permanent staff wanted to service our run

027 630 9081 • Msg us on facebook
www.dmshearing.co.nz

David Grace – integrity and intellect

I am honoured to have worked with David Grace, a man of great integrity and intellect. But the greatest honour of all was becoming his friend.

I first met David in the second half of the 1980s, when he was editor of Shearing magazine. He told me in his no nonsense way I needed to write for him. Saying no wasn't an option, but actually that wasn't a problem because I sensed from the outset that here was a man of his word, a man of principle and a man who had high standards.

Like the great information-seeker he was, he had found out I was doing some newspaper writing about shearing sports competitions with a focus on southern shearers and woolhandlers, including my husband Edsel. I was a journalist by trade but thanks to meeting Edsel I had found my office had become a shearing shed, not a newsroom.

I will always appreciate how perceptive David was right from the beginning, he understood without me needing to say anything that I was missing writing, and feeling pulled. And he understood my dilemma and wish to remain neutral and professional when writing about Edsel. Trust was formed, and out of that the friendship that both Edsel and I will always treasure. He visited us, we visited him, and as he and I were both writers, we wrote to each other. It was fascinating hearing his stories about his writing life, for the *Weekly News*, for the Wool Board, and his book research. And always, about his children and grandchildren.

We last saw David in early March 2020, just before the pandemic changed our normal. Edsel and I were coming to the Golden Shears, the first time in over 20 years for me. It was an anniversary occasion for past winners but we felt we needed to see David if we could, while we were down that way. We hadn't heard from him for a while, a letter to his Karori address was returned to sender. Via good old Facebook I was able to track David down, via his son, Mike.

With Jenny's blessing we busted David out of the Bob Scott village for lunch and, when it became clear David wasn't ready to go back to his apartment yet, we went to Zealandia too. He loved the gentle walk and the bush and the birds, and talked and asked questions (often the same ones) constantly. He unfortunately took a small tumble but even that didn't seem to dampen his positivity and joy of life. Watching him engage so very graciously with the Zealandia staff helping him, and then with obvious mutual affection with the Bob Scott village staff, was truly lovely, and a lesson in aging cheerfully no matter what.

But the overriding feeling Edsel and I came away with after we dropped David safely back at his apartment that day was just how much he loved and was proud of his whanau. You have lost a mighty man whom I have no doubt went to his grave holding his huge love for you, and yours for him, very close. Me te aroha tino nui atu – Our deepest condolences to David's beloved family, please know we will always honour his memory and never forget him. Aroha mai aroha atu.

(Marg and Edsel Forde)



Above: We congratulate Tia Potae, winner of the inaugural Primary Industries category at the 2021 New Zealand Women of Influence Awards, announced in February. The Awards celebrate high-achieving wahine who are making a difference in the lives of New Zealanders. Apart from being a top woolhandler, woolclasser and industry trainer, Tia is a Whanau Ora Incorporated navigator at Tokomairiro Waiora (Milton), a whanau health provider for the South Otago rohe (area). Tia won the award for supporting shearers and their families through the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly during the 2020 lockdown, developing online tools so industry people could access essential health and social services 'after hours', and to access the Government's wage subsidy scheme. Having worked in the shearing industry all her adult life, Tia told The Country radio programme she 'jumped at the chance' to work when it was offered her by MPI, an offer that led to two years 'working alongside other organisations that are passionate about agricultural jobs.' Apart from Tia's category, awards were made for high achievement in Arts and Culture, Board and management, Business enterprise, Community hero, Diversity, Environment, Innovation, Science and Health, Public policy, Young leader, and for Lifetime achievement, which this year went to New Zealand's first female High Court judge and former Governor-General, Dame Silvia Cartwright.

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

- CONNECT**
TALK & LISTEN, BE THERE, FEEL CONNECTED
- GIVE**
Your time, your words, your presence
- TAKE NOTICE**
REMEMBER THE SIMPLE THINGS THAT GIVE YOU JOY
- KEEP LEARNING**
EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES, SEE OPPORTUNITIES, SURPRISE YOURSELF
- BE ACTIVE**
DO WHAT YOU CAN, ENJOY WHAT YOU DO, MOVE YOUR BODY

INTRODUCE THESE SIMPLE STRATEGIES INTO YOUR LIFE AND YOU WILL FEEL THE BENEFITS.

FARMSTRONG
Live Well Farm Well

Les got a kick out of that one ...

By Marty Braithwaite

The story goes that no one has shorn at as many sheep stations in the South Island as has blade shearing legend Les Richards; from Mount Nicholas which reaches deep into Southland from the shores of Lake Wakitipu, up along the Alps to the McKenzie country and through back country Canterbury as far as Hanmer and Kaikoura.

It was natural that Les ended up a shearer, 'he just went out with dad', himself a long-time blade shearer and, after spending 30 bob (\$3) for a fortnight's tuition at Stan Kingsbury's shearing college, he was set for a career that would span into six decades.

That was around 1936, just after the Great Depression. Les was either 18 or 19 years of age and the money was good, about 25 bob (or 25 shillings, \$2.50) a hundred. 'The award was 18 shillings, but we got 25. Ooh yes, it was good money [about \$150 a hundred by today's standards], but you only got a small season then. You shored from October till just after Christmas and if you shored three or four thousand that was a good season.

'When my mate took me out and I started to come pretty good, it was damn hard. Wherever all the gun shearers went I'd make sure I went to them sheds too, to have a go. Stan Hart was the biggest gun in them days and we were shearing at Esk Head in North Canterbury, and I'd just had a fortnight off. Hart says to me, "Richards, don't bother trying to keep up with me," and the old wrist went on me and I didn't have enough in me to get him that time.'

Not one to give up, Richards was next with Hart again at Lake Taylor, inland from Hawarden in North Canterbury. Les continues: 'Hart says, "You won't get me, Richards," so I thought 'Uh oh, I'll show you something.' I done 28 the first hour and old Stan he done the same. Next run I thought, 'Jesus, how am I going to keep this up,' but I did and beat him by 17 in the afternoon.

'When we came out, we called in at the Waikari pub and there was this big gang of shearers there and they said, 'Did you hear about some younger bloke did Stan Hart. They said some young joker flogged him.' I said, 'Yeah' but I didn't mention it



Above: Les Richards, blade shearing legend.

was me. Next day I went into town, and we met those jokers, and they said, "It was you!" I got a big kick out of that.'

Shearing has always been and always will be a competitive game and tallies are important. 'I done 140 in me first year out, but shearers in them days weren't as good as they are now because they didn't shear as many. It took me about three seasons to do my first 200.'

Les rung one shed for 17 years, but says it doesn't matter how good you are or what you are, there's always someone coming along who'll beat you. 'You get that bloody good that everyone's after you.'

The ultimate was a national title when, in 1965, at the ripe age of almost 50, Les became the 'oldest bloke' ever to win the Golden Blades, the country's premier blade shearing completion held annually at the Christchurch A&P show.

'Old Dick Perry and I and the two Karaitiana's were in the final, and I said, "Well Dick, I'm not sure if there's any way us two old pakehas can win." Then afterwards it came over the airwaves, Richards and Perry are tied for first. Us two old fellas were tied and so we had to shear it off, old Dick and I.'

And so it was that Les took out his one and only Golden Blades title. But what made the win more astounding was the fact that the year before, Les had a bad accident, 'broken legs and knees, smashed me hand all up, and the doctor said your shearing days are over.'

Clearly, they weren't. Les shored on for almost 20 more years.

SHEAR SHARP

Blade Shearing Equipment Demonstrations & Instruction

Phil Oldfield
26 Talbot St, Geraldine, 7930 New Zealand
+64 (0)3 693 9877

Find us on Facebook **Shear Sharp NZ**
oldendale@xtra.co.nz

GET THE EDGE, MAKE THE CUT

‘But not as we know it, Jim ...’

By Doug Laing (Shearing Sports NZ)

Warm favourite Nathan Stratford won the 50th national shearing circuit final in a unique event, in a Central Otago woolshed on Saturday 5 March 2022.

Shorn at the Golden Shears in Masterton for 48 years until pandemic-based cancellations of the Golden Shears in the last two summers, the final of the PGG Wrightson Vetmed series was shifted to Armidale Merino Stud, at Gimmerburn.

Incorporating the McSkimming Memorial Triple Crown, which was first presented in 1973 to find New Zealand’s top shearers across the breeds and types from finewool merino to crossbred lambs, it was the first time the final had been held in the South Island.

Stratford, from Invercargill, the 2014 winner, went into the finals day with the No 1 ranking among 12 shearers from points across five qualifying rounds throughout the curtailed season, and was the TAB favourite. He was shearing his 18th final in the event and his 74 Open-final wins were more than all the rest of the qualifiers put together.

Describing himself as ageing – he is in his 40s and in his 25th year in the Open grade – Stratford said there would be a time when it’s time to ‘button off’, but shearing the competitions is a ‘disease’ he can’t shrug off.

‘Once you start you can’t stop,’ said Stratford, who says in most seasons he’d easily do 20,000kms on the road chasing the shows, which will get some relief with a year’s lease of an Hyundai Santa Fe among his prize package.

Also there were cash and voucher prizes – but not enough to cover the costs of competing – and selection in the New Zealand trans-Tasman series team, if a series is held.

The finals started with two semi-final heats of six shearers, after which, uniquely, all six in the faster second heat qualified for the final soon afterwards, over 20 sheep – five merino wethers, five half-bred long wool ewes, five second-shear ewes and five lambs.

The challenge was first thrown out by Masterton shearer Paerata Abraham, who was top qualifier for the final, as well as having the fastest time, of 23min 14.8sec.

It was an indicator the final would be one of the longest on record in New Zealand shearing, with Abraham on Stand 1 first off the board in 27min 22.1sec. Having led the race all the way, Abraham pipped Stratford (Stand 5) by just 0.78sec, but the southerner had the best quality points, both on the board and in the pens, and won by 2.2165pts, from Parnassus shearer Hugh De Lacy, who also had better quality points.



Above: Invercargill’s Nathan Stratford on the way to winning the PGG Wrightson/Vetmed national circuit final at Paterson’s Armidale Merino Stud, Gimmerburn, Central Otago. Usually a feature of finals night at Golden Shears, Masterton, the final was transferred because of Covid-19 restrictions to a South Island venue for the first time in the event’s 50 year history.

Abraham was third, Jack Fagan, of Te Kuiti fourth, Ringakaha Paewai, of Gore, was fifth, and sixth was Willy McSkimming, a grandson of Fred McSkimming and the first of the family to contest the final – albeit the rank outsider on the TAB odds.

There were surprise eliminations in the semi-finals, most notably defending champion Leon Samuels, of Invercargill, who stepped up to be Stratford’s pen-boy in the final.

Results from the PGG Wrightson Vetmed National Shearing Circuit finals at Armidale Station, Gimmerburn:

Semi-finals (16 sheep): Paerata Abraham (Masterton) 23min 14.8sec, 81.74pts, 1; Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 23min 53.84sec, 83.1295pts, 2; Jack Fagan (Te Kuiti) 23min 44.77sec, 83.8635pts, 3; Hugh De Lacy (Parnassus) 23min 59.02sec, 4.952pts, 4; Ringakaha Paewai (Gore) 24min 28.86sec, 88.193pts, 5; Willy McSkimming (Oamaru) 25min 6.99sec, 88.2245pts, 6; Brett Roberts (Mataura) 26min 9.55sec, 90.7275pts, 7; Leon Samuels (Invercargill) 25.53.92sec, 90.821pts, 8; Aaron Haynes (Feilding) 27min 47.11sec, 96.1055pts, 9; David Gordon (Masterton) 26min 43.77sec, 96.4385pts, 10; Lionel Taumata (Gore) 27min 43.77sec, 100.3135pts, 11; James Ruki (Te Kuiti) 27min 49.12sec, 100.4435pts, 12.

PGG Wrightson Vetmed National Shearing Circuit final (20 sheep – 5 merino wethers, 5 halfbred longwool, 5 second-shear, 5 lambs): Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 27min 22.97sec, 91.9985pts, 1; Hugh De Lacy (Parnassus) 27min 36.3sec, 94.315pts, 2; Paerata Abraham (Masterton) 27min 22.19sec, 96.7095pts, 3; Jack Fagan (Te Kuiti) 27min 50.05sec, 97.7525pts, 4; Ringakaha Paewai (Gore) 27min 29.89sec, 98.5945pts, 5; Willy McSkimming (Oamaru) 29min 15.22sec, 100.861pts, 6.



Pleasant Point, South Canterbury

Quality Shearers, Woolhandlers & pressers wanted
between the months of January - March & June - October.

Competitive wage rates

Call Anthony Frew 0276 148 089

ewenedus@outlook.com

Turning back the clock on records

*In our previous edition (November 2021) we 'turned back the clock' to 1993 and lived again that epic story of Alan 'Mickey' MacDonald's world lamb shearing record – the day at Donnelly's King Country woolshed when 831 lambs went flying out the porthole. This time we step back even further into history, to 1958 when Jim Morris shore the first official world record tally on lambs. This story is reprinted from the August 2004 edition of *Shearing*.*

Jim Morris sets the stage

By Des Williams

The pages of history can start to fade after 45 years - especially old newspaper clippings pasted into scrapbooks, as was the fashion before the present age of high technology.

Scrap book stories held by NZ First MP, Edwin Perry (Masterton), recording the shearing deeds of Jim and Jack Morris are definitely in the faded category.

But while the paper has indeed acquired telltale signs of wear and tear and colour change, the memories of this family history remain strong for Edwin, who provided photocopies for *Shearing* magazine's own archives.

It was on 11 December 1958 that Jim Morris shore 474 "well grown Romney lambs" to establish a world record. Writing of the build up to this event, Wattie Karkeek back then recorded how the 32-year-old Morris had been trained to shear by his father, Hipa Morris of Okautete.

'Jim Morris spent most of his earlier years in the atmosphere of the shearing sheds,' Karkeek wrote. 'Hipa was himself a shearer of distinction who in his day often shore as many as 340 big sheep per day.

'He had learned from hard earned experience that a shearer could be forced to retire from the game too soon through fatigue if he consistently aimed at high tallies while still very young and for this reason Jim was kept in check, being permitted to shear only a certain number each day.'

Under Hipa's guidance of course, the young man developed

DAVIS SHEARING CONTRACTING

Covering Otago, Southland and further afield from our bases at Gore, Milton and Balclutha

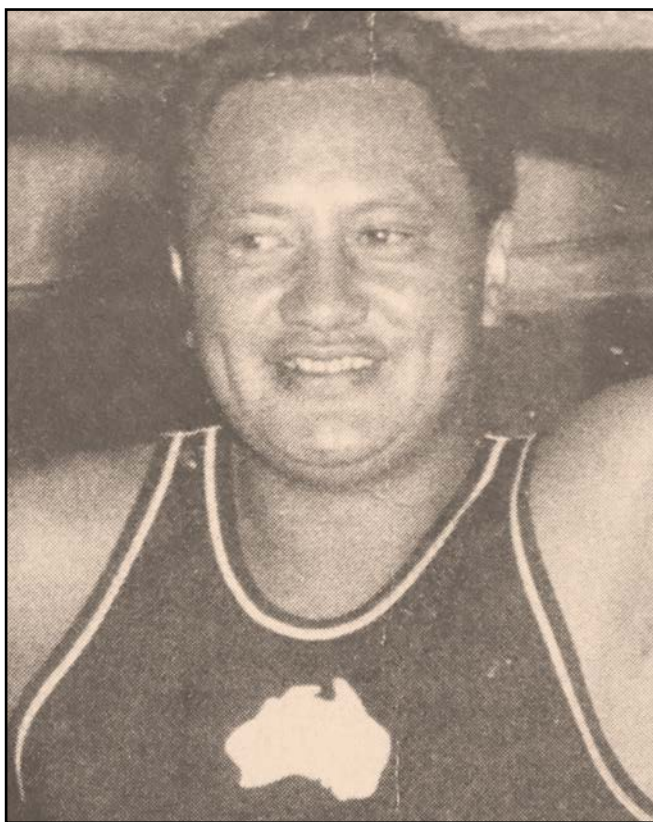
Shearers and shedhands - we provide excellent accommodation and living conditions, clean sheep, great sheds, steady work.

We focus on providing top quality shearing and wool preparation service for our many clients in a competitive but relaxed working atmosphere

Farmers - we have the crew to meet your needs - when you want it, how you want it.

Ring Jason - tel 03 418 0824.

E-mail shara.jason@xtra.co.nz



Above: Jim Morris, a couple of years after establishing the first lamb shearing world record. But what's with the funny map on the singlet? Read on ...

his ability and a 'clean, accurate technique', and the numbers disappearing down the porthole gradually increased. But even after several years of measured development, Jim was still basically a weekend shearer when, in 1957, another Wairarapa man, George Hawkins, posted a tally of 464 lambs in nine hours. Inspired by the newspaper report of the Hawkins tally, Jim Morris joined his brothers gang at the Korarau shed of N and W Beetham.

Wearing a glove and bandage on a damaged right hand, Jim Morris ended the day with 464 lambs to his credit - the same as Hawkins. 'A very creditable performance, and he was hammered by his cut hand which upset the feel of his handpiece,' Karkeek wrote.

In a reversal of the famous occasion when Ivan Bowen bettered brother Godfrey's ewe record by one (having earlier agreed to merely equal it), first counts had Morris beating Hawkins tally by one. The recount, however, confirmed the tie.

Convinced he could still do better, Morris sought Wool Board confirmation that no official lamb shearing record existed. And so, that December day in 1958 saw Jim (by now a contractor in his own right) line up for the big day at the Wairere property of Mr J Daniels, where the Morris gang was working.

'The final tally of 424 was disappointing and it was therefore decided that yet another attempt at breaking the 464 world record would be made about a week later,' Wattie Karkeek recorded. This time the venue was the shield of J and G Moore at Epairama, 50 kilometres from Masterton.

With a shed full of 'typical hill country sheep' and his brother on the stand next door to pace him, Jim Morris started off in search of the big tally. Although Jack was noted as a ewe shearer and holder of the Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa open championships, he was generally no match for Jim on the lambs, and so it proved.

If any other incentive was required to motivate the young man, it came just before the start of the first run. News came through that a Gisborne man, George Horsfall, had the previous day dispatched 470 lambs in nine hours, thus extending the Hawkins mark by six.

'But this news only provided added incentive and towards the end of the day the tension mounted and before a large crowd of spectators, Jim Morris shored his 474th lamb of the day while his mates broke out in a cheering haka,' Wattie Karkeek reported.

With the tally book duly signed by two official timekeepers and Mr DH Speedy, JP, Jim Morris became the first official world record holder for a nine-hour lamb tally. Shearing in one hour runs with a five-minute break on the hour, Jim shored 107 between 5.00am and 7.05am.

With a one-hour breakfast break he then did 106 between 8.05am and 10.10am before stopping for a 20-minute smoko. Another 53 went on their way prior to lunch at 11.30am.

Jim started strongly again after lunch, equalling his best hour with 54, then 52. The last two hours produced some minor evidence of battle fatigue, but matching 51's to finish the day saw him pass the Horsfall tally and safely into the record books, both official and unofficial.

There have been many epic, record-setting days in the shearing sheds of New Zealand since that memorable December day in 1958. The present lamb record stands at 839, established at Waihi-Pukawa Station, near Turangi, by Rod Sutton of Porangahau in December 2000.

(Reprinted from *Shearing*, Vol 20 No 2, August 2004.)

Jim Morris had what you might call another day in the rosy glow, at Golden Shears in 1961 when, for half an hour or so, he was a genuine 'sun-burned Australian'.

Australia that year sent what was originally a three-man team to take part in the 'Australasian Shearing Championship', as it was called. The team was led by Fred Jarvis, who had won the Australian open championship at Shepparton in 1960; Des Allen had won the same event the year before, and Kevin Sarre had won it four times in succession from 1954. Australian Wool Bureau Liaison officer, Les Batten accompanied the trio as manager.

Unbeknown to the official team members, another Australian named John Allan had already spent several months shearing in New Zealand (mainly the South Island) and when he showed up at Masterton to support the team he was 'inducted' as another official team member. Allan would go on to win the intermediate championship.

Included on the Golden Shears programme was a relay event, involving teams of five, shearing two sheep each. Australia needed another member and their roving gaze settled on Jim Morris (we know not how or why Jim was chosen).

Mate Simon's Te Kuiti team won with 85.54 points. Manu Rangiawha's Te Mata team came second, 84.25; Morry Lawton's Auckland team finished third with 84.14; Mac Potae's Pahiatua team was next with 80.31 and the Fred Jarvis-led Australians trailed up the rear in fifth place with 78.52.

And that's how Jim Morris came to be a 'sunburned Australian' as the commentator called him during the event.



Top: Kevin Sarre, John Allan, Jim Morris, Fred Jarvis and Des Allen ready for action in the relay. **Above:** Four dinkum Aussies applaud Kevin Sarre as he completes sheep No. 10.



PAYBIZ

Need a payroll boost...

Choose **PAYBIZ** to get your pays produced.

Saves you time & your stress reduced.

Specialised Payroll Software

SHEBIZ LTD
info@shebiz.nz
www.shebiz.nz
03 445 1345



100% NZ owned and operated

Haere ra, 'Jimmy Eknows'

By Des Williams

When James Smail decided he was going to join up on Facebook, his wife and soulmate Tess was quick to suggest a page name for him. 'Jimmy Eknows Smail', "Because 'Eknows' everything already and is not likely to learn much on Facebook that's new to him," she reasoned.

When James was diagnosed with cancer in May 2021 by a specialist and given a maximum of six weeks to live, he somehow turned that six weeks into nine months. Only 'Eknows' how he did that, but the manner of his facing the battle and defying the odds for so long, with a courage and strength of mind and body rarely seen, left his whanau and friends in absolute awe.

'He'd set goals for himself all through his illness,' Father-in-law Brendon Potae of Milton explains. 'Surviving 'til his birthday on 24 July; then to see Christmas and – perhaps the most optimistic of them all – he wanted to survive long enough to attend his grandfather's 100th birthday on 8 January.'

'That was a bloody long way into the future back in May, but James got there. He wasn't able to fly north to attend the party in person but he joined the North Island celebration by Skype from Milton and spoke with his grandfather on that day. James finally surrendered to the inevitable three days later, on 11 January 2022.'

James had started out on his career with a handpiece around the Patetonga area, where his father Alan did some shearing in conjunction with a sawmilling business. He started going to competitions and made a few minor finals.

Then, in the 2000/2001 season he put in some serious effort on the Shearing Sports junior circuit. He made finals at Western Shears and Tauranga before winning his first 'major', at Ngongotaha's Geyserland Shears. Further wins at Dannevirke, Aria, Taumarunui and Apiti led to Golden Shears, where he came out tops of a group that included the future Australian champion, Daniel McIntyre.

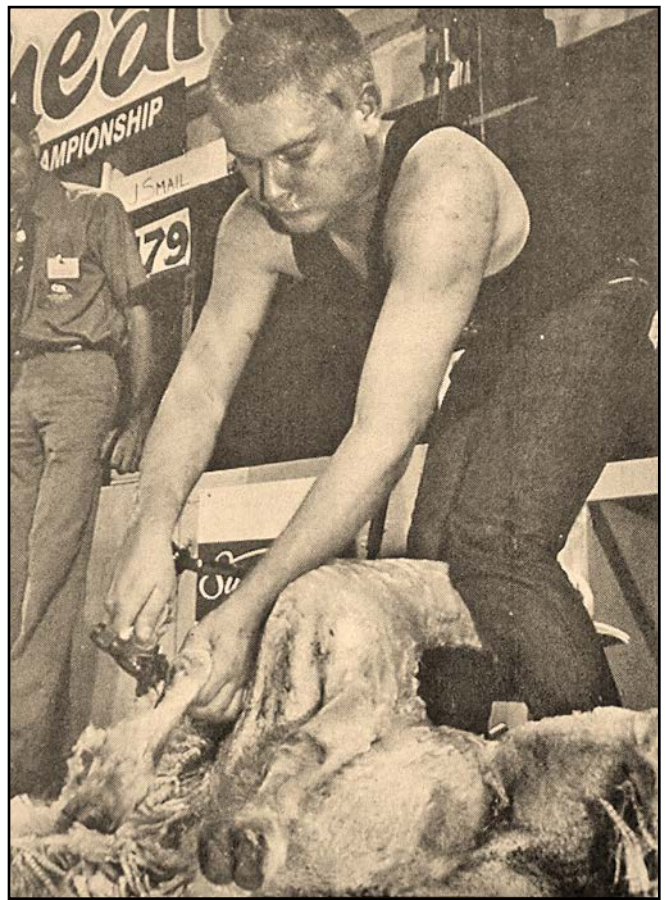
James then followed up 'Goldies' with wins at Piopio and Northern Shears, but couldn't quite complete the Golden Shears-New Zealand championships double, finishing fourth in the Te Kuiti final won by Adam Brausch.

It was during that season, Brendon Potae recalls, when James Mack suggested to him that he should get the young fellow Smail down south to work, and to refine his shearing abilities.

'James came down for pre-lamb in 2001 and worked for Potae Shearing and James Mack was right, he had tons of potential. I didn't let him do much shearing that first season, had him belly crutching and that sort of thing but he worked hard then went home to spend another season with his Dad.'

'He came back down in 2002 and apart from a couple of months when I had him staying at the Ranch (Potae Shearing quarters in Milton) so he could learn a bit about life from the range of experienced shearers around him, he was living here with me and became very much a part of our whanau. James went from doing 150 a day to 270 in the space of 18 months and quickly became a seasoned campaigner, a top shearer as good as anyone else out there. When Potae Shearing sold up in 2011 James went to work for Jock Martin at Lawrence and became his main actor, from then until he couldn't shear anymore.'

After such a promising year as a junior, James continued to chase the shearing competitions for a while – going through



Above: James Smail, Golden Shears junior champion 2001.

the grades to open class but it was then he started to suffer rather badly from nerves (in the best traditions of Waterson, Blackwell, Brough) and decided there were other ways of having fun. He was so nervous and so slow out of the blocks, Brendon says. 'He could shear a sheep in 40 seconds but more often than not he was taking twice that long to get started. He eventually decided a night in a hut out on the hill was better for his brain and body than stressing about shearing sheep in front of a crowd or judges.'

'James then fell in love with pig hunting and diving, the things that were going on in my world. From then on they became his passion and main forms of recreation and he gave the competitions away.'

'James and my daughter Tess were hooked up together by about 2003 and they bought themselves a house in Milton. They had 19 years together [married in 2014] and turned it into a beautiful home. He became a great father to their son, Jack James Brendon Smail, and a great mate to me – he was a mate first and my son-in-law second.'

'He was a real soldier – probably the toughest bugger I've ever met in my life and strong as an ox. And generous – he once offered up the last bag of paua in his freezer to a friend.'

'James also played a key role behind the scenes in four world records that were organised from here. He could have been shearing in them himself but was more content to just be one of the boys out the back, doing what had to be done, away from the spotlight.'



Above: James Smail, with one more for the freezer.

‘Last winter, James coached the six-year-olds in Rippa Rugby at the Toko Club. He’d be running around the field with a bloody chemo bag around his neck! With treatment once a fortnight, that became James’ pattern – chemo this week, out hunting, diving or doing something else the following week.

Then, in December, James was told there could be no more chemo so he told them to take the PICC line out of his arm and said, ‘whatever will be, will be.’

‘There were a couple of things on James’ bucket list that he didn’t get to do,’ Brendon Potae says. ‘He didn’t get to go diving after the big crayfish in Fiordland, but he and Tess made the most of the short time left together they knew they had. They bought a campervan and toured about with young Jack, created their own memorable moments at different beaches, went salmon fishing ...’

James was farewelled with a tangi and ‘phenomenal speeches’ at the Toko Rugby Club grounds on 14 January 2022. Despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 regulations, more than 400 people attended the outside service.

The manner of James Alexander Smail’s refusal to ‘go quietly’ reminds one of that great Aussie writer and critic, Clive James (see page 13), who also famously took quite a lot longer to die than his medics predicted. He had time to write several more books after being ‘given the word’ in 2010 that he had terminal leukemia and his days were numbered.

Facing his own mortality, Clive (1939-2019) had suggested, ‘If you don’t know the exact moment when the lights will go out, you might as well keep reading until they do.’

One suspects Clive James, like those hundreds who socially distanced themselves around the Toko rugby ground (LOL) to bid James Smail *haere ra*, would have seen everything to admire in the way that James too ‘kept reading’ until the lights went out.

RIP, Jimmy Eknows.



Above: James Smail (with Sel Williams and Shane Harvey) in James Mack’s pen during the world four-stand record at Centre Hill Station, near Te Anau, on 5 February 2013. Mack shored 643 lambs in eight hours, combining with John Kirkpatrick (650), Leon Samuels (648) and Eru Weeds (615) to establish the record at 2556 lambs (there being no previous four-stand tally). **Below:** James Mack returns the compliment during a Smail whanau fundraising day at Clinton last year.



FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

CONNECT

TALK & LISTEN,
BE THERE,
FEEL CONNECTED

Give

Your time,
your words,
your presence

TAKE
NOTICE

REMEMBER
THE SIMPLE
THINGS THAT
GIVE YOU JOY

KEEP
LEARNING

EMBRACE NEW
EXPERIENCES,
SEE OPPORTUNITIES,
SURPRISE YOURSELF

BE
ACTIVE

DO WHAT YOU CAN,
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO,
MOVE YOUR HOOD

INTRODUCE THESE SIMPLE STRATEGIES INTO YOUR LIFE
AND YOU WILL FEEL THE BENEFITS.



Heart-warming!

That's the phrase that came to the editor's mind when he read how members of the rugby club he last played for 55 years ago had jumped in to help an injured farmer crutch 1300 lambs.

The *Southland Times* and Gold Radio both covered the story last month and *Shearing* mag also gives a big shout-out to Blayne De Vries and his mates at the Waiau Star Rugby Club, Tuatapere.

Local farmer Nathan Parris had 1300 lambs to be shipped north to Canterbury because a lack of rain since the start of the year meant he was running out of feed on his own property. But they had to be crutched first, and he had pranged himself up in a dirt-bike accident and broke his collarbone in five places. A week-long wait for constructive surgery and six weeks of recuperation gave him what you might call something of a dilemma.

As an Alliance Western Southland livestock rep. and Waiau Star club stalwart, Blayne De Vries (son of a shearing contractor) soon came up with the winning 'game plan'. 'When I learnt about Nathan's injury, I knew we had to move quickly to ensure he could have his lambs crutched and transported off the farm,' Blayne told the *Southland Times*.

Realising there were far too many to do by himself, Blayne started getting in touch with club members. They can only say yes or no, he reasoned.

A team of 12 (nine players and three former players) gathered at the woolshed at 6pm and got to work.

'They had four guys at a time crutching, four dragging out, two doing wool and two penning up,' Nathan Parris said. 'It was a great example of the rural community pulling together to help each other out.'

Job done and dusted in just over four hours. Well done Waiau Star team!

Shearing snippets from Pages Past

First Wool Board Classes

The New Zealand Wool Board's recently-established shearing service will hold its inaugural classes at Massey Agricultural College next week. The course will begin at 10:00am on Monday and will continue on Tuesday. Individual shearing tuition will be given, and attendance for more than one day will not be necessary.

The instructor will be Mr W Godfrey Bowen, the world champion shearer, who was appointed to the board's staff last month to give shearing instruction throughout the Dominion. The board intends that the pattern of instruction laid down in this first course be followed as closely as possible at other centres.

The instruction will be free to farmers, shearers, and anybody else interested in shearing technique. Pupils are asked to take their own shearing equipment and suitable clothing.

Mr Bowen's itinerary will cover the whole of New Zealand during the coming shearing season. Because sheep are available for only a limited season, and because the board wants Mr Bowen to visit as many small centres as possible, he will give instruction for not more than three days at each place.

The Press (Christchurch), 27 July 1953.

Backyard shearing is his weekend pastime

Shearing sheep is an unusual occupation for a city dweller, because a shearer is seen as a tanned tough man, perspiring at his work in a hot, country shearing shed.

Yet Auckland has a shearer. He is Mr B Russek, who retains his skill by clipping sheep kept by city folk.

'Sheep are four legged-lawnmowers,' said Mr Russek. 'You would be surprised how many there are in Auckland.'

Mr Russek has shorn about 35 sheep so far this year. The fleeces bring their owners about six pounds and more. Mr Russek gets an 'appreciation' for his work. 'There are many sections of about an acre or more in Auckland,' said Mr Russek. 'Instead of wasting time mowing lawns, it's better to put a sheep on the property. They keep lawns in perfect condition.'

Shearing, usually at weekends, is a profitable sideline for Mr Russek. For the last 22 years he has been employed as shearer by an Auckland freezing company, and before that he was on his family's farm at Thames.

'I and my four brothers did a lot of shearing around the country and we could put up a pretty good tally. My brother Ted once got through 290 sheep in a day in a district where the sheep were hard going. He marked this up on the wall of the shed.'

'Not very long ago Ivan Bowen was shearing in the same shed. He saw the tally and thought it was a good effort. Bowen reckoned he couldn't beat that figure,' Mr Russek said.

Mr Russek still uses old type hand blades and, without extending himself, he can shear a sheep in about four minutes.

'It keeps a man fit,' he says.
The Press (Christchurch) 8 January 1959.



Made in New Zealand



**SILVER
FERN
SHEARING
GEAR
STANDS
THE TEST
OF TIME**

Check out our new hybrid shearing Jean

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.SQUIRES.CO.NZ

or contact us at 06 388 1201
127 Hautapu Street, Taihape
squires.mfg@squires.co.nz

The biggest laugh of the lot

By Marty Braithwaite

It was just over a century ago, in 1920, when Ron Anderson embarked on what was to be a 54-year career at Mt Algidus, one of the most isolated high-country sheep stations in the country, more than 21,000 hectares tucked into the Rolleston Range behind the fork of the Wilberforce and Rakaia rivers.

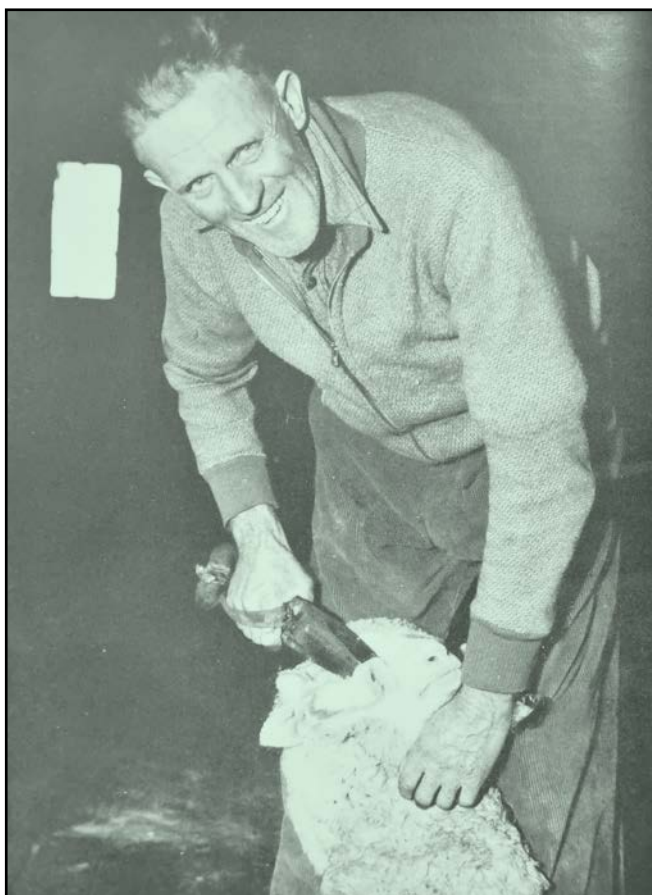
Starting as a shepherd-come-musterer and ending as manager, Ron was at Mt Algidus when electricity from the Coleridge power station replaced the diesel-powered generators which in turn had made redundant kerosene and candles.

He was there when the first telephone line went in and motor vehicles replaced horse-drawn drays to trek supplies in and meat and wool out across the legendary Wilberforce River, and when his wife, Mona Anderson, chronicled high-country life in her books, the most celebrated being *A River Rules My Life*.

In those initial years, the shearing sheds were open with free-lance blade men going from shed to shed. Many were older and, arguably, tougher. 'Some of those men were up to 80-years old and still shearing – there was no social security,' Ron recalled. 'I remember one old shearer, Harry Blanchard, who'd been injured in the Boer War, he had shrapnel in his back and couldn't straighten himself up; that poor old beggar was still shearing because he had no other way of existing.'

Prior to switching to pre-lamb in the 1950s, shearing started at Algidus on New Year's Day and regulars were booked to turn up year after year, among them Jim O'Halloran from the North Island and Jack Gillett from Tasmania, 'The Great Australian Bite, they would call him.' Neither booked nor ever wrote, but Ron always kept two stands free and 'sure as eggs' come shearing time they'd be there. That was how it worked.

With others it wasn't so straightforward. They could be stuck



Above: Ron Anderson, employed at Mt Algidus Station from 1920 to 1973, photographed eye-wiggling a merino sheep.

at another shed and wouldn't let you know they'd be late, and some wouldn't even turn up at all.

'The only way you knew if you'd get a full gang was when they arrived even though they'd been booked,' laments Ron. 'You could have the classers and all the shed hands and only half the shearers and you could be paying them for a fortnight before you got a full gang.'

The combination of inhospitable back country, a lack of dipping post-weaning and prevailing nor-west dust storms made shearing 'very tough'. If a man put out 100, he was a real gun, with the average shearer getting no more than about 60 to 70 a day.

'The fleeces had stones as big as fingernails and under the wool table would be great heaps of shingle,' Ron recalls. 'Mountaineering bastards,' Ernie Slow described them.

'The shearers were quite good fellows most of them, and many regarded as friends, regulars such as Les Richards ('He rung the shed for many years and always did a good job') and his father before him, the Karaitiana brothers, Stan Kingsbury and, later, contractor Peter Casserly ('a good shearer and nice man').

Others were less-well-regarded. 'There were those who wrote to tell you they were shearers, and they'd arrive, and they couldn't shear anything; and then there was 'Manpower', the wartime regulation designed to fill labour shortages in essential industries, of which shearing was one. (To page 50.)

Te Anau Shearing Ltd

We have jobs available June - August and Dec - April for people who are reliable, have good work ethics and positive attitudes.

Meals, accommodation and travel provided

**Phone Andrew on
027 434 8108 or 03 249 7035
ajclegg@xtra.co.nz**



Never compromise.

*Choose Heiniger capital equipment, trusted by New Zealand farmers, contractors and shearers to get the job done and ensure you **never have to compromise on safety, performance or reliability.***

Watch our equipment
in action!



TPW Xpress Woolpress

With industry leading safety features, the #1 selling and most trusted woolpress helps to keep you and your workers safe in the shed. The TPW Xpress now comes with the new **FX1⁺** indicator with audible and visible alarms that let you know when you're approaching the target weight.

TPW Backease Hoist

Industry professionals trust the versatile, compact and cost effective TPW Backease Hoist to safely lift loads of up to 600kg with extendable 1.2 - 1.8m boom. At only 78kg, it's easy to install with no loss of load space and features hydraulic lift and pressure regulated downwards movement.

Evo Shearing Plant

The world's leading shearers trust the #1 selling shearing plant in the world, winner of multiple WorkSafe awards. The Evo delivers industry leading safety features, impressive performance and superb reliability.

Heiniger New Zealand | (03) 349 8282 | heiniger.co.nz

(From previous page)

'I think anybody who had even looked at a sheep was sent out,' says Ron. 'There were pastry cooks, tailors and even a sewing-machine expert. They could be there for weeks and were only getting out about 500 sheep a day at most, but you couldn't get anyone else and that was that.'

'And then there was a Ray Harris. He said he was going to gun the Algidus shed, and for one day he did, he shore 201. He was skiting about it, which was all too much for Ron. "You didn't shear them, you skinned them" was the retort. There was one with its stomach trailing about the yards and others were badly nicked and bloodied. He was the only shearer Ron recalls who caused him to get his hackles properly up.'

Not finished, Harris later stopped the whole gang shearing on the pretext the sheep were wet. 'I said, they can't be wet; it hasn't rained since God knows when,' Ron responded, but to no avail. This went on for two days with two-hourly checks to see whether the sheep were dry enough. 'Well, Friday night a nor-west broke and it started to rain in the back country so I shedded-up again,' Ron continued. 'Come Saturday morning, Harris said the sheep were still too wet and the shearers wanted to go across the river and to the races. Ron demanded they wait until mid-morning, by which time it was 'raining like the devil at the homestead' and 'the river was rising like blazes'.

'They couldn't shear, and the rain stayed for ten days, never let up. The river was a banker, so they were stuck, they couldn't get out and they couldn't shear. I got the last and biggest laugh of the lot; they were stuck there with nothing to do.'

That was just the way it was, as Ron's wife Mona said, the river well and truly ruled their lives.

This story is another from a series of interviews carried out by the writer with people associated with blade shearing in the early 1980s. (Marty Braithwaite)

Missing Goldies? Buy the book!

Does it seem like forever since you sat in the War Memorial Stadium at Masterton and absorbed that special atmosphere that only Golden Shears can generate?

Finals night on 7 March 2020 seems a long time ago, when Rowland Smith won the 60th anniversary open championship by 1.5 points from Nathan Stratford – his seventh purple ribbon.

The even more prolific Joel Henare won the open woolhandling title for the eighth time and there were other highlights aplenty during the four days of celebration, not least those provided by the mere presence of former champions like Tom Brough, Brian Quinn, Roger Cox, Martin Ngataki and Ivan Rosandich.

From that perspective, we can only

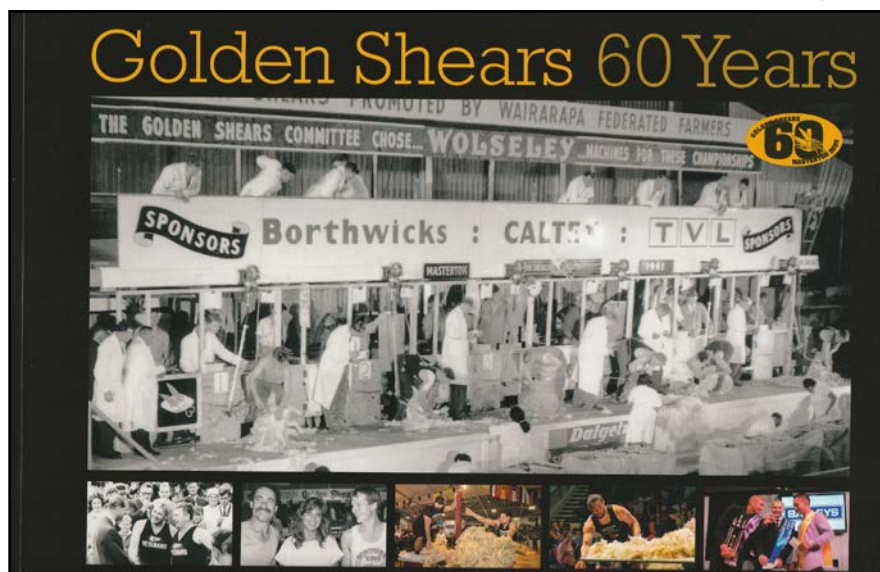
hope that dratted Covid has well and truly 'pissed off' come March 2023 and we can resume business as normal.

In the meantime, why not order a copy of Pete Nikolaison's pictorial history of the first 60 years of Golden Shears!

Memories and nostalgic triggers on every page – in black and white and in colour. Time spent flicking through these 120 large-format pages is almost as good as being there!

Email pete@pete.co.nz or phone him up on 64-6-370 3222 for details on how to get your copy.

Go on, do it today, you won't regret it!



Payroll & invoicing made easy

Shear Simplicity - easy to use payroll and invoicing software for shearing and contracting businesses.

Benefits include:

- Support from experienced industry professionals
- Save time by entering tally sheet data only once
- Pay employees and produce payslips
- Invoice clients and track payments against accounts
- Produce PAYE, employee earnings reports and GST on receipts reports
- Integrates with MYOB IMS Payroll and Accounting applications

To discuss how we can help,
call us on: Phone 07 838 1961

Email: admin@payrollplusltd.co.nz



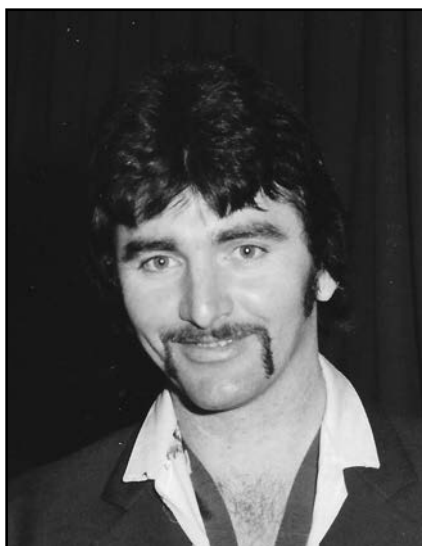
Payroll Plus Ltd

Five more for Aussie Hall of Fame

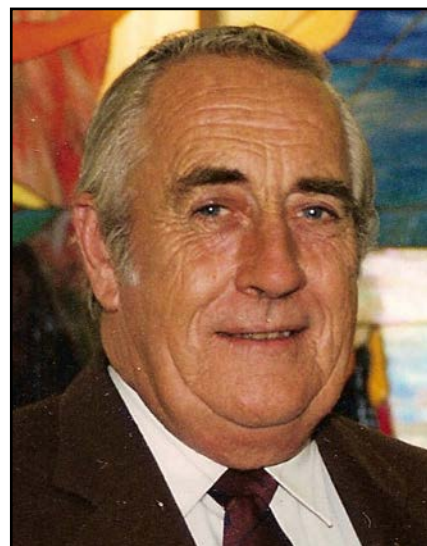


Ray Anderson was born in 1936 in Goulburn, New South Wales and shore in the Crookwell district for 45 years before he 'retired' and became a contractor in the same area. He was a tough, determined and highly skilled shearer who was a member of the Australian Team to New Zealand in 1980, and also represented Australia at Denver Colorado on three occasions.

Always focused on quality shearing, Ray spent much time mentoring young shearers. He won over 200 competitions during his career including eight successive Open events and the 1980 Australian Strong wool. He was a Life Member of the Shearing Competition Federation of Australia and an active member of the Australian Workers Union. Ray was a wonderful family man who died in 2016.



Gene Mills was born in 1954 at Crookwell and now lives at Young, New South Wales. He shears mainly in Central NSW and is noted as a fast clean shearer. He has a top tally of 450 in lambs and has competed in over 300 amount of Open class competitions with great success. Gene's competition record includes five-time winner of the Canberra Shearer of the Year, Australian Open twice and the Australian Strong wool twice. He also won the Longreach Diamond Shears 1992. Gene was a member of the Australian Team to New Zealand in 1983 and 1984 and in 1990 competed at the National Stock Show in Denver, Colorado, which he won. He is the only 2022 inductee currently still shearing and is always ready to lend a helping hand to the up and coming generation.



Bernie Walker OAM was born in Euroa, Victoria in 1939 and grew up on the family farm. He began shearing aged 16 and became noted as an exceptionally clean shearer. He is proud of the fact he never shore anywhere he couldn't return if he wished. He was not a big tally shearer or into competitions. Through Apex he became Chairman of the group which introduced the first open time event to Australia. This led directly to the establishment of Golden Shears Australia and the bi-annual Test Matches between Australia and New Zealand creating the opportunity for Australian shearers to compete worldwide representing their country. He was awarded an OAM for his contribution to the industry and is a Life Member of Euroa Apex and the Golden Shears World Council. (To next page)

STAFF WANTED

From January to March 2022

- Riverton-based accommodation available
- Paid rest breaks for wool-handlers and pressers
- Positive hard working team
- References required

To apply, please email admin@fwshearing.co.nz



**FORDE WINDERS
SHEARING**

SOUTHLAND



George (Dan) Cooper was a quiet unassuming indigenous man from Moree, New South Wales. He became an outstanding shearers and also attained distinction as a weightlifter and as an axe man. He achieved a world record of 316 sheep at 'Bundoran Station' in North Queensland in 1910. In 1911 he defeated South Australian Bill Day in a competition billed as the World Championship in Sydney, where each man shored 50 sheep. He also shored in the New England and Monaro in New South Wales. During 1918 he was recruited to shear in Western Australia where he became one of their outstanding shearers. Born in 1882 he died in 1943 at his home in South Perth.



Cathryn Wendelborn was born in 1963 at Riverton, South Australia. She began shearing in 1982 and became a trailblazer. She travelled widely, shearing in Australia and New Zealand. Cathy became very involved in competitions, competing throughout Australia in Open class events against the men and made many finals. She convened the Millicent event for 15 years. She shored before the Queen at the opening of the National Wool Centre in Geelong in 1988, and presented her with a lock of wool. She won the Ladies Invitation event at the 1998 world championships (Gorey). Cathy retired from shearing in 2004 when she bought the Quilpie Bakery in Queensland.

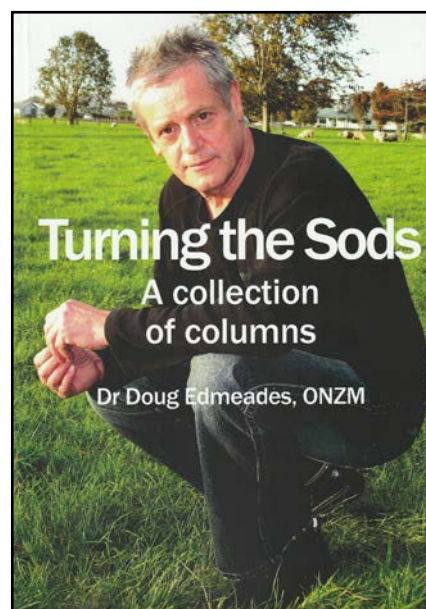


*Above: Not an Aussie, and not in a Hall of Fame, but he should be! As the saying goes, some watch it happen, some let it happen and some make it happen. We salute **Warren White**, Waimate Shearing and chairman of the PGG Vetmed National multibreed circuit, who has again overseen a successful conclusion to the competition. Normally the preserve of finals night at Golden Shears, the 2022 finals were held at Armidale Station, Central Otago, after a successful completion of preliminary qualifying rounds at the Apiti Show.*



Above: Three more blokes who deserve all the recognition we can give them. Victorians Brody, Roger and Corey Mifsud undertook a 24-hour Shearathon prior to Christmas 2021 to raise money and awareness of autism and ADHD. They shored 2822 lambs and raised

more than A\$50,000 that will go to special needs schools at Warrnambool and Stawell. Brothers Brody and Corey contributed 734 and 1047 respectively, while Dad (Roger) did not disgrace himself with 1041. A team of 40 helpers were involved with the Shearathon.



Above: "There should be a copy on the desk or bedside table of all farmers, agricultural professionals and students." (Dr Jock Allison, PhD, ONZM, FNZIPIM)
Order your copy today from Last Side Publishing. \$42.00 includes postage. Email shearingmag@xtra.co.nz

That Great Australian Bite

Marty Braithwaite's story about Ron Anderson (see page 49) makes mention of 'The Great Australian Bite', a Tasmanian bloke who used to turn up each year for the shearing at Mount Algidus.

The same man gets a mention in Mona Anderson's book, *A River Rules my Life*. In a chapter entitled Feeding the Gang, Mona relates: While we were cooking for the shearers Kath and I used to hear some conversations that would shake us with silent laughter at times. As I collected the dirty plates to be washed I had noticed one plate always had the remains of everything on it: lettuce salad, beetroot, tomato sauce, Worcester sauce, pickles and, if there had been any, mint sauce. This puzzled me and one day I commented on it to Kath. One of the musterers, overhearing me, said, 'Oh he's a guts or else he's got worms.'

A couple of days later I was standing near the dining room door and I heard a man say to his mate, 'Have some pickles and sauce.'

'No thanks,' came the reply, 'I've got some salad.'

'I eat everything I can see, when I'm getting it for nothing,' said the first. 'Well I wish you'd start on these sandflies,' replied his mate.

The sandflies were bad, and I never became immune to their bites. They raised big lumps which kept me scratching for hours, which was why I always kept a bottle of citronella in the house. Yet some people, Ron for instance, they never touched. If it is sweet blood they like, then my blood must be sweet as syrup, but if sour blood tickles their palate, then mine must be bitter as gall.

I was not the only one to suffer from sandflies, nor Ron the only one to escape. One evening I overheard two of the shearers talking outside the cookhouse door. One was a very stout, jovial Maori. He always had his trousers held up by a piece of binder-twine and I wondered how deeply it cut into his prodigious belly.

The other was an Australian who came over from Tasmania each year for the shearing in New Zealand. He was a surly looking man, accused by some of being mean, and generally called The Great Australian Bite. He was scratching and slapping as the sandflies settled on him. He sounded hurt and resentful as he protested, 'These damned things don't seem to be worrying you.'

'No,' replied the Maori, matter-of-factly, 'I don't suppose they can see me, eh.'



Above: Shearing time at Mount Algidus.

Shearer's Sugar Ration

Sir, – As shearing is shortly to commence I rang the local postmaster and inquired about the ration allowed extra for shearing. I was informed that it was quarter of an ounce for each two hours worked by shearers and shed hands.

This amounts to two-and-a-quarter ounces daily, or 13-and-a-half ounces a week. Presumably shearers and shed hands do not require sugar on Sundays or wet days.

Does the Food Controller realise that these men have tea seven times daily? The above ration excludes the possibility of making cakes or puddings. If these are not supplied, there will be many complaints. Yours, etc., Farmer's Wife. (September 28, 1942).

[The District Rationing Officer states that permits for supplies of tea and sugar for shearers may be issued on the basis of half an ounce of tea and two-and-a-half ounces of sugar a day for each man, including Sundays and wet days.

Where possible, contractors in charge of shearing gangs should obtain the additional rations in one issue for each job; but farmers can make application themselves for such supplies.

As for cakes, puddings, etc., ration books are issued to shearers as to other members of the community. They should therefore draw their rations and hand a certain proportion to the farmer to enable him to provide such cooked or baked articles as those referred to by 'Farmer's Wife.'](*The Press*, 2 October 1942)

Do you admit to getting Covid annoyed when the supermarket shelves are bare of what we consider to be essential items? Just remember our parents and grandparents had six years of it!

WAIMATE SHEARING
(2011) LTD



WARREN WHITE
MOBILE 027 489 2866
PHONE 03 689 1197

**We have experienced staff available for
shearing crossbreeds & Merinos.**

Good old fashioned service.

**We are always looking for experienced,
reliable, drug-free staff for our busy main
shear & pre-lamb seasons. Top rates offered
above NZSCA recommended rates.**

Servicing South Canterbury through to Otago
Inviting new and existing customers to give us a call.

Richard back working with wool

By Des Williams

Richard Gavigan is back working with wool, in a move he describes as bringing his career full circle since starting out with the New Zealand Wool Board in 1989. Richard has teamed up with Laurie Boniface to deliver the New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing course for Telford, a faculty of the Southland Institute of Technology (SIT).

‘The course is NZQA accredited, a Level 4 course all done ‘on-line’ that involves two papers per year and provides a ‘must have’ qualification for anyone wanting to become a registered wool classer,’ Richard explains. ‘Most of our students are employed full time as wool handlers, farmers, wool store, wool scour and other wool industry employees. We started this year with 61 students and with another intake in June, we are keen to take even more on board.’

Richard’s 14 years with what started as a wool production officer with the NZWB went through several changes of name and function from about 1991. Wools of New Zealand, WoolPro, Meat and Wool Innovation and ultimately to Tectra. Though he had been brought up on a sheep and beef farm and hankered that he might return to that some day, he left Tectra in 2003 and went into a business partnership with shearing contractor, Motu Tua, in the Tararua district.

‘I really enjoyed that role for about six years and then came the opportunity for us to get back into farming on a day-to-day basis. That came through an equity partnership property just south of Pahiatua and that has been my main job since 2008.

‘Then, a couple of years ago I started helping Laurie Boniface on a part-time basis, delivering his New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing course, which is a pre-requisite for anyone wanting to become a woolclasser. The present course had its origins in the old Massey and Lincoln University wool courses, and it is now delivered by the Southern Institute of Technology via Telford.

‘My involvement has increased from that initial part time contract to where Laurie and I are working together, making up what is called an FTE, or one full-time-equivalent. So, we are each 0.5 of an FTE! And actually, it’s just fantastic to be this closely involved with the wool industry again. I always tried to keep a close eye on the industry but that became more difficult as time went on.



Above: Laurie Boniface and Richard Gavigan – partners in delivering the New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing for Southland Institute of Technology.

‘It seems to me wool is going through something of a resurgence right now. The price of strong crossbred wool is still not good but there is a much better feeling within the industry. This is reflected in the numbers doing our courses. They have become very popular, with student numbers getting back to something like they were in the 1950’s and 1960’s. We have even had enquiries from people overseas wanting to do the course.

‘Laurie Boniface recalls when he did his Massey Diploma in 1967 there were 70 on the course. We now have 60 students and this may well increase with a further intake to come in June this year.’

Richard says the two-year course is NZQA accredited, all done on-line, with students having to complete two papers each year. They also provide a week-long block course each year – one in the North Island and one in the South – where students can get ‘face-to-face’ with tutors.

‘If you work in a woolstore, for instance, and want to be in charge of the grab and core machinery or the bin room, you will need your New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology qualification.

‘We are now also offering what we call a grading course – people who complete this can then apply for their Q stencil, which allows them to grade crossbred and smaller mid-micron hogget clips. From there they can progress to the Kiwi stencil and the classing of fine wool clips.’

Richard says a noticeable number of university students doing Bachelor of Agricultural Science studies are also adding the wool technology course to their programme. ‘So, they will end up with their Ag degree and have wool qualifications added on.’

Richard sees room for a more coordinated approach to wool industry training. ‘It is so important for our industry that people develop their skills to the highest level possible and that is so good for their personal development and job satisfaction as well.’

For further details about how to enrol for the New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing, see the Southern Institute of Technology advertisement at page 56 or email laurie.boniface@sit.ac.nz or gavigan@xtra.co.nz



Above: Richard Gavigan at a Wools of NZ course for wool-handlers at Kakatahi (near Whanganui) in September 1996.

Wool course presents wider picture

Cameron Mochrie was in Year 12 at Central Hawkes Bay College in Waipukurau when he was offered the chance to work part time over summer at locally-based Wright Wool, privately-owned wool buyers, brokers and exporters. Although born and raised on the family dairy farm, Cameron saw it as an opportunity to experience first-hand another side of the agricultural sector and was quick to accept the opportunity.

‘The job involved working in the bin room, mainly as a wool presser and as a general hand around the store. So that’s how I first got into it, and it gave me some basic understanding of the wool industry at that stage. Then I went back to school for my final year (2019), at the end of which I was fortunate enough to be able to return to the summer job before signing on full time from the start of 2020.

‘Philippa Wright then discussed the New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing course being offered through the Southland Institute of Technology (Telford faculty) with me and said it would be a very useful course of study if I wanted to stay in the industry. So, I was very happy to sign up for it, a two-year Diploma course delivered on-line, requiring completion of two papers per year.

‘I was able to do it all on my laptop at home, just chipping away at it, you might say. The workload was very manageable, and I graduated last October, having kept working full time at my job while doing so. Assessments were due every two weeks or so I kept chipping away at it to spread the workload, mainly after hours.

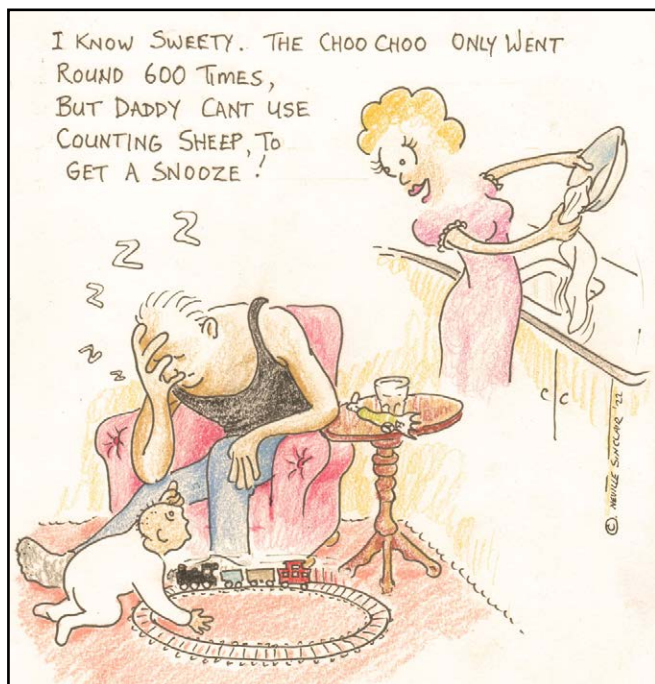
Cameron’s present role is to class the wool when it comes into the store. Bales received from farms are opened up, samples taken and separated into different lines of wool.

‘What I’ve gained from the course is a greater understanding of the industry and where my own role fits into it, particularly the classing side of it.

‘It helps my day-to-day understanding of the different types of sheep, different types of wool and the processing of it right through to scouring. It’s fair to say the course has opened up my mind to the whole wider picture of the wool industry.’
(Des Williams)



Above: Cameron Mochrie of Waipukurau, with his New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing.



We require staff for our busy summer mainshear from December through 'til April and for our pre-lamb June through 'til August. Good work ethics and attitude towards our clients and fellow staff are essential.
Travel and meals provided.

All enquiries welcomed to
office@mcconachieshearing.co.nz
Mike Maguire 0274 336 477 or Jamie 027 336 4007

Member NZ Shearing Contractors' Association
Member ShearNZ

New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology & Classing

The New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing is a two-year, part-time, distance learning programme for people interested in the production, preparation, and processing of wool. You can study online at home and attend a one-week block course. Once you have successfully completed the Certificate you will be offered automatic entry into the New Zealand Wool Classers Association.

Wool handlers, farmers, wool brokers, wool merchants, wool exporters, wool scourers, meat companies, and people working in wool testing, marketing, and processing have all completed this NZQA-approved qualification.

"New Zealand wool is making a comeback, and our industry needs more people who have the training and qualifications to back their passion and proven practical skills. There are lots of opportunities out there, and this course is a must for anyone wanting to further their career in wool."

Marg Forde, Registrar
New Zealand Wool Classers Association

"We need more, highly-skilled and qualified people to support and strengthen New Zealand wool as a premium and sustainable fibre. This course, and the talented people who complete it, is essential to ensure we have a consistently high-quality product for our global supply chain to innovate, work with and market to discerning consumers."

Rosstan Mazey, Chairman,
National Council of New Zealand Wool Interests

**Enrol now for our "fees free" offer to start
the course in July 2022**

www.telford.ac.nz

Course Enquiries:

Laurie Boniface | 027 433 8925 | 0800 200 009 | laurie.boniface@sit.ac.nz
Richard Gavigan | 027 376 0005 | 06 376 6599 | richard.gavigan@sit.ac.nz



Telford
Te Whāre Wanaka o Puerua
A Campus of Southern Institute of Technology

The Waimate Incident

Two competitors who got involved in an 'altercation' with an event official some hours after the conclusion of the Waimate Shears on 9 October 2021 now face sentencing after Courtroom hearings, the *Timaru Herald* has reported.

Ethan Pankhurst of Masterton faced two charges of common assault and one of assault with intent when he appeared in the Timaru District Court. Alex Clapham of England was charged with assault with intent to injure. He appeared via audio-visual link from Queenstown and admitted the charge against him.

Both shearers had competed at the Waimate Shears earlier in the day and the incident occurred some hours later when the two had been drinking with others at the Royal Tavern. We see no need to attempt a total 'blow by blow' reconstruction of the 'alleged incident' here; suffice to say that a 'verbal altercation' that took place inside the Tavern then spilled over into an assault on the official outside.

The assaulted man, a Shears committee member, was left with concussion, suffering a dislocated shoulder and bruising to his right eye and face. The police prosecutor told the Court the man had fallen over after receiving a 'straight jab' to the face and was then subject to further kicking and punching while on the ground.

Timaru District Court Judge Joanna Maze ordered restorative justice conferencing for both men. Clapham, meanwhile, has been remanded on bail to appear for sentencing at Timaru on 26 May 2022. Pankhurst has been remanded on bail for sentencing at Masterton District Court on 22 April 2022.

Alex Clapham was placed second in the senior final at Waimate. Pankhurst, who was sitting second after the Waimate round, was suspended in February 2022 from further participation by the National Circuit Committee.

(Des Williams. From Stuff website and Timaru Herald reports.)

SSNZ fails to investigate complaint of violence

By Jills Angus Burney

In her letter to Shearing Sports NZ (SSNZ) in early December 2021, Sport New Zealand CEO, Raelene Castle recommended the organisation take the allegations of violence by competitors seriously, and sport, regardless of level, should be safe, abuse-free and an 'inviting and inclusive environment'.

In late October 2021, Shearing Sports NZ (SSNZ) received a complaint from one of the victims of assault after the Waimate Shears. SSNZ was advised to follow consistency in sanctioning the two competitors for their actions on the applicable grounds in the SSNZ Rule book; that of the competitors' actions bringing the sport into disrepute. The National Committee was encouraged to draw on the available processes offered by Sport NZ. These included services available under their relationship with Sport NZ, of a fair and independent investigation guided by the free services of Sport NZ.

Although the National Committee initially passed a remit in late October 2021 to sanction the two competitors based on their rules and Sport NZ Code of Conduct, a week after doing so, SSNZ backtracked and without explanation, withdrew their intention to suspend the two involved in the assaults.

Canterbury Shears committee cooperated with Timaru Police to arrest Ethan Pankhurst outside the event on 11 November 2021, and a warrant was issued the same day for the arrest of the second charged offender, Alex Clapham.

A further complaint was raised to Sports NZ about the failure of SSNZ to utilise their rules to sanction the two competitors.

The main ground of the complaint was SSNZ failing to act consistent with its own rules, having previously applied those rules and sanctions to elite competitors. In response to the complaint, Sport NZ CEO Raelene Castle wrote to SSNZ that sports should be a safe place for everyone, and that regardless of the outcome of the Police criminal investigation, 'the actions of the alleged assailants should still be considered by the SSNZ judicial processes and where appropriate, sanctions imposed... especially given SSNZ had received an official complaint from one of the women who alleged she was assaulted.'

Sport NZ offered to work in partnership with SSNZ 'to manage this issue, with resources and services, which (SSNZ) may not have been aware of,' including the Sport and Recreation Complaints and Mediation Service (SRCMS) and the integrity processes in their Member Protection Policies and Procedures. Sports NZ offered free training to SSNZ in these processes and a staff resource to assist and says they '... were well placed to advise on the next steps, and in this instance, whether an investigation was warranted on the amount of the information already received.'

Castle went on to write, 'The Board of SSNZ has a legal duty of care to all its members and no doubt wish to prevent this from happening again, given the additional concerns around the environment for upcoming events' and strongly advised SSNZ to 'access the SRMCS to ensure as an organisation it is supported and being proactive in handling this matter, at no cost (for the Sport NZ services).'

Sport NZ said that taking this step would ensure the complaint is handled properly and appropriate action is taken. (To next page)





Above: Elite Wool Industry Training course at El Dorado Station, Waikouaiti. Standing from left: Kurt Turnball, Jack Dobbie, Jack Pringle, Amy Silcock, William Sinclair, Scott Hirst, Isaiah Gorrie, Isaac Kahukura, Emily Pike, Tesni Paewai. Sitting: Tana Clarke. Instructor: Ringakaha Paewai. **Opposite:** Back left: Brittany Kellet, Nelly Taiatini Maaka, Caitelاند Hynes. Front: Tayla Doig and Vanya Rouse Henry.

(From previous page.) Castle closed her letter with a warning that ‘... any media interest coming from the court cases would reflect on the sport and recreation sector, hence (Sport NZ’s) interest in demonstrating clear and firm action has been taken.’

As author of the complaint to Sport NZ, I remain concerned that members of the National Committee viewed the Waimate incident as ‘just two shearers fighting’, rather than for what Police prosecuted, which was a gratuitous assault of violence on an event official and two women as they were leaving the function, who earlier in the evening had responsibly intervened between Pankhurst and another local to keep the peace.

Normalising this incident as if violence is an acceptable by-product of a big night out after a shearing event, damages the sport, the volunteers and the Committee, and has the potential to derail our precious sponsors of shearing as a glamour international rural sport.

Moreover, given the propensity of one of those two elite competitors to violence, having a record of attacking other competitors at other A Class events (in 2018 in Scotland and at the 2019 world championships in France), notwithstanding witnesses to coercive behaviour in woolsheds in New Zealand and in Australia, I believe the message to the sport and the industry by not acting was that of passing the buck to the next event or to the next people where this behaviour surfaced.

Arguments have surfaced denigrating the hospitalised official, or that the call for sanctions was a ‘a witch-hunt’ further emphasise the lack of understanding by all parties of modern and relevant sports integrity issues, and frankly, show little empathy over the incident; both claims easily dismissed by the subsequent guilty pleas of the two competitors.

I question the failure of SSNZ processes, and a continuing reliance on its long outdated 1993 Constitution, whereby

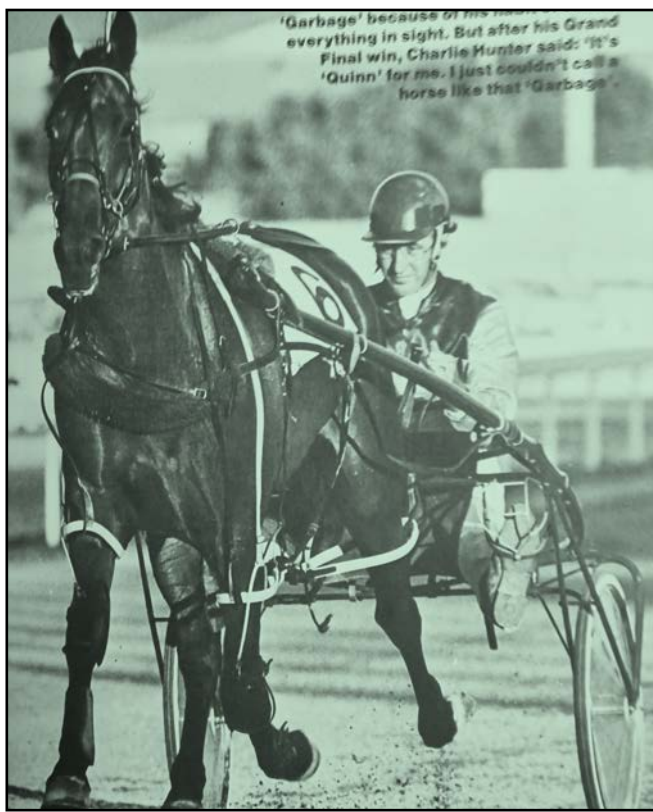


administrators could be seen to care more about their appearances over animal welfare than they do people welfare.

Ironical that Sir Mark Todd is given a public walloping for being videoed walloping a horse, but following an assault by these competitors at a premier sports event when one of our officials was seriously hurt, the opportunity of decisive national leadership was lost, and abject failure in leadership occurred.

(Jills Angus Burney provided the initial legal advice and investigation to SSNZ.)





Three Mighty Quinns – Brian, Young and ...

The appearance (or should we say reappearance) of Brian ‘Snow’ Quinn with handpiece in hand at the Shear4Blair Charity Hospital fundraiser in Southland over Waitangi Weekend drew many favourable comments on Facebook. Snow had travelled down from Alexandra to Moa Flat with that other fine wool legend, Graeme Bell, to show their support and take part. As we write, the total raised sits at around \$200,000.

Among the comments posted on Facebook was the fact that Quinn the shearer had a racehorse named after him. But not just any horse, the absolute champion, Young Quinn. We all have some idea about Snow Quinn’s record, but what about the horse? *Wikipedia* should know something ... *‘Young Quinn, a New Zealand standardbred racehorse, was successful in a period where his competition in the sport of trotting was particularly strong. ... Young Quinn made 133 starts for 59 wins and 36 placings for NZ\$752,587 in stake money.’*

Bred and raced by Southland farmers RO (Bud) and DJ Baynes at Edendale, major wins for the horse included the 1974 Auckland Pacing Cup, the 1975 Miracle Mile, the 1975 Inter-Dominion Pacing championship and the American Pacing Classic that same year. His best mile time was 1m 55s.

But the Inter-Dominion victory is what Young Quinn is best remembered for – often the case when you beat the best Australia can offer! He won three heats in a row, and the final.

‘When Young Quinn, from 15 metres behind in the big event, had his traffic problems early and wound up a full 80 metres from the leaders at the bell – and for good measure was checked when about to launch his bid a bit further on, it looked ‘curtains,’ wrote Ron Bisman in *Memorable Moments in New Zealand Sport* (Moa Publications, 1979).

‘With the early fast pace, they were really feeling it up front,’ recalled [driver] John Langdon afterward, ‘and I was able to make ground quite steadily without having to soo him up. By about two furlongs out I was within range; and I knew I

would win. He came on right to the finish and showed no sign of faltering. The uninhibited, thunderous roar that began as Young Quinn moved up from his seemingly hopeless position so far back in the strung-out field, passing horse after horse through the back straight to join issue with the leaders on the final bend, indicated just as clearly that the New Zealand favourite’s supporters had now changed their minds and were anticipating a miracle.

‘The crescendo of cheers, whistles and squeals of delight as Young Quinn strode to the front and pressed on up the final straight to the finish line for a clear-cut win illustrated without any shadow of a doubt that the ‘Mighty Quinn’ had indeed proved a champion in the eyes of all.’

Young Quinn won the 2700m event in the then Australasian record time of 3m 27.4s.

And just in case you need some reminding about the second ‘Mighty Quinn’ – herewith some career highlights 1962-1980:

Caltex Circuit National champion 1980; Canterbury open champion 1966; Golden Shears senior champion 1962; Golden Shears open champion 1965, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972; New Zealand Lamb Shearing champion 1978, 1980; New Zealand Merino Shears champion 1968, 1970, 1978, 1979; New Zealand Royal Show open champion 1966, 1967, 1969; Otago open champion 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973; Southern Shears open champion 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1980; Southland open champion 1964, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1975; South Island Shearer of the Year 1980; Taranaki open champion 1967; Te Kuiti open champion 1972, 1973, 1974; Waimate Spring Shears open champion 1969, 1970, 1971, 1974; Wellington open champion 1968; World champion 1980; World nine-hour lamb shearing record 1969. (Shearing Sports NZ) Master Shearer 1975; Royal Honour MBE for services to shearing 1981.

And the third Mighty Quinn? Why, Bob Dylan’s Eskimo, of course! (Not related to the other two.)

Scott's major battle continues

By Joanne Crawford

Scott Clearwater of Palmerston, New Zealand, is a 43-year-old second-generation farmer and shearer, with personal best eight-hour tallies of 500 strongwool ewes (no belly) and 440 strongwool wethers. He's been a competition shearer and taken part in open class speedshears and is no stranger to facing challenges front on.

Now, against all odds, but not giving in without a good fight, Scott is bravely waging a mountainous battle against terminal stage 4 cancer. Back in May 2020, Scott was diagnosed with having ten lung tumours and six brain tumours. The doctors did not hold very much hope for Scott, informing him he may not last the weekend out because the two larger tumours were putting extreme pressure on the brain.

Scott bravely pulled through and lasted long enough for the doctors to organise brain surgery to debulk the two larger tumours.

After surgery, and treatments of radiation, chemotherapy and immunotherapy, Scott said the doctors told him he might be lucky to live for another six months.

call off the radiation treatment because the tumour is far too close to the brainstem. 'The doctors are worried the radiation may do some damage so they're going to try a new trial drug first. Hopefully, it works,' he says.

'To help get through the struggle, I think just being positive is the key. At the very start, I was in total shock to be told I might not last the weekend out but thinking things over in hospital then going home and seeing my wife and the kids. I thought, this stuff better be ready for a fight because I'm not going down without one! My wife Joy and our three kids, Jenna (15), Lachie (13) and Bayden (12) have been my soul inspiration.

'Since they told me I didn't have much of a chance in surviving the tumours, it has almost been two years on, and I am still going. I am living life like normal, and I am out farming every day,' said Scott.

'There are a few things I struggle to do now. One of them is not being able to swing a shearing handpiece anymore and I really struggled with that as shearing has been such a huge part of my life. It is only since I went completely deaf, and



Surprisingly, the tables turned with a bit of hope and after three months of treatment some of the tumours disappeared and others were shrinking.

During the past 18 months, Scott has had tumours come and go, but sadly, more appeared in both ear canals which has left him completely deaf.

'Going deaf all of a sudden has been a really tough thing for me to come to terms with. I really miss having a laugh and a yarn without the use of pen and paper to communicate,' said Scott.

And now Scott is having to battle yet another growth which will be his 19th tumour attack and the doctors have had to

my balance was affected that I had to stop shearing my own lambs. So, up until December 2021, I could still manage to shear a day here and there. I haven't driven since my first radiation treatment and every time I get radiation it is three years after that before I can drive again,' he explains.

Before Scott's father bought the farm, he was a full-time shearer then continued shearing his own sheep so, from a very young age, Scott was inspired by watching his father shear and recalls being in the sheep's catching pen using his hand as a handpiece, pretending to shear lambs.

After learning all he could about shearing from his father, Scott got the opportunity to shear on his own stand beside

his father, where he conquered shearing his first 100 lambs at the age of 12. I also shored my first 200 beside Dad, and he was pressing when I did my first 300, 400, and 500, it was great to have him with me for those milestones. Shearing is extremely hard work, but an awesome industry and it can also be a great way to see the world.

‘Our kids have grown up helping in our woolshed from a very young age and in the last couple of years they have been a huge help to crutch all our lambs.’

In 1997 and at the age of 18, Scott started full-time shearing for the local open shearing gang. He mentions Waikouaiti shearing contractor Bob Tamepo as one of his favourites to work for. ‘We used to have some awesome times at work and a lot of playing up after work. We went on a ‘tour’ one day because we finished shearing early. This tour took us from Waikouaiti to Middelmarsh and then on to Dunedin, all in our gumboots.

Bob Tamepo said, ‘Let’s hit the clubs!’ and I said, ‘What, in our gumboots?’ Bob replied, ‘Pull your jeans over the top of them Bro, and now they’re ya going out boots.’ It worked a treat and into the clubs we went. Can’t imagine that would work nowadays though,’ he laughs.

Over Scott’s 10-year shearing career he has enjoyed taking part in speed shears and recalls placing in a few Australian Sport Shear events and speed shears while working in Hamilton, Victoria.

‘I also recall winning the first New Zealand Golden Fleece open-grade speed shear held at Waikouaiti and I didn’t have much of the prize money left when I got home that night,’ laughed Scott.

‘My wife Joy and I helped run the Golden Fleece Waikouaiti speedshear for about 13 years, which we ran as a fundraiser for local non-profit organisations. In that time, the speedshears raised just over \$100,000. That is something we are both proud to have been involved in,’ said Scott.

Scott is pictured in the third photo of the mosaic page 59, competing in the ex-shearers’ grade at Waikouaiti Golden Fleece Hotel speed shear in October 2020, which was five months after being diagnosed with stage 4 Cancer.

The new Golden Fleece Committee raised over \$15,000.00 that night to help support Scott and his family through his battle.

Scott and Joy first met in the woolsheds and for five years they also had a local open shearing run in East-Otago. ‘I always enjoyed helping shearers to learn, especially the new shearers, it was very rewarding to see them do well and become successful in their shearing careers, he says.

And Scott was really hoping to come down for the Shear4Blair shearathon, but wasn’t able to do so. ‘I watched the Livestream a lot. I think everyone involved and what they did was just amazing and to fundraise that much money for the charity hospital was outstanding.

‘I am so pleased I had medical insurance, as the treatment I was receiving cost \$10,500.00 every three weeks, although once you’ve spent \$90,000.00 on the drug, it becomes free, but you still pay for the administration of the drugs.

‘I think that these treatments should be free, and I feel for people who can’t get treatments because of the cost. In all honesty, I think that if it wasn’t for the fact that I had medical insurance to pay for the drugs I need, I wouldn’t be here now. I advise anyone who has cancer, live your life to the fullest and keep a positive attitude because I am sure that is what has helped me get this far.

‘I would like to thank everyone who has been there for me over the last two years. We have had so many people help us with everything from farm work to looking after the kids while Joy drives me to treatments. We appreciate each and every one of you, he says.

‘This journey is tough, tough as heck on me and my family, yet I am one of the lucky ones who got treatment and got it quickly. I sincerely hope that the Southland Charity Hospital has plenty of ongoing support because it will make such a massive difference in the outcome of a lot of cancer patients.

‘Depending on what the future holds for me, if there was another shearathon, I would love to make it to one and support the amazing shearing teams,’ he said. ‘Some of the best times of my life and some of the most awesome people I have met in my life are from my time shearing.’



Above: Our mystery photo from page 12. Northern Ireland’s Jayne Harkness Bones, who has represented her country as a woolhandler at world championships in 2003, 2005, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017 (photo above, at Invercargill) and 2019. An astonishing record for one so young ...



Above: Too young to be drinking in public. Dob them in, somebody, if you know who they are ...



SHEAR SMARTER AND KEEP SAFE WITH LISTER

NEXUS ELITE SENSOR

The world's market leader in shearing motor power, the 700W Nexus Elite Sensor provides the ultimate in user safety. With an electronic current sensor that protects the user and avoids lockups, the machine is automatically stopped if a handpiece hits an obstruction in the wool.

- > ENGINEERED TO AVOID HANDPIECE LOCK-UPS
- > ADVANCED PROTECTION WITH AN ELECTRONIC SAFETY SENSOR
- > OPTIONAL DRIVE SPEEDS OF 2800RPM, 3200RPM AND 3500RPM



PRO GRINDER

Reliable, consistent, durable - the Lister Pro Grinder is respected across the globe for its lightweight base and collapsible pendulum, offering the perfect balance of sturdiness, strength and portability.

- > POWERFUL 0.75KW ELECTRIC MOTOR
- > SUPPLIED WITH ALUMINIUM DISC AND CLAMP SET



Skorpion is a perfectly weighted, triple bearing handpiece for cool running and effortless results. Ideal for the professional shearer, the slim, contoured body has been expertly moulded to ensure absolute precision and comfort over long periods of time.

- > TRIPLE BEARING TECHNOLOGY FOR A SMOOTH, PROFESSIONAL CUT
- > PRECISION CONTROL
- > COOL RUNNING

lister-shearing.com | acto.co.nz



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
MANUFACTURERS OF
SHEARER CARE PRODUCTS
LISTER SHEARING EQUIPMENT LTD
WYNDHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

WITH OVER 100 YEARS
OF HERITAGE AND EXPERIENCE
LISTER DEVELOPS TOTAL PERFORMANCE
CLIPPING AND SHEARING PRODUCTS
SO YOU CAN PURSUE YOUR
PASSION WITH PRIDE

ACTO AGRICULTURE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH ACTO AGRICULTURE NZ LTD

Do we need a Hall of Fame?

By Des Williams

Australia has a Shearers' Hall of Fame, situated in a fine, purpose-built building at Hay, New South Wales. It was developed from a concept which emerged in 1997 and by 2002 it was ready to receive its first inductees. It should come as no surprise that the legendary Jackie Howe was in the first group and also were two other very familiar names this side of the Tasman, John Hutchinson and Kevin Sarre. (See pages 51 and 52 of this edition for the latest Australian inductees.)

The 'founding fathers' of the Australian Hall believed that the contribution of Australia's shearing industry to the country's folklore, culture and economy should be recognised, and be on public display for the population to appreciate.

We have asked the question before in this magazine – should New Zealand establish its own Hall of Fame to honour the people whose names and achievements resonate through our history via the hallowed walls of shearing sheds where legendary deeds were done? Or should we be satisfied that our 'Master Shearer / Woolhandler' system sufficiently honours those who have contributed above and beyond the call of duty to our 'culture, folklore and economy', to mirror Australia?

And keep in mind, too, that we have a New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame that seeks to 'recognise those persons who, through their sporting achievements or their services to sport, have brought credit to themselves, their sport and to the broader community by their performance, personal character, leadership and contribution' and to 'record the achievements of those for posterity as part of the heritage of New Zealand.' Admirable sentiments all, but so far the late Godfrey Bowen is the only shearer in the New Zealand Sports Hall, being one of the original inductees back in 1990. Brian Quinn has been several times nominated but without success. Sir David Fagan must surely be a contender – a certainty, even – now that he meets the 'five-years retired' criteria.

Perhaps we should start by considering 'fame' in the context of what Halls of Fame set out to achieve? Some randomly-relevant quotes from *The Big*



Above: Would Waikato's trail-blazer Bill Richards (for instance) be a contender for a place in a New Zealand Shearing Hall of Fame?

Book of Halls of Fame in the United States and Canada (Paul Soderberg, 1977) may be worth pondering:

- 'A Hall of Fame is any organisation which ... has strict standards for election to membership, and which is designed to inspire future greatness ...'
- 'Fame creates a splendid idealisation of a person, changing him from what he actually was into what generations of people wish to believe he was.' (You can change the gender-specific language as required!)
- 'The Hall of Fame's primary function: to save its members from the ruthless, powerful urge to alter, forget or destroy reputations.'
- 'Halls are open-ended, on-going, never filled. Anyone achieving excellence can get into one ... to do so 'you must both rise above everyone else and yet remain one of them. Every society has its exceptional people. ... the average age for selection is 66.37 years.'
- And perhaps the comment most on point for this discussion: 'The Halls

therefore do not actively create fame, but passively guard it once it exists.'

On that last point, it is perhaps relevant to recall a conversation many years ago between this writer and that great left-hander (Hall of Fame candidate!), Colin King. Given the nature of our industry and the rich and colourful characters that grace its (unwritten) pages, the question was whether one (such as I) should take a 'warts and all' approach to recording their deeds and mis-deeds, or leave some things left unsaid. 'I think it best that the reputations of our semi-deified [God-like] characters remain intact,' Colin said.

If it's worth the bother, a New Zealand Shearers' Hall of Fame, whether established virtually or physically, would need to be taken seriously and done properly. Recognising shearers, woolhandlers, pressers, contractors, administrators, instructors, classers ... have I missed any category?

Then, who would nominate, who would research credentials, who would decide? Should it be aligned to Shearing Sports New Zealand, or entirely independent of? Much debate required, but it would be interesting to receive some suggestions, people who have, over the past 125 years (say) 'risen above everyone else and yet remained one of them'.

I say 'the past 125 years' deliberately because, just as Jackie Howe was first name into the Australian Hall, Raihania Rimitiri might make an equally sound starting point in New Zealand. But, who would join Raihania in your ten 'off the top of the head' suggestions for consideration? How about Bill Higgins, Ivan Bowen, Godfrey Bowen, Bill Meech, Jack Harrison, Sonny White, Johnny Hape, George Karaitiana, Hinerau Mason, Jim Tawhai, Grace Thomson, Bob Tutaki, Ike Robin, Pam Warren ...

Remember, Halls are 'open-ended, on-going, never filled'. But let's spend a little time trying to assess our genuine contenders. 'Envelopes please ...'

British Wool training next generation

By Adam Woods

Following the successful return of British Wool training courses in 2021, British Wool have launched the Shearing & Wool Handling courses for 2022.

For over 20 years British Wool have provided four grades of shearing certificates enabling UK shearers to safely and effectively shear British wool, and giving the qualification to be recognised within the industry. Training the next generation of shearers and wool handlers remains a key focus for British Wool. Those booking courses will also be using British Wool's new online system that is easier to use and navigate.

As in previous years, British Wool launched its exclusive training offer for young farmers providing an opportunity for YFC members who have not previously attended a British Wool course to work towards a Blue Seal. This partnership helps the young farmers get the first steps in to shearing and also help to encourage young people in to the organisation, where many more opportunities can be achieved.

The course will be over two days, covering all the essential aspects of achieving a successful shearing season, including health and safety, the use of shearing equipment and hands-on shearing practice to develop your technique.

Excellent fleece presentation starts at shearing but equally important is the work of the wool handler in ensuring the wool is presented correctly and to a high standard. British Wool is therefore extending its training offer to YFC members to also participate in its wool handling course. This one-day course will be delivered by a successful competitive wool handler.

The closing date was 31st March and once again this year, it's encouraging to see the enthusiasm and support there is amongst the younger generation wanting to learn an important traditional rural skill.

Richard Schofield, Shearing Manager, British Wool, said: 'We are once again delighted to be launching our shearing and wool handling courses this year and look forward, to working with the venues and Instructors to deliver the courses. Supporting the training and development of the next generation of shearers and wool handlers is crucial as we continue to work in partnership with key stakeholders in supporting the UK shearing sector.'

'I am hoping that UK shearing can expect visiting shearers from overseas to work alone side British shearers as British shearers have worked alone side them where ever that may be.'

New Farmer Board Member for British Wool

Alan Derryman, a beef and sheep farmer from East Devon in England and a familiar face in the shearing community has been elected British Wool's English South Western regional Board Member for a three-year term, beginning on 1st April.

As well as farming 900 New Zealand Romney ewes and 80 Stabiliser suckler cows, Alan has spent 25 years as a shearing contractor covering Devon and West Dorset as well as spending time shearing in New Zealand and Australia. Alan is also the senior shearing instructor for Southern England, a role he has held for 30 years and a past Chairman of the National Sheep Association in the South West.

On notification of the election results, Alan said: 'I am delighted to have been elected Board Member for the English South Western Region and would like to thank all those that



***Above:** Alan Derryman – new Regional Board member.*

voted for me. I look forward to representing your best interests as sheep farmers in the South West and my connection with British Wool over many years means I already have a good understanding of how the organisation operates.'

Marketing British wool to consumers

British Wool's mission is to drive sustainable demand in order to maximise the value of wool for its members and does this by working in conjunction with downstream manufacturers which remains a vital part of British Wool's important role. Some recent developments include:

- The British Wool licensee scheme continues to grow in strength with several new brands committing to use British wool over the last year.
- British Wool launched an e-Commerce website to promote and sell licensees' products direct to the consumer.
- Worked with manufacturers to launch new British Wool ranges across a wide range of products, including a major new 100% British wool carpet range for the residential segment.
- In 2021 launched the British Wool Traceable Scheme.
- Iconic premium brand Fred Perry launched three new styles of knitwear using British wool.
- Continue to work with both industry and universities to support the development of innovative new uses for wool.

Shear4Blair 24-hour Shearathon

By Barbara Newton

Brief summation

The wool harvesting industry has done itself proud with a herculean effort in the Waitangi Weekend Shear4Blair 24-hour Shearathon held at Wohelo Station, Moa Flat, West Otago.

The four shearers who worked for 24 hours over a 32-hour period were: Cole Wells, who does not shear full time, sent 1435 down the port hole; Brayden Clifford, just in his shearing infancy – with just four years shearing under his belt and who had never shorn 500 in a day ended up doing 1543 for the period; David Gower shore the second top tally of 1607; and the experienced war horse Eru Weeds who, until three weeks prior to the event, had not shorn due to an injury sustained during pre-lamb, did a sterling job of ringing the shed with a tally of 1891.

As we are aware, shearing a full day is physically challenging, but to do it back-to-back for the equivalent of three days is indescribable. These guys went to places few have ever been.

Try and imagine the extreme physical, mental strain and tiredness experienced with the monotonous repetitive action of the shearing pattern when, after ten hours, the body is out of kilter with natural bio-rhythms, the brain not functioning, working on muscle memory, and of course trying to overcome the demons of the night (not just limited to the shearers, I might add). These guys had a temporary taste of something akin to the physical pain and mental anguish of those who have had to battle the side effects, and treatment, of an insidious illness such as cancer.

In conjunction with many support shearers, together they shore a total of 10,084, mainly ewe lambs, the event raising a whopping \$200,000 for the Southland Charity Hospital! A truly massive and special effort by all concerned and due to the meticulous planning over many months by the event manager, Jared Manihera.

Support teams

Three eight-hour days in 32 hours! It was insane for the shearers and their support team. As every good athlete knows, you cannot over-estimate the importance of your support crew, not only for the duration of the event but in the period

leading up to it and consisted of spouses, family and friends. Their duties may include, but are not limited to:

Pen person to keep the sheep up, look after the gear; keep an eye on the clock; ensure the athlete takes in enough fluids, electrolytes, nutrition, and fortify with snacks when required.

They literally follow every blow, shear very sheep, cajole through the tough patches, provide encouragement to keep up morale and lighten the mood.

Another may be in charge of the things that need to be done each break, such as showering, ensuring there is a clean change of clothes, doing the washing, rubbing a back or ego.

It's bloody hard work while also suffering from sleep deprivation.

They deserve every kudos, and while the shearers are the ones on the front stage, those in the wings are every bit as important in attaining the goal.

No team was more focused or attentive than that supporting Eru Weeds. His support crew included good mate Leon Samuels, friend Zach Manihera, nephew Mikaera Harris, wife Nardia, sisters Serena Lyders (massage, broom) and Tasha Edmonds (broom, food, washing), Mum Diane (broom), and children – daughter Aanika, and son. It was truly a family affair.



Above: Shear4Blair Shearathon event organiser and manager, Jared Manihera.

More valuable support

In addition there were wool handlers, pressers, caterers, and the all-important live feed providers, shepherds and neighbours all ringed in to assist, especially during the wee small hours.

There was a group of support shearers shearing on three other stands for differing periods of time that enabled the fantastic tally. Some shore for 8-9 hours – Shaun Burgess, Alex Clapham, Tesni Paewai, Pagan Rimene, just for a couple of runs, others in a tag team situation over shorter periods, or just doing a few sheep each on rotation-including sponsors such as Willy McSkimming (Heiniger) and Peter Elder (Hokonui Shearing Wear Ltd); Jared, and a couple of cameo appearances from Brian 'Snow' Quinn, Graeme Bell, Michelle and Barry Harrex. Even a few other retired farmers, and the grower, Nelson Hancox, peeled a couple out.

Communications team

The Communications team was led by Joanne Crawford, who did all the Facebook information feeds prior to, during and after the event, with on-the-spot expert commentary and revolutionary interviews for the live feed by Matt Chisolm, Willy McSkimming and Jared Manihera. There was no one better to front the live-to-air coverage than these three.

Those facials, Matt! His off-the-cuff interviewing and conversation prowess, honed by years as a television personality, host and presenter/come farmer totally embraced the entire event.

The excellent quality coverage with visuals and technical expertise for the live coverage provided by Audio Visual Design & Print throughout the entire event was without precedent.

The Southland Charity Hospital is the brainchild of the late cancer care advocate Blair Vining and his wife, Melissa, who wanted better cancer care for all New Zealanders. Hospital board member Melissa Vining said there were no words to describe what had been achieved. 'It was an awesome event. It was emotional to watch the shearers and their support crew working, especially as they closed in on, and surpassed, their 10,000th lamb,' she said.



David Gower



Braden Clifford

Shear4Blair 24-hour Shearathon



Cole Wells



Eru Weeds



Clifford Team



Wells Team



Weeds Team



Gower Team

'When a friend or family member gets cancer, you feel hopeless that you can't help them. You have virtually got to sit back and support them through all their pain and suffering. Just about everyone in the woolshed that day at Shear4Blair, has had cancer affect their life in some way and by doing this shearathon I actually found it was a part of the grieving process for some of us. Some people due to covid restrictions have not been able to go to funerals of friends or family, and this helped a lot of them get through the struggle of losing their close ones. And if the opportunity ever arises again, yes, I would be glad to run another shearathon.' (Jared Manihera)

Shear4Blair – the 24-hour men

By Joanne Crawford

Eru Weeds

Approaching his mid-forties, Eru was the senior statesman in the Shear4Blair foursome. Born at Tuatapere in 1978, he was being taught to shear by his father from the time he was meant to be starting school.

‘In my early childhood years I spent a lot of time in the shearing sheds and by the time I turned six I’d shorn my first sheep. I stuck very close to Dad and went everywhere with him, to work, to the pub, the lot!’

But Eru was only nine when his father died, and for a time he says his life seemed like it was on a downward spiral. And then he moved up to Dannevirke where his Uncle Peka took him under his wing. ‘Uncle sure did know how to work hard, and even though it was tough teachings I truly respected his methods because they tuned me into going forward, so once I got a taste of what drive and incentive felt like, from there on in, I never looked back.’

Starting in 2001, Eru enjoyed a 10-year stint working for Paul Harris in North Canterbury. ‘He was always full of encouragement towards my shearing, and especially with my show shearing. He would always tell me if I stayed out of the pub on Friday night I would win the next day. To be honest and with no disrespect, I loved to relax and have a few beers with my mates and still managed to dig it in next day and win a few red ribbons.’

Shearing in the sheds with the likes of Shane and Peter Harvey and Alton Devery taught Eru what it took to be mentally tough for a world record. He’s now been part of two – the strongwool lambs eight-hour tally of 2556 with John Kirkpatrick, Leon Samuels and James Mack in 2013 (Eru’s contribution 615), and the strongwool ewes eight-hour tally of 1347 with James Mack and Luke Mullins in 2017 (Eru’s tally 539).

Eru says he knew Blair Vining to be an extraordinary man and was delighted to be asked to take part in Shear4Blair and support the cause. ‘I also wanted to do this shearathon in the name of my Dad, Ian Weeds. All these years since he’s been gone, I’ve known every time I’ve stepped onto a shearing board he is there with me, watching what I do and seeing every move I make.’

Cole Wells

Cole Wells is a 36-year-old owner-contractor for Tailing, Crutching and Conveying, which covers the areas of Otago and Eastern Southland. He had his first experience in the woolshed at age 13, dragging out for the local schoolboy crutching gang.

Not long after his 15th birthday he took a week off school and attended learner shearing school at Mandeville, near Gore. ‘Two days after shearing school I attempted my first full day shearing big, fat, Southland ewes, but nevertheless, managed to get 61 out the porthole for the day,’ Cole says.

Entering straight into employment after leaving school, Cole worked on farms and stations and then, in 2007, travelled to Australia, where he worked for three-and-a-half years on Boonoke, a merino stud farm.

‘Working on Boonoke (NSW) was a great experience, especially learning the finer points of breeding and wool. I also got the opportunity to learn how to shear with blades, as

all our show sheep and top sale rams were shorn with blades.

Cole returned to New Zealand in 2010 and continued farming until he got the chance to buy his own business in 2018. ‘Shearing had only really been a bit of a hobby or as a way to earn some extra money,’ Cole says.

Having previously taken part in the ‘Shear for Life’ in 2015 and the 2020 fundraiser for Shaun Bradley and family, the Shear4Blair was Cole’s third 24-hour event. He started his training regime 18 months ago, a programme that included running, biking, swimming and going to the gym. It also meant changing his diet, going without the beer after work, getting a good night’s sleep and, especially, preparing mentally to endure the pain that kicks in during the early hours of the morning.

‘Seeing the way Shaun Bradley got the treatment he needed and pulled through to make a full recovery made it easy for me to say ‘yes’ to Shear4Blair as it’s a good cause and knowing that there is going to be the much-needed help for all those people out there suffering and battling their way through cancer made it all worthwhile,’ Cole says.

David Gower

David Gower (aged 32) was born and bred in the Republic of Whangamomona (Whanga), on State Highway 43, the ‘Forgotten World Highway’ of New Zealand. He is a third-generation shearer, a ‘500 a day’ man and stepping up for the gruelling challenge of shearing for 24 hours was an easy decision to make.

‘I was asked by my good friend Jared Manihera if I would consider having a stand for the full 24 hours at this event. I accepted as it was a good challenge and gave me a goal to train and work towards, and especially, as soon as you say charitable, I’m in,’ said David.

Growing up in the woolsheds, David said it was almost inevitable he would end up shearing as he felt totally inspired while watching his father Duke Gower shear, and says his grandfather, Ray Gower was also a shearer.

‘World champion shearer Gavin Mutch has been a total inspiration since ‘day dot’ of my shearing career. Gav took me under his wing, and as a young buck with little skill he taught me a lot. I had never been out of the country, and at the age of 17, Gav took me to Scotland to work on his shearing run, and even though I was still pressing for the odd day, he opened me to a whole new world of possibilities with shearing.

‘Eventually Gav took over the local shearing run back home in Whangamomona where I continued to work for him, then in 2015 he gifted the shearing run to me, and I later handed it on to another local shearer, Dean Herlihy.

David took on the challenge of running the small shearing contract with the help of his partner Paige, who played many roles in their business, as a shearing cook, the payroll administrator, and full-time woolhandler. Paige soldiered on, right up until they had their first son Hamish then David gifted the shearing run to local shearer, Dean Herlihy, who still has it now.

Shear4Blair was David’s fourth such charity event and he trained regularly for 12 months by way of preparation. ‘Over those last few months, I increased the tempo, conditioning my body. I tried to focus on a high protein, carb diet but still enjoy a few beers especially after a good day’s work,’ said David.



Brayden Clifford

Brayden Clifford (aged 24) has been shearing full time for four years. A down-to-earth southern man born and bred in Waikaka, Southland, Brayden is 400-man, a top ranking senior-class competitor, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture,

'I am from a farming family and both my Dad (Mervyn) and his father are well accomplished shearers, however, this was only a skill they picked up from owning and working on farms throughout the area. Neither of them ever went full time shearing, only days here and there to fill a stand or to help a friend.

'I first learnt to shear around the age of 15, my Dad ran a few lambs into the woolshed for me and Michael Whitley (farmhand) to shear. I quite enjoyed the challenge, so Dad continued to show us, little by little, after school and on the weekends.'

Up until Brayden started working full-time shearing, he helped to work the family farm and graduated at Lincoln University with his degree after a four-year learning period. To help himself financially through university he worked plenty of full days crutching sheep.

Currently into his fourth main shear and apart from five to six weeks of each year, Brayden stands down from shearing to do a lambing beat at home and helps on the farm with any other free time that he has.

Brayden had two personal best eight-hour shearing tallies of 330 strong wool ewes, and 430 lambs which also included 75 minutes of shearing ewes inside the 8-hour day. Both tallies were shorn in December 2021 whilst working for David and Rebecca Buick in the area of Pongaroa, North Island.

'The main reason I wanted to help Shear4Blair, it was an opportunity for me to help the Southland Charity Hospital with funding. It is reassuring, to know the people of our community who are suffering with cancer have someone to turn to, and to know there is a greater chance of saving a life through the help of the hospital, that is really something,' said Brayden.



Top: Wider angle view of the board at the height of activity. **Middle:** Jared Manihera, Matt Chisholm and Willy McSkimming doing what they did so well. **Above:** The Audio Visual Design & Print team with their technology live-streaming to the world.

Heiniger

REVOLUTIONARY EXTRAS

TO PROTECT & MAINTAIN YOUR EVO SHEARING PLANT



NEW *TRANSPORTER* SERIES

NEW

Evo Shearing Plant Transporter

Conveniently carry and protect your Evo during transport with our Shearing Plant Transporters, made from durable, heavy duty and weather resistant material to shield your most expensive shearing asset.

900-310



NEW

Evo Downtube Transporter

Easily carry and keep your downtube safe from damage during transport with our Downtube Transporters, made from the same tough, weather resistant material as our Evo Transporters. The thick, padded end offers complete protection for your downtube drive, and the strong velcro flap secures your downtube in place.

900-311



Evo Cover

Protect your installed Evo and downtube in the shed too with our protective covers, made from durable, hard wearing material with a drawstring fastener for secure fit and protection from the elements. Fits the Evo and most modern shearing plants.

900-300



Evo Service Kit

Keep your Evo running smoothly with an Evo Service Kit containing all the parts you need to carry out a full Evo Shearing Plant service.

722-957

NEW

Shearing Oil

Protects and extends the life of your equipment, maintains peak gear performance and prevents overheating. Suitable for high and low temperature environments and reduces residue and corrosion with low foaming formula.

719-036



Heiniger New Zealand | (03) 349 8282 | heiniger.co.nz