Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

Number 118: (Vol 41, No 2) August 2025
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Tribute John Allan OAM
It is Rocket Science (Poem)
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TPW's Five Decades
Toa and Jack in the UK
Thèzac – Small but Good
Remembering Edwin Perry
NZ Woolclassers Assn News
SSNZ Events Calendar 2025-2026
Somewhere in Pategonia Photo Essay
Share Mongolia's National Championships



Last Side Publishing
Hamilton, New Zealand

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UNDER COVER STORY

Greetings readers and Facebook followers and welcome to this 118th edition of *Shearing* magazine, No 2 of Vol. 41.

We are privileged in this edition to feature the Federated Farmers NZ "I am not the problem" poster on our cover, against a backdrop of newly planted pine trees (but the trees photo itself is old so they will be ready to harvest, maybe). Together with the poster we have a real "Under Cover Story" from Federated Farmers Meat & Wool chairman, Richard Dawkins, placed at page 29. The message to our government is quite simple: Stop planting good farm land in pine trees! And bring back the sheep because they are not the problem!

It's a rare event when the magazine does not have to say 'farewell' to stalwarts of our industry and this time we chronicle the lives of John Allan OAM and Bill Potae, giants from both sides of the Tasman Sea. So too respected shearing judge and former NZ First MP Edwin Perry, and itinerant woolhandler Deirdre Ann Hira Edwards ('Nanny Dee') who lost her life in a recent car accident near Ashburton.

We provide extensive coverage of the first Mongolian national championships; the annual tour to the United Kingdom and Europe by our New Zealand team members, Toa Henderson and Jack Fagan, and a "small but good" competition featuring Allan Oldfield at Thèzac, in the southwest of France. And from the Falkland Islands, news that they will be hosting an international competition with Wales and Chile in November.

The Elite Wool Industry Training group has taken the initiative in formulating courses (both in-shed and on-line) to address the issue of Animal Welfare and Calm Sheep Handling. This is in direct response to negative publicity generated by animal rights groups (you know who we mean) who have sought to demonise the animal health activity known as shearing.

We hope our other snippets of news from around the motu and other parts of the world are of some interest, provided in keeping with our status as one of only two known magazines in the world devoted to the shearing and wool industries. *(Bonjour, Deshabillez-moi!)*

Now summer beckons and it will soon be late November and we will do this all again. Keep well meantime.

Ka kite ano
Nga mihi, Des Williams

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Photo Credits: Allan Oldfield 12, 67, 68; Andrew Pollard (Falklands) 70; Charly Harvey 55; David Zdrha 19; Elite Wool Industry Training 73, 74; Esquiladores Patagonico Bowman 50-53; Euan Myles (Falklands) 71, 72; Federated Farmers NZ: Cover (sheep), 29; FLOC 57, 58; Greg Stuart 11 (racecourse); Heiniger Australia 16, 17, 18; Hugh McCarroll 21; Internet 59 (Lambert), 60 (inset), 64 (chickens); Jeff Dorset Shearing 54 (Goss); Johannes Kloosterman (12); John Allan collection 22, 24, 25, 28; Lana Cox 60 (main photo); Lister UK 27; McSkimming Shearing 61; NZ Shearing Contractors' Assn 15; NZ Woolclassers' Assn 32; Pete Nikolaison 75; Roger Leslie 69; Share Mongolia/Toni Brough 45-48; Shear Outback Museum 64 (woolpress); Shearing Sports NZ 7 (Parker), 11 (team), 39, 40, 42; The Ringer's Review 63; Tolly Bowden 60. All others Last Side Publishing Ltd / *Shearing* magazine.

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Above: *Flashback to New Zealand Merino Shears 2006. The champion team, from left: Angelique Gage, Ryan Miller, Tony Coster and Keryn Herbert. And they haven't aged at all. Must be a healthy lifestyle.*

NZ MERINO SHEARING GOLDEN FLEECE 2025

64th NEW ZEALAND MERINO SHEARS 3 OCT - 4 OCT

VETMED NATIONAL SHEARING CIRCUIT

Molyneux Stadium, Alexandra, Fri/Sat 3-4 October 2025

- Open shearing EF $70.00; TPV $4800.00
- PGG VETMED Nat. Circuit Round 1 EF $60.00
- Senior shearing EF $60.00; TPV $3200.00
- Open woolhandling EF 60.00; TPV $2600.00
- Senior woolhandling EF $55.00; TPV $1450.00
- Junior woolhandling EF $50.00; TPV $1300.00
- Novice woolhandling EF $30.00; TPV $400.00
- NZ Merino teams (2 shearers, 2 woolhandlers any grade) EF 70.00; TPV $2600.00
- Cover comb used in all events
- Reporting time 30 minutes before all events

All entries by 28 September 2025

Enter on-line via the Facebook page, NZ Merino Shearing Alexandra.

Enquiries: email nzmerinoshearing@gmail.com

Enquiries: Pggw/vetmed national circuit: nznationalshearingcircuit@gmail.com

Programme of Events

FRIDAY 3rd October (Report time 7.00 am)

- Open Woolhandling Heats
- Senior Woolhandling Heats
- Junior Woolhandling Heats
- Novice Woolhandling
- Senior Woolhandling Semi-Finals
- Junior Woolhandling Semi-Finals
- Senior Shearing Heats
- Open Woolhandling Semi-Finals
- **Tea Hour 6pm to 7pm (Teams Report 6.45pm)**
- Teams Event Heats

SATURDAY 4th October (Report time 7.00 am)

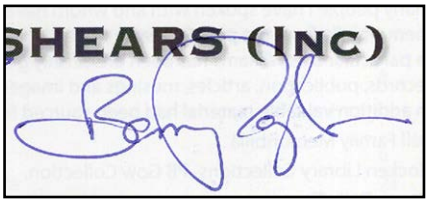
- Open Shearing Heats
- Senior Shearing Semi-Finals
- Open Shearing Quarter-Finals
- Junior Woolhandling Final
- Senior Woolhandling Final
- Teams Event Semi-Final
- Smokefree Teddy Bear Shear
- Open Shearing Semi-Finals
- Senior Shearing Final
- Presentations - Junior & Senior Woolhandling
- **Evening Session (Report time 7.00 pm)**
- Teams Final
- Open Woolhandling Final
- Open Shearing Final
- Presentations

NZ MERINO SHEARS OPEN SHEARING FINALISTS 1962 – 2024

Anderson/Harrex, Michelle: 1989, 1991, 1994, 1998
Barrett, Hilton: 1999
Barrett, Percy: 1977
Berkelaar, Abraham: 2016
Boyle, Brendan: 2001
Boyle, Damien: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
Bracken, Mike: 1992
Burnett, Peter: 1982
Buscombe, Mark: 2008, 2014, 2016
Christie, Murray: 1989
Clarke, Joe: 1997
Collier, Keith: 1979
Conlan, Mark: 1993
Coster, Tony: 2003, 2004, 2011, 2012, 2015
Cox, Adrian: 1982, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1990
Cox, Roger: 1976
Croxan, Andrew: 2016
Daly, A: 1962
Dermody, Gus: 1992, 1993
Direen, Reg: 1964
Dodds, Stephen: 1984, 1990
Donaldson, Alan: 1979, 1980, 1983, 1984
Emslie, John: 1986, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008 (10)
Fagan, David: 1983, 2009
Fagan, James: 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2024
Ferguson, Joe: 1972
Fergusson, Ken: 1997, 2001, 2004, 2005
Forde, Darin: 1999, 2000, 2001
Glover, Robbie: 2016
Hancock, Chris: 1994
Hauraki, Atawhai: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999
Heke, Ray: 1975, 1977, 1978
Holmes, Geoff: 1987, 1988, 2003
Hough, John: 1984
Hull, Josh: 2011
Johnstone, Kerry: 1973
Keen, Cyril: 1973
Keenan, Jim: 1971, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987 (11)
Kerr, James: 1997, 1998
King, Colin: 1980, 1981, 1982
Kneen, Ian: 1963, 1964
Leonard, Phil: 1974
Leslie, Duncan: 2023
Lewis, Larry: 1986
Lyon, Peter: 1981, 1987, 1989, 1992, 1994
Mackle, Ron: 1963
Mackrill, Sam (Aust.) 2024
Maskell, Eric: 1963, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1969
McCully, Brian: 1970
McIntyre, Daniel: 2022
McEvoy, John: 1964
McSkimming, Murray: 1962, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1969
Meikle, Justin: 2006
Mephem, Mike: 1991, 1993, 1996
Michie, Bob: 1990
Moore, Angus: 2013, 2022,
Morrell, Dion: 1996, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2024 (12)
Morrison, Don: 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977
Murphy, Dick: 1980
Nolan, Wayne: 1972
O'Neill, Charlie: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013
O'Neill, Colin: 2009, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2018
O'Neill, John: 2013
O'Neill, Jocky: 2021
Paewai, Joe: 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007
Paewai, Ringakaha: 2021
Peyton, Fred: 1966, 1967
Phillipson, Matt: 2000
Pierce, Richard: 1989
Pike, Ken: 1971, 1974, 1975
Pivac, Rick: 1985, 1988
Pyper, Troy: 2014, 2017, 2019, 2021
Quinn, Brian: 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1978, 1979
Quinn, Colin: 1988
Reidy, Eddie: 1975
Roberts, Brett: 2018, 2019, 2023
Robertson, Paul: 2022
Rowland, Gavin: 1990, 2001
Rutherford, Ian: 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969
Samuels, Leon: 2014, 2022, 2023
Sanson, Norm: 1962
Smith, Grant: 1995, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018, 2021, 2023, 2024 (13)
Stansbury, Troy: 1998
Stratford, Nathan: 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (20)
Sutherland, Keith: 1962
Taylor, Barry: 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998 1999, 2003
Te Huia, Stacey: 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
Terry, Cartwright: 2007
Te Whata, Hamahona: 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1990, 1993
Te Whata, Mana: 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2010, 2012 (17)
Thompson, Ross: 2005
Toovey, Lomas: 1970, 1974
Vickers, Chris: 2010, 2012, 2017, 2024
Waitere, Danny: 1970
Walls, Paul: 1991
Walsh, Kevin: 1978, 1989, 1991, 1995
Warnest, Shannon: 2000
Wegner, Todd: 2015
Weir, Stewart: 1971, 1974, 1976, 1977
Win, Jason: 2005
Wratten, Ian: 1991, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2005

(101 finalists. Sam Mackrill No 101.)





Above: *Can you write both names of your signature without lifting the pen off the paper?*

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NZ MERINO SHEARS OPEN WOOLHANDLING FINALISTS 1962 – 2024

A Sinnamon 1979
Abraham Smith 1977, 1982
Amy-Lee Ruki/Ferguson 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2022
Aroha Garvin 1988
Bernadette Forde 2006
C McGrouther 1982
Camille Ainsley 1997
Candy Hiri 2019, 2023
Celia Parore 1977
Chelsea Collier 2018, 2019
Clyde Oliver 1984
Cushla Abraham 2012, 2022
D Smith (Miss) 1978
Des Pringle 1979, 1981
Dianne Phillips/Bracken 1984, 1985, 1986
Elsie Lyon 1989, 1993, 1994, 2008
Foonie Waihape 2014, 2024
George Hawkins 2002, 2008
Gina Nathan 1987, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2001
Gloria Shelford 1988
Graeme Bell 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981
Hayley Holm 2005
Hine Biddle 1999
Huia Clarke 1996, 1997
Jackie Harmer 2001
Jeff McKenzie 1991
Joanne Kumeroa 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2007, 2010, 2011
Joel Henare 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Kelly MacDonald 2017, 2018
Keryn Herbert 2004
Lisa Fagan 2003
Logan Kamura 2023
Lorraine Foster 1983, 1984
Marie Hancock 1980
Monica Potae 2009, 2017, 2024
Pagan Karauria/Rimene 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024
Patrick Shelford 1984, 1986, 1987, 1990,1993
Pauline Dudley 1977, 1978
Raelene Howes 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995
Ratapu Paikea/Moore 2011, 2013, 2015, 2021
Renee Hooper 2005
Robynne Murray 2000
Rocky Hape-Taite 2013, 2014
Sally Smith 1977
Samantha Heta 2007
Sara Karameana 1999, 2003, 2013
Sharnie Graham 2012
Sharon Lawton 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009
Taiwha Karameana/Nelson 1996, 1998, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
Te Oti Mason 2006
Tia Potae 2014, 2015, 2016, 2021, 2023
Tina Rimene 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012
Tom Fleming 2001
Vanessa Te Whata 1989, 1998, 2000
Waimiere Peneha 2008
Wayne Campbell 1979, 1983, 1985

(56 finalists. No contest in 2020.)



Above: *The people who decided who the open woolhandling champion for the year 2011 would be (Joanne Kumeroa). What you might call a responsible lot. Back: Janet Smith, Roxanne Roxburgh, Gordon Duthie, Don Moffat, Dave Carr. Front: Raelene McConachie, Vanessa Te Whata, Fiona Walker, Gail Holmes, Freda Kerekere.*

"The most prolific open woolhandler to date [2011] has been Joanne Kumeroa, who decisively took out her seventh title ahead of the up-and-coming Joel Henare, with first-time finalist Ratapu Moore (nee Paikea) in third and 2010 champion Taiwha Nelson in fourth place. Henare finished first but the unflappable Kumeroa displayed her customary 'Kumeroa Cool' and superior quality with the basics of board, table work and fleece throwing to give her a comfortable 32-point margin over the soon-to-be 20-year-old Henare.

(© Barbara Newton, *New Zealand Merino Shears Celebrating 60 Years*, 2021)

THREE OUT OF THREE AIN'T BAD

Six open class wool handlers have won the New Zealand Merino Shears title three times or more and Joanne Kumaroa (RIP) leads the way with her seven victories between 1994 and 2011. Joanne was also one of three people to win the championship three years in succession, the others being Dianne Bracken (nee Phillips) and Raylene Howes (now McConachie).

Dianne was the first to do so, in the years 1984-1985 and 1986. She told her story about those wins in the 1993 Fine Wool Championships souvenir programme, which was a combined World/New Zealand fine wool shearing and woolhandling championship event.

* * * * * *

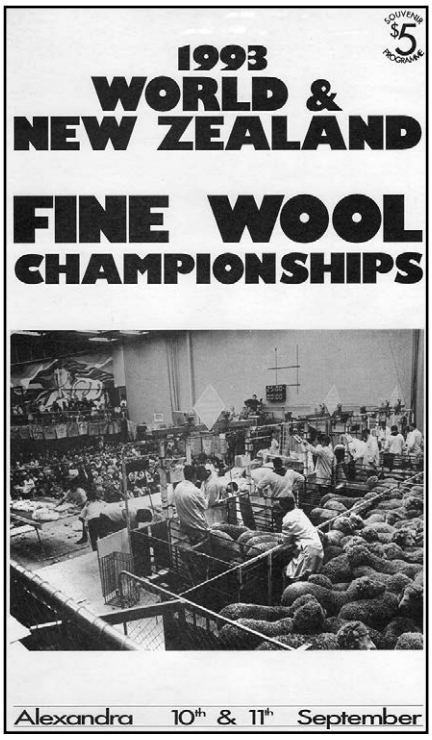


Diane (pictured) said her first win at the Fine Wool championship, in 1984, was just a "fluke" [shades of Norm Blackwell at Golden Shears ten years earlier] and she reckoned she had the facts to back her opinion.

Back then, the contest was held at Earnscleugh Station, in the five-stand wool shed there. It was her first attempt at a fine wool contest and she recalled she was "pretty nervous". Imagine her dismay in her heat when the competitor on the next stand (who must have been pretty nervous too) mistakenly used Dianne's table for her fleece.

"It was a big mess – I had to wait for her to get her fleece off my table and I honestly didn't know what to think," Diane recalled.

All was well when the points came out though. Diane had qualified – she was the last one through from the heats. Then the bombshell. (Next page)



Dianne Bracken Story cont'd:
There had been an error in points calculations and a competitor who should have qualified had been left out.

A hurried decision amongst the judges gave Dianne another go – even though by then she was in the dreaded "next in" position. Dianne must have developed a sense of inevitability about the contest by then because she qualified second into the final and the rest, as she said in her typically cheerful and offhand fashion, "is history".

From a farm near Milton in South Otago, Dianne won twice before she married Owhango shearer and agricultural contractor, Robbie Bracken, a top shearer who had reached the open shearing semifinals at the [Alexandra] show several times. They met while working on Jenny Street's pre lamb run, which now makes up part of Peter Lyon's Alexandra based business.

Robbie shears for Peter every pre-lamb but Dianne is now busy with their two children, James and Annalise. Never too busy to have a go at her favourite woolhandling contest each year, though.

Last year Dianne was fourth – next into the final – and she says she's going to try to line up with the best of them again this year. "I really enjoy it."

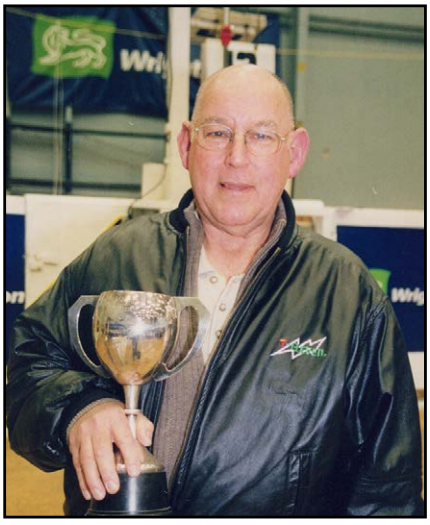
With a world title at stake this year, she says she might even have a bit of practise. "Throwing one fleece last year obviously wasn't enough," she jokes.

* * * * * *

Ian Kneen's 1963 Open Final Memory

Relating a story in the same 1993 souvenir programme as Dianne Bracken's yarn opposite, 1963-1964 open shearing champion Ian Kneen, who was present in 1993, thirty years after his initial success, remembered some minor controversy.

"When it came to the finals, only two shearers had come through the semifinals below the disqualification mark for quality – myself and Ron Mackle (Kaikoura). According to the rules of the day, no one else was entitled to a share of the prize money!"



("The organisers had picked out the horrible-est, toughest, wrinkliest sheep available," according to 1962 champion, Murray McSkimming. "They were like concertinas.")

Ian remembers being advised to get away from all the rumpus and let others sort it out. Which he did, by heading back to the quarters. The situation was eventually resolved by McSkimming and Evan Maskell shearing off for third and fourth, over five sheep. Then Kneen and Mackle had their private duel, over ten sheep, and the title was Ian's.

Ian returned to New Zealand in 1964 and won at Alexandra again. Said the Otago Daily Times: *Kneen's polish was apparant throughout the contest, and it was no surprise to see him take out the prize for the best pen of sheep shorn in the open event."*

And one week after that win, Ian was married to Francis Kerse of Timaru, hence the Stuart family connection.

Ian also competed at Golden Shears Masterton and The 'Silver Fleece' competition in Hamilton in 1964, without notable success. He retired from shearing in 1971 and went to work at Mt Isa.

New chairman for SSNZ

Shearing Sports New Zealand (SSNZ) has a new chairman after the retirement from the position of former shearing great Sir David Fagan. He is Raglan farmer and shearing contractor Warren Parker, who had been chairman of the SSNZ North Island committee for the past 11 years and a northern delegate to SSNZ for more than two decades. Mr Parker was elected to the national position at the SSNZ annual meeting held in Christchurch earlier this month.



Sir David had been chairman for ten years, since soon after the last Open final in his more than 30 years at the top of global shearing competition, in which he won more than 640 titles, including multiple World, Golden Shears and New Zealand Shears wins.

Mr Parker came from a contrasting background, and he says he was just an average shearer and never entered competitions. He became involved in the shearing industry when he left school and after more than 10 years working abroad, in the UK, the USA and Australia, returned to Raglan and helped organise the local shearing competition (Western Shears) which incorporated the New Zealand lamb-shearing championships. Despite the demise of the competition in 2013, a victim of dwindling support amid the decline in sheep numbers, Mr Parker remained involved at North Island and national level. He became part of the organising committee for the 2017 Golden Shears world shearing and woolhandling championships in Invercargill, an operator of the shearing sports North Island electronic scoring system, and chairman of its committee, and has helped upgrade the system.

He has also been a Raglan Junior Rugby chairman, and chairman of the Waitetuna School Board of Trustees.



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NEW ZEALAND SHEARING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

Greg Stuart and New Zealand Merino Shears

The Stuart Family

When William and Charlotte Stuart began assisting out the back in the shorn sheep judging pens they became the fourth generation of the Stuart family to be involved with the New Zealand Merino Shears.

Their great grandfather Jim and grandfather Alastair were farmers and shearers from the Ida Valley and both were involved in the Young Farmers Club in the district. Jim adjudicated at the contest held at Moutere Station and Alastair, a quality shearer, shore for a number of years in the team event in the formative years of the competition, and as a member of the Ida Valley YFC he acted as a 'pen boy'.

His son Greg continued that tradition, competing during the mid-1980s before taking on the role as the competitors' marshall, and has served a term as President of the Society. More recently he has become a shearing judge and has travelled throughout the South Island in that capacity as well as managing the New Zealand Merino Shears team to Australia.

Greg's brother Tony has also spent time working in the sheep pens and in 2003 won the New Zealand Merino Shears senior title.

(© Barbara Newton, NZ Merino Shears Golden Jubilee booklet, 2011)

* * * * * *

Fourteen years have whizzed by since Barbara's publication. *Shearing* magazine caught up with Greg at the New Z ealand Championships, Te Kuiti, 2025, earlier this year to fill in some intervening years.

Greg Stuart describes himself as having "twice been an ex-president" of the New Zealand Merino Shears Society. On the first occasion, in the early 2000s he took over the reins when then president, John Ferguson (RIP), fell ill and he served three and a half years. Then he came back about nine years later and did another three years (three terms) as president. That period included the now infamous 'Covid 19' years.

"That was in 2020 and we decided to cancel the show because of all the uncertainty and disruption to our lives that Covid was causing. We really didn't know what we were up against, but the following year we decided to go ahead with it anyway - after doing a lot of extra work and holding many discussions with Shearing Sports NZ."

Having the management experience to deal with that situation was no easy task but Greg had a long history of involvement with the New Zealand Merino Shears to fall back on and it was easy to adopt a positive "the show must go on" attitude.

He'd started his service to the Society as a pen boy back in the 1970s when he was still at school, just into his teens. Some years later he'd taken up shearing and graduated to being a competitor, up on the board.

(Perhaps his ambition in that regard goes back to about the time Greg was born, with his uncle, Ian Kneen of Australia winning the open championship in 1963 and 1964. The other notable Stuart family success up on the Molyneaux stage came in 2003 when Greg's brother Tony won the NZ Merino Shears senior title.)



Above: *Greg Stuart, judging up front and out the back at New Zealand championships 2025.*

"Then after several years of competing without outstanding success I became the competitors' marshall, a job with responsibilities for rounding up the competitors and making sure they were ready to take the stand for their shearing or woolhandling events. That would have been around the mid-1990s and after probably ten years of doing that I decided judging would be no more onerous, and decided to give that a go."



Greg's father, Alistair Stuart **(pictured front right)** had also been a competitor back in the 1960s, and then a shearing judge, officiating at Balclutha and other shows around the Otago region for years. He ended up being one of the long-serving timekeepers at Alexandra, up until eight or nine years ago. (Alistair died in 2024, aged 85.)

"Then my own family started getting involved the same way. My son Wills (now 32) started in the sheep pens out the back and been a timekeeper. My daughter Charlotte (29) has worked for Peter Lyon since leaving school and she is now a registered wool classer. She has been competing in the shows for the past few seasons with some success in South Island competitions.

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Above: *Charlotte Stuart competing in the open woolhandling competition at New Zealand Championships earlier this year.*

"I'm really proud of the New Zealand Merino Shears at Alexandra and the way it has developed over recent years and it certainly has a prestigious reputation from the wool side of it. The sheep have been a bit up and down over the years but I think we have largely got that sorted now and we are getting our competitor numbers back. We had 58 open shearers this year (2024) and 30 open woolhandlers."

Another associated role that gives Greg much satisfaction is that of the New Zealand Merino Society's delegate to the Warren White-led national committee adminstering the PGG Wrightson-Vetmed circuit, for which the "prize" is the Fred McSkimming Memorial Trophy.

"So, I've been involved one way or another with the New Zealand Merino Shears Society for a long time now. And for all of that I was made a Life Member of the Society about three years ago."

"Being a shearing judge is just so enjoyable, – there can be a lot of travel involved but it's all worth it. You come up here to places like Te Kuiti, meet new people, everyone's on the same level and the camaraderie is just great.

"I was lucky enough to be appointed as New Zealand team manager for the trans-Tasman tests at Bendigo in 2022. I also judged at the Royal Perth Show "by accident" when my son Wills was over there representing New Zealand in stock judging, judging merino sheep. Don Boyle (who has had a lot to do with Perth/Alexandra relationships over many years) invited me to help judge the shearing."

Greg was one of the New Zealand judges nominated by SSNZ to represent New Zealand at the world championships in Scotland in 2023. Although not successful in getting the 'nod' for that task, Greg and his wife Mary decided they would make the trip anyway, as spectators and supporters.

"I'd never been that far from home before but we had a great six weeks visiting Scotland, England and Wales, Singapore and some European countries. It was great to see the world championships run from the northern hemisphere perspective, we had a marvellous time overseas."





Above: *New Zealand's team for the trans–Tasman tests at Bendigo in 2022. From left: Tony Dobbs (blade shearer), Greg Stuart (team manager), Gail Haitana (woolhandling judge), Cushla Abraham (woolhandler), Stacey Te Huia (machine shearer), Angela Stevens (woolhandler), Nathan Stratford (machine shearer), Leon Samuels (machine shearer) and Allan Oldfield (blade shearer.) The blade shearers and woolhandlers won their tests and the machine shearers took the minor money.* ***Opposite:*** *Tony Stuart on the way to victory in the New Zealand Merino Shears senior final in 2003.*

Originally from Moa Creek where he was born and raised, Greg has lived for many years at Omarama. Previously, when he wasn't shearing, he'd worked on, and managed farms.

That led him to a position as manager at Tara Hills Station, Omarama, once the scene of New Zealand's only other fine wool shearing competition.

"I'm actually still president of the recessed Omarama Show. I got it going again for a couple of years when I arrived at Tara Hills, but it was just too hard, with not enough committee support and we had no choice but to go into recess again."

Greg also lists harness racing (and golf) among his keen interests and has a licence to start mobile start trials. "When I was in my high school years I had an uncle at Timaru who trained horses and I guess I developed my interest from there. I would spend a couple of weeks a year with him during school holidays.

"Then when I left Tara Hills I became manager of the Oamaru Race Course for five years. – a totally different life from farming and shearing. That was from 2012 to 2017.While there I got friendly with a local trainer and I would drive horse floats for him, to race venues like Forbury and Addington. I also remember very well the day we got four inches of rain in 12 hours. There were were no horses on the track that day, or the next."



Oamaru Racing Club - different management challenges from farming and shearing, Greg Stuart soon discovered, when you get four inches of rain in 12 hours.

Up until recently Greg was employed full time as a lamb drafter for the Alliance Co. He covered a vast area, down to Glenorchy. up to Makarora, Alexandra, up to Burkes Pass – "So there was a lot of driving involved (like being a judge) but I enjoyed that too!"

For the past few months Greg has been operating in "semi-retired" mode (though he's still a bit young for the 'Winston card') and he's taken a step back into some 'old habits' – doing casual farm work several days a week for a number of clients – feeding out and other stock work.

"Then if things get too quiet I can always go down to the Omarama Golf Club [where he is Club Captain] and potter around there, mowing fairways or whatever else needs doing – there's always something needs doing and it's all voluntary work.

"Now looking back over the past 45 years and more, it's fair to say I have enjoyed every minute of my involvement with shearing and judging and the places it has taken me, the opportunities presented and the life-long friendships that have been formed as a result."

* * * * * *







Above: *Gerrit Crum (left) and Johannes Kloosterman pictured after their marathon shear for cancer at Heerenveen, Northern Netherlands, on 23-24 May 2025. Below is a Google translation (Dutch to English) of the report Johannes posted on his Facebook page:*

The shearing marathon is over! We saw a fantastic team effort on May 23rd and 24th of this year in Heerenveen. Everyone involved in those two days gave their all to make it a success. Johannes and Gerrit weren't the only ones who worked tirelessly. Ultimately, thanks to our sponsors, we were able to build a beautiful venue and organize the event. Thank you so much for that! And then you set up a fundraising page ... what will happen? This exceeded our expectations. After closing the page on 9 June 2025, we raised a truly fantastic amount, which we are very proud of. €16,329 will go to the Dutch Cancer Society (KWF). *(Equivalent $NZ 32,625. Well done to Gerrit and Johannes.)*

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Meanwhile, New Zealand's 2019 world blade shearing champion Allan Oldfield (above, fourth left) has also been busy training shearers with the blades in the Netherlands, as well as conducting training schools in other parts of Europe. ***Top:*** *A course held out in the field (you can do that with blades!) involved seven women plus the farmer.* ***Above:*** *This was another group on an advanced course, including brothers Bart van den Hardenberg (third left) and Jan van den Hardenberg (right), who will represent the Netherlands in blade shearing at the 2026 world championships.*

NOT THAT LONG AGO

A stationhand from a huge Queensland outback sheep station arrived at the Pearly Gates and appeared before Saint Peter.

"Have you done anything to suggest that you should be granted entry here," Saint Peter asked the young man.

"Well, I can think of one thing. On a trip to the back blocks of New South Wales, out by Broken Hill, I came across a big gang of Hell's Angels bikies who were threatening a young sheila. I told them to leave her alone but they wouldn't listen.

"I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed bikie who looked like their leader. I smacked him in the face, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring and threw it on the ground. "I yelled, 'Now back off or I'll just have to kick the snot out of the whole lot of ya.'"

Saint Peter was obviously impressed. "And tell me, when did this happen?" he enquired.

"A couple of minutes ago."

Booze, bullshit and breaking the cycle

By Willy McSkimming (The Sharing Shed, Facebook)

Time for a New Culture in the Shearing Game

Let's rip the band-aid off – we've got a drinking culture in the shearing industry that's long overdue for a shake-up.

For too long it's been seen as a badge of honour to work a 10-hour day on the handpiece or broom, then smash a dozen beers, crawl into bed (or the back seat of the van), wake up dusty as hell, and roll into the next day underperforming and irritable. It's not tough. It's not funny. It's bloody stupid – and it's hurting us more than we realise.

"It's just a few after work"

Yeah, we've heard that one. A quiet beer with the crew or the farmer after a big week? Bloody oath – that can be a magic thing. It's a way to wind down, swap yarns, debrief the job, and share a few laughs. We're not here to kill the good stuff. But there's a line – and too many of us have blurred it so much we can't see where the piss-up ends and the problems begin.

"Just a few" turns into six, then ten. Then it's every night. You stop eating proper dinners. Stupid shit happens. You start sleeping in. The gear doesn't get ground. The van waits. The sheep get stirred up because you're all behind. And now you're playing catch-up with a foggy brain and a short fuse.

How the World Sees Us – And Why It Matters

Let's be real here – outside the wool shed, we've got a bit of a reputation. We're seen as pissheads. Party animals. Loose units who shear hard and drink harder. And while there's some charm to the old-school rough and ready image, it's not helping us anymore – especially when we're trying to build a more professional industry, get young people involved, and be taken seriously by the wider public.

Farmers, schools, government agencies, potential sponsors, consumers and even the next generation of workers are all watching. If all they see is stories of hungover crews, trashed quarters, and police complaints, we can't complain when they don't give us the respect we deserve.

We're better than that. It's time to show it.

Don't Be That Dickhead – The World's Watching Now

Let's not beat around the bush – when you're on the piss, your decision-making goes down the gurgler. You might think you're being funny, brave, charming, whatever… but more often than not, you're just being a dickhead. **And these days? There's always a camera rolling.**

You punch a wall, mouth off at someone, square up to a co-worker, or start yelling at the farmer – and someone is gonna capture it. And before you've sobered up or even found your bloody phone, that shit's already been posted, shared, screen recorded, and screenshotted a hundred times.

We've seen it first-hand. A promising young worker sharpening his skills on the handpiece, showed promise – got steamed up, thought it'd be funny to take a piss in a public area, verbally abused bystanders speaking up and became downright aggressive when challenged. The evidence was posted on Facebook, work van and company name in full view! It blew up quickly.

Farmers heard about it. The boss was getting random messages and hate mail, the rest of the crew were tarred with the same brush. He didn't just embarrass himself. He brought the whole crew down. It met the threshold for serious misconduct – and didn't end well for this young fella. He will have that name for the rest of his career because of a few beers and a dickhead move!

That's the reality.

One night of piss and poor judgement.

One video or incident shared around.

And now your name's mud — not just locally, but across the whole circuit.

People talk. Farmers, contractors, other shearers. Once your name's tied to that kind of carry-on, you're not just out – you're avoided.

This industry's already battling outdated stereotypes. If we want respect, good pay, and more opportunities, we've got to stop feeding the narrative that we're all loose units.

You might think it's all good fun, but if you're the reason a farmer doesn't want a contractor back, or a crew loses work, or a young gun walks away from the game – that's on you.

The wool shed isn't a circus. We're not here to be the entertainment. We're here to work hard, get paid well, and walk out with our heads held high. So don't be that guy. Don't be that girl. Don't be the reason someone says, ***"Bloody shearers, aye – just another bunch of pissed idiots."***

Be the one that lifts the standard — not the one dragging us back into the mud.

We're better than that. Start acting like it.

The Real Harm – It Ain't Just a Personal Problem

Let's be brutally honest. Alcohol abuse isn't just about missing a day or being a bit grumpy. The ripple effect is massive.

Families cop it first – Kids get snapped at. Partners carry the mental load. Relationships get strained or flat-out fall apart.

Violence creeps in the door – Alcohol is a leading factor in domestic violence in New Zealand. If you're turning up steamed and angry, that's not just a shed problem. That's a bloody serious one.

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Crimes happen – Fights, drink driving, dumb shit that gets you in trouble with the police. One bad call can wreck your life or someone else's.

The next generation is watching – You might think you're just having a laugh, but the young ones in the shed are picking up every habit you're putting down. What are we teaching them?

We can't keep glamourizing being hungover heroes. We're professionals, not pisshead pirates.

The Loop is Real – And It's a Bastard to Break

The trap is sneaky. You knock off work, someone shouts, so you sink a few. Feels good. Do it again the next night. Suddenly it's been two months and you've had 40 hangovers, your wallet's empty, your missus is over it, and you've done bugger all else with your time outside of work.

Sound familiar? Yeah. We've all been there. Hell, I've been there. But staying there? That's a choice. And it's a shit one.

My Story – From the Life of the Party to Kicking Myself on the Couch

Look, I'm not preaching from some pedestal here and I'm certainly not the fun police. I've lived it. I was the guy who'd have one drink… and then it was on. Full send till I couldn't stand.

Sure, I could still turn up and do the job – but bloody hell, it would've been a heap easier and a hell of a lot better without the hangovers, the guilt, and the fog that came with it.

I got into that cycle: work, drink, sleep, repeat. The old "work hard, play hard" mantra, right? I was the life of the party when I was pissed up – always up for a laugh, always the loudest in the room. But when the stories started rolling in about what I'd done while I was blind drunk and smashed, the jokes weren't that funny to me sober and then the guilt and regret really set in.

I was silently gutted. Sad. Lonely. Sliding down a rabbit hole I didn't think I could climb out of.

But I wasn't alone. There were people around me who gave a shit. Mates. Family. Crew. They stood by me, even when I didn't think I deserved it. They helped me through the aftermath of every bender – when I was lying on the couch, kicking myself for doing it again.

Eventually, I got help. And things got better. I think I'm just about worse off the piss, but here's the kicker: I remember EVERYTHING and my wife and kids are a lot happier for it!

To cut a long story short, It wasn't easy. Not by a long shot. But it was worth it. For my family. For my mates. But most of all – for me.

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Show Me the Money – Financial Pros & Cons of Cutting the Booze

Let's lay it out, dollars and cents. The Negatives:

- $50 a night on piss? Do that four nights a week, that's $200 gone. $100 a night? That's 4 Hundy. Every week.
- Missed vans = missed wages.
- Hungover at work = slower = fewer sheep = less coin.
- Do that all season and you've sunk thousands – for what? Some hazy nights a big headache and a dodgy liver?

The Positives of Staying Sharp:

- Home ownership – Yep, it's bloody possible if you're smart with your money. Stack those pay cheques.
- A flash new ute or car – Not just one that goes, but one you're proud to drive.
- Overseas trips – A couple grand saved = a proper holiday, not just a hungover weekend.
- Quality gear – New handpieces, a decent selection of combs, your own grinder,– you name it.
- Future security – Savings for when you're crook, injured, or just need a break.
- You all work bloody hard. You should see something for it.

What's Bloody Good About Staying Sober?

Let's not just bash the bad – let's shine a light on what's on the other side. There's some serious gold in choosing not to drink, or at least pulling back:

- Mentally – Better sleep, less anxiety, sharper thinking. You're not spending every morning trying to feel human again.
- Workwise – You're on time, switched on, not snapping at the presser or rubbing the farmer up the wrong way 'cause your head's in a fog.
- Familywise – You're present. Properly present. Having convos that matter. Doing things that mean something to the people who love you.
    - Long term – If you're not wasting cash and time on booze, you're building something. Saving. Planning. Maybe even looking at your own run one day.

Time to Shift the Culture

This isn't about banning beers or turning into saints. It's about making room in the industry for the new normal.

Some people don't drink. Full stop. Let's not make them feel like aliens in the wool shed.

Have other drink options when you're celebrating a shed finish. Chuck in some fizzy, hot drinks, water. Whatever – just give people a bloody choice.

Start talking openly about it. Share your story if you've cut back or quit. You might just give someone the nudge they need.

We can still be a crew that works hard and plays hard. But let's make "play hard" mean kicking a footy, cooking a feed together, hitting the river, playing some pool or cards – something other than getting smashed.

Life is more than a box of cold piss, a few Cody's and a hangover!

"Country folk don't shine their boots very often. And they don't shine other people's boots, either." (Anon.)

Tips, Tricks & Tools for a Healthier Shed Life

Shifting the culture doesn't mean you've gotta go cold turkey overnight. But here's a list of real, doable things that help make the change stick — whether you're cutting back, going sober, or just want to support your mates who are.

Tips for Individuals

- Start small – Try going booze-free during the week and only having one or two on Friday if you feel like it.
- Track your drinks – Use a notebook, your phone, or an app like DrinkControl just to see how much you're actually consuming (the result might scare you).
- Have an excuse ready – If the crew's pushing, just say, "Nah bro, I've got a big day tomorrow" or "On a health kick." No one can argue with that.
- Stock better options – Keep cold fizzy, or sports drinks handy so you're not always reaching for a beer.
- Keep busy after work – Go for a walk, hit the river, chuck on a podcast, cook a decent feed. Distraction works.
- Plan your reward – Save the cash you'd usually spend on piss and splash it on something for you. New stereo? Hunting gear? A night away with the missus? You've earned it.

Tips for the Whole Crew

- Normalise not drinking – If someone skips the beers, don't take the piss. Back them.
- Mix up the after-work fun – Have darts comps, cards nights, pool tournaments. Build a bit of banter that doesn't revolve around booze.
- Shout a sober shout – Bring in some good non-alcoholic options when the shed wraps up. Shout the fizzy like you would the beers.
- Keep an eye out – If someone's hitting it hard, not showing up, or looking rough, check in. A quiet yarn can mean a hell of a lot.

Signs You or a Mate Might Need a Hand

- Drinking alone or in secret
- Getting pissed more often than not
- Missing the van or turning up late/dusty too often
- Mood swings, angry outbursts, or becoming withdrawn
- Saying things like "I could stop if I wanted to" but never doing it
- Family or mates have said something about your drinking

Where to Get Help in New Zealand

You're not weak for reaching out. You're bloody strong. Here's where to start if you or someone close to you needs a bit of backup:

Alcohol Drug Helpline (Free, confidential support) 0800 787 797. Free text 8681. alcoholdrughelp.org.nz

1737 – Need to Talk? Trained counsellors, 24/7. Call or text 1737

Healthline: 0800 611 116

Salvation Army Addiction Services: Support across New Zealand for substance misuse. salvationarmy.org.nz

Your GP or rural nurse: Don't forget – your local doctor or nurse can help make a plan or refer you to the right people.

Final Word

The industry's changing – and it bloody well should. We owe it to ourselves, our families, our crews, and the next generation coming through the ranks to show that you can have a good time, smash out a solid week's work, and be proud of how you carry yourself without getting blind every night. Let's break the cycle. Let's change the way people see us – not just as workers, but as professionals. Let's be a crew people want to join, and parents want their kids to be part of.

And if you've got a story, a tip, or a thought – chuck it our way. This is your shed too.

* * * * * *



Above: *New Zealand Contractors' Association chairman Mark Barrowcliffe (Piopio) presents Brendan Mahony (Napier) with life membership of the Association at the NZSCA Annual meeting in May 2025. A shearing contractor since 1972, Brendan has been a member of the NZSCA Executive Committee for much of that time. He joins the late Elbert de Koning, Peter Lyon and Ronnie Davis as life members. As well as his life-long devotion to the shearing industry, Brendan has served on the Hawkes Bay Rugby Union management board for more than 20 years and much of that time as its chairman. Brendan (some years ago) promised* Shearing *magazine a full interview when he retires!)*



Above: *Confession time – we received this painting a while back – details lost in recent computer upgrade? Help, anyone?*

TPW celebrates five decades

News Release

The company behind the iconic TPW Woolpress – a machine that transformed wool baling across Australia and New Zealand – is celebrating a major milestone: 50 years of innovation, safety, and performance in the wool industry.

Since 1975, TPW (originally Theresia Perfection Welding) has been helping wool producers work smarter and safer, thanks to its world-class baling equipment that reduces manual labour, increases shed safety, and delivers faster, more efficient turnaround times. The result? Tighter bales, accurate weighing, and better returns for growers.

Founded in the Kenwick/Maddington area of Perth, Western Australia, TPW was the brainchild of John Theresia Jordans. His legacy lives on today, with the company's original Fastbaler evolving into the advanced TPW Xpress Woolpress – now recognised as the gold standard for wool handlers and contractors across both sides of the Tasman. The company introduced its Slimline Woolpress to New Zealand farmers in 1990. Jordans passed away in December 2000, and his family (wife and two daughters), had little interest in running the company.

Enter Heiniger. Heiniger Australia was already distributing TPW products across the Eastern seaboard – and in 2001 acquired the business following Mr Jordans' passing. The move cemented a long-standing partnership and gave the TPW brand new momentum under Heiniger's stewardship.

"Reaching 50 years is an extraordinary achievement," said Dale Harris, Joint CEO of Heiniger Australia & New Zealand. "It's a milestone built on innovation, trust, and a deep connection to the shearing shed – qualities that have underpinned TPW since day one.

"It's also a proud alignment with Heiniger's own heritage. Our parent company is nearing 80 years of global excellence in precision engineering and fibre removal. Together, TPW and Heiniger share a commitment to providing primary producers with equipment that's built to last – and built to lead."

From the award-winning Slimline Woolpress and Aussie Xpress, to the purpose-designed Kiwi Xpress launched in 1996, TPW's machines have continually evolved with the industry. More recently, the compact and powerful TPW Backease 600 Hoist has gained popularity as a trusted lifting solution across both farms and industry.



For contractors and wool handlers, the TPW Woolpress remains a benchmark of performance. "It's not just about automation," said Mr Harris. "It's about consistency, reliability, and helping wool stay globally competitive. The TPW Woolpress didn't just keep pace with industry evolution – it helped lead it."

To mark this milestone, Heiniger is offering a limited-time promotion: with every TPW Xpress Woolpress purchased, customers will receive a free TPW Backease 600 Hoist (pictured below) – a gesture that celebrates the company's legacy while equipping sheds for the future. The promotion is available in both New Zealand and Australia and has been extended to 30th September 2025.



"We're proud to celebrate 50 years of TPW," added Mr Harris. "But our focus remains forward – to honour the past, serve the present, and innovate for the next generation of wool harvesters."

For more information on TPW and the 50th Anniversary promotion, contact Heiniger New Zealand at (03) 349 8282, sales@heiniger.co.nz, or visit **https://heiniger.co.nz**



Above and opposite: *The TPW woolpress can be transported through the back country for installation – though some help with heavy lifting may be required to get it up into the shed!*

Heiniger

TPW – Fifty years of milestones Q&A

Q1. When and where did the TPW story begin?
A. 1975 in Perth, Western Australia TPW commenced operations in the Kenwick/Maddington area of Perth.

Q2. Who owns TPW and what prompted it's launch?
A. Theresia Perfection Welding was established by John Jordans in 1975. (Theresia was John Jordans middle name.)

- From 1980 the company was known as 'TPW Australia', shortening the Theresia Perfection Welding to TPW, with the addition of Australia.
- The company received the Australian Design Award for the Slimline Woolpress during that time.
- In 1990 the Slimline was adapted for the New Zealand market.
- In 1995 TPW began production of the Aussie Xpress Woolpress, the successor to the Slimline.
- The Kiwi Xpress was adapted from the Aussie Xpress in 1995 with the first Kimi Xpress dispatched to NZ towards the end of 1996.
- Heiniger Australia held the distribution for TPW products, namely a Woolpress and Backease hoist for the Eastern seaboard of Australia.
- John Jordans' passing (December 2000) resulted in him leaving a wife and two daughters who had little interest in running TPW.
- This created the opportunity for Heiniger Australia to acquire it and this was done in April 2001. TPW Australia ceases to operate as the TPW brand joins Heiniger Australia.
- TPW is owned by Heiniger Australia Pty Ltd.

Q3. What/when was the first product sold?
A. 1975 – TPW Fastbaler (Slimline) Woolpress. Key features included:

- Hydraulic – Auto cycle, Frank Hardy hydraulic cylinder
- Electric – 5 HP single phase
- Petrol – 7 HP
- Manual pinning
- Weighing – Pressure gauge

Q4. Is the Woolpress TPW's signature offering?
A. Absolutely. The Woolpress is not just TPW's signature product - it's a symbol of Australian ingenuity in the wool industry. Over five decades, it has evolved from the original Fastbaler into the advanced Xpress range we see today. It's widely recognised across shearing sheds throughout Australia and New Zealand, thanks to its reliability, safety, and performance.

In more recent years, the TPW Backease Hoist 600 has also been making its mark – a compact, powerful lifting solution that's gaining momentum on farms and in various industries for its ease of use and versatility. Together, these two flagship products reflect TPW's commitment to designing equipment that genuinely solves problems for rural communities and agricultural professionals.

Q5. Tell us a bit about the products offered by TPW?
A. Core Products:
TPW Xpress Woolpress: https://www.heiniger.co.nz/shearing/tpw-woolpress
TPW Backease Hoist 600: https://www.heiniger.co.nz/shearing/tpw-backease-hoist





Above: *The TPW woolpress is found in sheds from the King Country to the Far North, and everywhere in between.*





Above and below: *The TPW woolpress in various settings.*



Accessories:

- Woolpress accessories/add-ons: **https://www.heiniger.com.au/shearing/tpw-woolpress**
- Iconix Livestock Weighing System
- Scale Update Kit
- Safety Screen Update Kit
- Woolpress Cover
- Woolbale Trolley
- Woolpress Trolley

Q6. When did TPW enter the New Zealand market?
A. TPW Slimline (New Zealand) – The Slimline Woolpress was introduced to the NZ marketing by TPW Australia in 1990. Apart from the extra guarding, this press was identical to the Slimline in Australia.

Q7. How has TPW'S Woolpress helped/revolutionised the wool sector in New Zealand?
A. TPW's Woolpress fundamentally changed the way wool was handled in New Zealand. By automating the baling process, TPW reduced the manual labour required, increased safety in the shed, and dramatically improved efficiency. The result? Tighter bales, faster turnaround times, and accurate weighing, which all contribute to better returns for growers.

For many wool handlers and contractors, a TPW press is the gold standard - a tool they trust day in, day out. It's not just about automation; it's about reliability, consistency, safety, and helping New Zealand wool stay globally competitive. The TPW Woolpress didn't just keep pace with industry evolution — it helped lead it.

Q8. Where are TPW products made – location of manufacturing plants?
A. Perth, Western Australia

Q9. Tell us a bit about innovation and how TPW Woolpress and other products have evolved over 50 years?
A. Since the first TPW Fastbaler (Slimline) in 1975, TPW Woolpresses have evolved with the introduction of new press models and ongoing product enhancements.
Key moments of evolution chronologically are as follows:

- 1975 – TPW Fastbaler released
- November 1978 – TPW Autoflow released featuring Auto mechanical pinning and rear bale ejection
- May 1983 – TPW Slimline MKII released
- April 1986 – TPW Slimline MKII included a Calibration Box with Computer interface, as well as Silicon sealed load bars
- September 1989 – Inclusion of pressure sensing safety bars
- 1990 – TPW Slimline introduced into NZ
- December 1994 – Last Slimline produced.
- March 1995 – Aussie Xpress released.
- 1995 – Backease hoist released.
- December 1996 – Kiwi Xpress released.
- December 2000 – John Jordans passes away
- April 2001 – The TPW brand is bought by Heiniger Australia
- August 2002 – Iconix scales introduced on Xpress
- September 2005 – TPW 30th Anniversary – limited edition Woolpresses released. Painted orange with silver highlights, they were fitted with an extra rib front and back, pushrod internal reinforcing, new 'stay attached' jockey wheel, rubber on alloy wheels with bearings,

special stickers, stainless steel serial number plate and tie down loops.
- August 2009 – All Woolpresses are supplied with an enclosing interlocked guard (as per Kiwi Xpress)
- September 2011 – First fully green powder coated press
- September 2012 – Dual voltage introduced
- October 2013 – 1200mm higher hungry board and screen and emergency stop button included.
- October 2015 – 40th Anniversary presses released in a variety of designs: blue, green, and black silver fern.
- 2025 – 50th Anniversary – special edition presses featuring 50th Anniversary decals on the front of the press (NZ version features Silver Fern watermark) and 50th Anniversary decal on the back hungry board

Our current TPW Xpress model, has seen the following enhancements over recent years:

- Full frontal safety screen guard
- Cylinder centralising tabs
- Pressure plate design improvement
- Link design
- Bolt on push rods
- Tool less cylinder setup kit
- Press scales with weight limit alarms

Q10. How does it feel to complete 50 years in business and what does TPW aim for and hope to achieve going forward?
A. Reaching 50 years is an extraordinary achievement and one that reflects the strength, resilience, and relevance of the TPW brand within the wool industry. It's a milestone built on innovation, trust, and a deep connection to the shearing shed - qualities that have underpinned TPW since 1975.

It's also a proud alignment with Heiniger's own heritage, with our parent company nearing 80 years of global excellence in precision engineering and animal fibre removal. Together, Heiniger and TPW share a common vision: to support primary producers with tools that are not only built to last, but also built to lead.

Looking ahead, TPW will continue to evolve its product range with a clear focus on safety, ease of use, and performance, while staying true to the values that made the brand a household name in shearing sheds across Australia and New Zealand. The goal is to honour the past, serve the present, and innovate for the future — ensuring the next generation of wool harvesters are equipped with the very best.

* * * * * *



From Facebook post by David Zdrha, Czech Republic

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Hugh McCarroll Records Society Life Member

The World Sheep Shearing Records Society Inc. annual meeting took place this year over two days, 6-7th May 2025 at Cambridge, New Zealand. Sixteen members from New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom attended a practical session on the first day hosted by Craig Alexander at their Hobbiton Farm woolshed, where issues around record attempts were looked at prior to being addressed at the AGM next day.

Dinner that evening in Cambridge was preceded with Life Members John Fagan and Mark Baldwin presenting Secretary Hugh McCarroll with his Life Membership of the World Sheep Shearing Records Society. Hugh has been a member of the Society since 1995, firstly as Chairman of North Island Shearing Sports; Island chairman were then automatic delegates to the Records Society.

Prior to this a call up took place to help Lex Jury, Tom Brough, Harry Wells and Gordon Pope as an 'unofficial referee' at the six-stand, nine-hour strong wool lamb record at Hautu Prison Farm, Turangi on 18 December 1991. (Jeff Dorset's gang.) It was a day Hugh will never forget – a policeman arrived just before lunchtime to inform him his Mother had passed away that morning.



Above: *"What's Hugh up to now? Audrey Tamanui and Mavis Mullins examine Hugh McCarroll's British fleece rolling technique, preparing for his role as team manager to the world championships in Gorey, 1998. (LSP photo.)*

His nomination was the next referee replacement following the late Harry Wells as a North Island referee, and led to his first officiating record being the eight-hour, three-stand lamb record set by Digger Balme, Roger Neil and Dean Ball at Te Hape Station, Benneydale, New Zealand on 8 January 1999.

His final refereeing appointment was at the Clayton-Green/Welch Shearing eight-hour, five-stand strong wool lamb record set at Cashmore Farms, Kawakawa Bay, Clevedon, New Zealand on 10 December 2013.

Hugh officiated at nineteen record attempts over those years, convened three successful records, and attended another twenty-nine attempts over the intervening years.

Hugh was nominated 'out of the blue' at the 2006 AGM in Te Kuiti by Secretary at the time, the late Lex Jury, and was duly elected as Secretary. He is now in his twentieth year in that position.

* * * * * *



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Tribute: John Allan OAM (1935-2025)

By Des Williams

John Allan came to New Zealand in 1960 to gain some experience on strong-woolled sheep and compete at the first Golden Shears at Masterton, where he won the intermediate title. He recounted memories of that trip at the Golden Shears 30th anniversary dinner in 1990.

"That was my first trip and I've just kept coming back – I love the place. We went down to shear in the Mackenzie country, which was just great. And while I was there we had some time off and some of the local shearers and shepherds took the really green Aussies out moa hunting. [Much laughter – "true story, true story!"]

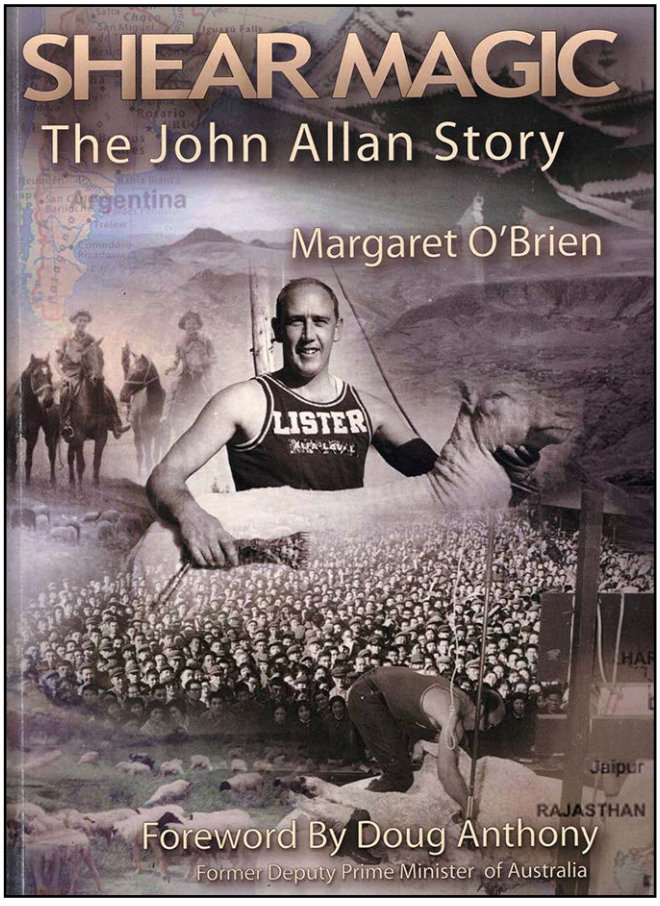
"We'd got off the plane at Christchurch they spirited us away down through the mountains and we ended up at Bendigo Station, near Cromwell. It was very hilly, I hadn't seen hills like that before. And we certainly got very interested in moas because they were telling us such great stories. We climbed those bloody hills – but you know – the real funny part of it is this – I could understand them sending us moa hunting but I can't understand them actually taking us moa hunting!

"Anyway we progressed along and the Golden Shears were on. I was delighted to make a little history by winning the intermediate – the first Australian – non New Zealander ever. And I think I was the first person to really appreciate how good Snow Quinn was going to be, because I came back in 1962 and made the senior finals. I only had three sheep left in my pen when Snow was finished, so I learned early on how good he was going to be." [Fact check: Quinn finished his pen a tick under 16 minutes for ten sheep. Allan's time was 20m 17.8s.]

John Allan died recently at home in Sydney, in his 90th year. His was a life very much devoted to shearing and the wool industry and we are fortunate that he produced a 400-page, amply illustrated account of his career entitled *Shear Magic,* in 2007 (from which much of the following is gleaned.).

John's father, Norman Allan had lost his farm because of "financial difficulties" during the 1930s Depression years. They were living in the township of Foster (Vic) and Norman turned to shearing, determined to someday resume farming. At the time John was born (1 December 1935) Norman was also running a carrying business.

John started his schooling at Foster State School and (being not the tallest boy in the class) soon acquired the nickname of 'Nipper' – a name that stuck with him in that district. Leading the typical country kid's lifestyle, working hard, milking cows and learning to ride, the 'Nipper' soon became an accomplished rider.



The family moved to Melbourne in 1945 after Norman required regular hospital treatment for injuries sustained in an accident. Fully recovered by Christmas 1947, the family moved onto a farm about five miles from Foster. And soon enough John was sent off to boarding school, Haileybury College at Brighton, where he participated in a number of sports while also achieving satisfactory scholastic results.

His skills as a horseman led to his riding track and at race meetings, including steeple-chasing and riding at venues such as Moonee Valley. He became an amateur jockey, working for an owner who trusted his work ahead of professional riders. But eventually John got to be too heavy and besides, "The [steeple case] horses are mad. If one ran them at the grandstand they would try to jump it!" he reckoned.

John considered getting too heavy to ride races was "probably a good thing" because he had developed new interests – football and shearing. Norman Allan had been a very good shearer and passed his skills on to John, who was soon turning out very respectable tallies. By age 19 John was running his own contract business. He began competing at shearing competitions, often taking part in horse-riding events at the same venues.

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In 1955 John signed on for a season with Grazcos. Norman had taken him down to Melbourne to sign the agreement. He recalled: "In those days the Union (AWU) was strong and everything had to be done right." Because he was not yet 21, Norman had to sign the agreement as well. Grazcos was tough with its new recruits, John remembered. If an employee signed up and then left a shed before shearing had been completed or the shed cut out, he would never work for the company again.

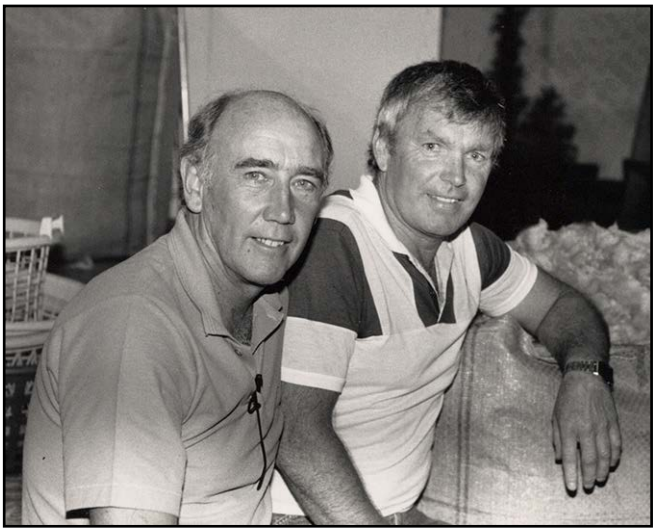
But for John Allan it began a very long association with Grazcos and he certainly learned to shear some big, tough sheep. "The noise as the rams jostled with each other in the catching pen, horns clunking loudly, was a sound that would haunt him in many a nightmare!"

John completed the full 1955/56 season for Grazcos, shearing at locations from the Riverina district of New South Wales to Victoria's Western District. He then teamed up with John Hanrahan for three seasons ("Big John and Little John") and they shore in sheds and went to shows together. They attended the Royal Melbourne Show in 1956, entered the pairs event and won it. "They were thrilled when they gained first place, and developed a fascination with competition shearing that was to be ongoing for them."

John had been working in New Zealand for several months during 1960, initially in the South Island shearing merinos. In the North Island, where the sheep were predominantly Romney Marsh, he quickly became proficient shearing them also, using the Godfrey Bowen method. And when he heard an Australian team was coming over for the Shears (including Fred Jarvis, for whom he had worked at home), he was in the Wairarapa to welcome them and quickly became an unofficial member of the Australian team.

After winning the intermediate title, John received praise in a news release from New Zealand Wool Board chief instructor, Claude Waite: *"The quality of work in the intermediate section, won by John Allan of Foster, Vic., was far above that in the open, except for the half dozen top shearers. The class is limited to those shearing fewer than 250 sheep a day ... John Allan has had some experience in New Zealand this summer ... He has come to our style and went exceptionally well. He thoroughly deserved his win."*







Top: *John Allan and Jim Keenan at Golden Shears 1988 when they were both working for Heiniger.* ***Above:*** *John Allan (left) with Godfrey Bowen and Ian Steel (Wrightsons) at Golden Shears 1990, when John told the story of how he had been taken moa hunting back in 1960.*

At Golden Shears 1962 John was in the 'dungeon' changing the chicken feet on his Lister 'Ace' handpiece so it would take the wider New Zealand combs. An "elderly gentlemen" observed what he was doing and asked him what he thought of the Lister gear. John replied that the handpiece cut alright but was lacking in some other aspects. The gentleman asked if he (John) could design something better and was told "it shouldn't be too hard" in John's forthright manner.

The elderly gentleman revealed himself to be Sir Percy Lister and asked John if he could be at the Lister factory in Dursley at the beginning of May (1961). John said, "if you've got the money I'll make the time!" "John was about to enter the world of research and development," *Shear Magic* explained.

John made his way to England with a series of "aerial hops", it being before the days of long, non-stop jet flights. There he spent a couple of months absorbing all he could about the manufacturing of shearing gear. By August 1962 he was back in Australia, employed as Lister's envoy to the shearing industry. He would be working for Lister Blackstone Pty Ltd "on improvement of design, and fact-finding in shearing equipment", involving travel to wool-producing areas throughout Australia."

Having spent more than a year visiting "wool-producing areas" in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania, John was back in England, having been promoted to the position of 'Factory Liaison Officer'. It took some time for the Aussie to be accepted by his fellow workers. They regarded him as "Sir Percy's man" He had to make it plain his requests (for changes and modifications) were not what he wanted, but what the shearers wanted. He was merely passing that on and eventually the shearers started getting what they wanted.

John Allan became a world traveller, preaching the gospel of shearing in places like:

1964 – seconded to the United Nations for work in India, Mexico, Peru, Chile;

1965 – Ecuador (working on long term project to improve pastures, wool and meat production), Peru and Chile, teaching shearing and demonstrating Lister machinery;

1966 – United States and South America again.

1967 – Back to Dursley, involved in Commercial and Product training.

In 1971 John ended his employment with Listers and joined the Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Company (AML&F) as its Merchandise manager. During this time he was studying for a University Diploma of Commerce (specialising in Export). On attaining his qualification he became a Fellow of the Institute of Export.

Meantime, changes had been taking place at AML&F and towards the end of 1972 John decided to finish up with the company and took some time to consider his next move.

In shearing world terms, his next move was to join the Sunbeam Corporation's Rural Division, which included shearing equipment. While attending the Canberra Show he'd observed that all the contestants were using Sunbeam cutters, but only four had Sunbeam combs and just two used Sunbeam handpieces. John decided he was ready to meet the challenge! He became manager of the Sunbeam Rural Division and brought a new approach. "*At first staff thought he was just another salesman like the rest of them. That proved over time to be not the case and when things went wrong, as always happens, John did not look to lay the blame, but rather, looked at ways to overcome the problem."*

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Above: *John Allan demonstrating his profession to the multitudes at Beijing in 1974. (Photo from Shear Magic.)*

John Allan – the problem solver. There is so much more to his story. So many more countries visited, spreading the gospel of wool, wool harvesting and wool usage. In 1979 he joined the Sunbeam Corporation as an Associate Director – at 43-years-of-age, one of the youngest appointees to hold that position.

In 1982 the Sunbeam Company was taken over and John considered the time right to take his own career in another direction. He joined another gear manufacturing company, Heiniger from Switzerland, after a visit to the company's factory in Zurich, and signed up to the position of Managing director for Heiniger Australia Limited, and the world marketing and research director for the company.

About this time John's colleagues, Bimby Martin and Keith 'Tiger' Hutty began the process of seeking official recognition of the man's contributions to the Australian shearing industry: *"Year after year, due recognition was given to people's achievements in other areas of the community but, despite the undeniable contribution that shearing had made to Australia's historical and economic advancement, little or no evidence of the nation's appreciation of that contribution had been forthcoming."*

Martin and Hutty also believed that there should be some form of public acknowledgement of John's efforts to improve the lot of Australia's shearers and for the betterment of the wool industry in general. It seemed to them that both omissions could be addressed by officially nominating John Allan for recognition in the Traditional Honours List, in acknowledgement of his contributions to shearing in Australia and throughout the wool-growing world.

Bimby Martin set out to contact people all over Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, seeking support for the nomination. Eventually, after months and even years, came success. He became John Allan OAM in 1988.

After leaving Heiniger at the end of 1990, John purchased a business named Botany Bay Imports Exports and devoted his energy to its development. He forayed into several interesting projects, including the development of ceramic combs (not a runaway success!) and became the Australian importer of American Oster products.

Before he went back to Dursley in 1967, John was

married to Carol Kearney, whom he'd met while studying the Spanish Language in 1964. The couple went to England together for John's new job. The relationship was one that would last for 30 years but by 1997, with their three daughters "grown up" the couple realised they had grown apart and decided on an amicable divorce.

Away from the business desk, John was a keen fisherman and had been for life. His daughters composed a tribute song for John's 70th birthday, back in December 2005, with this first verse:

Clink Go the Glasses

Out on his boat, the old Shearer stands
Grasping the fishin' rod that's now in his hands
Quick is his cast and wide is his throw
If by fluke he catches one, he won't let it go.

John was honoured when former Australian deputy Prime Minister Doug Anthony agreed to write a Foreword for his book, *Shear Magic*. The two had an association going back many years to when John was in China giving shearing exhibitions to Chinese farmers at the same time as the deputy PM was leading an Australian Trade Mission.

"John Allan has had a full life and one can only say that he is a complete man with many different attributes. He is self-made, becoming an international shearing champion, a successful businessman and a great ambassador for Australia. Today, when we seem to be going through a somewhat gloomy period for our wool industry it is marvellous to reflect on the heroes who made the wool industry Australia's greatest. John Allen was one such hero."(Doug Anthony)

And a last paragraph or two from Bernie Walker, who wrote a Preface for *Shear Magic:*

John's role in the development of the Golden Lister electric shearing gear, the famous Golden Lister handpiece and his design of the iconic Olympic shearing comb is all detailed in this book. It tells how shearing took him all over the world, from Lapland to Tierra del Fuego, 60 degrees each side of the Equator, and how he came to work, at the top level, for each of the major manufacturers of shearing equipment, Lister, Sunbean, Heiniger and Beiyuan. Of how he could personally demonstrate the advantages of his product





Above: *John Allan with New South Wales Premier Nick Greiner after his investiture with the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 1988 for services to the wool industry. (Photo from Shear Magic.)*

and how, always alert to new technology, he introduced shearing cutters made from the space age material which keeps American astronauts safe in the space shuttles. ... I consider John Allan one of the most remarkable achievers I have met in a life time in and around the shearing industry.

In addition to his role in developing shearing equipment, John played a vital role in the establishment of Australia's Golden Shears at Euroa in 1974. The year prior, John had been in the Euroa Area doing business with Brian Morrison, at the same time Bernie Walker and other local officials were discussing new concepts for the annual Euroa Shearing competition. When Morrison told Bernie he couldn't attend the meeting " because John Allan was visiting", Bernie said, "bring him too!"

"The attendance of John Allan at this meeting was to change competition shearing in Australia forever," Bernie records in his book, A Test for the Best (pub 2014). John listened intently to the discussion and then asked if he could have a week "to make some enquiries". A week later he was back with an offer to sponsor the event which would be run in accordance with rules mainly contrary to the strict Australian Workers Union conditions (more akin to New Zealand rules) with the exception that all handpieces had to be supplied by the competition (Union rules at the time forbade shearers to own their own handpiece.)

The event that took place in 1973 was called the "Forlonge Invitation" and that led to the first Australian Golden Shears at Euroa in 1974. With an almighty thank you to John Allan!

* * * * * *

(Thanks to Keith Hutty for notes supplied about John Allan.)





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

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- reduce common injuries by 30% and prolong careers
- build a stronger, more skilled workforce
- make shearing more attractive to new entrants.

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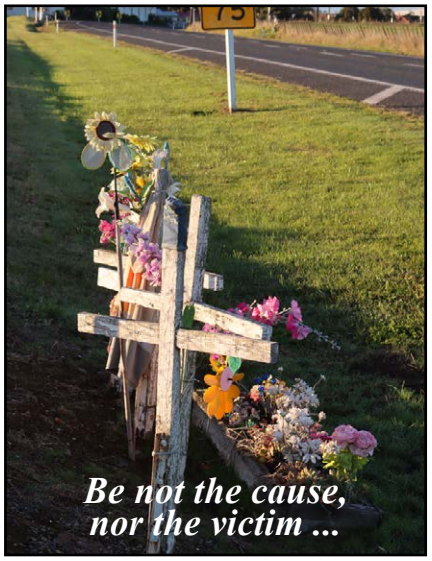



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Every year over 9,000 days are lost to injury in the wool sector. That's a lot of pain for no gain. Tahi Ngātahi's videos are designed to help everyone raise their game in the shed. You can learn short warm-up routines that help prevent back strains 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.



UK-based Lister's Management buyout

News Release

- **UK Managers Complete Management Buyout**
- **Future of Shearing and Clipping Equipment Secured**
- **Prestigious Royal Recognition celebrated**

Lister Shearing Equipment Ltd, the UK based globally recognised manufacturer of high-quality shearing and clipping equipment, has successfully completed a management buyout from its American parent company, Wahl. This transaction ensures the long-term future of the business, keeping it firmly rooted in Gloucestershire, England while continuing to export its products worldwide.

Led by the existing management team, the buyout marks a significant step forward in the company's journey, reinforcing its commitment to innovation, and quality products. The move provides Lister with greater autonomy, allowing the company to build on its strong legacy while driving growth and investment in new technologies and product development.

The Executive Team that completed the buyout are Sebastian Goodison – Managing Director, Martin Booth – Sales Director, Eva Saldana – Finance Director and Kryspin Skabek – Operations Director.



This exciting new chapter coincides with Lister being awarded a **Royal Warrant of Appointment** by His Majesty The King for the supply of Animal Care Products — a prestigious mark of recognition for companies that have regularly supplied goods or services to the Royal Household.

"This is an incredibly exciting moment for Lister, our employees, and our customers," said Martin Booth. "By taking ownership of the business, we are securing its future and ensuring that we remain committed to the values and craftsmanship that have defined us for more than 100 years.

To receive a Royal Warrant from His Majesty The King at the same time makes this milestone all the more meaningful. It is a testament to the consistent quality and reliability of our products."

The management team is focused on building a sustainable and prosperous future for the business, its employees, and its customers.



Above: *The Lister Management team that completed the buyout from Wahl, from left: Kryspin Skabek, Martin Booth, Eva Saldana and Sebastian Goodison.*

"We want to thank Wahl for their stewardship and for enabling us to take this next step in the evolution of Lister," added Martin. "Being honoured with a Royal Warrant is an extraordinary achievement that recognises the hard work and dedication of our entire team. We are energised by the opportunities ahead as we embark on this new chapter."

Lister®

Lister Shearing Equipment Ltd now based in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire has been at the forefront of engineering excellence for over 100 years, designing and manufacturing world-class shearing and clipping tools. Lister is renowned for its innovation, quality, and precision craftsmanship, serving professional users across the globe.

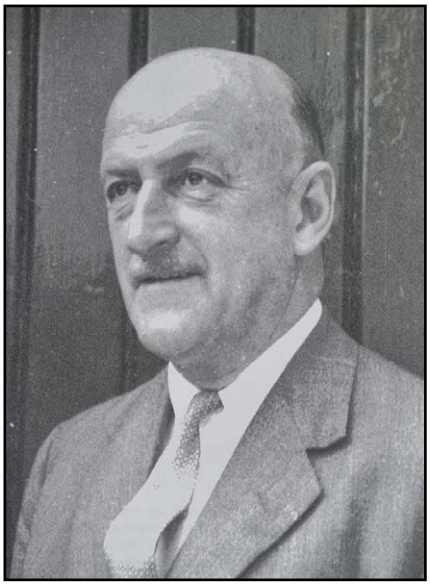
Remembering Sir Percy Lister (1897-1983)

"He was a truly remarkable man, full of boundless energy, drive, determination, vision and personal charm." This was how Desmond MacQuaide, chairman of RA Lister between 1970-75, remembered Charles Percy Lister in his address to the many people who attended the memorial service at Saint James's Church Dursley, in 1983.

After attending Mill Hill school and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Sir Percy saw action in the First World War as a young cavalry officer in the 14th/18th Hussars. He joined the family business in Dursley after the war and became managing director at the age of 28.

With his team of five brothers, Sir Percy transformed RA Lister from a medium-sized farm machinery maker into a world famous producer of diesel engines and generating plant. From 1925 to 1965, sales rose from £500 to £17,000,000 and the workforce, worldwide, grew from under 1000 to more than 7000. He retired from the Lister board in 1967, two years after RA Lister joined the Hawker Siddeley Group.

Sir Percy will be remembered for many things, not least his enlightened approach to industrial relations. He was a great believer in creating the best possible goodwill between employer and employee and during the 1920s and 1930s the company did a great deal to improve the latter's welfare.



RA Lister was among the first companies to introduce paid holidays, pensions for all, medical and dental care and output bonuses for all those who were not paid by results. In 1927, a joint board was created on which representatives of the employees and the main board sat in committee. As well as suggestion schemes, the company also opened a very successful social club in 1926, of which the employees were shareholders.

Sir Percy's personal touch radiated far beyond the confines of his own company and the town of Dursley. He was interested and active in the County Cricket Club, in the Gloucestershire Association of Boys Clubs, and in the country as a whole. When the Second World War arrived Sir Percy volunteered for active service but was chosen by the Prime Minister as a director of the newly formed United Kingdom Commercial Corporation (UKCC).

The job of the corporation was to secure supplies of vital strategic materials for the Allies, whilst trying to prevent them reaching the Germans. In the course of his job, Sir Percy visited 24 countries and travelled over 300,000 miles, mainly by air, including some 20 trips across the Atlantic in the bomb bays of very cold Liberators. The role of director in the UKCC was one which required great courage and determination as well as a first class business brain.

Sir Percy returned to full time duty as chairman of RA Lister after the war. Production from RA Lister and Blackstone, acquired in 1936, reached record levels and new manufacturing units were soon opened in Cinderford and Swindon. In 1947, just 30 years after a similar honour had been bestowed on his grandfather, Sir Percy was honoured with a knighthood.

In the years after the war Sir Percy's services were in great demand, whether as deputy chairman of the Dollar Exchange or as a member of the Iron and Steel Board. He was a founder member of the Institute of Directors and in 1960 he was made Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

But it is perhaps the respect and affection of those that worked with him, that is his greatest testament. Above all, Sir Percy was a very kind, generous and human man and always ready to lend a hand and to help those who were sick or in any kind of trouble.

He was also a wonderful and inspiring man to work for and those, like myself who were fortunate to be close to him, have much to thank him for."

(Dennis MacQuaide. From Hawker Siddley News, June 1983. Reprinted from Shear Magic – The John Allan Story by Margaret O'Brien. © Shining Press 2007.

See page 23. Sir Percy was the man who spoke to John Allan at Golden Shears New Zealand in 1962 and invited him to England to talk about modifications to shearing equipment. The rest ... as they say ...

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Save our sheep – not carbon speculators

By Richard Dawkins (Federated Farmers Meat & Wool chair)
Will the Government back farmers and food production, or side with polluters gaming a broken Emissions Trading Scheme system?

That's the blunt challenge we've put to Agriculture and Forestry Minister Todd McClay over weak carbon forestry rules that won't stop pines swallowing our productive farmland.

When Federated Farmers launched the 'SOS: Save Our Sheep' campaign earlier this year, it captured widespread attention and support. Our billboard just down the road from the Beehive featuring a sheep and the words **"I am not the problem"** also pricked the conscience of MPs across the political spectrum. But we haven't yet seen the Government put sufficiently robust rules in place to fix the problem.

It's crazy that just as the Government helps rally the strong wool industry for the first time in years, it turns around and shoots sheep farming in the foot with weak carbon forestry rules. It's extremely disappointing that what's proposed only restricts the ability to claim carbon on Land Use Capability (LUC) classes 1-5 land.

That sounds like tough talk for the Minister's press release, but in reality only 12% of farm conversions were happening on that land anyway. Two-thirds of sheep and beef farms are on classes 6 and 7 land – which face little protection under the rules. Instead, we'll see 15,000ha of class 6 land converted to carbon forests each year, likely on a first-come-first-served basis.

There are also no restrictions on classes 7 and 8 land – effectively making it open slather. In short, our productive hill country – the engine room of the agricultural industry – is still at risk of becoming a giant pollution-driven carbon farm. Once those farms are gone, they're gone for good.

Classes 6 and 7 land is our sheep-breeding country. Our sheep start off on that higher hill country, and make their way down to lower slopes and flats for fattening.

There's a lot of transactions and economic activity impacted in between – employment, fencing, fertiliser, shearing, drenches and more.

MPs making these decisions seem unaware that's it's not just individual farmers impacted when corporates and foreign investors buy up neighbouring properties for carbon forestry. When pines replace pastoral farming, a whole lot of other industries and jobs get caught up – rural contractors, transporters, the freezing works.

'Lock and leave' carbon forestry not only brings less pest control and greater fire risk, it hollows out rural communities. Fewer farm workers mean the rural school roll drops, and it's harder to attract teachers. There are fewer volunteers for the rural fire brigade and all the other groups that keep rural communities ticking.

These feeble carbon forestry rules are another nail in the coffin of our sheep and strong wool industry. In just one generation New Zealand has lost over two-thirds of our national flock, reducing from over 70 million sheep in 1982 to fewer than 25 million sheep today. Sheep numbers are rapidly plunging with almost a million sheep disappearing every year.



Richard Dawkins (Federated Farmers Meat & Wool chair)

In the early 1980s, wool contributed 65% of our farm's sheep income. Wool was king, and sheep were a true dual-purpose animal.

Today, strong wool makes up just 1–2% of gross farm income. It's become little more than an animal health treatment, rather than a value-adding enterprise.

Some farmers and commercial partners have taken control, vertically integrating and creating their own brands – producing everything from high-end upholstery fabrics to luxury acoustic panels.

It's inspiring, but these efforts are small compared to the 100,000 tonnes of strong wool we produce each year, most of which still leaves New Zealand as a bulk commodity.

Nevertheless, there are positive signals we can start to turn this around.

We produce 10% of the world's strong wool, and when prepared well, it's the best.

Wool Impact is backing innovation and commercial partnerships to lift strong wool into high-value markets. With government and industry co-funding, it's helping turn research and development into real-world products.

WRONZ is investing in long-term science – creating new materials and technologies to drive future demand.

Campaign for Wool is lifting wool's profile with consumers, promoting its natural, renewable story.

Despite the challenges, the future of strong wool still holds promise.

All the more reason why it's vital the Government plays its part by putting some backbone into the carbon forestry conversion rules.

Sacrificing class 6 and 7 sheep breeding land to carbon speculation isn't just short-sighted, it's economic self-sabotage. It'll rip the guts out of rural communities – not to mention the national economy.

This Government needs to step up and show us if it really does back Kiwi farmers by putting proper carbon forestry rules in place.

* * * * * *

(It is) Rocket Science

The carbon scam had run its course – with billions banked away
and those who made their pile from it – sought now another way
The credits borrowed from the trees – which they had never owned
from assets planted in the past – they stole and then reloaned
the media had helped their cause – pretending to inform
while selling advertising space – created drought and storm
they quoted 'leading' scientists – who feared to lose their grants
and gormless Al the wannabe – his baseless film advance

The timing of the credit crunch – released the greenhouse gas
both figments of the fevered mind – though critical in mass
for willing dupes were harder found – and poverty it seems
brings common sense to common folk – (except of course the Greens)
The populace must learn once more – to have their minds controlled
one day to fear the rising heat – and next the deep'ning cold
The schemers stared in disbelief – their dream had come to nought
And so to give it one more try – a rocket ship they bought

This global warming monitor – would search the stratosphere
and measure all the CO2 – that it could find up there
Though 67 million bucks – is quite a lot of doe
Compared to all they planned to make – is not so much, you know
They had to make a statement, that – convinced the worldly wise
The earth we know's about to die – from carbon in the skies
that such a scam will impact, needs – the media's expose
and so with all the cameras on – the rocket skyward rose

It's rocket science that you need – to get a rocket up
and thus exposed Achilles' heel – of dreams they'd conjured up
They had to have a 'thinking' man – to make their rocket fly
but keep from him the real design – of where it went, and why?
He set it up to track the sky – for concentrates of C
for greenhouse gas of climate change – and log where it might be
But CO2 is heavy stuff – and high it won't be found
and so it sought the carbon out – and crashed into the ground….

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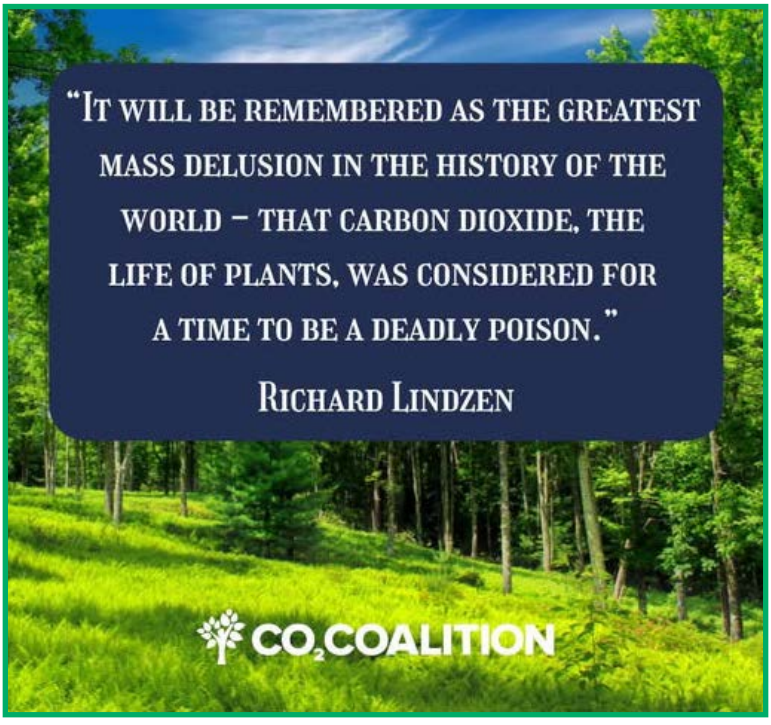
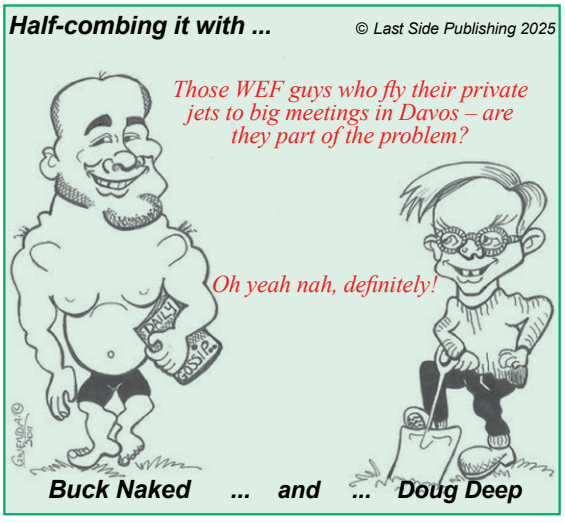






***Above**: Famous English academic, botanist and environmental campaigner Dr David Bellamy (1933-2019), affectionately known as The Botanic Man, was a long-time favourite on British television for his nature programmes. That is, until he started calling out "man-made" global warming as a load of bullshit. (Or 'poppycock' if you like.) That didn't go down well with programme sponsors and television broadcasters started dropping him from their programmes. Just another example of the hero rapidly plummeting to zero. Dr Bellamy visited New Zealand "at least 64 times" (his quote) and was a great supporter of our conservation programmes. He was awarded the New Zealand Commemoration Medal in 1990. (He is pictured here at Te Kauri Park, near Kawhia, in March 2002, endorsing local initiatives to implement a restoration plan for Te Kauri Forest.)*



NZ WOOL CLASSERS ASSOCIATION



NZ Wool Classers Association is a small, prudent organisation which sits firmly independent of any commercial interest in the wool industry. Administering the NZ Wool Classers Registration system and advocacy for wool education and quality in wool preparation and presentation are the core roles of the association.
The organisation has been in existence since 2006, formed after the disestablishment of the NZ Wool Board which previously administered classer registration. NZWCA funding comes from membership and some industry support.

Speakers available to watch online

Couldn't make it to the NZWCA 2025 Industry Professional Development Day/AGM at Lincoln University in May?

OR

Attended, but would like to revisit what you heard?

For the first time, NZWCA has had Industry PD Day speakers filmed and the content is now available either via the links on our website
https://woolclassers.org.nz/education/industry-day-speaker-videos/
or directly via our newly-established You Tube channel
https://www.youtube.com/@NZWoolClassersAssociation

Four morning speakers were filmed:

- Tracy Paterson chair NZWCA – Why NZWCA and what your membership does
- Hon Mark Patterson MP aka "Minister of Wool" Minister for Rural Communities, Associate Ministers of Agriculture and for Regional Development
- Ministry for Primary Industries – Lucy Newton/Peter Hyde "The law and your role in animal welfare"
- Opsec Solutions South Island Director Marcus Fowler https://www.opsec.co.nz/ keeping safe in the workplace, de-escalating, managing and resolving conflict

2024 SEASON NZWCA CLASSER AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

Announced and presented at the 2025 AGM/Industry Professional Development Day at Lincoln University:

Owner Classer sponsored by PGG Wrightson Wools
Merit – M2133 Tracy Paterson for Matakanui
Citation: *Tracy always does a great job on their wool clip, they can shear for two weeks in a row. She works in the shed but has farm responsibilities too, it's a big job. They have many contracts and every line she classes for them gets in. Always a good micron difference and never any wrong numbers on bales or on specs.*

Commendation:
FM2138 Sally Smith for Awapiri

Provisional Classer Encouragement Award sponsored by Peter Lyon Shearing
Merit – P2241 Amberlee Kahukura-McGinnis for Bonspiel
Citation: *Amberlee coped very well getting her shed management and classing inspection done on a farm where she had to make merino, 1/4BD and 1/2BD lines and keep them all open throughout shearing. Her classing decisions were borne out by test results. Small shed but kept tidy. Great rapport with shed staff.*

Commendations:
P2084 Heidi Middleton for Lauder Creek
P2232 Katrise Saunders for Ivybridge (now H2232)

Crossbred Classer or Grader sponsored by WoolWorks
Merit – P2177 Tegan Caves for Merinvale
Citation: *Tegan has done an excellent job of classing and preparing the Merinvale Perendale wool clip. She had very good distinction between lines for colour VM and style grade, maximising farmer client returns. The clip is shorn in two woolsheds so keeping consistent is important, and this showed in her test results. Tegan had a varied number of experienced wool handlers between properties and both sheds are cramped for space and bins.*

Mid Micron sponsored by Wools of New Zealand
Merit – A1864 Phillipa (Pip) McConway for Medway Hills
Citation: *The Medway Hills clip is shorn in two different wool sheds on neighbouring farms owned by two brothers so this can take several weeks to finish. In this situation the classer has to be focused on keeping the lines the same between properties. Phillipa did an excellent job maximising the farmer return by classing as many bales as she could into contracts.*
Additional comment from another wool rep: *Pip has consistently been one of the best classers in the Marlborough area for decades.*

Commendations:
A2047 Lavene Paul for Five Mile Farm
A2129 Tina Elers for JN/Matakanui (Spennymoor Farms)

Merino sponsored by NZ Merino Company
Merit – A1040 Bridget Speight for Mt Nicholas
Citation: *Bridget's leadership and resilience in challenging conditions makes her deserving of this recognition. The wool was classed perfectly to meet four different contracts. Managing 1300 fleeces a day Bridget maintained accuracy and quality, despite having a novice presser not following the system on the second press, the yards flooding and having to remove wet wool from main lines as some sheep were wet.*

Commendations:
D1647 Phyllicia Jorgenson for The Gorge
A1864 Phillipa (Pip) McConway for Richmond Brook
M2103 Rebecca Braddick-Tohiariki for Olrig
M2140 Cedric Aramoana for Glen Cary and Bendhu

North Island Classer or Grader sponsored by WoolWorks
No nominations for North Island classer or grader.









Four photos taken at the NZWCA 2025 AGM/Industry Professional Development Day at Lincoln University in May. ***Above:*** *One of the guest speakers at the Industry Day/AGM was Hon Mark Patterson MP , aka the "Minister of Wool", pictured at right with NZWCA chair Tracy Patterson and Dr Whit Stewart, a wool academic visiting Lincoln University from the University of Wyoming, America.*

Top right: *Bonnie Fogarty (at left) and Erin Chittock ponder over the wool exercises at the Industry Day/AGM. Bonnie went on to be top scoring student/wool handler in the micron estimate category and Erin in the wool identification category.*

Middle right: *From left Katrise Saunders, NZWCA vice chair Bill Dowle and Heidi Middleton. Katrise and Heidi were awarded commendations in the Peter Lyon Shearing Provisional Classer Award category for the 2024/25 season, announced at the NZWCA AGM.*

Lower right: *Bridget Speight, the 2024/25 season NZWCA Merino Merit Award winner announced at the NZWCA AGM, with Blair Davies representing the award category sponsor NZ Merino Company.*



Tribute: Bill Potae (1944-2025)

"The Potae legacy has come to an end."

William ("Bill", "Uncle Horse") Potae. Sadly, on 10 July 2025, Uncle Horse passed peacefully at home in Milton with his family around him.

Potae Shearing and The Ranch are two names everyone knows if they grew up shearing in New Zealand. From the 1960s when George Potae and Arthur James came to town from the mighty Coromandel and starting contract shearing in South Otago, bringing along with them whanau from all over the North to settle in little South Otago.

In the mid-1980s George returned home and left his little brother, the Mighty Maori All Black, Bill in charge of things. Bill ensured the empire grew, during those years in the 1980s, '90s and early 2000s. There weren't too many shearers and wool lovers around that hadn't experienced "The Ranch", a second home for us kids growing up in Milton, and a starting board for many working careers.

Every morning you'd head off to the Ranch for breakfast at 5am, chops, sausage, spaghetti, eggs, toast, porridge, cereal, all laid out everyday. He would sit at the top of table and eat with his employees, have a good banter and send everyone away with a smile on their face.

He was that kind of man, kind, gentle, hilarious! With a face so serious that a simple look could tell you, you fucked up. (A look I never received!). Bill was a true Potae, stubborn, ignorant and straight up, with that mischevious twinkle in his eye. He loved a rum, loved his family and his friends, loved shearing, golf, rugby and coming home to Kennedy Bay to let his hair down and be young again.

I could go on forever about how amazing he was. He was the last of my Potae Koros', the end of the Potae Shearing legacy. (Tia Potae, post on Facebook)

* * * * * *

The South Otago town of Milton was a Mecca for shearers and woolhandlers from the time George Potae first based his contracting business there in the early 1960s. Des Williams talked with Bill Potae (back in 1998) about Potae Shearing Ltd's history at Milton, and the famous quarters known as 'The Ranch'. He spent a day with Bill Potae, visiting their gangs, around West Otago and gained the impression that you could indeed be somewhere out on the Ponderosa, where the Cartwright family roamed free in TV's Bonanza.

* * * * * *

The Potae name and shearing have been synonymous with the South Otago township since 1961, when George Potae first moved south from the Coromandel via Hawkes Bay, after many hard years shearing for Bill Meech.

By 1987, George had decided 25 years in the contracting business was long enough for him and he moved back to Kennedy Bay to look after other business interests. Bill Potae, who had been manager for a number of years, and Jim Murdoch, who had been shearing for George, got together and bought the business. 'We took it over, lock, stock and barrel. That was 12 years ago, we're still here and we've enjoyed the experience,' Bill Potae explained.

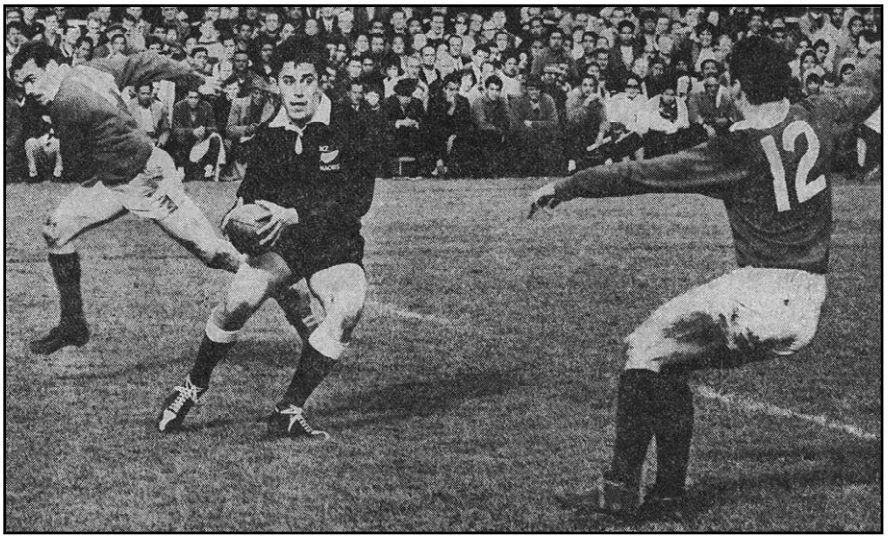
And many of the company clients have also enjoyed the experience. Rick Cameron of Garvan, near Milton, is one of a number to confirm that Potae gangs had been shearing the sheep on his property since 1961.

'We shear an average 8500 sheep a year here and the company accumulated about 15 days of being late in all that time. That's not a bad record, considering the unpredictability of the shearing business!'

Several of the Potae brothers followed their father into shearing. Eric ('Bounce'), Makaore (Mac), George, Colin ('Frog') and Bill all took up the trade to continue the family tradition started by Anaru, who shore around the North Island and on Great Mercury Island, in the Hauraki Gulf.

'The family milked 60 to 70 cows at Kennedy Bay – mother Mona took responsibility for that with Dad away shearing so much and each of the boys took their turn at helping until it was their turn to go to boarding school.

'We were all dead keen to get out of Kennedy Bay so we didn't have to help with the cows,' Bill explained. 'Mum milked until she was about 75, every day, every morning, every night. Mac was the first to leave home after a big row with the old man. He was mowing hay one day and he worked the horse team too far into the corner of the paddock and couldn't turn them around without unhitching them.





'Dad came across the paddock yelling his head off. Mac told him he could cut his own effing hay if that's the way he felt about it. He jumped the fence running and just kept on going. He was about 15 at the time and next time we saw him he was 18 and in army uniform, doing his compulsory military service.

Mac Potae had gone down to the Hawkes Bay and found work with Bill Meech. Brothers George and 'Frog' followed later and that's where Bill, too, got his introduction to shearing.

'I spent a Labour Weekend with Bill Meech one year while I was at Te Aute College. Mac picked me up and took me out working in the sheds. At Christmas time a cheque arrived from Meech – five pounds. I swore I'd never go back in the sheds again.'

Famous last words. Bill left Te Aute and went to a woodsman's school at Kaiangaroa Forest, where another brother, Prince, was working. He wanted to be a forest ranger, but after receiving his first pay, Bill calculated that it worked out at about ten cents an hour.

'At that stage I had a word with Prince and got a job with the falling and hauling gang. Then I made the Bay of Plenty rugby team at 19 and got into the routine of spending my summers in Otago shearing and my winters back in the Bay of Plenty playing rugby. That worked out pretty well for a few seasons. Then I met my wife, Jean, we got married and moved down south and have stayed here ever since.'

The Potae Shearing operation covers a wide area, extending from the Te Anau basin, down to Wyndham, up to Palmerston and across to Ranfurly and the Maniototo.





***Above**: Bill and Jean Potae at the Potae Shearing 50th anniversary celebrations in 2011.*

While visiting West Otago sheds in the blazing heat of mid-February, Bill talked more about the Potae set-up. 'We have staff quarters at Milton for about 30 workers, plus a resident work force of about 25. We also have quarters at Middlemarch, which is the base for our pre-lamb run, but that is not so busy in the summer mainshear season.

'Our annual programme kicks off with pre-lamb in mid-July through August and September. Shearers migrate north and south for the main-shear, then we do mainly dry sheep and wethers around Central Otago until November, before starting into mainshear.

'After Christmas the staff come back from up north and we continue mainshear here until March. Then it's crutching, belly crutching and that sort of thing until April/May. Then you might get time for a bit of a holiday in June – that's not usually a particularly good time for holidays.

'At the height of the season we're running 18 or 19 gangs, mostly four-stands. Beaumont has nine stands and West Wanaka seven – those are our biggest sheds (pre-lamb). We have 180 staff on the books at the most, dropping to about 50 in the quiet times.'

Day-to-day staff management is delegated to gangers and head wool-handlers in each gang. The ganger gets his crew to work and home again safely and makes sure there's no shenanigans. The head woolhandler manages the shed, it's their clip and they pride themselves on doing the very best job they can. Most of our gangers and head woolhandlers



***Above**: Learning about the finer details of wool management – Bill Potae (left) with members of the New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association at a field day (back in the days of black and white photography!*

come from the local work force, they are well known to us and we have confidence in their ability. They have authority to hire and fire if anyone doesn't measure up or causes a disturbance in the shed.

'Staff applying for jobs for the first time are asked whether they have Wool Board certificates, we ask for details of previous employers, their accident record and who recommended them. Then you ring up previous employers to check them out if necessary. Most of the time you can pick the people you want.

'If you've got the sheep numbers (Potae gangs shear about 1.2 million annually) you need the shearers but you don't want the skelly-wags who skin every sheep, who drink piss all night and make a helluva noise in the quarters – you don't want them because they disturb all the others.

'We like to have show competitors in the gangs because they teach the others how to do a good job, but we don't give them any particular preference in employment.'

For most days of the busy season Bill Potae is in the company's Milton main street office until lunch time, while partner Jim Murdoch spends most of his time out on the road keeping up with the gangs and liaising with the farmers. Between them they visit each shed, usually on the first day, just to make sure everything is going smoothly and the client is happy.

'My day usually starts at 5.00am, I have a shower and get down to the quarters and get all the gangs away to work. I'm back in the office by six, have a quick read of the paper, sort out tally cards from the previous day, ring farmers to organise work for the following day.

'I pick up the mail about 8.00 o'clock each morning and go through it all. That can take up to 45 minutes. All you're looking for is cheques, but sometimes you're disillusioned! Our secretary comes in at 8.30am and does the banking, computer work, ordering gear for the shop and we go over the mail for any follow up work that she might have to do.

'Also at this time we're ordering food and veges and other supplies for the cooks at the Ranch. By the time we get all that done it's lunch time. Cockies ring all through the lunch hour until about 1.00pm.

'For part of the afternoon I might get away to do a bit of gardening at the Ranch or get home and do a few jobs around the house. By 4.00pm I'm back in the shop, sorting out gangs for tomorrow. Then it's home for dinner, relax to 6.30pm, back to the office finalising everything for the next day, and home again by 8.00pm. Then you sit by the phone until about 11.00pm because it just keeps ringing. At 5.00am it starts all over again!



***Above**: Potae Shearing Ltd was a long-time sponsor of the woolhandling events at the Otago Shearing championships, Balclutha. Bill Potae pictured above with Joanne Kumeroa, Raelene McConachie, Gina Nathan and Sharon Lawton.*

'As the season starts to wind down you try and get a bit of extra sleep, but you keep waking at 5.00am. It's into July before you start to break yourself from that routine and can sleep in a bit, by then it's almost the busy pre-lamb time again. You don't need an alarm clock.'

Bill says one of the biggest hassles of the contracting business is just maintaining the cash flow, with Inland Revenue, Accident Compensation Commission and GST, PAYE all wanting their share of the cake.

'Unless you make that a priority above everything else, you're history. You must also have an understanding bank manager who really understands your business, and you just have to keep on top of everything. You try to get enough sleep, but the phone goes all bloody hours of the night so you sleep when you can during the height of the season.'

Bill Potae is also involved with the Shearing Contractors' Association, which has 105 paid up members. He's on the management committee and each member has specific jobs to do. 'This involves three or four trips to Wellington each year, sorting out hassles with ACC, Inland Revenue, employment contracts. I'd probably spend one night a week average on Contractors' Association business, trying to keep in touch with Peter Lyon, Bill Morrison, Brendon Mahony and others.

'As time goes by you have to keep updating yourself on legislative changes, you spend time with lawyers sorting out details of contracts, dealing with the Commerce Commission, that sort of thing. I quite enjoy my involvement with the Association. Someone has to do it and I wouldn't be there if I didn't get some enjoyment out of it.'

Bill Potae spent five years at Te Aute College in the Hawkes Bay. He was going to be a lawyer but never got around to that – 'My qualifications weren't up to it. I spent too much time playing sport. That was always encouraged at Te Aute.'

He initially made the Te Aute First XV as a hooker. Next season 'one of the Paewai's' broke his shoulder in the first game and Bill ended up at first five-eighths. 'When I left college and started in club rugby I was playing centre and fullback. I made the Bay of Plenty team as centre and fullback from 1963-66. Then I got into the New Zealand Maoris as

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fullback and New Zealand Juniors as centre for games against Mike Campbell-Lamerton's 1966 Lions team.

'Lyn Davis was captain of the Juniors and the team also included Alan Sutherland, Tom Lister, Sam Strachan, Wayne Cottrell, Graeme Williams, Gerald Kember, Owen Stephens – all later went on to become All Blacks. Sid Going was a reserve for that team.'

Bill came down to Otago in late 1967 after completing the representative rugby season with Bay of Plenty. (Played 12 games, scored 97 points.) Looking forward to making the Otago team in 1968, his career instead came to a sudden end on an icy Central Otago road. 'I was playing a social game of club rugby at Middlemarch on the Saturday and due to play for Otago on the Tuesday. The car crashed after skidding on ice on the way home and I was thrown out. I came to in hospital on the Monday and wondered where my clothes were.

'What day is it,' I asked the nurse. 'Monday', she said.

'I've got to play footy tomorrow', I said, but they wrestled me back into bed and that was the end of that!'

The rugby scene was much different in those days, Bay of Plenty only played about 10 or 12 rep games a season.'

For the record (well, according to this amateur statistician), Bill Potae played 66 first-class games of rugby between 1963 and 1967. These included 52 games for Bay of Plenty, nine for New Zealand Maori, two for New Zealand Juniors and one for the combined Bay of Plenty-Counties-Thames Valley team against South Africa in 1965. He scored more than 500 points, including 140 in 1965 to top the list for New Zealand. He scored 135 points in 1966 and narrowly missed the century in 1967, with 97. (If he'd landed that easy conversion from in front of the posts at Palmerston North he would have totalled 99 – surely worth a box, even back then!

Epilogue: A few years after writing this story, Bill Potae told the writer about his experience in the 1967 All Black trials at Palmerston North. Auckland's Grahame Thorne scored a spectacular try under the posts after an intercept and long run to the try-line. As Bill came forward to take the conversion, Thorne threw him the ball and said, 'Well, there's my trip to Britain.' (where the All Blacks were due to tour). Bill, unfortunately missed the conversion from right in front. (It was wet, and the ball was very slippery!) He went back and said to Thorne, 'Well, there goes my trip to Britain!'

* * * * * *



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.

Kidsline (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 Kidsline 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).

Shearing Sports New Zealand Calendar 2025-2026

The following are dates for shearing and woolhandling shows in New Zealand in the upcoming season. Note, the Canterbury Shears in November will be a Friday/Saturday event; the Rangitikei Shearing Sports, including world championships machine shearing and woolhandling selection finals, will be on 7 February; the Otago Shears will be a two-day Friday/Saturday event); the Wairarapa Woolhandling is on the Sunday before the world championships,

3-4 October (Fri-Sat): New Zealand Merino Shears (shearing/woolhandling), at Alexandra.

10-11 October (Fri-Sat): New Zealand Spring Shears (shearing/woolhandling/blade shearing), at Waimate.

18 October (Saturday): Poverty Bay A&P Show (shearing/woolhandling), at Gisborne; Ellesmere A&P Show (shearing only), at Leeston.

24 October (Friday): Great Raihania Shears (shearing/woolhandling), at Hawkes Bay A&P Show, Hastings.

25 October (Saturday): Northern A&P Show (shearing/blade shearing), at Rangiora.

1 November (Saturday): Manawatu A&P Show (shearing/woolhandling) at Manfeild (Feilding); Ashburton A&P Show (shearing/blade shearing), at Ashburton.

2 November (Sunday): Wairarapa A&P Show (shearing/woolhanding), at Clareville (Carterton).

November 8 (Saturday): Central Hawke's Bay A&P Show (shearing/woolhandling , at Waipukurau; Marlborough A&P Show (shearing only), at Blenheim; Get to the Point Gymkhana Shears (shearing only), at Pleasant Point.

14-15 November (Fri-Sat): New Zealand Corriedale Championships, at New Zealand Agricultural Show (shearing/woolhandling/blade shearing), Canterbury Agricultural Park, Christchurch.

22 November (Saturday): Nelson A&P Show (shearing only), at Richmond Park (Nelson); West Otago A&P Show (shearing only), at Tapanui.

29 November (Saturday): Taranaki Shears (shearing only), at Stratford A&P Show.

6 December (Saturday): Whangarei A&P Show (shearing only), at Whangarei ; Geyserland Agrodome Shears (shearing/woolhandling), Rotorua A&P Show, at Ngongotaha.

10 January (Saturday): (Peninsula Duvauchelle Shears (shearing only), at Duvauchelle.

16 January (Friday): Northern Southland Community Shears (New Zealand Full wool shearing/woolhandling championships), at Lumsden.

17 January (Saturday): Kaikohe A,P&H Show (shearing only), at Kaikohe; Wairoa A&P Show (shearing only), at Wairoa; Golden Bay A&P Show (shearing only), at Takaka; Southland Shears (New Zealand crossbred lamb shearing/woolhandling championships), at Winton A&P Show.

18 January (Sunday): Horowhenua A,P &I Show (Royal New Zealand Show), at Levin.

24 January (Saturday): Taihape A&P Show (shearing/woolhandling), Taihape; Tapawera Shears (shearing only), Tapawera.

30 January (Friday): Dannevirke A&P Show, at Dannevirke.

6 February (Friday): Aria Waitangi Day Sports (shearing/woolhandling), at Aria.

7 February (Saturday): North Kaipara A&P Show (shearing only), at Paparoa; Rangitikei Shearing Sports (shearing/woolhandling), at Marton; Reefton Shears, Inangahua A&P Show (shearing/blade shearing), at Reefton.

13-14 February (Fri-Sat): Otago Shears, at Carterhope Estate, Te Houka (Balclutha).

14 February (Saturday): Northern Wairoa A&P Show Shearing only), at Arapohue (Dargaville); Te Puke A&P Show (shearing only), at Te Puke.

20-21 February (Fri-Sat): Southern Shears (shearing/woolhandling, at Gore.

21 February (Saturday): North Hokianga A&P Show (shearing only), at Broadwood; Ohura A&P Show, at Ohura; Murchison A&P Show (shearing only, at Murchison.)

22 February (Sunday): Counties Shears (shearing only), at Pukekohe.

27 February (Friday): Taumarunui Shears (shearing/woolhandling), at Hikurangi Station, Taumarunui.

28 February (Saturday): Apiti Sports (shearing/woolhandling), at Apiti; Kaikoura A&P Show (shearing only), at Kaikoura.

1 March (Sunday): Pahiatua Shears (shearing only), at Mangaone Valley, Pahiatua; Wairarapa Pre-Shears Woolhandling, at Mikimiki (Masterton).

4-7 March (Wed-Sat): 2026 world championships and Golden Shears International Championships (shearing/woolhandling/blade shearing/ wool pressing), at Masterton.

7 March (Saturday): Amuri A&P Show (shearing only), at Rotherham.

14 March (Saturday): Kumeu A&H Show (shearing only), at Kumeu; Cheviot A&P Show, at Cheviot; Mayfield A&P Show (shearing only), at Mayfield.

21 March (Saturday): Warkworth A&P Show (shearing only), at Warkworth; Waimarino Shears (shearing only), at Raetihi; Methven Lamb Shears (shearing only), at Methven A&P Show.

22 March (Sunday): Flaxbourne A&P Show (shearing only), at Ward.

28 March (Saturday): Waitomo Caves Sports (shearing only), at Waitomo.

4 April (Easter Saturday): Oxford A&P Show (shearing/blade shearijng, at Oxford.

6 April (Easter Monday): Mackenzie A&P Show (shearing/blade shearing), at Fairlie.

9-11 April (Thurs-Sat): New Zealand Shears (shearing/woolhandling), at Te Kuiti.

NB: Subject to change.

Shearing magazine's
New Zealand Shearing & Wool Industry Hall of Fame

Subjective category: By reputation and deeds, their names endure through New Zealand's shearing industry history and folklore:

- **James Apes (1855-1938)**
- **Alex Hutchinson (1865-1943)**
- **Rimitiriu Raihania (1868-1934)**
- **Jimmy Power (1869-1902)**
- **Ihakara 'Ike' Robin (1886-1968)**
- **Bill Vella (1886-1971)**
- **George Stuart (1890-1953)**
- **Bill Higgins (1894-1939)**
- **Johnny Hape (1900-1969)**
- **Percy de Malmanche (1902-1968)**
- **Bill Richards (1907-1995)**
- **Claude Waite (1911-2000)**
- **Bill Meech (1914-1985)**
- **Ivan Bowen (1915-2007)**
- **Les Richards (1917-2000)**
- **Godfrey Bowen (1922-1994)**
- **Bing Macdonald (1928-2004)**
- **Makaore Potae (1934-2001)**
- **Ken Pike (1938-****)**
- **Barbara Marsh (1943-2014)**
- **Mavis Mullins (1956 -****)**
- **Keith Wilson (1957-****)**
- **Darin Forde (1965-****)**
- **Joanne Kumeroa (1969-2015)**

Objective category: World individual or teams shearing championship winner supported by at least three major New Zealand titles:

- **Roger Cox 1977; Golden Shears 1977-78, 1980; Southern Shears 1974-79 incl.**
- **Brian Quinn 1980; Golden Shears 1965, 1967-68, 1970, 1971, 1972; NZ Merino Shears 1968, 1970, 1978-79.**
- **Martin Ngataki 1980; Golden Shears 1979; National Lamb Shear (Raglan) 1977, 1978, 1979.**
- **Peter Casserly 1980; NZ Golden Blades 1975-76; Omarama Merino Shears 1995.**
- **Colin King 1984; Golden Shears 1982, 1987-88; National circuit six times.**
- **John Fagan 1984; Golden Shears 1984, National Lamb Shear (Raglan) 1981, 1984, 1985.**
- **David Fagan 1988, 1992, 1996, 1998, 2003; Golden Shears 16 times; NZ Open 16 times.**
- **Tony Dobbs 1988; Golden Blades 20 times.**
- **Paul Avery 2008; Golden Shears 2005, 2007; NZ Open 1995, 2000, 2007.**
- **Rowland Smith 2014; Golden Shears eight times; NZ Open eight times.**
- **John Kirkpatrick 2017; Golden Shears 2002, 2008, 2011-12; NZ Open 2008-09, 2012.**
- **Nathan Stratford 2017; New Zealand Merino Shears 2006, 2009, 2016, 2018, 2021.**

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Whakataetae Kutihipi Kupu Pakeha	*Shearing Show Kupu Maori*	*Taukutihipi Kupu Pakeha*	*Shearing Industry Kupu Maori*
Judges	Kaiwhakawā	Sheep	Hipi
Competitors	Kaiwhakataetae	Wool	Wūru
Get set	Kia rite	Shearing	Kuti
Go	Tukua	Shorn	Kutia / Morea
Commentator	Kaipaōho	Shearing Plant	Wahi Kutikuti
Time keeper	Kaitatau-wā	Handpiece	Mau Kutikuti
Wool handler	Pirihō / Kaiwūru	Cutters	Kututi
Sheep-O	Hīpō	Moccasins	Hiripa
Presser	Kaiperehi	Grinder	Pehu
Grandstand	Taunga Mātaki	Pendulum	Taima Tārere
Belly	Takapū	Sand paper	Pepa Whakamaene
Long blow	Kuti roa	Glue	Kāpea
Crutch	Waru	Fadge	Pēke wūru
Smoko	Paramanawa	Broom	Puruma / Tahitahi
Sponsors	Kaitautoko	Catchingh pen	Taiwhanga
Spectator	Hunga Mātakitaki	Wool Press	Perēhi wūru
Entertainment	Whakangahau	Sheep truck	Taraka Hipi

Toa and Jack on tour in the UK

By Doug Laing (Shearing Sports NZ)

Lochearnhead Shears

Golden Shears and New Zealand Shears open champion Toa Henderson faced his international test match shearing debut with a fair bit of zip but was unable to complete the big dream of victory at the Lochearnhead Shears in Scotland.

In the first of the Wools of New Zealand team's six tests in the United Kingdom, the Scotland team of Gavin Mutch and Calum Shaw beat Henderson (Northland) and Jack Fagan (King Country) by 2.9 points.

Henderson was first off the board, shearing the 14 horned, Scottish blackface sheep in 9m 40s, beating New Zealand-based Mutch by seven seconds. But Mutch, who won the New Zealand Shears Circuit final in Te Kuiti this year and is in one of the best patches of a career that claimed a world individual championship in Masterton in 2012 and a Golden Shears Open title on the same stage three years later, was the ultimate man of the day, with comfortably the best individual points in both the Joe Te Kapa Memorial Trophy test and the 20-sheep championships' open final.

Underlining that he means business in his first shearing venture in the Northern Hemisphere, and just four days after arriving from New Zealand, Henderson, in addition to posting fastest time in the test, made his way through the open field of 36 to reach the four-man final and finish fourth. While Mutch was less than a point clear of Fagan in the test, Shaw had clearly the best quality points, but Henderson was penalised heaviest in judging on the shearing board and with the finished product in the pens.

It was the quality and experience that carried the day, Mutch and Shaw having shorn for Scotland many times together over the last decade, including the last time New Zealand won at Lochearnhead, a victory by Kiwi world champions John Kirkpatrick and Rowland Smith in 2016.

Results 30th Lochearnhead Shears 28 June 2025:

International, Joe Te Kapa Memorial Trophy (14 sheep): Scotland (Gavin Mutch 9m 47s, 37.992pts; Calum Shaw 11m 23s, 40.65pts) 78.642pts, beat New Zealand (Jack Fagan 9m 58s, 38.971pts; Toa Henderson 9m 40s, 42.571pts) 81.542pts.

Open shearing final (20 Sheep): Gavin Mutch (Huntly, Aberdeen/Dannevirke, Hawke's Bay) 13m 44s, 49.3pts, 1; Calum Shaw (Saline, Scotland) 15m 1s, 53.3pts, 2; Denis O'Sullivan (Kerry, Ireland) 15m 16s, 53.75pts, 3; Toa Henderson (Kaiwaka, NZ) 15m 4s, 57.4pts, 4.

Great Yorkshire Show:

Toa Henderson and Jack Fagan continued a down under dominance of England at the Great Yorkshire Show by winning the second test of their 2025 Wools of New Zealand Tour of the UK and France. With Henderson first to finish the test of 20 swaledale hoggets each, which he shore in 13m 43s in also scoring the best points overall, the pair beat England shearers Nick Greaves and Dean Nelmes by 4.3pts.

Fagan was also runner-up to Welsh shearer Gethin Lewis in defence of the Great Yorkshire Open title he won last year, when he and Greaves both featured in a test match New Zealand won by just 0.55pts.

Henderson, on his first tour in the New Zealand singlet, and currently a clear leader in the 2026 World Championships New Zealand team selection series back home, was also first to finish the Open final but had to settle for third place overall.

He shore his 20 sheep in 13m 5s, beating Lewis by 16 seconds and also claimed the scalp of 2019 world champion and Welsh gun Richard Jones, whom he beat by almost two minutes.

Results from Great Yorkshire Show:

International (20 sheep): New Zealand (Toa Henderson 13m



Above: *New Zealand (Fagan and Henderson) and English (Greaves and Nelmes) teams after the test match at Great Yorkshire Show.*



43s, 54.95pts; Jack Fagan 14m 11s, 56.45s) 111.4pts, beat England Nick Greaves 14m 31s, 56.15pts; Dean Nelmes 15m 6s, 59.55pts) 115.7pts.

Great Yorkshire Open Championships final (20 sheep): Gethin Lewis (Wales) 13m 21s, 50.9pts, 1; Jack Fagan (NZ) 13m 40s, 52pts, 2; Toa Henderson (NZ) 13m 5s, 55.2pts, 3; Richard Jones (Wales) 15m 3s, 55.6pts, 4; Nick Greaves (England) 15m 4s, 56.3pts, 5; Stuart Connor (England) 15m 1s, 56.95pts, 6.

French Open Championships:

Toa Henderson's first open final win in the Northern Hemisphere was a big confidence booster. He claimed the win in the French open international final during the French shearing and woolhandling championships at Boussac, the third stop on the Wools of New Zealand team's 2025 tour and on which he and teammate Jack Fagan also scored a big win over France representatives Jeremy Leygonie and Pierre Grancher.

The Open at Boussac on Sunday attracted 36 shearers, with Henderson being the top qualifier from the semi-final to the six-man, of 20 blackface lambs each. He later described the 13m 50s first-to-finish shear as a "good warm-up". Fagan, the defending champion, was next-off 26 seconds later and beaten by 1.6pts, with French shearer Jeremy Leygonie third a further 3.7pts away. In the test, also over 20 sheep each, Henderson finished more than a minute ahead of Fagan, and both Frenchmen, while Fagan had the best quality points, in a black-singlets win by 11pts overall.

Results from French Championships:

International (20 sheep): New Zealand 127.6pts (Jack Fagan 15m 11s, 62.85pts; Toa Henderson 14m 9s, 64.75pts), France 138.6pts (Pierre Grancher 15m 10s, 68.35pts; Jeremy Leygonie 17m 16s, 70.25pts). New Zealand won by 11pts.

French International Open (20 sheep): Toa Henderson (New Zealand) 13m 50s, 56.55pts, 1; Jack Fagan (New Zealand) 14m 16s, 58.1pts, 2; Jeremy Leygonie (France) 15m 53s, 61.8pts, 3; Pierre Grancher (France) 16m 19s, 66.5pts, 4; Ilan Jones (Wales) 17m 15s, 67.55pts, 5; Felix Cesbron (France) 19m 47s, 80.3pts, 6.

Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells:

Toa Henderson scored a big win in claiming the Royal Welsh Show All-Nations title as he and Wools of New Zealand team mate Jack Fagan did their best to slam the Welsh on their home stage. Henderson blasted through the 20 Welsh speckle lambs in under 12m 38s minutes to be first off the board in the six-man final, the time and quality points giving him a comfortable win by 2.3pts over Welsh shearer and reigning world champion Gwion Lloyd Evans, who shore the 20 in 13m 23s.

Defending champion Fagan was third, just 0.15pts further back, in his bid to win the title for a third time, while sixth was a third New Zealand shearer, Matt Smith, originally from Northland but farming in Cornwall and set to represent England in the world championships in Masterton next March.

But the tactic of trying to blow the Welsh away with speed in a test match soon afterwards fell short of the ultimate goal when, despite Fagan claiming the time honours in a close battle, the Kiwis were beaten by the world championships-bound new Welsh team of Evans and Llyr Jones.

With barely five seconds separating Fagan, Evans and Henderson at the end of another 20-lambs shear, the Welsh quality carried the day, for a win by 6.4pts, and a 2-0 lead in an annual series last won by a New Zealand team in Wales six years ago. But the margin was inflated by a five-points penalty against Henderson for a single cut on his last lamb. Team manager Neil Fagan, a former senior title winner in Wales and on his first visit to the show in 22 years, said that without the blemish New Zealand would have gone close to winning the test.

Henderson, who won the recent French Open but failed to

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qualify for the Cothi Shears Open final in Wales last Saturday, told the crowd it felt "pretty good" to make the final after missing out in Cothi, and he was rapt to win at the Royal Welsh in his first tour in the UK.

It was the 50th anniversary Royal Welsh championship, Toa's father Mike Henderson was in the crowd, and it was wife Phoebe's birthday. "I did it for us," he said, as he raised the Godfrey Bowen Memorial Trophy.

It was also a big day for Llyr Jones, who shears in New Zealand, mainly for Wairarapa contractors Abraham Shearing, and who, in winning the Champion Shearer of Wales final claimed a place in the Wales world championships team for the first time.

Amid the fever-pitch passion of the Welsh setting at Llanelwedd, near Builth Wells, in Powys, Mid Wales, the test match was introduced by a Welshman singing the New Zealand anthem in Māori and English, followed by haka Ka Mate with more than 20 answering the near Royal Command call to put up the challenge in front of at least 2000 spectators.

Results from Royal Welsh Show:

International (20 lambs): Wales 97.35pts (Gwion Lloyd Evans 12m, 47.5pts; Llyr Jones 13m 4s, 50.2pts) New Zealand 103.75pts Jack Fagan 11.56s, 49.2pts; Toa Henderson 12m 1s, 54.55pts).

Royal Welsh All-Nations Open final (20 lambs): Toa Henderson (New Zealand) 12m 38s, 44.7pts, 1; Gwion Lloyd Evans (Wales) 13m 23s, 47pts, 2; Jack Fagan (New Zealand) 13.m 8s, 47.15pts, 3; Gareth Daniel (Wales) 13m 55s, 49.35psts, 4; Richard Jones (Wales) 14m 7s, 49.8pts, 5; Matt Smith (New Zealand/England) 13m 33s, 50.3pts, 6.



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Cothi Shears

Two Welsh shearers who've shorn numerous summers in New Zealand struck the first blow to the hopes of New Zealanders Toa Henderson and Jack Fagan winning a new test series in Wales. Shearing Welsh lambs at the Cothi Shears, in Carmarthenshire, Gethin Lewis and Llyr Jones beat the Wools of New Zealand team by a comfortable margin of 6.1pts.

But while the Welsh dominated the quality points, it wasn't as comfortable in the race for best time points, with Northland gun Henderson shearing 11min 48sec, one of the faster times by a New Zealand shearer in a 20-sheep final, and putting a sheep around Welsh shearer-of-the-moment and second-man-off Lewis, with 34 seconds separating the pair on the clock.

A short while earlier, Fagan, a former Royal Welsh open winner, blasted through 20 lambs in 13min 1sec to be first home in the five-man Cothi Shears open final, beating Gwion Lloyd Evans by 25 seconds, but had to settle for fourth place as Lewis claimed his third individual success in 11 days.

Lewis, who shears for Hawke's Bay contractor Brendan Mahony, beat Henderson and Fagan to win the Great Yorkshire open final in England on July 9, and recently shore 696 sheep in eight hours to set a new British ewe-shearing record, in what was also part of a successful bid for the two-stand record.

Lewis had best overall points in the test, while Jones was just pipped for the honour and had the best quality points, while in the open final, Lewis had the best quality points.

While Henderson's time in the test was more than a minute quicker then Fagan's open final and both the test and open final at Cothi last year, Fagan shore 11min 41sec in winning the Corwen Shears Open title last year. But Welsh commentator Huw Condron believes the fastest time ever for a 20-sheep final was the 10min 30sec by New Zealander Paul Avery in winning the Royal Welsh open in 2007, beating a previous record of 10min 36sec attributed to Fagan's father, New Zealand shearing legend Sir David Fagan.

Condron had a clear memory of Avery's achievement, saying: "I was his pen-man." Another New Zealand shearer to break 11 minutes in such a final in the UK was Hawke's Bay gun John Kirkpatrick, with 10m 59s at Corwen in 2009.

Results Cothi Shears:

International (20 lambs): Wales 94.6pts (Gethin Lewis 12m 22s, 47.15pts; Llyr Jones 13m 3s, 47.45pts), New Zealand Toa Henderson 100.7pts (Toa Henderson 11m 48s, 49.7pts; Jack Fagan 12m 59s, 51pts). Wales won by 6.1pts.

Cothi Open final (20 lambs): Gethin Lewis (Wales) 14m 15s, 52.1pts, 1; Gareth Daniel (Wales) 14m 26s, 53.45pts, 2; Gwion Lloyd Evans (Wales) 13m 26s, 57.2pts, 3; Jack Fagan (New Zealand) 13m 1s, 59.7pts, 4; Ian Jones (Wales) 14m 37s, 61.65pts, 5.

Corwen Lamb Shears:

The New Zealand shearing team ended their six-match tour of United Kingdom and France in style by beating Wales at the Corwen Shears in North Wales.

Dominating both time and quality points, Jack Fagan and Toa Henderson beat the new Welsh team of Llyr Jones and Gwion Lloyd Evans by a comfortable 4.05pts, although Wales claimed a 2-1 series victory having won the first two tests of the home leg of the annual series' between the rival nations at the Cothi Shears and the Royal Welsh Show the previous week.



Fagan had the fastest time, the best points in the pens and overall quality points, shearing the 20 lambs in 11m 23s. Henderson was next off, six seconds later and with the best points in judging on the shearing board.

It enabled the black singlets pair to balance the ledger for the tour having beaten England and France earlier this month after being beaten by Scotland in the opening test at the Lochearnhead Shears.

Henderson, on his first trip to the Northern Hemisphere, went close to claiming a third international open championship title, by finishing runner-up to reigning world champion Evans in the six-man Corwen Shears open All-Nations final, also of 20 lambs each, having beaten Evans to win the equivalent event at the Royal Welsh Show. Fagan was fifth.

Henderson was first to finish the final and also had the best board points, but it was a tight finish. Evans beat him by 0.2pts, with just 0.35pts back to third place-getter, 2019 world champion and local Corwen idol Richard Jones.

Just six seconds separated the first three in the race, from Henderson's 11m 51s to Alun Lloyd Jones' 11m 55s and the 11m 57s of Gethin Lewis, who shore with Llyr Jones in the Welsh team for the last two seasons and the first test of this month's series.

Henderson had a particularly big first tour in the United Kingdom, winning open finals in France and at the Royal Welsh Show, and finishing at Corwen, third at the Great Yorkshire Show and fourth at Lochearnhead.

Fagan was unable to repeat any of the four wins he had in Open finals on last year's tour, but also reached five of the six finals, for second place at Yorkshire and in France, third at the Royal Welsh Show, fourth at Cothi, and the fifth placing at Corwen.

Fagan also won four speed shear titles, including retaining the Welsh International title. He was also fourth in the Corwen Shears Novice Blades, repeating the outcome of his first blades event mid-week at the Royal Welsh Show.

A special moment on Saturday came when the two took part in the haka just before the test, Henderson taking the role of kaea in what was thought to be the first time team members have taken part in what has become an obligation for New Zealanders at competitions in Wales, sometimes joined by Welsh shearers who have learnt the haka during their working seasons in New Zealand.

Results from Corwen Lamb Shears:
International (20 lambs): New Zealand 94.2pts (Jack Fagan 11m 23s, 44.4pts; Toa Henderson 11m 29s, 49.8pts) beat Wales 98.25pts (Gwion Evans 11m 50s, 46.95pts; Llyr Jones 12m 2s, 51.3pts). Wales won the series 2-1.

Corwen Shears Open All-Nations final (20 lambs): Gwion Evans (Wales) 12m 19s, 47pts, 1; Toa Henderson (NZ) 11m 51s, 47.2pts, 2; Richard Jones (Wales) 13m 21s, 47.55pts, 3; Alun Lloyd Jones (Wales) 11m 55s, 48.5pts, 4; Jack Fagan (NZ) 12m 13s, 49.15pts, 5; Gethin Lewis (Wales) 11m 57s, 54.35pts, 6.

* * * * * *

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Share Mongolia's National Champs

By Toni Brough

Prior to 2019, Mongolia's 30 million sheep were shorn with large scissors. This was an incredibly labour intensive task with an average person shearing around 20 sheep/day. The plan of introducing machine shearing was hatched in 2019 and a group of Kiwis developed a charity group "Share Mongolia" which uses New Zealand shearers and wool handlers as instructors and have been running annual machine shearing courses in Mongolia since 2022.

The idea of holding a National Electric Sheep Shearing Competition in Mongolia was first raised in February this year by Delgermaa (Deegii) Shagdarsuren of Share Mongolia. At the end of April it was formally confirmed when the Mongolian President supported the concept. Officials requested that Share Mongolia run the Electric Shearing section, they later decided they would hold a National Scissor Shearing Competition alongside. It was to be held at Zuunmod, an hour and a half south of the capital Ulaanbataar.

The dates for the competition came under much debate, the President's schedule was free on 6 and 7 June and again on 20 and 21 June. The competition date teetered between the two. The wool was more likely to have lifted on the 20th and 21st as the weather warmed, the officials couldn't decide and we had very little say as the dates swung back and forward every few days. Finally, June the 21st and 22nd was locked in and we learned the finalised dates just a week before we landed in Mongolia on 4 June.

We had shearing courses to run before we could get to organising the competition. Three days before the show was due to start, nine of our team (the other five were running a course in Khovd.) regrouped at our quarters to get stuck into the massive to-do list. As well as the shearing there was to be a sheep dipping demonstration and a tramp wool press demonstration, using the first wool press ever seen in Mongolia.

The stage was being built on site with the building material delivered on the Wednesday night – the show was to start at 10am on Friday. The pressure was on. There was concern around the guy who was building the ramps, stage and pens, he was given a plan and a brief, but he was actually a kitchen installer and had never seen a wool shed or shearing show before. The building material arrived at the venue on the Wednesday around 6:30pm. The local government officials changed their mind two or three times before a location was finally decided on for the stage and they allowed building to start. The site picked was on the side of a hill, not ideal, the kitchen installer assured us he could work with it and ensure the stage was flat.

Thursday, we arrived back at the venue, loaded up with gear. The kitchen installer had just started building the stage and a group of soldiers were painting some portable yards and another group were picking up rubbish and horse dung. A modified fire truck was watering the bare earth to settle the dust and try and encourage some grass growth on the barren ground. We began unpacking gear reassembled the still wet panels, into pens that we thought would work for us.

Of biggest concern was the 600 sheep which, of course, were essential for the show. They were being walked from their home 60km away and needed to be there by around 8:00 on Friday morning at the latest, to allow time for selecting the sheep, belly crutching and getting things organised. We would have preferred them to be near the venue the day before the event, but they were nowhere in sight. Nobody could tell us exactly where they were, we were constantly told they were on their way. We had no choice but to carry on and keep our fingers crossed.

At this point, we were approached by a local government official. The stage was not in the right place, they had changed their plan and it must be moved. We explained, if we dismantled the stage and moved it at this point the show wouldn't happen as it wouldn't be ready in time. They weren't happy but had no choice but to leave it where it was. Deegii had arranged a beautiful big tent to be installed over the judges table, the same official had arrived and ordered it to be moved away.

The president was coming to the competition for the finals on Saturday and the tent was cream and not white. Sarah, Christine, Kelly and Briar had taken on the job of sorting



and grinding the gear for the competition, 80 combs and 180 cutters and they all came pre-oiled so had to be cleaned first to get rid of the oil. Our heavy Share Mongolia shearing trailer had also arrived and it was to be used for shearers who had entered the machine shearing to practise on, should they want.

Local government people organising the scissor shearing competition were trying to work out where it was to go. Their eyes lit up when they saw our shearing trailer, they decided to pull rank and in a blink it was gone – they had claimed it for their part of the competition. We had no time to be cross, we watched in disbelief as local government officials, government officials and presidents' office officials held heated discussions as they all tried to one up each other and insist on where the best place was to situate the trailer. Much to our amusement, it was then moved seven times to different spots with many people called in to push it into place each time. Another discussion would take place; another group of guys waved in to move it again. They finally found a position which suited – or maybe they just ran out of time, whatever the reason it was highly entertaining. The old crank wool press had arrived as well as the spray dip and portable yards. Still no sheep.

"We must have impressed the President, he's decided he wants it to be an annual event!"

On the Thursday night we took registrations for the competition, to keep it simple we had two classes, the Novice section was restricted to shearers who had a daily tally of 150 or below and the Open section was shearers with a daily tally above the 150 sheep. We had 75 entrants over both the Novice and Open classes, including a lovely older couple who were in their 70's and trained in Russia, back in the 1960s, probably by Godfrey Bowen; three entrants who had never shorn a sheep in their lives but entered to get the goodie bag, and the other 70 shearers were all Share Mongolia trained. We were delighted to see trainees from our courses had travelled up to 1900 kms to enter in the Novice event.

We headed home that night, it had been a big day and we still weren't sure if the sheep would arrive or if the stage would be ready in time – it was a much bigger job than the kitchen installer had anticipated and extra timber for the front of the stage had been brought out from UB as well as framework to hang the machines on.

We arrived back on Friday morning and were relieved to see that the stage builders had worked all night and the stage was looking pretty good and although on a considerable slope, looked like it would work. Sheep still weren't in sight, but we were assured that they were close and sure enough by 8:30 we saw dust in the distance and the sheep approaching. We all raced out to help bring them in – sheep dogs aren't used in Mongolia so the more people to help the better. Finally, they were safely in the pens and we could begin selecting a relatively even line of sheep and get them belly crutched.



Kelly Poehls had the job of setting up handpieces for all the contestants during the show, we had seven working handpieces and four competitors per heat so to save time Kelly had to quickly change combs and cutters between each heat, giving each competitor freshly ground gear.

Day one was to be the heats and the semi's. Due to the lack of judges competitors weren't judged on second cuts on the board, purely on time and then the shearing quality was judged out the back by our judges, Sarah Bryant from Arohena and Mark Walker from Ngahinepouri.

With no counting out pens, each pen had been given its own distinct mark so they could distinguish which sheep belonged to which pen when they were judged out the back. Mindy James and her son, Hugh, Briar Joines and some of the Share Mongolia trainees were filling the pens and ensuring that the shorn sheep were out of the way and sent to the judges between each heat. This had its challenges as there were no gate latches on the gates, often the crutched sheep would blow through a gate and get mixed with the mob.

Time keepers, including Christine Wellington, were compiling the points and times out the front without the benefit of shelter in the blazing 32 degrees sun, wind and dust. Sometimes the fire engine would get a little overzealous in damping down the dust so they had a bit of water coming at them too which was not ideal for their computers.

We whipped through the heats, everything seemed to be working pretty well and then it was time for lunch break. Hugh (the builder!) had to do some running repairs on the catching pen doors throughout the competition, they weren't holding up too well but other than that things were going fairly smoothly. The traditional scissor shearing was happening beside us but we didn't have time to watch. Semi finals were next and put pressure on everyone with more sheep per event and quicker times.

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Rabobank







The day ended with everyone exhausted but very relieved to have completed the day with no major hiccups. The team had worked well and dealt with the many challenges thrown at us.

Day two we were at the venue by 7:30 for breakfast. By 8:30 we were looking for sheep – none in sight. Nobody seemed to know how far away they were. 9:30 still nothing, a lot of hurry up and wait. At 10:30, Deegii made a call and got a sheep update. Apparently, the herder wasn't happy, despite us having told him how many sheep we would require for the show. Unbeknown to us officials had promised him we would shear ALL of his sheep, he had brought 600 to be shorn, was angry that wasn't going to happen and holding the sheep hostage. The government official who had been giving us grief came to talk to Deegii and Mark. She wanted reassurance that the show would go ahead on time because it wouldn't be good for the President to be held up. We were all a little frazzled at this stage, Mark politely told her we couldn't make any promises, her officials had organised the sheep and we couldn't do anything without them. Once they arrived, we would be racing to belly crutch them and ready them for shearing. We were relatively confident the sheep would turn up, after all the President was coming, but the herder would keep them away as long as possible to make us run late. The silly thing was, if he had brought them early in the morning, we could have shorn an extra couple of hundred sheep for him through speed shears and demos. It was such a shame. It was a stand off and a nervous wait but a little after 12 there was a stirring of dust in the distance and suddenly, the sheep were in sight. It was all hands on deck, they were penned and we were racing to select sheep and get them crutched.

Around this time President officials approached us and told him the President was running behind schedule and to save time the Open final was to be reduced to five sheep rather than ten. It was the final straw for us, so we told them in no uncertain terms that it would be a 10-sheep final and if they needed to make up time somewhere they could reduce some of the musical numbers or events happening on another stage. They got the picture.

The President arrived while this was happening and there was a big crowd and an official welcome for him over on the scissor shearing stage but we were head down, tail up and missed it. Deegii had warned us there was to be an official photo and everyone must be ready to gather and smile on queue. Sure enough, she got the call and we all lined up at the Share Mongolia stage, judges, trainers, competitors, wool handlers and the President. The photo was duly taken and the audience moved to their seats under a tent. At this stage there lots of important people and foreign dignitaries present, many TV cameras reporters, journalists and photographers buzzing everywhere.

The sheep were in their pens and we were ready to go. First was the relay, a straight speed shear, shearing a total of 10 sheep per team, we had two New Zealand teams (mens & womens) and two Mongolian teams. New Zealand's ladies team was Briar, Christine, Kelly and Sarah with Alex, Larry, Awheo and Mark representing the New Zealand men. It was great, the atmosphere was electric and the crowd very excited. The audience was really animated and cheering when they thought one of their Mongolia teams were ahead. the Kiwi guys took it out with one of the Mongolian teams taking second place, the Kiwi ladies third and the other Mongolian team was fourth.

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The scissor shearing commentator had apparently been saying for two days that scissor shearing was just as quick as machine shearing. An impromptu shear off was organised with two scissor shearers vs two machine shearers, a New Zealand shearer (Kelly) and a Mongolian shearer (Khanda). Kelly & Khanda both finished their first sheep in less than a minute with the scissor shearers less than half way through theirs. It was to have been a two-sheep-each event but with Kelly so far ahead the Mongolian scissor shearing crew wouldn't let her in to the pen to get her second sheep. The scissor shearers were clearly behind and to save embarrassing them further Kelly stopped shearing after one sheep. The point had been made, electric shearing was obviously faster. The traditional shearing is impressive, it takes a lot of skill and hand strength to shear them quickly and well with scissors, there will always be a place for the scissor shearing section in a Mongolian shearing competition and it will always be supported with pride by the Mongolians.



Next was the wool-pressing demonstration which Awheo and Larry ran. The person who had set up the fadge made it a little hard on them as had not allowed enough fadge material at the top. Luckily, they had the experience to sort it and make it look easy. The president was suitably impressed when the bale came out and cameras were snapping madly.

Mongolian Championships Novice – Five Sheep Final

	Place	Time	Time Points	Pen Points	Total
Ch. Azbayar	1st	8.14	24.7	14.7	39.4
G Bolderdene	2nd	10.15	30.75	9.2	39.95
J. Bayartugs	3rd	8.51	26.55	16.9	43.45
E. Baasantseren	4th	10.46	29.3	17.4	46.70

Mongolian Championships Open – Ten Sheep Final

	Place	Time	Time Points	Pen Points	Total
B. Erdenetsogt	1st	10.52	32.6	11.75	44.35
S. Lkhagvasuren	2nd	11.44	35.2	13.45	48.65
M. Gantulga	3rd	13.30	40.5	12.00	52.50
T. Dorjderem	4th	11.10	33.5	23.55	57.05

Next was the novice final and they were shearing five sheep each. We were really impressed by the standard of the novice shearers some of whom had only learned to shear the previous week. They nervously took the stage but did really well. At this point we were down to five working handpieces from seven but only one more event to get through.

Finally, what we'd all been waiting for, the open final, with Baaska, Tsende, Budee and Migaa taking the stage. The crowd was enthusiastic and cheered for their favourites but the participants all got good support which was neat to see. Our shearing board, machines and handpieces all hung in and we managed to get through the frantic ten sheep final. The shearers all went pretty well and then it was time to wait while their sheep were judged.

Now we were headed to the sheep dipping. We were really concerned about whether they would run through the dip, Mongolian sheep have never seen yards or a race and can be a little lethargic so Briar and Mark who had taken on the dipping set up were feeling the pressure There was a bit of strategy involved and we hoped it would pay off, the sheep were running uphill and back to their mob. The dip was using water only, the pump was fired up the gates opened, Alex and Larry climbed in behind the sheep and they charged through that dip like the hounds of hell were after them. It was perfect, couldn't have gone better, if anything they had run too fast but we were all delighted.

The President's office wanted photos, the eight people who were the registered judges all lined up to have their photo taken and then the New Zealand Share Mongolia team lined up so that the President, the Minister of Agriculture and a couple of dignitaries could shake hands in appreciation. Larry got a shoulder tap as well as a handshake so he's sure he and the President are mates. The official prizegiving took place on the big main stage near the top of the hill with the President calling them on stage to congratulate and present prizes to them all, led by the scissor shearers, then novice then finally the open grade.

Mongolian Champs from page 39:

Baaska earned first place, Budee second, Migaa 3rd and Tsende 4th. The open first and second placed contestants, Baaska and Budee, will represent Mongolia at the World Championships in Masterton in 2026.

Despite the odds we pulled off a successful event and couldn't be prouder of what we achieved. Huge thanks to Larry Clark, Phillipa Ewens, Awheo Durstan, Kyerah Martin, Alex Fannin, Sarah Bryant, Christine Wellington, Mindy and Hugh James, Briar Joines and Kelly Poehls.

It doesn't just stop there either, as always Deegii was a rock star and does an incredible amount, she ropes in her family to help as well, Gaadsa her husband and brother in law, Jack put in hours of work to get things completed, Otgo Jamiyan, her workmate, Deegii's daughter and Deegii's brother all worked with the points at the show, and of course all of our great Share Mongolia trainees who got stuck in and helped to make Mongolia's first ever shearing show happen.

We must have impressed the President, now he wants it to be an annual event!

* * * * * *

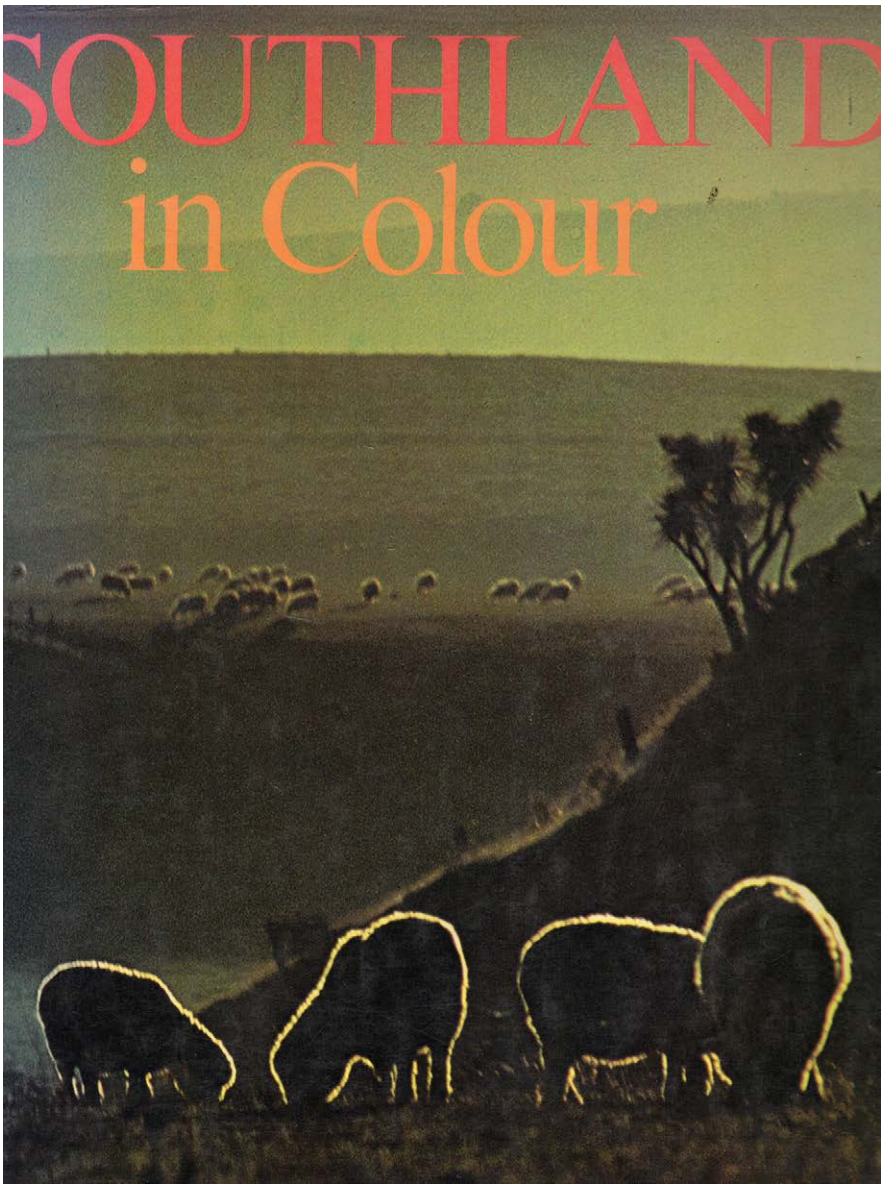
Small Wonder

She found clean air out at Frog Hill,
Sunlight was sprinkled everywhere.
The mountain world lay stark and still
Beyond the foothills – sleeping there –
A taste of pine came floating free,
Like perfume, from the forestry;
She took all in and said to me,
'Small wonder you write poetry.'

She saw the skylarks soar to spill
Their liquid notes into the blue,
Above the slopes of Stranraer Hill,
And Fiddlers, where snow tussocks grew.
Light greens of Nature's tapestry –
And deeper shaded poplar tree –
Made her turn and say to me –
'Small wonder you write poetry.'

A deep rich breath of joy she caught,
That threatened her thin cotton blouse,
Without a sense of shame or thought,
I let my grateful gaze carouse.
Two swollen mounds of symmetry
Two thighs that whispered mystery,
Two eyes that offered sanctuary –
No wonder I write poetry.

© Ross 'Blue Jeans' McMillan (1929-2019)



Above: *Is this the best book cover ever published? The artistry of champion photographer Barry Harcourt (then with the Southland Times) and our favourite animal, late evening pastures at Fortrose. (AH & AW Reed, 1979)*

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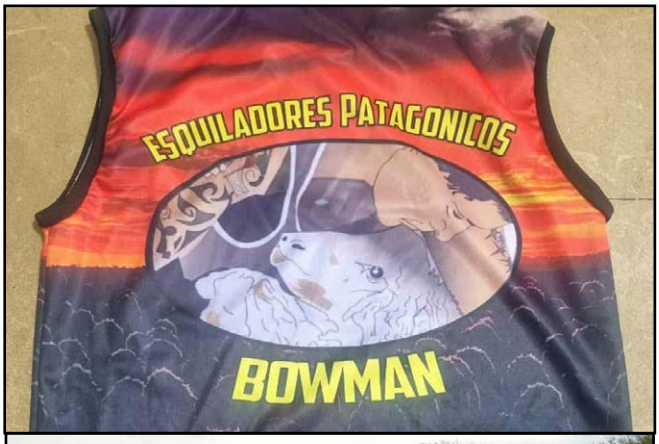
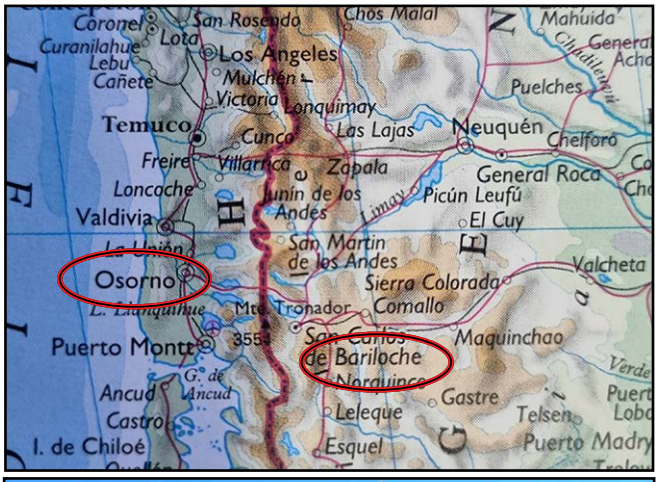
Somewhere in Pategonia ...

*"Esquiladores Patagonico Bowman" = Sheep shearers Patagonia – contractor Jorge Bowman. Images on this and following pages have been sent to Shearing magazine by 'Anderson Bob' via Facebook. A Kiwi formerly from Eketahuna, Bob has been living and working in Chile since 2001, based near a little village named Entre Lagos, near **Osorno**, on the road to **Bariloche**. We lack some details on the exact location of the images here – from Jorge – "These photos were taken in the plateau and mountain range areas of Chubut Province, Argentine Pategonia." We suggest they give a general overview of size and scale and allow some comparison with conditions here and in Australia. So herewith – without further captions:*









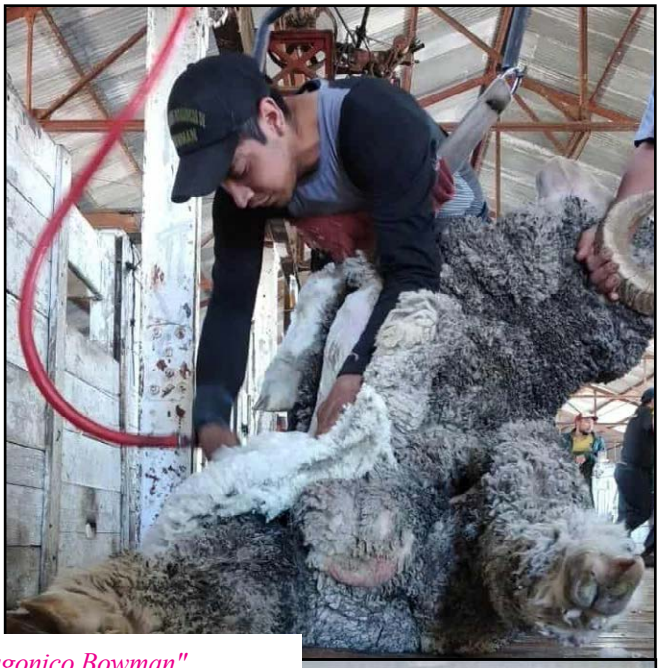




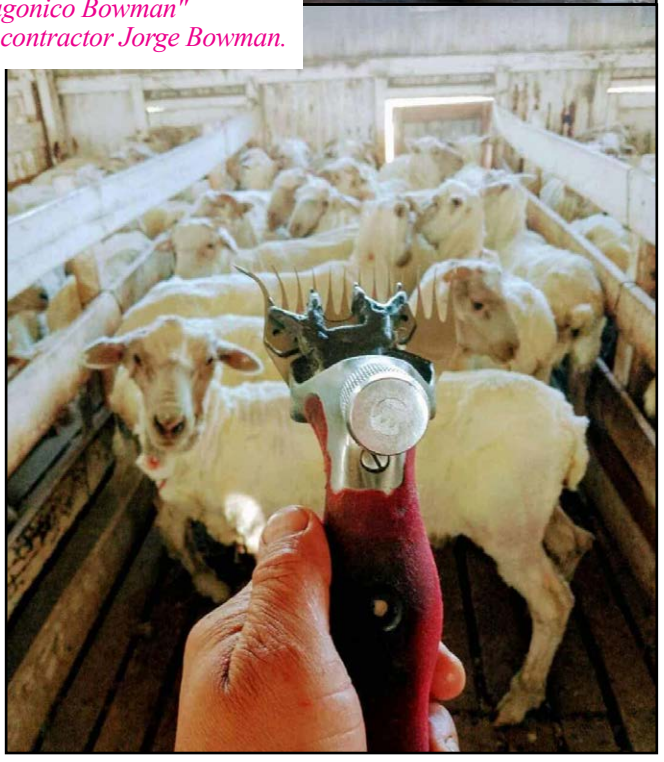


"There are no more new frontiers, We have got to make it here." (The Last Resort, Don Henley).





"Esquiladores Patagonico Bowman"
Sheep shearers Patagonia – contractor Jorge Bowman.





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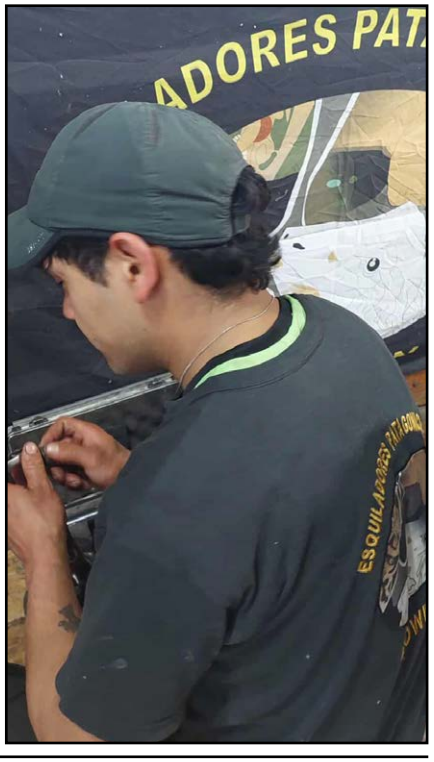



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Above: *We suspect the late great song-writing genius Leonard Cohen (1934-2016) may not have thought of this possibility when composing his famous song,* ***A Bird on the Wire*** *– a bird on two wires, as was spied at the New Zealand championships in Te Kuiti in April.*

Like a bird on the wire
Like a drunk in a midnight choir
I have tried in my way to be free
Like a worm on a hook
Like a knight from some old fashioned book
I have saved all my ribbons for thee

I saw a beggar leaning on his wooden crutch
He said to me, "You must not ask for so much"
And a pretty woman leaning in her darkened doorway
She cried to me, "Hey, why not ask for more?"

(Leonard Cohen never shore a sheep in his life, but wrote many great songs apart from A Bird on the Wire – Famous Blue Raincoat, Suzanne (takes you down to her place by the river), So Long Marianne, Hallelujah ...)



Above: *We keep hassling that Rotorua-based contractor Jeff Dorset to send us some photos of his hard-working gangs in action. He never does – we sort of expect that he never will – but then (surprise, surprise) he says there's one from a couple of years ago that might fill a space in the mag. Send it through, we say. And here it is, from 13 March 2023, the day at Tutamohe Station Tolaga Bay, when Simon Goss shore 804 adult sheep in nine hours. It wasn't an official record, but we don't know of any other "800's" on ewes shorn in New Zealand so we are pleased to overlook the 17 months that have passed and publish the happy crew here. Simon shore successive runs of 177, 157, 155, 159 and 156.*



Above: *Edwin Perry died at Masterton on 5 June 2025. A most respected shearing judge over recent years, Edwin is seen here officiating at the Waitomo Shearing Sports meeting on 17 March 2025. A former New Zealand First MP and Masterton District councillor who grew up in the Tinui and Castlepoint area, east of Masterton, he was regarded as popular, fair and approachable as he officiated at competitions throughout the North Island. Edwin was especially proud of his whanau affiliation to Jim Morris, who set the first official nine-hour, lamb shearing record of 474 at Wairere on 11 December 1958. (Story in Shearing magazine August 2004.)* ***Above:*** *Edwin competing at Golden Shears in 2010.* ***Inset:*** *Just another day at the office.*





Above: Life can be a grind. Ken Pike at Bonneville Salt Lake, Utah, 2001. (Charly Harvey image.)



Life can be a grind ...

Left descending: *Dessie Downs, Graeme Thomas, Henderson girls, Kevin Walsh.* ***Middle descending:*** *Derek Kirkland, Glenda Betts, Graham Metekingi, David Hodge.* ***Right descending:*** *Nathan Stratford, Pierre Todd, Graham Weir.*

Floc – NZ's Major Wool Innovation

(News Release 5 August 2025)

Floc, a design-led acoustic panel made entirely from New Zealand strong wool, has achieved an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), becoming the first solely wool-based building product in Aotearoa to do so. It's a milestone that Floc believes will reshape how sustainability is defined in the design industry and challenge the wave of greenwashing in commercial interiors.

The EPD, independently verified to ISO standards, provides third-party scientific data on the environmental footprint of Floc's wool acoustic roll. It confirms Floc's full lifecycle impact – from manufacturing to end-of-life – and represents a significant step forward for wool innovation in the built environment. "We're incredibly proud of this achievement," says Tom O'Sullivan, Business Development Manager at T&R Interior Systems, the Wellington-based, family-owned business behind Floc.

"There's a lot of noise in the industry about sustainability, but very little proof. This is independent, quantifiable evidence that wool can be used at scale and meet the highest expectations for both performance and environmental integrity.

"The industry has been demanding more honest environmental claims – and this is our answer. We've completely rewritten the narrative for bio-based products in New Zealand, and we're only just getting started."

Floc's performance reflects not only its natural fibre base, but the considered choices made at every stage of production. The product analysed in the EPD is made from 100% strong wool, with no reliance on timber or recycling claims to offset impacts.



The final Global Warming Potential (GWP) figure came in at 19.8, with analysis revealing zero methane emissions due to flaring – a breakthrough that challenges assumptions about the carbon profile of natural fibres and positions Floc as a leading example of low-impact, bio-based design.

"An EPD is the difference between making a claim and standing behind it," says Mr O'Sullivan. "This milestone signals our deep, authentic commitment to innovation in the built environment. We're striving to revive and diversify New Zealand's wool industry by offering a future-focused, material-led alternative to synthetic acoustic solutions."

The EPD was authored by Dr Nilesh Bakshi, Director of the Decarbonisation Design Lab at Victoria University of Wellington.

"As a researcher focused on sustainable materials, I've spent years studying natural fibres like wool – watching the building industry chase flashy high-tech solutions while overlooking one of nature's smartest, most enduring materials," says Dr Bakshi. "That's why Floc's EPD – the first ever for a 100% wool building product – is so significant. It's not just a piece of paper. It's proof that wool can compete on a scientific level with synthetic alternatives."

Stephen McDougall, Director at Studio Pacific Architecture and New Zealand Ambassador for Campaign for Wool, says: "Having had a product such as the wool-based Floc receive a





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EPD is a significant milestone. It gives potential Floc [wool] specifiers the confidence that the product has received a very high level of the technical and environmental scrutiny that proves the performance can be relied upon and is inherently 'good' for the world.

"In a world awash with synthetics wool is a natural material with significant magical properties that all play their part and contribute to a better and more sustainable built environment for all our futures."

Manufactured in New Zealand using strong wool sourced from local farms, Floc is already being used in high-performance interiors nationwide, including commercial and education spaces such as Lincoln University's newly restored Ivey West building.

T&R Interior Systems is now exploring circular applications for Floc offcuts, including their potential use as weed mat – part of an ongoing commitment to innovation and environmental accountability. Export to Australia is planned for late 2025.

"With increasing demand for verified green building materials across Australasia, this milestone positions Floc as a serious contender in the trans-Tasman interiors market," adds O'Sullivan. (Further information at **www.floc.nz** **)**

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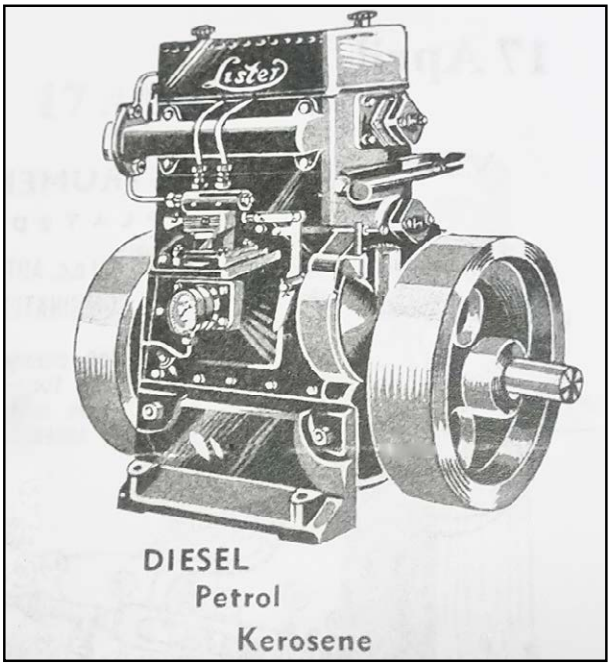


THE LISTER (ENGINE)

With jam tin cup on swag rolled up,
He turned to his wife and kissed her.
He then said, "I'm off to the shed,
For the cranking of the Lister."

It's turned the shears for eighty years,
And nary missed a beat.
At the end of the clip it pumped the dip,
For half a million stamping feet.

In the midst of drought 'twas taken out,
By the squatter and his daughter.
On the riverbank a single crank,
Brought up the precious water.

When bushfires too came rushing through,
Came the cry, "More water mister."
Our hearts would thrill as the tankers fill,
To the thumping of the Lister.

Well, I've had my day and the hair's gone grey,
No more these hands will blister.
But each spring and fall I hear the call,
Of whispering shears and the throbbing Lister.

Now shearer Bill is over the hill,
The Rousie's retired to Gunning.
I've heard it said, "The tar boy's dead,"
But the Lister keeps on running.

By flooding rain on black soil plain,
On the trail of a red dust twister.
I know damn well the fires of Hell,
Will die before the Lister.

Author unknown. Reprinted from
***The Ringer's Review**, edition 13, February 2010*
Submitted by Dave Hartwig, Tomakin, NSW.



Above: *Brian Lambert, c1969. Then aged about 18, Brian pressed 63 bales on this one day at Ditton Station, Whangaehu Valley. He had been pressing for about three years, both here and in Australia, prior to this day. Brian was from a Wairarapa shearing family, his father Allan Lambert was a contractor in the 1950s and 60s until it was taken over by his son Donald (Brian's older brother). Donald, incidentally, shore his best tally of 502 lambs at the same Ditton Station shed (the world record at the time was 512). Brian Lambert had just a brief career, maybe 10 years in the sheds (he was out of it by about age 24, his nephew Thomas Lambert* ***(pictured opposite)*** *recalls) and later became renown as a distance/endurance cyclist. He was a long-time owner of Lambert's Cycles in Masterton and held the Auckland to Wellington record (19 h 59m 27s) from 1984 until last year (2024). He had set out determined to break 20 hours for the ride and had a crash on wet railway lines just a few hundred metres from the tape. He got up and finished the 650-km ride with a whole 33 seconds to spare!*

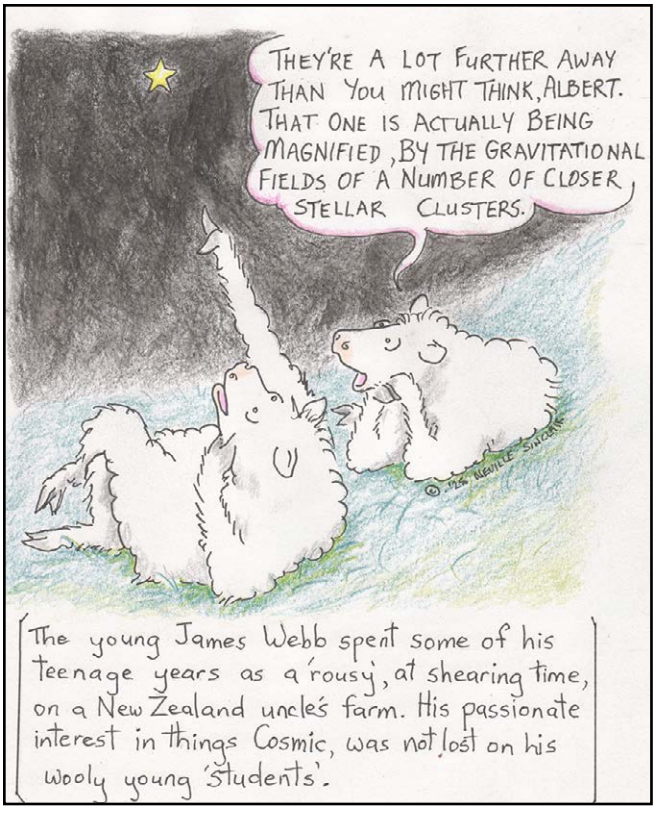
Brian (b 5 July 1951) died at Masterton on 23 February 2022, aged 70.



Above: *Thomas Lambert, nephew of the late Brian Lambert, (see story opposite) shearing at the New Zealand championships in April. Trying not to do any second cutting in front of that observant judge, Dawson Biggs. Thomas works for Barry Pullen Contracting out of Christchurch.*



Above: *Stuart Sinclair Wilson (1954-2025), All Black No. 772. Stu was guest speaker at the New Zealand Shearing Contractors' annual conference in 2004. A high class entertainer he was. Pictured with Raelene McConachie and Trish Rangi (NZSCA secretary). The August 2004 Shearing magazine recorded that Stu provided "some entertaining and insightful comments on the game of rugby and the way it has changed over the past 20 years." We think it has changed even more over the past 20 years, and not necessarily for the better. How much more entertaining to see a "Stu Wilson" flying for a try at the corner at top speed than some hooker scoring (boring) from a five-metre lineout rumble. RIP Stu.*



Tribute: Fly high, Nanny Dee

Jills Angus Burney/Ashburton Guardian

Deidre Anne Hira Edwards, who passed away on 24 July 2025 in a car crash near Ashburton, was a respected shearing industry worker. The 61-year-old wool handler was a well-known face in the local, national and international shearing community.

For almost fifty years Hira-Edwards worked at shearing sheds across Aotearoa and Australia, and had been just three weeks into her annual Mid-Canterbury Pre-Lamb stay.

"She was always a happy lady," her employer, Pro Shear Limited's Lynn Smith said. "Maybe her heart was broken at times, but she still wore a smile."

Smith had known Hira-Edwards, affectionately called "Aunty" or "Nanny Dee," for about 30 years and the pair had become good friends.

Hira-Edwards had five children and 19 grandchildren, who she'd visit as she worked and travelled, finding work in nearby towns to spend time with them. She'd spend three months each year working for Pro Shear Limited with her son, Taare, staying at the Ashburton shearing quarters over that time.

Just ten days before her death Nanny Dee made Saturday morning breakfast for this writer and my whanau at the Ashburton Quarters, teasingly talking of how close her Gold Card was when she too turned 65, and laughing at both our hearing loss and how it impacted our lives. We worked together thirty years ago with Shane Kara for Rei Rangiawha in the Western Bays near Taupo. Time hadn't stood still for either of us but old friendships never wain.

Smith understood Deidre had bought takeout in Ashburton for a family dinner with Taare and his family in Rakaia and after dinner was on her way home before the incident.

The loss has been felt far beyond Ashburton, with condolences pouring in under Pro Shear's Facebook post from across Aotearoa.

"The shearing industry is really small; she was well-respected throughout the country," one said.



Deidre Anne Hira Edwards (9 December 1963 – 24 July 2025)

There had been a large turnout at Hira-Edwards' South Island sendoff in Christchurch before she was taken back to her home Ruato marae near Rotorua, where her shearing whanau gathered on the shores of Lake Rotoiti.

"She struggled a little bit the last couple of years with grief, when her son, Hura passed away in Western Australia in January 2023," Smith said.

"She'd just told me on Tuesday she was in a happy place and knew that Hura was looking down on her. In light of what's happened, I feel happy that she's with him now."

Deidre is survived by her sons, Michael Junior, Taare and Jordan, and daughter, Hutia and their whanau.

Above: Friends of Queensland shearing legend Tolly Bowden (second right) gathered recently to help him celebrate his 80th birthday. From left Ken Pole, Ross Ellifson, Alan Beattie, Cameron Griffiths, Peter Macalman, Phil White, Damien Devlin, Wayne Bernie, Bruce Deegan, The birthday man Tolly Bowden, sorry name not found.



What is Sport NZ to Shearing Sports NZ?

By Jills Angus Burney

What is the taxpayer-funded sports and Olympic agency, Sport NZ to shearing? That's a question that I've tried to answer for the past three years since I heard a shearer, a former team member, abuse Sport NZ for 'doing nothing for us'. Initially I thought the problem for Shearing Sports was Sport NZ, not the other way around.

Some time ago I made an Official Information Act (OIA) request to Sport NZ. I found out that Shearing Sports NZ had pulled out of Sport NZ. When they did so Sport NZ notified SSNZ that there were immediate funding consequences to not agreeing to the Sports Anti-Doping Rules (SADR) and their Drug-Testing Programme. At the time, SSNZ claimed in reply that the costs associated with conducting drug testing at our events was prohibitive.

The records show that various Sport NZ bosses appealed to SSNZ to agree to the SADR for a number of reasons and there was an offer to help deliver the programme so it didn't necessarily need to cost SSNZ anything.

In his correspondence to then Chairman, Sir David Fagan, Sport NZ Investment Manager, Craig McFarlane strongly recommended that SSNZ reconsider its decision to not agree to the SADR and at their next AGM or Special General Meeting in August 2018, to make the necessary changes to the constitution and or Anti-doping Policy.

Then Sport NZ programme director, Jude Ellis was optimistic that Shearing Sports NZ should not have any issues agreeing with the SADR, once they understood that it costs nothing (except a little time and effort to amend their rules/constitution).

Fast forward eight years and SSNZ has a new Board, and a new opportunity to bring Shearing Sports in from the cold, so that shearing sports across the motu benefits from access to Sports NZ programmes.

The cost to our sport of not complying is not just that major events miss out on Sport NZ endorsement. Without any investment from Sport NZ in shearing sports, all the competitors, sports administrators, and young women and girls' development programmes have also not received any benefits.

The 2017 world open shearing champion Johnny Kirkpatrick was a recipient of the last Sports NZ funding investment in 2014 worlds team alongside shearer, Cam Ferguson and wool handers, Joel Henare and the late Joanne Kumeroa. They each received high performance investment for individual coaching and travel for about NZ$15,000, which at the time, was exactly that same as the base funding for Sarah Hirini (Sevens) and Lisa Carrington (Canoeing).

Having Sport NZ investment would mean the playing field for the New Zealand team could be levelled. We would be kidding ourselves if we didn't see the vast gap between the earning power of our competitor woolhandlers and our elite shearers. New Zealand woolhandling competitors have anecdotally been less resourced and more financially vulnerable competitors. It's not enough to just focus on the shearers, when there are six competitors to the team of whom two are non-shearers.

What can we do to change this? More than just rejoining the SADC drug testing programmes, we need more women on the board. Two more women to be exact. This is because under the Ardern government in 2020, Sport NZ changed the investment rules, requiring forty percent of a sport's national board to be women. This policy was the result of a long-standing campaign by Women in Sport Aoteroa (WISA) to require the participation of women sports administrators at the decision-making level, where voluntary development of women in sports leadership for effective broad representation and governance, had miserably failed.

It looks good looking a long way backwards. We once actively belonged to Sport NZ. Back when we were full of hope when John Fagan and Hugh McCarroll first lobbied for our inclusion as a mainstream sport in the mid-2000s. Finally, it looks even better this month, after thirty-eight years, we have a first female regional delegate in Raelene Kirkpatrick from East Coast North Island.

Previously, for that entire thirty-eight years, SSNZ had eleven men and at best, two women competitor representatives (one from each island). That's over 400 men representing the industry, and about 6o women in total. As far as I'm aware, the only woolhandling judges on the National Committee have only ever been men.

All Shearing Sports needs to do now for consideration of Sport NZ investment, is increase the number of women on the National Committee and re-join the SADC programme. It's as easy as SSNZ would qualify for the forty percent threshold by adding the voices of a woolhandler judge from each island to the National Committee and then agreeing to the Sports Anti-Doping Rules (SADR) with Drug Free Sport NZ (DFSNZ) programmes.

Even seriously considering the appointment of one female woolhandling judge to balance the all-male executive of the new Chair, Warren Parker and the two Island Chairs, Paul Harris and Mark Barrowcliffe, would also consolidate the work underway by the North Island Sub-Committee to address complaints of structural and procedural shortcomings to improve our woolhandling sport systems.

It's not as if Shearing Sports can't comply. Ironically the Paris Olympic slalom canoeing cross gold medallist, Finn Butcher competes in a far smaller sport than ours, and that didn't stop him getting high performance funding, and a gold medal to famously hang around his Dad's neck after the medal presentation ceremony.



Sporting shearers from Willy McSkimming's team



***Above,** Ohura Open finalists: Shane Ratima (46.8 pts), Dig Balme (46.9 pts), Conan Te Kene (48.6 pts), Chris Brears (49.5 pts).*



***Above,** Ohura Senior finalists: Laura Bradley (29.7 pts), Daniel Seed (30.7 pts), Mark Ferguson (31.2 pts), Topia Barrowcliffe (31.8 pts).*



***Above,** Ohura Intermediate finalists: Sarah Bryant (25.2 pts), Owen Martin Jones (26.6 pts), Thomas Marchant (27.5 pts), Paiaka Murahi (32.3 pts)*



***Above,** Ohura Junior finalists: Jodiesha Kirkpatrick (24.6 pts), Sean Dunne (27.1 pts), Kevin Noone (29.9 pts), Morgan Jones (29.1 pts).*

Almost Ladies Day at Ohura

A piece of shear history may have been created at the remote Ohura A&P show last March when women won three of the four shearing finals.

They were Laura Bradley, a mum and farmer from Papatawa, between Dannevirke and Woodville, and who beat three men in a Senior final of six sheep each, Sarah Bryant, of Arohena, between Otorohanga and Tokoroa, who beat three males in the Intermediate final of four sheep each, and Jodiesha Kirkpatrick, of Gisborne, who was not just the only female in the Junior final, of three sheep each, but also the only New Zealander.

Bradley and Kirkpatrick have each won six finals this season, and three Junior woolhandling finals each, while Bryant had her first win just seven days earlier at the Te Puke A&P Show.

The odd man out was Hunterville shearing contractor Shane Ratima, who had his first win in an Open final, a four-man contest of 12 sheep each, pipping runner-up and Otorohanga veteran Dig Balme by less than 15 hundredths of a point. Competition convener Chris Brears beat them both to the finish, shearing the 12 in 12m 4.97s, but Ratima, third off in 12m 21.25s had the best shearing board points.

Ratima, father of recent Rangitikei Intermediate winner Orlando Ratima, said he went to the show, west of Taumarunui, to take two of his Welsh shearers, a success in itself with three ribbons in the vehicle on the way home, Owen Marin Jones having been runner-up to Bryant in the Intermediate final and Morgan Jones finishing fourth in the Junior final.

Keryn Herbert of Te Kuiti won the Open woolhandling event from Te Anna Phillips, of Taumarunui, in a big show of loyalty and commitment after both had competed at the Southern Shears in Gore on 24 hours earlier. The Senior final was won by Alice Otimi, of Ngāpuke, and Miracle Waikato, of Flaxmere, had her first win, in the Junior final.

Woolhandling Results:

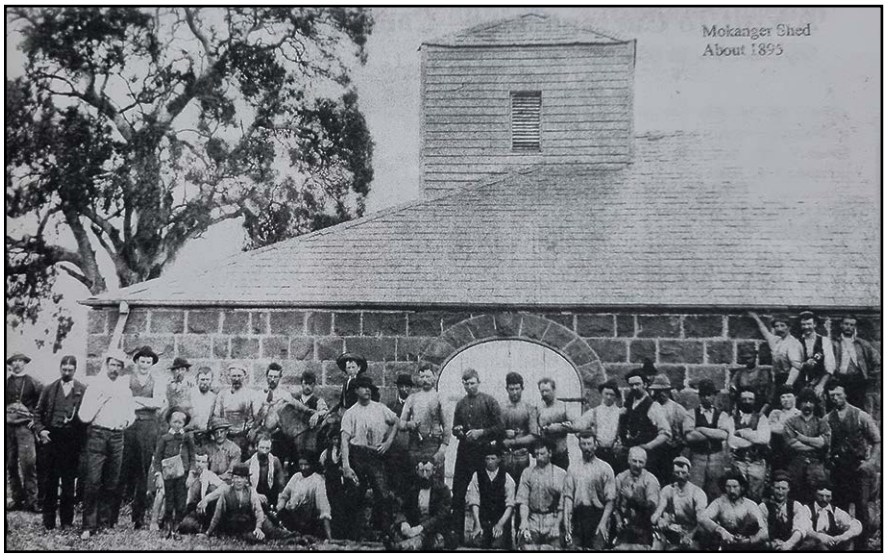
Open: Keryn Herbert (Te Kuiti) 69.02pts, 1; Te Anna Phillips (Taumarunui) 75.28pts, 2.

Senior: Alice Otimi (Ngāpuke) 55.090pts, 1; Kelly Barrett (Kawhia) 55.97pts, 2; Kelly Brears (Matiere) 73.8pts, 3.

Junior: Miracle Waikato (Flaxmere) 41.47pts, 1; Paige Marshall (Matiere) 45.pts, 2; Miri Thompson (Taumarunui) 57.65pts, 3. *(From Doug Laing, SSNZ)*

Tony's favourite stories

Tony Mathews is a long-time contributor of stories to Shearing magazine – at least since Last Side Publishing started producing it some 23 years ago. Tony's in-shed experience goes back to the 1960s era when George Potae started contracting in Otago and Southland. Tony once rated the late Harry Hughes as the best shearer he'd ever seen. He has now contributed a couple of items that he regards as the best stories he's ever heard in a life time of story-gathering. (The story equivalent of Harry Hughes, if you like.) He writes:



Introduction

"I was one of those fortunate enough to be read to as a child, hence my love of stories. A little later on I sought the company of old folk, as old folk had better stories to tell. At school we were told, to be any good a story had to contain conflict. At this point in life I disagree with that notion and say the best stories contain a bit of conflict and a bunch of wisdom.

After a lifetime of listening and after working through the auditions, heats, semifinals, the results are finally in, the judge has made his call. Here are, in my opinion, the two best stories I've ever heard. They were chosen as both stories contain a bit of conflict and a massive dose of wisdom.

Runner up: What to do with money

In February 1960 I was helping unload hay into a rather rickety old building just below the township of Heriot, in South Otago. The structure had an odd chimney-like protuberance capped by a little roof.

"Whatever was that for?" I enquired of my employer Mr. Nelson Maurice Atchison, a white man if ever I met one. (You would be arrested by the PC police today for calling a man a white man. It meant a man of integrity, completely honest in his dealings. In this sense even a brown man could be described as 'white' and in that context I have no hesitation in saying George Potae was a 'white man'.)

Sorry I digress, so Mr. Aitchison, aka Toby, related the following story: All empires start somewhere. Rome started with Romulus and Remus and the Todd empire was started right here in this building by Charlie Todd.

Charlie Todd came to Heriot from the Cromwell district, where his father had a fellmongery. Charlie started out as a wool and skin buyer and used this building as his depot, and that protuberance accommodated the screw for the screw-worm wool press.

"Now Charlie," he continued, "was an active prohibitionist. But was smart enough to realise the pub was where a lot of business was done, plus he was an active sportsman. Likely it was during the 1921 recession or depression, Charlie was among a school of drinkers out to solve the nation's ills.

"You know," said one, "the trouble is money is not evenly distributed. What they should do is pool all the money then divide it equally to all citizens, giving them say ten pounds."

All heads nodded in agreement.

'Okay' says Charlie, clear headed on his lemonade, 'what would you do with your ten pounds?' "I'd buy this and that," replied the speaker.

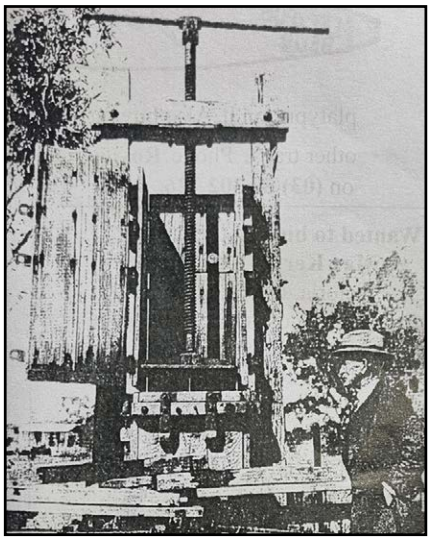
Charlie asked the same question of the others. Then they asked Charlie what he would buy with his.

"I'd buy this pub," replied Charlie.

'What the hell would you want to buy a pub for?' they chorused. "Well," replied Charlie, "pretty soon I'd have all you fellas' ten pounds. 'Oh yeah,' they said, 'and then what would you do?'

"I'd divide it again," said Charlie.

The rest is history, as they say. Even I, a relatively uneducated 19-year-old could recognise the genius in that, even if I've never had the financial courage to do likewise.



Top: *The woolshed at Mokanger (near Cavendish, 25km north of Hamilton, Vic.) built in 1864 after an original shed was burned down. This photo taken about 1895, showing the 'tower' in the roof built to accommodate the screw for the wool press. (Similar, we suspect, to the "Chimney-like protuberance" described in Tony Mathews' story.)* ***Above:*** *The relic of the original 'screw press' installed at Springhurst, Queensland by Horatio Wills in 1861.* (Information re Mokanger from *The Ringers Review,* edition 8, April 2009. Information re Springhurst from *The Ringers Review*, edition 13, February 2010. George Grant, ed.)

Apart from the shed at Heriot referred to in our story, the only other New Zealand shed known to have a screw press was built at Moanaroa, near Akitio, south-east of Pongaroa, in 1883.

And Tony Mathews' winning story is …

At some stage, probably in the 1990s, I did an assertive course for men. You know the sort of thing, it's where you learn to tell people to go to hell in such a way they look forward to the trip.

During a group discussion I happened to mention I thought observation was the second step on the road to wisdom. "Funny you should say that," says the facilitator, a Canadian immigrant, and thus he told the following tale.

"I have a friend in California who was a hot-shot, highly-paid corporate troubleshooter. He's the guy they call in when things go awry in the boardroom. (Just like the government appointed an observer to the Wellington City Council.)

"Now my friend," continued the facilitator "has no formal education, having grown up as a member of an indigenous Indian tribe in the jungles of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, so I asked him how come he ends up in the role he has, and thus my friend began:

"In my jungle village there are only three jobs a man can do, he can either be a hunter, a farmer or an artisan. My father was a hunter. When I was very young, I said to my mother, "When I grow up I want to be a hunter like dad."

"That's nice dear," says my mother.

"Can I go hunting today?" I ask.

"No dear," says mum, "the jungle is far too dangerous a place for small boys but you can start learning to be a hunter today if you want."

"What do I have to do?" I ask.

"You have to go out and watch the chickens and when you notice something about them come and tell me and then you can go and play."



So I go out and watch the chickens. Chickens is chickens, right? I've seen them everyday since forever but I go and watch them for a while and soon get bored with it so I go back and whine to Mum, "I'm bored with watching the chickens, can I go and play now?"

"No," says mum, "you are the one who wants to be a hunter like your father so out you go and watch the chickens." So again I go out and eventually notice they are different colours. Mum is happy with this and says I can go and play.

Next morning I'm off out the door to play with my friend when mum calls me up and says, "What about your hunting lesson?" 'Hunting lesson?' I say.

"Yes, hunting lesson. Remember, so you can be a hunter when you grow up." "What do I have to do today?" I ask.

"Go out and watch the chickens again and notice something else about them you can tell me." This went on for six months until finally I could find nothing else to tell her about chickens, so I asked can I go and play now.

"No," she says. "Today you start watching the dogs," and that, says my Indian friend, is how I became a hot-shot, highly-paid corporate troubleshooter.

It's a wonderful story truly the second step on the road to wisdom. Strangely or surprisingly, no one but no one, not even the facilitator has ever asked me what I considered was the first and third steps on the road to wisdom.

Certainly, no politician I've heard of although I have met a few very wise observant farmers, the result of a lifetime of watching livestock.

So your assignment is to go out and watch the chickens, if you have some, and observe the very next thing a chicken does after it scratches in the dirt.

When you notice this you can go and play, maybe a round of golf.

* * * * * *



Above: *An alternative model 'screw press' on display at the Shear Outback Hall of Fame and Museum at Hay, New South Wales. A later model to those discussed previous page.*

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Grazcos 1919-1969

Fifty years of operations (by George Grant)

When Grazcos started in 1919, there were a plenty of sceptics. “Wool growers can't organise …” “Graziers won't cooperate …” “It won't last ...”

These were common sentiments that greeted the beginning of the Company.

But start it did, out of real need, and with wide support of growers it progressed far beyond the most optimistic hopes of the small group of dedicated men who pioneered the idea. Their aims were simple: to provide a means whereby they could organise their shearings and have their sheep shorn properly.

Nearly a century later Grazcos stands as an organisation which has not only achieved the original aims of its founders but has extended into areas of service to the pastoral industry which could never have been foreseen in 1919.

The Company’s fiftieth year is a point from which to look back at what had been accomplished and look ahead to the needs of the future.

Necessity provided the stimulus that brought grazers shearing together to form their own co-operative sharing company - Grazcos.

The company brought organisation to the sharing industry. Throughout its history Grazcos has maintained awards, it has brought stability to the workforce and it has trained thousands of shearers.

In its first year 700,000 sheep were shorn. Ten years later almost six million sheep were shorn at 460 sheds. In 1969 the total number of sheds handled exceeds 1000 in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

Strongly supported by its members, Grazcos today is the strongest shearing organisation in Australia.

With the interest and cooperation of some of its members, Grazcos pioneered the “learner-shearer” idea, with teams of learners instructed by Wool Board Tally-Hi instructors under actual working conditions.

The Grazcos School of Shearing Shed Management, now in its tenth year, is another important long-range training project.

The company does a lot more than provide teams of men. Training and recruitment plans look after the future requirements of members, and help to raise standards of service and skill for the pastoral industry as a whole.

In the early 1920s the wool grower with a small flock and the larger grower with oddments were facing serious disadvantages. No practical way existed for them to have their wool offered for sale in the large lots preferred by the buyers. This situation led to Grazcos starting a centralised classing and pooling service in Sydney.

Begun as a pioneering move and in a modest way, this service was strongly supported by a wool growers and soon became one of the most important Grazcos activities. In its fiftieth year 163,000 bales were prepared for sale.

The Company now has Central Classing Stores at Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Newcastle and Goulburn, each one with its team of experienced wool men trained for their specialist work.

Having been stencilled on over three and a half million bales, the GRAZCOS brand is firmly established and is favourably known in all wool consuming countries of the world.

Milestones

1919 Grazcos formed capital £3000 lbs. 200 shareholders, 40 shearings carried out in New South Wales, 700,000 sheep shorn.

1920 Strike over 40 hour week.

1921 1.3 million sheep shorn in 70 sheds. First rebate of one-sixteenth of a penny paid to members.

1922 2.3 million sheep shorn in 130 sheds.

1923 Shearing operations extended to Victoria.

1924 Wool classing and pooling started in Sydney.

1925 5 million sheep shorn, 700,000 crutched. Operations extended to Tasmania. 4000 bales pooled.

1927 Grazcos appointed official shearing company of Graziers Association of NSW.

1930 Drought and depression.

1931 Operations extended to Queensland during strike. Office opened in Queensland. Manufacture of licks and drenches started.

1932 6.6 million sheep shorn - 11,000 bales pooled.

1936 Head office building and Alexandria wool store constructed.

1938 Start of major drought.

1939 World War Two started.

1940 Women employed in wool pooling for the first time.

1941 8.6 million sheep shorn, 1.5 million sheep crutched.

1942 Additions made to Alexandria wool store.

1944 Carlton Hotel Club building purchased in Young Street Sydney. Branches opened at Burke, Hamilton,

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Above: 'GRAZCOS' shearers at Warrnambool, 1990. From left: Dean Ball, Dion Morrell, Edsel Forde and Jeff Larsen. Good Kiwi-sounding names, all of them!

Longreach, Moree and Young. Manufacture of Grazcos bushfire fighters started.

1947 State branch of office opened, classing and pooling started in Brisbane.

1948 Company's name changed from the Grazers Co-operative Shearing Ltd to Grazcos Co-operative Shearing Company Ltd. Capital increased from £21,000 to £90,000 by call of outstanding 15 shillings per share.

1949 Grazcos House, Brisbane acquired, country branches opened at Charleville Dubbo and Ballarat.

1951 Capital reached £308,000. 3400 shareholders. Record wool prices.

1953 Wool classing and pooling store at Albion Brisbane, opened by Queensland Premier, branches opened at Blackhall St. George and Queanbeyan.

1954 5000 shareholders. Punched card accounting system installed in Sydney.

1956 Strike over new award rates in all states. 280 learner shearers trained.

1957 Grazcos appointed official sharing company of United Graziers Association, Queensland. Country organisation extended to Hughenden.

1958 Extensions made to Brisbane woolstore.

1959 First school of shearing shared management held at "Gunninbar".

1960 Classing and pooling store erected at Goulburn. Offices opened at Gunnedah, Orange and in Tasmania.

1962 800 sheds handled.

1963 10,000 shareholders. Branches established at Goondiwindi, Walgett and Forbes.

1964 Tally Hi learner shearings introduced. Branches opened at Hay, Deniliquin, Mortlake and Cunnamulla. Veterinary laboratory established at Goulburn.

1965 Widespread drought.

1966 Branches opened at Broken hill and Walcha.

1967 Wool classing and pooling started in Melbourne.

1968 Tasmanian farmers, stock owners, orchardists Association appointed Grazcos its official shearing company.

1969 15,500 shareholders. Rebuilding of Grazcos House in Sydney begun 1000 sheds handled.

This is the 50-year summary of Grazcos' activity as published in the December 2009 edition of *The Ringer's Review,* authorship attributed to George Grant, the magazine's editor. It likely summarises an earlier article published c1969, the source of which is unknown to *Shearing* Magazine/Last Side Publishing Ltd.

The Grazcos company responsible for the activity outlined above continued its business until 1981 when, in the first of a series of company mergers, it became the Farmers Grazcos Co-Op Ltd and in 1984 that company merged with Dalgety and Bennetts Farmers as Dalgety Farmers Ltd.

No doubt we have some older readers who worked for Grazcos. Perhaps you were there the same year as

"The Boy from Tech" (poem by Milton Taylor, RIP)

He got a job with Grazcos, they sent him to a shed
He strode up Monday morning, prepared to knock 'em dead
He made one gun quite snarly when he sneered and said, 'By heck,
You've got this handpiece loaded wrong. Not like we did at Tech.'

You might guess, things didn't end well for the Boy from Tech.
From ***My Ute (and a few others).*** *© Milton Taylor 1996*



Above: *"And if one green bottle should accidentally fall," there could be broken glass all over the floor of a small country town hall. Two usually fine upstanding Southern gentlemen pictured late one night, many years ago. They said they were leaning towards going home, but not just yet ...*



Above: *Meanwhile, down around Masterton and the Wairarapa, the search is on for suitable sheep to be used for the world championships in March. Golden Shears president Trish Stevens said today her committee knows the type of sheep they are looking for, but "There just don't seem to be many of them about at the moment. We will keep looking ...:*

"Time passes. It doesn't ask if you are ready." (Anon)

Thèzac: small but good

By Allan Oldfield

I arrived in the southwest of France in mid-May to find my train cancelled due to flooding, which meant I had to take a bus to a nearby town instead. Luckily, my friend Andy – who had flown to France from his farm in the English countryside – came to pick me up.

The two of us followed Google Maps across unknown terrain to the spot where we'd agreed to meet with Andy's partner Jen and Reinhard, a French shearer I'd met a few years ago and had quickly bonded with over a shared love of blade shearing. Marguerite, a French shepherd who was filling in time before heading to the Pyrenees to look after a flock for the summer, joined us as well.

Andy and I arrived at the farmyard first and weren't sure it was the right place until we saw a solitary farmer bringing some sheep to the shed. Unfortunately, neither of us knew enough French to communicate with the farmer, except to say tonduer de mouton. Actions speak louder than words anyway, so I pulled out a pair of blade shears and made a start on the work.

Andy, who was out of action with an injury, had to instead stand by and chat while I was working through a rather varied mob of sheep. One of the reasons why I like blade shearing is that it's easy to talk while you work, so it's great for catching up with old friends.

When the cavalry arrived, we set up a machine stand to get through the short and sticky-wooled sheep, while the rest of the sheep would be shorn with blade shears. Jen and Marguerite stuck with the blades – they had just started learning to blade shear and were keen for some practice. Reinhard and I swapped between blade shearing and machine shearing. Soon enough we were through the mob. Reinhard's house was only an hour away, so after the job was done, we headed there for dinner. His house, perched above a stream, is an old wool mill with all the equipment still in place, although no longer functioning. It definitely seemed like an appropriate home for a blade shearer.



Above: *Allan Oldfield and part of Thèzac's population.*

Over a wine, Reinhard told us about a shearing competition he was organising in Thèzac. To my surprise, there were only four competitors planned to compete – Reinhard and I in the open grade, and Jen and Marguerite in the novice. Andy had to settle for being a chief referee, judge and timekeeper. "It must be the smallest competition in the world", I'd thought to myself, but this didn't diminish my enthusiasm.

No matter the size, a competition needs some preparation, so a few days later we headed out to select and prepare the sheep for the Thèzac fete. Farmers Lucy and Andrew have a farm not far from Thèzac where they raise sheep, cows and pigs that they get processed and sell locally.

Their sheep were mostly poll dorsets that were in great condition and were clearly well looked after. The lambs had shorter denser wool which wouldn't be as easy to cut as the ewes but the ewes were more varried in size and some had breaks in the wool. We selected 40 lambs for the competition the following day.

Once we belly crutched the sheep, we headed to the fete grounds to set up. This was my first time in Thèzac, and I was quite surprised to find out that it comprised of a church, a bakery and a handful of houses – a fittingly tiny town for a tiny shearing competition. The fete was spread right through the town. A large tractor trailer was set up in a field beside a







vineyard, waiting for us. Not quite the flash shearing stand that most shearing competitions have, but it worked well enough and offered plenty of space for spectators. We used some gates to make up a couple of catching pens up on the trailer and set up some pens behind the trailer to hold sheep. The competition grounds were ready for the big event.

The day of the competition, we arrived in Thèzac to beautiful weather and quite a crowd already strolling slowly through the town, waiting for the fair to start. Lucy and Andrew brought in the lambs, and we loaded them into the pens on the trailer.

Even though there were only two of us in each grade, we decided it would be better to have two rounds to give more opportunities for spectators to see some shearing. This was also the first time that Jen or Marguerite competed, so an extra round was a great opportunity to extend their practice. In the first round of the novice, Jen and Marguerite shore two sheep each and in the open Reinhard and I shore three sheep each. Our friend Laurent on the microphone was amazing at drawing in the crowds, and every time I looked up I was amazed at how many people were watching.

By the time finals came around, the heat of the day started to feel unbearable up on a metal trailer. The ladies had to dig deep in their final shearing three poll Dorset lambs each under the hot sun. Marguerite finished first in just over 20min, with Jen a couple of minutes behind her. This is pretty good going on dense wooled lambs, considering they had each only started blade shearing that week.

Reinhard and I settled on six lambs each for the final. By this stage, a large crowd had gathered to watch. When we got started I thought I made a strong start, until I heard Reinhard finish his first lamb just as I got to the last leg on mine. I knew I wasn't going to be able to let up and hoped that maybe he'd just had a good first sheep. These lambs had dense wool and although I'd caught up with Reinhard after three sheep, my hand was already starting to feel it.

It might have just been a friendly competition, but neither of us were going easy. As I finished my last lamb just ahead of Reinhard, my forearm was throbbing, and I knew I hadn't done the best job on the last lamb because of it. I'd shorn the six lambs in 17min 10s and Reinhard in 17min 40s. It was a close match for speed, but it would be up to the pen scores for the final result.

After the competition, we took turns shearing a few extra sheep down on the ground for people to come and see up close and to ask questions. The people who stuck around seemed to really enjoy seeing us blade shearing and learning about why we still choose to blade shear. It was a great way to give a bit more to the event and to spend some time before prize giving.

Jen's quality points came through for her landing her a win in the novice, and I managed to win the open just ahead of Reinhard. We all recieved a gift basket at prize giving for competing – a token of appreciation from the show organisers.

I think we all had a really great day at Thèzac showing that you don't need a big show to have a good show. While it might be a bit of a stretch for me to travel to each year, I'll definitely be heading back if I'm in Europe again during the Thèzac fete. Hopefully, next time there will be a few more shearers.

* * * * * *

TAHI
NGĀTAHI
ONE, TOGETHER

The shearing machine

By Roger Leslie

In the last edition I wrote of the wonder that is the shearing handpiece. Now I want to look further up the downtube at the machine itself. Many sources of energy have been tried over the years from hand crank, water wheel, steam, stationary motor, mains power, to battery. Some are still in use and while others have been consigned to museums which is probably the best place for them.

I think it's appropriate here, to put in a word for The Wool Shed in Masterton – I've visited museums all round the world and think this is up there with the best. I can't recall visiting any other museum that ensures the aroma is authentic.

We might shear away all day and only give thought to the machine if it stops working properly. As with the handpiece, a lot of clever thought and ingenuity went into the development of the machines themselves. To be fair, the average machine delivered steady revs year in, year out without much maintenance or thought. I shear on one that was installed in 1930. Its owner says the motor has never been touched and only the cone and guts have been replaced. He said no other piece of equipment on the farm comes even close to that shearing plant as it is heading towards a 100 years on the job.

My grandfather had a single stand, water-cooled Lister Portable in a small shed out the back of the cowshed, where he shore his own sheep and a few for the neighbours as well. Sheep were not the main source of income in the Catlins of the 1920s, and he saw this as a necessary evil. I asked my father what happened to that machine and he shrugged, "It probably went in the gully with all his other broken gear." I asked what sort of shearer granddad was and he said, "I dunno, I kept as far away from that as I could, he was never in a good mood when shearing." I spite of this dad also tried his hand at shearing, in a part-time sort of way, and it was he that suggested I might find it a good skill to master. When I learned the Bowen style, he adapted to that and in his early 50s shore his best tally of 200.



My first full day was done on a Cooper-Stewart horizontal. This machine was much more efficient than I was and ran smoothly all day without a quibble. I, though, was a complete wreck. I gave no thought to the technology that ran above my aching back. As the years and tallies progressed, and the pain decreased, I started taking more notice of the machine. Learning early that maintenance is far better than repair. One needed a wide skill-set from starting a stationary motor to oiling the most obscure bearing and elbow nipples. My father advised that my oilcan would be my most important piece of equipment.

Many of the machines I shore on had been purchased from clearing sales and the installation (including electrical connection) had been done by the farmer. These installations, like the farmers themselves, varied widely in application from precise to extremely haphazard (with emphasis on the hazard part). There was an old shearing shed at Cannibal Bay, on the Catlins Coast, with a stationary motor driving a two stand shafter by means of a long flapping belt (there was no electricity at Cannibal Bay). Other mod-cons included an outside bath perched precariously over an open fire pit. What could possibly go wrong? In lieu of a warning sign there was a hole in the roof directly over the motor. This appeared to be where the crank handle had gone through after some hapless individual had failed to get it to disengage after the motor fired up.

Shearing in this shed was the easy part. An old shearer I know (even older than me) told me of shearing there and refused to either confirm or deny whether it was him that lost the crank handle. He did say it took quite a while to find it in the swampy land out behind the shed. He also recalled a time when some bright spark thought the belt was too loose and had come up with the genius plan of putting a twist in it. This worked well until the first sheep were on the board, then the elbow and heel screws started falling off because, of course, the shaft was turning in the reverse direction. When we turn on a machine and it runs smoothly all day, we shouldn't forget the genius that went into making our job easier.

These days I always have my own machine in the car and if the incumbent model doesn't work, or is installed in some annoying or hazardous manner, I can rig up my own. Cripes, I even have my own power supply.



Above: *The Cooper – Roger Leslie's first handpiece.*

Falklands to host international shearing

(News Release)
The Falkland Islands will host an historic International Shearing Test Match between Wales, Chile and the Falkland Islands on Friday 14 November 2025. Falkland Shears are proud to announce that, in partnership with the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC), the Falkland Islands will host its first international shearing and wool handling test match – a tri-nations event featuring teams from Wales, Chile and the Falkland Islands.

Marking a major milestone in the Falkland Islands' long-standing shearing heritage and global recognition in the wool industry, this landmark event aims to strengthen international ties, promote Falkland wool and establish the Falkland Islands as a credible contender for future international hosting opportunities, including membership of the Golden Shears World Council.

"We're incredibly proud to be bringing this international competition to the Falklands for the first time," said Tara Wilson, Chair of the Falkland Shears Committee. "It's an exciting opportunity to showcase the quality of our wool alongside our skilled shearers and wool handlers to the world, while strengthening ties with fellow nations in the shearing community."

Zachary Franklin, Managing Director of FIDC, added: "This event demonstrates the global reputation the Falklands holds in the wool and shearing industries. It's about celebrating tradition, raising the Islands' profile and building new opportunities for rural and economic development."

The original Falkland Shears competition first began in 1991—hosted on a local farm just outside of Stanley—and has since grown into a seasonal circuit and a staple of the rural calendar. Today, with the support of FIDC and the local farming community, the ambition is to professionalise and expand the competition circuit, while honouring the dedication and skill of the shearers and wool handlers who work across the Falkland Islands every season.

This year's event represents a significant step forward in that vision—bringing international teams to the Islands for the first time and providing a platform to showcase the quality of Falkland wool and the global standard of local shearing and wool handling talent.

Falkland Islands Tri-Nations Test Match
The upcoming Falkland Islands Tri-Nations Test Match competition will take place on Friday 14th November 2025 at the Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) hall in Stanley, Falkland Islands and see three national teams compete—each consisting of two shearers and two wool handlers—with confirmed participants from the Falkland Islands, Wales and Chile.

Representing the Falkland Islands, supported by team manager Lee Molkenbuhr, will be shearers Evan Jones and Adam Dickson, alongside wool handlers Pilar Castro and Holly Turner. This team brings a strong mix of experience and local knowledge, having competed both at home and abroad in recent years.

The Welsh team, accompanied by team manager Rhys Jones, will include world champion shearer Gwion Lloyd Evans and Llyr Jones, supported by wool handlers Sarah Rees and Jessica Morgan, all of whom are well known on the competitive shearing circuit and bring world-class expertise to the event.

Travelling from South America, the Chilean team will feature shearers Kenneth MacLeod and Jorge Carcamo, with wool handlers Camila Quinteros Peñafiel and Archie Sepulveda, showcasing the high level of shearing talent present in the region and highlighting the strong ties between Chile and the Falkland Islands.

Winners of the test match will receive a total prize fund of £8,000, with £4,000 awarded to the winning shearing team and £4,000 to the winning wool handling team, recognising excellence in both disciplines. A total prize fund of £4,000 will be awarded to the runners-up with the same division applied. To mark the significance of the occasion, an official reception will be hosted at Government House, bringing together competitors, sponsors, supporters and dignitaries in celebration of international cooperation and rural excellence.

Alongside the Falkland Islands Tri-Nations Test Match, the event will include Falkland Shears' annual open competition sponsored by Dedicare, farm visits and a range of associated activities and excursions in celebration of the Falkland Islands.



Above: *The sheep and spectators are ready and waiting ...*

Teams will travel via LATAM from Chile and the RAF Airbridge from the United Kingdom, with the full cost of flights and accommodation for visiting competitors and officials being covered by the Falkland Islands.

The Falkland Islands Tri-Nations Test Match has been generously sponsored and supported by Aquila, AtLink, Consolidated Fisheries (CFL), Falkland Islands Company (FIC), Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC), Falklands Landholdings Corporation (FLH), Fortuna, International Tours & Travel (ITT), Sulivan Shipping Services, Sure South Atlantic and Trant Engineering. Falkland Shears and FIDC are now actively seeking additional sponsorship and support to help deliver this historic and landmark event.

FALKLAND ISLANDS
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) is the national economic development agency for the Falkland Islands – driving sustainable economic growth and assisting with the creation of new jobs, industries and opportunities. FIDC is one of the principal partners delivering the Economic, Rural and Tourism Development Strategies across the Falkland Islands and the lead for the Innovation Strategy. FIDC operates as a quasi-autonomous government-funded body with an annual budget of approximately £1m per annum.



FALKLAND SHEARS

Falkland Shears

Falkland Shears is the organising body behind the Falkland Islands' premier shearing competitions, committed to celebrating and advancing the skill, speed and professionalism of local and visiting shearers and wool handlers. The Falkland Shears competition was first established in 1991, originally held on a small sheep farm near Stanley during the Christmas period, offering entertainment and friendly competition for shearers when work paused for the seasonal holidays.

From those early beginnings, the event steadily grew in reputation and participation, rotating among larger farms including North Arm, Goose Green and Fitzroy. A formal organising committee – Falkland Shears – was later formed to manage and promote the event.

Falkland Shears is committed to expanding the scale and visibility of these events, attract more competitors and showcase to the world the extraordinary work ethic and talent found within the Falklands' shearing and wool handling community. Today, these events remain the primary fundraising activities for the Falkland Shears organisation, supporting the continued growth of the sport across the Islands.

For more information contact the Falkland Shears Committee: Tara Wilson, **falklandshears@fidc.co.fk** **www.falklandshears.com .**















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EWIT – Proactive, practical and proud!

By Tom Wilson (Elite Wool Industry Training)

In the wake of recent scrutiny from animal rights groups like PETA, the wool industry has faced renewed pressure to not only meet – but be seen to exceed – animal welfare standards. At Elite Wool Industry Training, we've chosen to meet this challenge head-on, through proactive education, transparency, and hands-on skill-building.

Our solution? A nationwide roll-out of in-person and online Animal Welfare and Calm Sheep Handling (AW&CSH) inductions – designed to give shearing teams the tools, understanding, and confidence to handle animals respectfully, calmly, and within the expectations of the Animal Welfare Act (1999).

In-person sessions allow full shearing teams to be inducted together in a hands-on environment, fostering understanding, team accountability, and a consistent approach in the woolshed.

Our online version provides flexible, accessible training that contractors can assign to individual workers or use to onboard new team members – anytime, anywhere.

Staff from some contractors and individuals have already completed their in-person or online induction, setting an example for the wider industry. These sessions cover calm handling principles, legal responsibilities, and real-life applications – ensuring compliance but also building pride and confidence in doing things right.

These sessions are designed not just to "tick a box," but to create a shift in awareness – one that stays with shearers, pressers, and shedhands well beyond the woolshed.

Rather than brushing off criticism or waiting for regulation to catch up, we've committed to real-world training that gets to the heart of the matter: people on the ground, doing the work right. The industry knows its value. We know the respect our people have for the animals they work with. But in today's climate, it's essential that we demonstrate it – clearly, openly, and professionally.

At Elite, we're committed to being part of the solution, helping to future-proof our industry by raising the bar from the inside out. This is about restoring public trust, protecting livelihoods, and showing the world what professional wool harvesting really looks like.





Above: *Elite Wool Industry Training (EWIT) is providing courses designed to give shearing teams the tools, understanding, and confidence to handle animals respectfully, calmly, and within the expectations of the Animal Welfare Act 1999.*

To enquire about AW&CSH inductions or training delivery for your team, or any shearing or woolhandling courses visit: **E-learning (online) book.elitewoolindustrytraining.com/AWCSHOC**

In Person: https://book.elitewoolindustrytraining.com/AWCSHIP www.elitewoolindustrytraining.co.nz

www.facebook.com/ewitnz








EL-DORADO
BAYLEYS




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Golden Shears Programme of Events

	Stadium		Marquee
Wednesday Morning 4 March 2026			
Shearing	Novice heats	Woolhandling	Novice heats
	Junior heats		Junior heats
	Novice semifinals		Novice semifinals
	Junior semifinals		
	Student Challenge final		
Wednesday Afternoon 4 March 2026			
Shearing	Intermediate heats	Woolhandling	Senior heats
	Senior heats		Junior semifinals
	Intermediate semifinals		Senior semifinals
Wednesday Evening 4 March 2026			
Woolhandling	Novice final		
Shearing	Novice final		
Shearing	Junior final		
Woolhandling	Junior final		
Woolhandling	Senior final		
Shearing	Intermediate final		
Thursday Morning 5 March 2026			
Woolhandling	GS open heats	Shearing	GS open blades heats
Shearing	World blades shearing Round 1		

	Stadium		Marquee
Thursday Afternoon 5 March 2026			
Woolhandling	World woolhandling Round 1	Shearing	GS open blades semifinals
Shearing	World machine shearing Round 1		
Thursday Evening 5 March 2026			
		Shearing	Teddy Bear Shear
		Speedshear	Senior speedshear
		Speedshear	Open Speedshear
Friday Morning 6 March 2026			
Woolhandling	World woolhandling Round 2		Live Streaming
Shearing	GS open shearing heats		Community activation
Friday Afternoon 6 March 2026			
Shearing	World machine shearing Round 2		Live streaming
Shearing	World blades shearing Round 2		Community activation
Shearing	GS open Top 30		
Friday Evening 6 March 2026			
Woolhandling	World woolhandling teams 'B'		Live streaming
Shearing	World machine shearing teams 'B'		Community activation
Shearing	World teams blades shearing		
Woolhandling	World woolhandling teams 'A'		
Shearing	World machine shearing teams 'A'		
Saturday Morning 7 March 2026			
Woolhandling	GS open Top 20		Live streaming
Shearing	GS senior shearing semifinals		Community activation
Woolhandling	NIWC woolhandling final		
Shearing	Womens' shearing invitation		
Shearing	GS open blades final		
Shearing	PGG Wrightson/Vetmed National Circuit semifinal		
Shearing	GS senior shearing final		
Woolhandling	GS open woolhandling semifinals		
Saturday Afternoon 7 March 2026			
Shearing	PGG Wrightson/Vetmed National Circuit shearing final		Live streaming
Shearing	World blades shearing semifinal		Community activation
Shearing	World shearing semifinal		
Woolhandling	World woolhandling semifinal		
Shearing	Maori-Pakeha teams shearing final		
Shearing	GS open shearing semifinals		
Saturday Evening 7 March 2026			
Woolhandling	World woolhandling final		Live streaming
Shearing	World shearing final		
Shearing	World blade shearing final		
Woolhandling	Golden Shears open woolhandling final		
Shearing	Golden Shears open shearing final		

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