Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

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Leon Samuels at Golden Shears 2024. The 25th Open Champion since 1961.

Last Side Publishing
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Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

Number 114: (Vol 40, No 1) April 2024
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UNDER COVER STORY

Greetings readers and Facebook followers and welcome to this 114th edition of *Shearing* magazine, number 1 of Volume 40. Yes, that means we are into our 40th year of publication.

Once again we have produced an 80-page edition, with our usual reports, results and photo galleries for Golden Shears and the New Zealand championships. We profile a variety of people from within the industry and regrettably have to farewell several iconic figures who have passed on.

With both Golden Shears and New Zealand championships reviewed in the same magazine, our material this time is probably more about the 'shows' than the 'sheds' (we do like to keep a balance).

Perhaps it was the feat of Leon Samuels who generated the biggest 'noise' on social media in recent times. Not since Alan Donaldson in 1983 (and Snow Quinn a decade or more before him) has a shearer won the New Zealand Merino Shears title at Alexandra and the Golden Shears open at Masterton in the same season. Not only that, but Leon also held concurrently the New Zealand second shear title at Te Kuiti and the New Zealand lamb shearing title at McKenzie Shears. You might agree Leon fits that old Fred McSkimming definition of the man who can shear anything, and well. (Go and win at Christchurch some time, Leon!)

In the sheds we've had an unprecedented season of world records. We provide coverage of the remarkable efforts by Sacha Bond and Megan Whitehead and will provide more information about the men in our next issue. We have also 'used up' about ten pages at the back with Shearing Sports finals statistics. These have been compiled by the magazine and should therefore be regarded as unofficial.

You'll note in the column opposite our 'Facebook profile' continues to grow which means 'the Mag' is reaching more and more people with each edition. It would be great to see our 'followers' hit the 5000 mark by August!

Best wishes, take care, we'll see you then.

Ka kite ano
Nga mihi, Des Williams

Photo Credits:
Alan Cooke Studios p 37; Bruce Rogers Shearing p 9, 10; Facebook p 12, 13, 20; Heiniger p 4; Jayne Harkness-Bones p 27, 28; NZ Wool Classers Assn' p5, 6; Pete Nikolaison p 15, 16, 17, 54; Richard Sampey p 70, 72, 74, 75; Roger Leslie p53; Shearing Sports NZ p11, 30; Shearing Sports Wales p47, 48; Top Gun Shearing Supplies p38. All others *Shearing* magazine/Last Side Publishing Ltd.

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Next edition due 27 August 2024.
Deadline for all material two weeks prior.

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Go HARDER For LONGER



1. NEW TENSION SLEEVE SHAPE

- Unique shape of the tension sleeve ensures free movement at all times

Benefits:

- **Better Flow** – the free turning tension sleeve means less binding or jamming of the sleeve, resulting in reduced wear on the tension pin and sleeve
- **Runs Cooler** – maintaining the correct shape on the top of the pin
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2. LIGHTER BACK JOINT

- New lighter back joint compared to the FX, making the total weight 12% lighter than the Cyclone
- New shape of inner and outer back joints

Benefits:

- Better balance through improved weight distribution
- Less weight in the back end improves manoeuvrability
- New back joint shape keeps the back end moving freely with less strain on the wrist
- Less weight in the hand means less fatigue on the body





3. SMALLER BACK JOINT COVER

- New slimmer back joint cover shape

Benefits:

- Ensures optimal comfort in the hand



4. NEW COGS

- New cog material and improved teeth shape

Benefits:

- Smoother running for longer
- Reduced noise level

Heiniger's new ICON SFX is 'Next level'

(Supplied)

In 1999, Heiniger released the first ICON handpiece. It was a major improvement over its predecessor, the Omega handpiece. Since its release 25 years ago, ICON handpieces have been used by thousands of shearers around the world. There have been eight different ICON's, and every shearer has their favourites. Whether it was the first edition green "Kermit" (1999), or the Solaris, Royal (2006-2007), or Redback (2009-2014), or maybe the current Cyclone or FX.

The ICON handpiece has continued to see incremental improvements to key components over the course of the past 25 years. However, with the release of the newest ICON handpiece from Heiniger, the SFX, some more significant advancements have arrived.



As the name suggests, this new handpiece is an evolution of the current FX model. But it could be argued this latest update from Heiniger is more of a revolution, than an evolution. With a focus on improving performance in all conditions, Heiniger has introduced a range of technical upgrades that ensure smoother operation and superior results.

Key among these enhancements is the redesigned tension sleeve, offering freer movement of the tension pin and sleeve, more even wear and the ability to apply consistent pressure to the cutter at all times, with cutters of any thickness.

Additionally, weight reduction and geometry changes of the back joint reduce build up from sweat and grime, keeping the back end free, and with the slimmer back joint cover, deliver a more comfortable, better-balanced shearing experience.

But the innovations don't stop there. The SFX introduces new cogs crafted from advanced materials, promising smoother performance and increased durability.

These improvements represent the culmination of years of research and development, resulting in the most significant advancements in handpiece technology in recent memory.

Heiniger

When results matter



Shearers who have been involved in the testing of the SFX praise its smooth operation, responsiveness and unmatched performance.

One shearer stated, "it's a start of a new era, it's accurate and so responsive, it allows you to control the uncontrollable." Whilst another suggested that "the Icon SFX is the best handpiece I have ever used."

Heiniger's R&D Manager, Selwyn Williams, describes the Icon SFX as "Next level". He commented that "shearers of any ability will enjoy reaching new personal shearing goals with this handpiece.

"Shearers want performance and reliability," said Mr Williams. "The new Icon SFX delivers all that and more," he added.

Heiniger's General Manager of Sales, Marketing and R&D for Australia and New Zealand, Dale Harris, adds that "the Icon SFX is a big leap forward in handpiece development. Heiniger is dedicated to continuous improvement, and the release of the Icon SFX is the result of years of hard work by our team in Switzerland, Australia and the UK, both in the factory and in the field."

The new Icon SFX was launched in Te Kuiti during the New Zealand Shearing Championships, and simultaneously throughout the globe on 4 April 2024.

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.

Registration is now open for NZWCA Industry Professional Development Day/AGM in Mosgiel on May 13 2024.
One of the key speakers on the day will be Laurie "the legend" Boniface. After 60 years in the wool industry, including the last 40 as a wool tutor, Laurie has decided he has, in his own words, "done my dash". Laurie is retiring at the end of June, and has recently handed his notice in to the Southern Institute of Technology, which now runs the NZ Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing.

Explains NZWCA Registrar Marg Forde, "we in NZWCA believe this day will be a fitting time to acknowledge Laurie and his huge contribution to wool and wool education in New Zealand, we are looking forward to hearing Laurie share his wool journey with everyone present. With support from the NZ wool sector, we have organised for Laurie's wife Judy and for Richard Gavigan (the wool tutor who will be left in charge of what is NZ's only remaining tertiary level wool qualification) to be present on the day too.

"We believe any acknowledgment of Laurie will have more meaning if it comes collectively from across the NZ wool industry; we are very aware how many lives and careers Laurie has positively touched in his years as a wool tutor, beginning at Massey University under Bill Regnault."

All are welcome to attend the Industry PD Day/AGM but pre-registration is requested. All those who pre-register will go in the draw on the day for a $1499 (rrp) woollen rug generously donated by Bremworth. The programmes for such NZWCA days are designed for NZWCA members but are always a time of upskilling and connecting for all involved in the wool and wool harvesting industry.

Attendance, which will include smokos and lunch, is free for NZWCA members and $30 for non members. (Student and group rate available.)

The day on May 13 will begin with wool exercises at the venue, Taieri Bowls Clubroom at 12 Wickliffe St, and end with a visit to the PGGW wool store nearby. In between there will be speakers including Laurie, G Schnieder wool buyer and exporter Helen Cameron,

Ryan Cosgrove (chairman of Campaign for Wool NZ, co-founder fusca.co.nz, and on team at Mons Royale) and key messages from wool brokers for the coming new season. The AGM, including announcement and presentation of the annual NZWCA Classer Awards will be immediately after the lunch break. To register or for more information go to **www.woolclassers.org.nz**

Successful NZWCA Marlborough Wool Day held earlier this year at the region's closing wool store.
The Marlborough Wool Day held in late January in the Wool Marketing Marlborough Nelson Ltd wool store in Blenheim was the initiative of NZWCA Board member Ratapu Moore.

Initially planned for April this year, the day had to be brought forward to late January due the pending closure of the wool store with the retirement of business co-owner Bob Butt. Ratapu, a classer and the NZ Shearing Contractors Association representative on the NZWCA Board, led the organisation and was helped on the day by Board chair Bill



Retiring top of the South Island wool stalwart Bob Butt (centre) is acknowledged with a presentation and gift from NZ Wool Classers Assn chairman Bill Dowle and Board member Karen Wilkins-Duff at the NZWCA Marlborough Wool Day in January.



Part of the NZWCA Marlborough Wool Day in January was a wool preparation demonstration. Photo shows (at left of table) NZWCA Board members Ratapu Moore and (at right of table) Terence Mulcahy in action. Ratapu was the lead organiser for the event.

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Dowle and Board members Terence Mulcahy, Karen Wilkins-Duff and Mitchell Young. Bill Dowle commented: "We were extremely overdue for a day in Marlborough and it wouldn't have happened without Ratapu's enthusiasm and great input organising the day and work on the day."

The aim of the day was to positively bring together wool growers and other shearing industry members. It attracted good local support with morning smoko provided by Moore Sheep Shearing Ltd and lunch by Farmlands Blenheim branch. There were practical wool demonstrations and discussions, a wool store tour and speakers including Bruce Reid of NZ Wool Services International, Mitchell Young of WoolWorks and local wool growers and entrepreneurs Freddy & Nikita Gane of Kaituna Ridges.

Retiring industry stalwart for the region Bob Butt was the final speaker, regaling those present with his wool tales and memories. At the conclusion he was surprised with a presentation from NZWCA of a Kaituna Ridges wool blanket, embroidered with the NZWCA logo.

* * * * * *

The Poet
Away back in time there has always been rhyme
In history and down through the ages.
Their joy will not sever, they'll go on forever
As poets put pen to the pages. **(Tim Borthwick)**

(Just some purple prose. Er, poetry.)

New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology & Classing (L4)





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

People working in the following wool industry sectors can all benefit from this Level 4 NZQA-approved qualification:

- Farming
- Wool Handling
- Wool Classing
- Wool Brokering
- Wool Buying
- Wool Testing
- Wool Exporting
- Wool Scouring

"New Zealand wool is making a comeback and our industry needs more people who have the training and qualifications to back their passion and practical skills. There are more and more opportunities out there and this course is a must for anyone wanting to advance their career in wool." – Marg Forde, Registrar, New Zealand Wool Classers Association

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HELP US ALL RAISE OUR GAME IN THE WOOLSHED

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

Our aim is to:

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

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

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

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

TAHI NGĀTAHI
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DON'T DO YOUR BACK IN

Learn Your Warm-Ups

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



DON'T BLOW YOUR WRIST

Don't Blow Your Wrist

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



Generous Geraldine

By Rauche Hall

The picturesque town of Geraldine came alive on Friday, March 8th, as the community gathered to witness and celebrate the artistry and skill of shearers at the highly anticipated Speed Shear event. Hosted by BR Shearing and The Village Inn, the event showcased talent across three categories: Clean Shear, Senior, and Open.

The atmosphere was electric as a total of 41 entries competed, drawing in over 200 enthusiastic spectators to the garden area, while an additional 100 enjoyed the action from inside the cozy confines of The Village Inn. The event's success was attributed to the dedication and coordination of the organising committee, along with the support of numerous sponsors and volunteers who ensured everything ran smoothly.

Two seasoned judges, Tony Dobbs and Paul Gallagher, oversaw the competitions alongside diligent timekeepers and masters of ceremonies, ensuring fairness and efficiency throughout the event. A special mention goes to all the staff who contributed to the preparation, execution, and cleanup, as well as The Village Inn's staff who provided hospitality services to attendees.

One of the standout moments of the day came in the Clean Shear category, where Chloe Lund showcased her exceptional skill and determination, emerging victorious on International Women's Day. Lund's win was a powerful testament to the growing presence and talent of women in traditionally male-dominated fields.

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The results across the categories were as follows:

Clean Shear:
1st Place: Chloe Lund
2nd Place: Mitch Notion
3rd Place: Levi Brooking

Senior:
1st Place: Aiden Tarrant (Taumarunui) - Time: 32.80
2nd Place: Blake Crooks (Tangiora)
3rd Place: Dre Roberts (Mataura)
4th Place: Kapua Brown (Taumarunui)

Open:
1st Place: Paerata Abraham (Masterton) - Time: 21.6
2nd Place: Brett Roberts (Mataura)
3rd Place: Llyr Jones (Wales)
4th Place: Alex Clapham (England)

The success of the event was further amplified by the generous support of sponsors, each contributing to the event's prizes, logistics, and overall success. A heartfelt thank you goes out to:

- The Village Inn
- Solve Chartered Accountants
- Fresh Choice
- Avalee Station
- Bidfood
- Blair Supertyre Distributors
- Coleridge Downs
- Cochranes
- Farm Fresh Meats
- FMG
- Gateway Vets
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- Lonestar Barewood
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- MyBallance
- Pan Friend – ACE
- PGG Wrightson
- Quality Tyres
- Route 79
- Vetlife
- Warren White
- Wholesale Seeds, and
- Woodleys.



Their generosity played a pivotal role in making the event a resounding success.

As the sun set on the day's festivities, participants and attendees alike left with a sense of fellowship and appreciation for the timeless tradition of shearing, ensuring that the Geraldine Speed Shear event of 2024 would be remembered as a highlight in the community calendar for years to come.

Pictured above: *Chloe Lund, winner of the clean shear.* ***Over page: Top and centre:*** *Crowd shots at the Geraldine Speedshear.* ***Bottom:*** *Prizewinners in the Open category: From left, Paul Hodges (MC), Alex Clapham, Llyr Jones, Brett Roberts, Paerata Abraham (winner).*







Shearing thanks the following advertisers for supporting the magazine. Without which, there is no magazine!

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Wales, away win at last

History has been made at the New Zealand Shears in Te Kuiti tonight with Wales' first-ever shearing test match win over New Zealand in New Zealand.

Avenging a 3-0 defeat in Wales last year, Masterton shearers Paerata Abraham and David Gordon had taken an unbeatable Wools of New Zealand International Shearing Series lead after winning the first two tests at Raetihi and Waipukurau, the latter by just 1.9 points.

But Wales, with Rhayader shearer Gethin Lewis, who was in a development team beaten 3-0 in New Zealand last year before returning north for the home-series win, joined by Stafford-based Llyr Jones, from Llanrwst, saved the best until last to claim the 20-lambs-each King Country series-ender by just 0.188 points.

Abraham dominated the race, finishing in 15m 43.72s, more than 23 seconds before next-man-off Lewis, who had the best quality points, while Gordon and Jones provided the closing entertainment, a blow-for-blow race to avoid being last to finish, Gordon winning by 0.73 seconds.

It was another major triumph for Wales in World shearing, for many years dominated by the black singlet.

But Wales is now firmly on top after back-to-back 2019 and 2023 world title wins to Richard Jones and Gwion Evans respectively and the pair's teams win in the latest championships in Scotland last June – the same pair having been beaten 5-0 in a series in New Zealand in 2016.

Lewis (the reigning Champion Shearer of Wales) and Llyr Jones have each worked at least five summers in New Zealand,



The winning Wools of New Zealand New Zealand shearing team at Raetihi, David Gordon (left), Paerata Abraham (right), and manager Ronnie King. Photo / SSNZ.



The Welsh team at Raetihi, with Llyr Jones (left) and Gethin Lewis (right), with manager Hywel Jones, Photo / SSNZ.

and were ecstatic as the result was announced, and said the win would be seen as "big" back in Wales.

Team manager Hywel Jones, who shore successfully as a lower grades shearer working in New Zealand in the early 1980s, said his pair had shorn well in the three matches with closer results match-by-match.

First Wools of New Zealand international at Waimarino Shears, Raetihi, 16 March 2024 (20 sheep): New Zealand (David Gordon 18m 26.84s, 62.142pts; Paerata Abraham 17m 55.73s, 62.737pts) 124.879pts, beat Wales (Gethin Lewis 17m 57.25s, 61.863pts; Llyr Jones18m 44.28s, 69.264pts) 131.127pts, 6.248pts.

Second Wools of New Zealand International at Hawkes Bay Autumn Shears, Waipukurau, 3 April 2024: New Zealand (Paerata Abraham 16m 13s, 57.4pts; David Gordon 17m 23s, 59.7pts) 117.1pts, beat Wales (Gethin Lewis 16m 19s, 59.25pts; Llyr Jones 16m 39s, 59.75pts) by 1.9pts. :

Third Wools of New Zealand International at Te Kuiti on 5 Aprtil 2024 (20 lambs): Wales (Gethin Lewis 16m 7.23s, 55.912pts, 1; Llyr Jones 16m 19.7s, 62.685pts) 119.597pts, beat New Zealand (David Gordon 16m 18.97s, 57.949pts; Paerata Abraham 15m 43.72s, 61.836pts) 119.785pts, by 0.188pts. New Zealand won the series 2-1. *(Doug Laing)*



American National Championships 2024

Report from Facebook Post February 2024

This year's competition, held at the Black Hills Stock Show, Rapid City, South Dakota, went smooth as anybody could hope, but not without the hard work of our volunteers. The council would like to take a minute to thank everybody who contributed to our national contest.

Thank you to fellow shearers and family members who donated their time as judges and timekeepers. It often feels like show days are longer and harder than a normal shearing day, and we appreciate everyone's support in helping the shearing community celebrate camaraderie through sport.

Special thanks to Michael Pora for acting as Referee. We also appreciate the hard work of those behind the scenes with the paperwork of score keeping and the set up of the shearing stands, equipment, and care of the animals that allow us to have this competition. Some of you may not know, but sheep that were not used for competition were shorn by volunteer shearers at the end of the day.

This national competition is included in the point system used to determine a US representative in the world champion sheep shearing contest, the Golden Shears. Every world competition, we send two wool handlers, two blade shearers, and two machine shearers to represent as Team USA. The next Golden Shears is scheduled for New Zealand in 2026. If that sounds like fun, stay tuned for future qualifying events.

Woolhandling

The wool handling competition showcases the care given to the fleece during and after shearing. In this event, one competitor will collect and sort three fleeces shorn by two shearers simultaneously. This requires next-level multitasking to work on two shearing boards efficiently, a priceless skill in the shearing sheds. With this year's more relaxed border policies, a Canadian swooped in for the champion title.

The 2024 woolhandling finalists: 1st place: Pauline Bolay; 2nd place: Leann Brimmer; 3rd place: Christopher Troendle; 4th place: Doug Rathke.



Above: *Woolhandling finalists, from left: Doug Rathke (4th), Christopher Troendle (3rd), Leann Brimmer (2nd), Pauline Bolay (1st).*

Sheep used for competition

Rambouillet replacement ewe lambs, crutched prior to the show (belly wool was removed for blade shearing)

Blade shearing

The relationship between shepherd and sheep has been around for 9,000 years, and blade shears for half of that. In our technologically driven world, it's relaxing to take it back to the basics with the quiet snips of shears. All of the new faces in this years competition makes us excited for the future of this category's growth, but in the end, it was a veteran who left with the win. Each shearer completed two sheep in the prelims, and four finalists had three sheep apiece.

The 2024 blade shearing finalists: 1st place: Doug Rathke; 2nd place: Loren Opstedahl; 3rd place: Mary Lake; 4th place: Tadlee Opstedahl.

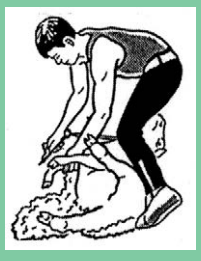


Above: *Blade shearing finalists, from right: Doug Rathke (1st), Loren Opstedahl (2nd), Mary Lake (3rd), Tadlee Opstedahl (4th),*

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Beginner machine shearing

Our novice category really showed up this year with 9 competitors. It's a great example of how this sport serves to better our industry. Beginners get the chance to meet experienced shearers and spend the day alongside them, giving way for mentorship. But this year's champion learned through legacy. Tayler is the son of Loren Opstedahl, a past national champion whose family has shearing roots as deep as the 1800s. In the heats, each shearer was responsible for one sheep, and in the finals, four contestants were responsible for two sheep apiece.

The 2024 beginner machine shearing finalists: 1st place: Tayler Opstedahl; 2nd place: Tirzah Gunther; 3rd place: Thomas Kuhn; 4th place: Edith Nickel.



Tayler Opstedahl; 1st place: Tirzah Gunther; 2nd place: Thomas Kuhn; 3rd place: Edith Nickel, 4th place.

Intermediate machine shearing

Our Intermediate category was a battle to be the best, but in the end, twin brothers bagged the first and second place with a mere 5 point spread between them. In the intermediate heats, each shearer shore 3 sheep. During the semi-finals, everyone got a second go at 4 sheep. And in the finals, four competitors shore 6 sheep apiece.

Congratulations to our 2024 intermediate finalists: 1st place: Luke Zeglam; 2nd place: Eddie Zeglam; 3rd place: Walter Wright; 4th place: Rowdy Thompson.

Professional machine shearing

Last, but by no means least, our professional category began with 10 competitors. Our new council vice president, Kurtis



Above: *Fourth-placed shearing finalist Nolan Abel receiving his award. Sponsor Ralph McWilliams (McWilliams Shearing Supplies) in the background.*

Mooney, led the charge in the prelims and semi-finals, but in the final four showdown, Alex Moser pulled out the win by half a point. It's always incredible to watch high caliber shearers compete, but it's even more exciting when 30 seconds and half a point separate the top two. That was some fine shearing, gentleman, but there's a long journey to New Zealand 2026!

Shoutout to our 2024 professional finalists: 1st place: Alex Moser; 2nd place: Kurtis Mooney; 3rd place: Timothy Wright; 4th place: Nolan Abel.

Watch the full event here: **https://shedtalk.live/national-shearing-contest/**

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Safety Belt Myths

Myth One: "It's better to be thrown clear of the wreckage in a crash."
Fact: You are four times more likely to die if thrown from a vehicle.

Myth Two: "Safety belts may hamper your escape from a burning or submerged vehicle."
Fact: Safety belts can stop you being knocked unconsious, which improves your chance of escape.

Myth Three: "It takes up too much time fastening your seatbelt during the day."
Fact: Buckling your safety belt takes about three seconds. So even if you buckle up 20 times a day that's just one minute.

Myth Four: "Good drivers don't need to wear safety belts."
Fact: If you're a good driver, you may not cause a crash. But who's to say you won't be involved in a crash caused by a bad driver, or some other factor such as bad weather, mechanical failure or blow out?

Myth Five: "Safety belts aren't necessary when driving at low speed."
Fact: In a front-on crash at 30km/hr, an unbelted driver will continue to move forward after impact, hitting the windscreen at 30km/hr. That's the same speed at which you'd hit the ground after falling from a three-storey building.

Myth Six: "Safety belts are uncomfortable and restrict movement."
Fact: Provided the seatbelt is correrectly adjusted, there should be no discomfort or restriction of movement. A 'safety belt slipper' will also cushion your shoulder.

(ACC Injury Prevention 2011)

Quinn, Donaldson – and now Leon Samuels

By Doug Laing (Shearing Sports NZ)

Southland shearer Leon Samuels became the first South Islander to win the Golden Shears Open shearing title in 35 years in a dramatic six-man final of 20 sheep each in Masterton last month. As reigning New Zealand Merino Shears champion, Samuels thus joins Brian Quinn and Alan Donaldson as the only three to achieve that double, with Donaldson the most recent, forty years ago.

The winner of the New Zealand Shears Open final at Te Kuiti last April and thus a member of the New Zealand team at the world championships in Scotland two months later, Samuels was second in the race – the only shearer to get within a sheep of Wairarapa's miracle-man David Buick, who shore the final in 16m 16s, one of the quicker times in the 62 years of the event. It was just two-and-a-half years after Buick was so badly injured in an accident on his Pongaroa farm the prognosis was that he might not even walk again.

Ultimately it was a Southland one-two, with 40-year-old Samuels, originally from Mangakino in the Central North Island but based in Southland or Australia for many years, and with only one previous Golden Shears Open final beforehand (third in 2020), winning by 1.253pts from Riverton's Casey Bailey, shearing in his first Golden Shears open final.

Losing some points in judging of the sheep in the pens, Buick was a further 1.26pts back in third place, followed in order by Southland veteran Nathan Stratford, in his 12th Golden Shears Open final; first-time championship finalist James Ruki, of Te Kuiti, and 2015 winner, Gavin Mutch.

The last South Island shearer to win the Open was Edsel Forde in 1989, and it was Forde who was also last from the South Island to win the New Zealand Shears Open (in 1993) until Samuels won it 11 months ago. Among those in the crowd of about 1000 was Alexandra great Brian 'Snow' Quinn, who won the Golden Shears Open title six times between 1965 and 1972. (He didn't compete in 1969.)

The 2024 drama started before the shears started, with eight-times winner Rowland Smith withdrawing because of injury, and fancied Northland gun Toa Henderson eliminated in the quarterfinals. That pair and Samuels were quoted from the outset by the TAB as the most likely to win. Samuels' triumph gave him his fifth win for the season.

Stratford won a third PGG Wrightson National Shearing Circuit final, with just a 0.355pts margin to Samuels in second place, in another Southland quinella.

It was Stratford's 20th National circuit final, and on the night he also shore his 18th trans-Tasman test, a New Zealand team record.He celebrated by teaming with Samuels and Marlborough shearer Angus Moore in an all-South Island win over Australians Daniel McIntyre, Nathan Meaney and Josh Bone.

But there were just 2.51pts in the test-match result, the closest margin in trans-Tasman shearing tests since an Australian victory at Warrnambool, Vic, in 2013, and New Zealand's narrowest win since 2009.

The first test in the annual home-and-away series was at Euroa, Vic, in October 1974, and there have now been 71 tests, Australia winning 38 and New Zealand 33. There were no tests from 1984 to 1997.

Stratford has announced this was his last test. So often he has shorn for New Zealand in the test, which is held just a few minutes prior to the Golden Shears open final – a loyalty and commitment that surely was detrimental to his chances of winning the Open. But for Samuels, the occasion provided a proud moment to celebrate the win with his mentor.

It also gave New Zealand a 2-0 weekend, after woolhandlers Tia Potae and Cushla Abraham won their match against the Australian woolhandling team of Marlene Whittle and Alexander Schoff on the Friday night.

Also on Saturday night, Joel Henare, aged 32, from Gisborne and stepping back from some competitions this season to focus on his children in Motueka, won the Golden Shears open woolhandling title for the tenth time in a row, but with a narrow margin of just six points from Alexandra's Pagan Rimene.





Above: *Reading the famous names on the trophy ahead of him – Leon Samuels, Golden Shears Open Champion Number 25.*

The North Island Open woolhandling circuit final, carrying a place in the 2024-2025 New Zealand trans-Tasman series team, was won by Keryn Herbert, of Te Kuiti.

But, with her allegiance now with the Cook Islands the team position went to runner-up Ngaio Hanson, of Eketahuna who, despite also having represented New Zealand at the world championships in Scotland, is yet to win an open woolhandling final.

The second woolhandling member of the trans-Tasman team next season will come from the New Zealand Merino Shears final in Alexandra in October this year.

A double for Taumarunui couple

Taumarunui partners Forde Alexander and Vinniye Phillips, who have a young son and daughter, won the Golden Shears senior finals. Alexander was second-off in the shearing final of 12 sheep each, six seconds behind leading Southland hope Nathan Bee's 12m 30s, but had the best quality both on the board and in the pens to win by more than two points from eventual runner-up Gabriel Winders, of Invercargill. Bee had to settle for third place, but with just 0.003 points separating the pair in the race for the minor money.

The couple (Alexander and Phillips) had been consistent placegetters as they travelled the shows together, each managing two wins earlier in the season, Alexander at the Hawke's Bay show's Great Raihania Shears in October and a fortnight later at the Manawatu show, but Phillips didn't win until claiming the Taumarunui and Apiti shears' titles the previous Friday and Saturday.

They will both be trying to make it a double-double at the New Zealand Shears in Te Kuiti next month, their last show before graduating to Open-class next year, where Phillips will join her sister and 2020 Golden Shears junior woolhandling champion Te Anna Phillips.

It was close – but there was still a winner

The Intermediate shearing final, over eight sheep each, was always shaping as a close and open affair, and ended with just 0.98 points between first and fourth, the victory going to 27-year-old Feilding shearer Tini Papanui.

Gisborne farmer and shearer Dylan Young won the race in 10m 0.9s, more than a minute quicker than 27-year-old Papanui, the next man off. Papanui was also just third-best on quality points, but had the best combination to beat eventual runner-up Young by 0.545pts.

The winner had been just starting to emerge in competition shearing at the time of the 2023 Golden Shears, when he was fifth in the intermediate final, and this season had had just one win, at the Central Hawke's Bay A&P Show in November.

Junior shearer learned from the Master

Napier shearer Kaivah Cooper's decision to drop out of school four years ago at age 16 might have seemed not the best of life-choices, but he wasn't going anywhere, other than to the top. After four years of tertiary education in the woolshed, mentored by 2017 world champion and four-times Golden Shears open champion John Kirkpatrick, he claimed the ultimate reward – a Golden Shears junior shearing title.

Cooper had been in near-unbeatable form and won at Taumarunui, Apiti and Pahiatua on successive days in the last weekend before the Golden Shears.

A former Napier Boys' High School pupil, Cooper sheared his five sheep in 7m 37s to be first off the board and won the title by 1.663pts from Hunterville shearer, Orlando Ratima. The first five were North Island shearers, all beating top South Island contender Jet Schimanski, of Gore.

The Junior woolhandling title was won by Lucy Elers, from Mataura and who had already won three major titles in the South Island this year, at Lumsden (longwool), Winton (lambs) and Gore (second-shear).

Earlier in the championships Ashlin Swann, of Wairoa, won the novice shearing final, and Keisha Reiri from Masterton won the novice woolhandling title.





Above: *Forde Alexander of Taumarunui, Golden Shears senior champion. He would add the New Zealand senior title to his collection a month later at Te Kuiti.*

62nd Golden Shears International Shearing and Woolhandling Championships, Masterton, 29 February – 2 March 2024:

International

Lister Trans-Tasman Shearing (12 sheep – 6 merino, 3 longwool, 3 second-shear): New Zealand (Leon Samuels 14m 53s, 65.28pts; Nathan Stratford 17m 3s, 67.568pts; Angus Moore 16m 19s, 67.821pts) 200.669pts, beat Australia (Daniel McIntyre 16m 11s, 65.554pts; Nathan Meaney 15m 30s, 65.6pts; Josh Bone 17m 35s, 71.464pts) 202.61pts.

Trans-Tasman Woohandling: New Zealand (Cushla Abraham, of Masterton/Tia Potae, of Kennedy Bay) 302.6pts, beat Australia (Marlene Whittle, of Coleraine, Vic/Alexander Schoff, of Chinchilla, Qld) 339.2pts.

Shearing:

PGG Wrightson Vetmed National Shearing Circuit final (15 sheep – 3 merino, 3 long strongwool, 3 corriedale, 3 lambs, 3 second-shear): Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 17m 48s, 66.15pts, 1; Leon Samuels (Invercargill/Roxburgh) 16m 44.8s, 66.51pts, 2; Jack Fagan (Te Kuiti) 17m 36s, 67.02pts, 3; Paerata Abraham (Masterton) 16m 50s, 68.01pts, 4; David Gordon (Masterton) 18m 11s, 74.04pts, 5; Toa Henderson (Kaiwaka) 16m 45s, 75.87pts, 6.

Bayley's Golden Shears Open final (20 sheep): Leon Samuels (Invercargill/Roxburgh) 16m 37s, 56.58pts, 1; Casey Bailey (Riverton) 17m 18s, 57.84pts, 2; David Buick (Pongaroa) 16m 16s, 59.10pts, 1; Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 17m 41s, 59.59pts, 4; James Ruki (Te Kuiti) 18m 38s, 64.39pts, 5; Gavin Mutch (Scotland/Dannevirke) 17m 36s, 66.68pts, 6.

Golden Shears Senior final (12 sheep): Forde Alexander (Taumarunui) 12m 36s, 44.89pts, 1; Gabriel Winders (Invercargill) 13m 18s, 47.93pts, 2; Nathan Bee (Wyndham) 12min 30s, 47.93pts, 3; Bruce Grace (Wairoa/Napier) 14m 3s, 50.44pts, 4; William Sinclair (Balclutha) 13m 48s, 50.5pts, 5; Blake Crooks (Rangiora) 14m 4s, 50.72pts, 6.

Trust House Golden Shears Intermediate final (8 sheep): Tini Papanui (Feilding) 11m 7s. 41.00pts, 1; Dylan Young (Gisborne) 10m 0s, 41.54pts, 2; Ethan Fladgate (Kihikihi) 11m 31s, 41.57pts, 3; Emma Martin (Gore) 11m 47s, 41.98pts, 4; Tomo Glyn Davies (Wales) 11m 33s, 43.55pts, 5; Julian Karl (Traunstein, Germany) 11m 38s, 44.40pts, 6.

Farmers Weekly Golden Shears Junior (5 sheep): Kaivah Cooper (Napier) 7m 37s, 1; 30.69pts, 1; Orlando Ratima (Hunterville) 8m 27s, 32.35pts. 2; Lachie Cameron (Pohangina) 8m 6s, 32.50pts, 3; Thomas Marchant (Pokeno) 7m 50s, 35.54pts, 4; Marshall Buckman (Apiti) 7m 55s, 36.37pts, 5; Jet Schimanski (Gore) 9m 4s, 41.20pts, 6.

Cydectin Novice final (2 sheep): Ashlin Swann (Wairoa) 5m 43s, 23.16pts, 1; Karl Schoff (Chinchilla, Queensland) 5m 52s, 27.64pts, 2; Ryan Craw (Coromandel) 5m 21s, 28.56pts, 3; Rebecca Dickson (Tikokino) 7m 27s, 29.35pts, 4; Grady Collis (Tauhoa) 6m 38s, 30.40pts, 5; Bugs Butler (Tikokino) 6m 44s, 30.72pts, 6.



Above: *Golden Shears Junior champion, Kaivah Cooper. He also won the New Zealand Junior title at Te Kuiti.*



Above: *Joel Henare from Gisborne, Golden Shears open woolhandling champion for the tenth time in succession.*

Abraham Shearing Women's Invitation (six sheep): Laura Bradley (Papatawa) 7m 29s, 31.16pts, 1 Emma Martin (Gore) 8m 54s, 34.08pts, 2; Nicki Guttler (Australia) 9m 19s, 34.66pts, 3; Catherine Mullooly (Matawai) 8m 0s, 34.7pts, 4; Danielle Mauger (Australia) 9m 43s, 36.82pts, 5; Alice Watson (Seddon) 8m 57s, 39.19pts, 6.

Wairarapa-Moana Maori-Pakeha Teams (8 sheep per shearer): Adam Gordon (Masterton) and Corey Palmer (Dipton) 67.97pts, 1; Cory Barrowcliffe (Piopio) and Hugh De Lacy (Rangiora) 75.92pts, 2; Lionel Taumata (Gore) and Paul Robertson (Australia) 78.07pts, 3.

Shearwell Data Regional Teams Challenge (3 longwool and four second-shear sheep): South Zone 4 (Brett Roberts, of Mataura; Nathan Bee, of Wyndham) 7m 55s, 29.19pts, 1; South Zone 2 (Hugh De Lacy and Blake Crooks, of Rangiora) 7m 58s, 29.90pts, 2; North Zone 2 (Tama Niania and Te Ua Wilcox, of Gisborne) 7m 50s, 30.40pts, 3; North Zone 3 (Jack Fagan, of Te Kuiti; Forde Alexander, of Taumarunui) 8m 8s, 31.27pts, 4; North Zone 4 (David Buick, of Pongaroa; Laura Bradley, of Papatawa) 7m 53s, 31.81pts, 5; South Zone 1 (Angus Moore and Alice Watson, of Blenheim) 8m 34s, 32.84pts, 6.

MKM Student Shearing Challenge (2 sheep): Pukemiro Cadetship, Dannevirke (Ryan Craw/Grady Collis) 6m 17s, 23.39pts, 1; Smedley Station, Tikokino (Bugs Butler/Rebecca Dickson) 7m 25s, 28.76pts, 2; Napier Boys High School (George Prouting/Waiari Puna) 5m 41s, 35.05pts, 3; Feilding Agricultural High School (Abbey Grant/Mack Belton) 9m 22s, 37.13pts, 4; Palmerston North Boys High School (Ernie Fowler/James Bigham) 6m 10s, 49.04pts, 5; Growing Future Farmers (Brett Eastwood/Cameron Judd) 7m 6s, 52.80pts, 6.

Woolhandling

Trust House Open final: Joel Henare (Gisborne) 181.66pts, 1; Pagan Rimene (Alexandra) 187.9pts, 2; Tia Potae (Haratanga) 233.9pts, 3; Foonie Waihape (Alexandra) 302pts, 4.

Te Puni Kokiri Golden Shears Senior final: Vinniye Phillips (Taumarunui) 145.61pts, 1; Tira Ngarangione (Gisborne) 154.1pts, 2; Emma Martin (Gore) 156.81pts, 3; Rahera Kerr (Hauturu) 225.89pts, 4.

WBS Golden Shears Junior final: Lucy Elers (Mataura) 111.12pts, 1; Jodiesha Kirkpatrick (Gisborne) 117.28pts, 2; Kelly Barrett (Kawhia) 125.80pts, 3; Cally Spangler (Hobart, Tas) 136.3pts 4.

Paewai Mullins Novice woolhandling final: Keisha Reiri (Masterton/Piopio) 165.84pts, 1; Gemma Buick (Pongaroa) 172.92pts, 2; George Whiunui (Napier) 193.92pts, 3; Gen Wood (Pongaroa) 278.46pts, 4.

North Island Circuit Open final: Keryn Herbert (Te Kuiti) 126.36pts, 1; Ngaio Hanson (Eketahuna) 140.63pts, 2; Cushla Abraham (Masterton) 144.41pts, 3; Ngaira Puha (Kimbolton) 155.53pts, 4.

Woolpressing:

Farmlands Men's final (170kg target): Vinnie Goodger (Masterton) 166kg, 34.75pts, 1; Jeremy Goodger (Masterton) 156.5kg, 32.6pts, 2.

Farmlands Women's final (150kg target): Cushla Abraham (Masterton) 150kg. 57.6pts, 1; Summer Pritchard (Pongaroa) 150.5kg, 61.8pts, 2.

Farmlands Pairs (170kg target): Vinnie and Jeremy Goodger (Masterton) 166kg, 32.4pts, 1; Joseph and Shyla Gordon (Masterton) 160.5kg, 75.75pts.

Triathlon (best heats points shearing, woolhandling and woolpressing combined): Jeremy Goodger (Masterton) 124.265pts, 1; Cushla Abraham (Masterton) 141.268pts, 2; Summer Prichard (Pongaroa) 146.224pts, 3; Vinnie Goodger (Masterton) 168.097pts, 4; Jodeisha Kirkpatrick (Gisborne) 179.198pts, 5; Ricci Stevens (Napier) 193.819pts, 6.





Top: *Cushla Abraham and her perfectly-weighted 150kg bale.* ***Above:*** *Woolhandling judge-turned woolhandling junior champion, Lucy Elers.* ***Top right:*** *Intermediate shearing champion, Tini Papanui.* ***Above right:*** *Vinniye Phillips, Golden Shears senior woolhandling champion.*





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GOLDEN SHEARS OPEN FINALISTS 1961–2024
(No contests 2021, 2022 due to Covid 19 Pandemic)

Abraham, Paerata: 2016, 2023
Alabaster, Ray: 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1981.
Alexander, Lloyd: 1992.
Anderson, Maurie: 1972.
Avery, Paul: 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, **2005,** 2006, **2007**, 2008, 2009
Bailey, Casey: 2024
Ball, Dean: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010
Balme, Dig: 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007,
Blackwell, Norm: 1974, 1975.
Bosher, Colin: 1962, 1963, 1964, 1966
Bowen, Godfrey: 1961
Bowen, Ivan: 1961.
Brausch, Adam: 2011
Braddick, Hemi 2023
Brough, Tom: 1966, 1967, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, **1976**
Buick, David: 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2024
Clarke, Joe: 1990, 1994, 1996, 1997
Coster, Tony: 2006,
Cox, Adrian: 1978, 1980
Cox, Roger: 1975, 1976, **1977, 1978, 1980,** 1981, 1983, 1985, 1986
Devery, Alton: 2007,
Donaldson, Alan: 1983, 1987
Dowd, Jack: 1970, 1972, 1981, 1982
Fagan, David: 1984, **1986**, 1988, 1989, **1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001**, 2002, **2003, 2004**, 2005, 2007, 2008, **2009,** 2010, 2011
Fagan, James: 2005
Fagan, John: 1980, **1984**, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1990
Ferguson, Cam: 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014
Ferguson, Joe: 1962, 1965, 1968
Forde, Darin: 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2012
Forde, Edsel: 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994
Grainger, Mark: 2019
Grainger, Paul: 1983, 1984, 1985, **1986**, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999
Harrison, Ian: 1961
Haynes, Aaron: 2015, 2017, 2019
Henderson, Murray: 2015, 2017, 2018
Herrick, Greg: 1983
Holland, Danny: 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973
Johnstone, Kerry: 1969, 1970, 1976, 1977
Kidd, Barry: 1964, 1965
King, Colin: 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, **1987, 1988**, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996
King, Dion: 2004, **2006,** 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
Kirkpatrick, John: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, **2002,** 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, **2008**, 2010, **2011, 2012**, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2023
Lawton, Morry: 1964, 1967
Lewis, Larry: 1982, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989
Lyon, Peter: 1978, 1979
MacDonald, Alan: 1988, 1989, 1991, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2003
Macdonald, Robert (Bing): 1961, **1962,** 1963, 1965, **1966**
Macdonald, Rob: 1965
McCrea, Jerome: 2002, 2009
Michie, Bob: 1979
Moore, Angus 2023
Morrell, Dion: 1995
Mullins, Koro: 1993
Mutch, Gavin: 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, **2015,** 2017, 2018, 2020, 2023
Neil, Roger: 1997, 1999
Ngataki, Martin: 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, **1980,** 1981, 1983, 1986
O'Reilly, Tony: 1969
Pivac, Rick: 1976, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987
Potae, George: 1966, 1967, **1969**, 1970, 1971, 1973
Potae, Mac: 1961
Pyper, Troy: 2015, 2016
Quinn, Brian: 1965, 1966, **1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972**
Rangiawha, Rei: 1981, 1982
Reidy, Eddie: 1967, 1969, 1971, **1973,** 1977
Rosandich, Ivan: 1974, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, **1981,** 1982
Ruki, James: 2023
Ruki, John: 1984
Samuels, Leon: 2020, **2024**
Sarre, Kevin: 1961, 1962
Selby, Ian: 1963
Smith, Rowland: 2011, 2012, **2013, 2014**, **2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2023**
Stockman, Norm: 1963
Stratford, Nathan: 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2023, 2024
Stuart, Ron: 1968
Symon, Stewart: 1962, **1964**
Te Kapa, Joe: 1966
Te Whata, Samson: 1977, 1979, 1980, 1984, 1987, 1988
Wakefield, Peter: 1963
Walsh, Kevin: 1977, 1989
Waterson, Brian: 1963, 1964, 1968, 1969, 1970
Welch, Walter: 1964
Williamson, Allan: 1962, 1965, 1967, 1968
Wilson, Keith: 1995
Wolland, Dave: 1973, 1974

(84 finalists)

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McSkimming family tradition in good hands

By Des Williams

As reported elsewhere in this issue, Golden Shears 2024 brought forth its 25th open champion in 63 years, with Leon Samuels joining Brian Quinn and Alan Donaldson in a select trio who've won both Goldies and the New Zealand Merino Shears. That feat has also been achieved by just three senior grade shearers; Lane McSkimming, in the 1992/93 season; Chas Tohiariki (2000/2001) and Brett Roberts (2012/2014).

McSkimming won five 'shows' that season from 14 finals appearances, with the other three wins coming at Kopu, Apiti and Waitomo. At the end of that season, which heralded the introduction of the first Shearing Sports New Zealand National Rankings, Lane was ranked third (89 points) behind Colin Thirkell (Otorohanga) 176 points and David Hunt of Waverley, who accumulated 107. Behind Lane came Mark Barrowcliffe (Piopio), Chris Millar (Temuka) and John Arnold (Woodville).

The senior finalists at Alexandra in 1992 were McSkimming, Peter Sinclair (Piopio), Colin Dennison (Oamaru), Greg Paterson (Kurow), John Aramaketu (Waipawa) and David Clarke, from Mossburn.

At Golden Shears the line up was McSkimming, Hunt, Stu Munro (Taihape), Dean Redman (Cambridge), Thirkell and Angus McCauley from Dannevirke. The fact McSkimming was the only one to make both finals at least hints at the degree of difficulty involved.

Shearing magazine caught up with Lane McSkimming again at Masterton last month and reflected on some of that history and other 'journeys' Lane has taken in the past thirty-odd years.

"My win at Alexandra was a long time ago! It was one of the early shows in the Molyneaux Stadium, up on the new stage and Barry Taylor won the Open on the same night! That made for quite an entertaining evening. Barry had won a trip to Australia but people in the crowd were yelling out that Barry couldn't go! [And that's another story!] Fortunately, nobody was yelling out things about me at that stage. So, yes I have very good memories about winning the Merino Shears. And the Golden Shears, for that matter.

"I was living in Taumarunui at the time and did most of the 'show circuit' around the North Island that season, going to a lot of smaller towns where competitions are no longer held. Places like Kopu, Tauranga, Otorohanga, Rangiwahia, Mangakino and Piopio.



Above: *Lane McSkimming at Golden Shears 2024.*

"I had come to Taumarunui to work for Alan Donaldson, who had one of the biggest runs in the North Island at that stage and two of my older brothers were working for him at that time (Chris and Ewen, aka 'Skinny'). They were two of the original shearers on Alan's run and they got me up from Waimate as a young presser.

"Not long after that Ewen Mackintosh and John Coley took over Donaldson's run and I got the opportunity to start contracting on my own account with a two-gang open run – that would have been about 1995. I had Leanne Peeti and Linda Tarrant in my gang at the time. Leanne later went on to represent New Zealand at the world championships in South Africa in 2000 and won the world teams' title with Tina Rimene. And of course there was something of a contracting tradition in the McSkimming family so I had a little bit of history to follow. And later on I bought John Coley's share in their run.

"I stayed in Taumarunui for fifteen years, building up to six gangs during mainshear and then ended up selling to my younger brother Willy. I moved over to Taupo and bought a large café on the lake front and I was ten years in that business. Great fun it was, too, serving breakfasts and lunches and employing 20-30 staff at times.

"It was the sort of business I'd always had something of an interest in. I'd been getting involved with the community in one way and another with my kids playing sport and rugby,

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Top: *Lane McSkimming at the New Zealand Merino Shears in 1992, when he won the senior title.* ***Above:*** *Golden Shears 1993 – Lane with his father, Murray McSkimming enjoying a quiet moment of satisfaction after completing the Fine wool/ Golden Shears "double". Lane won by 0.4 of a point from David Hunt of Waverley, who had won ten competitions in succession between Stratford and Pahiatua, leading up to Golden Shears. (And would finish the season victorious at the New Zealand championships.)*

and I became president of King Country Junior Rugby after serving on the Taumarunui Junior rugby committee. I got the local tuck shop up and running again after it had been shut for 30 years and we were providing pies and drinks and lollies for the kids at Saturday morning rugby. It proved to be a huge hit and got my juices flowing to do something similar.

"The McSkimming family interest in sports is about as steeped as that in contracting. Our kids started playing sport – first Courtney with club netball and rep netball, then club cricket and rep cricket with the two boys.

"Then Shannon started boxing and that took him around the world. He won eight New Zealand Golden Gloves championships and went to the junior world champs twice. Dad [Murray McSkimmng] had been very keen on boxing and had a fight against a pro at some stage and all the McSkimming boys boxed when we were young."

From the café business, Lane spent four years in the real estate industry (Taupo) and that led to the offer of a job with Bayleys Real Estate, covering the Wanaka – Hawea area, which "got him out of Taupo" and back to familiar territory in the South Island. And soon enough Lane found himself back on the end of a handpiece.

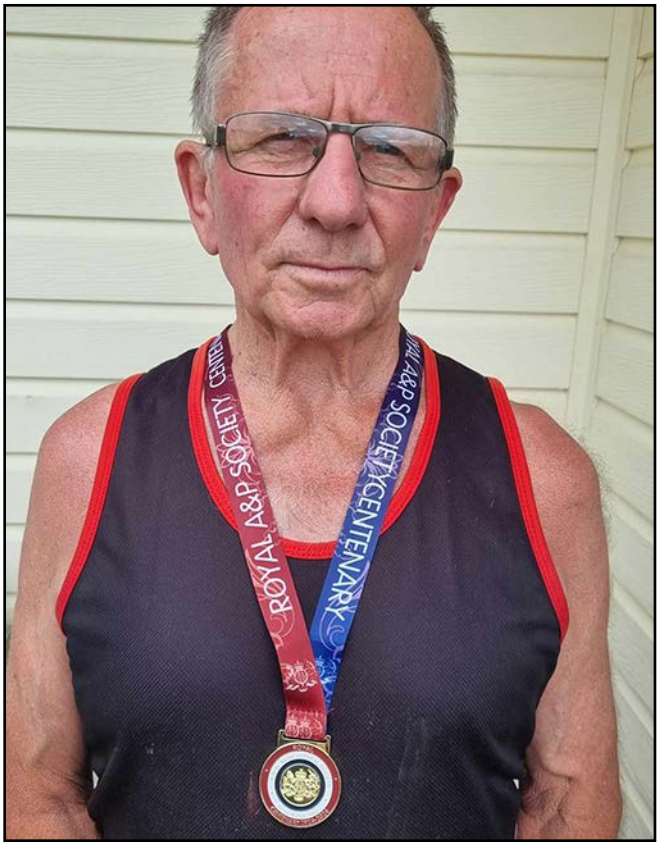
"That was all going along well enough and then a great shearer and industry man named Marty Cornish asked me to come and help him do a bit of lifestyle block shearing with him because he was having some health issues. I thought I had left that all behind me but no, here I am still doing some lifestyle blocks. And Marty sadly passed on a few years ago."

Then New Zealand Merino Shears stalwart Graeme Bell heard Lane was back in the territory and wasted no time before inviting him onto the Alexandra-based committee. With his grandfather Fred McSkimming being one of the founders, and father, Murray being the inaugural New Zealand Merino Shears champion in 1962 (and 1966) Lane saw it as an offer he couldn't refuse.

Three years ago Lane and Willy introduced the Murray McSkimming Memorial Trophy to continue the legacy, awarded annually to people who have the fine wool industry in their veins. Recipients to date are Dion Morrell, Nathan Stratford and Brian Quinn.

Lane is now president of the New Zealand Merino Shears Society and is proud to be able to continue the McSkimming family's long contribution to the Society and the New Zealand fine wool industry.

* * * * * *



West Coast shearing legend Sam Win (pictured) was presented with a Royal Agricultural Society Centennial Medal on 3 February 2024, marking his 33 years' service to the Inangahua A&P Show and the Reefton Shears, "the flagship of shearing on the West Coast of the South Island," according to Doug Laing of Shearing Sports New Zealand.

James Tutavaha back on the handpiece

Masterton's James Tutavaha and his brother Timo started their competitive shearing careers side by side in the Golden Shears Novice heats in 2002. James was 17-years-of-age and Timo a year younger. A tall young fellow from Ruawai named Rowland Smith was also on the Stadium board beside them that day.

The brothers Tutavaha enjoyed reasonable success at lower grade level – James was fourth in the 2003 Golden Shears junior final and fifth at Pahiatua. Timo was fourth in the junior final at Golden Shears in 2004. Both made finals at Intermediate level, James at Pahiatua in 2006 and Timo at Taranaki Shears that same season.

"We did a lot of shows around the lower North Island back in the day," James recalls. "I then went shearing overseas, in Australia and the United States when I was 18 or 19. After that I wanted a bit of a break from shearing so I went back to Australia and got into the mines and did that for ten years. I was working on construction projects at gas and oil refineries in Western Australia, based in Perth and flying out to sites in north-west WA and we also did some work in Queensland and New South Wales.

"I was saving up to go farming so when I came home in 2015 (?) I bought a block just out of Masterton, which I now farm in conjunction with my parents' farm at Wainuioru. That's about half an hour out of Masterton, towards the Coast, which they'd bought in 1985, the year I was born.

"My Dad (Misi) came to New Zealand from Nuie when he was about 12-years-old. That's a small island in the South Pacific Ocean, between Tonga and Samoa. He spent some years in Auckland, working at several occupations when he left school, including the meatworks and some market gardening. He and his sister then moved down to Eketahuna and met up with the Kings, a big shearing family.

"Dad then started shearing and he worked for Eketahuna contractor Bill Morrison for several years. He eventually met up with my Mum, who was a Braddick, and that background led Timo and I naturally into our own shearing careers, years later. He also served as a Shearing Sports New Zealand judge for nearly 20 years and judged at Golden Shears for several years.

"I've been back in New Zealand about eight years and have been working for Prime Shearing (Quenten Robertson) in Masterton as well as farming my two blocks. I rear calves and run about 200 ewes.



Above: *Mural on a Christchurch building wall many years ago. The two guys worked in the building. Timeless classic.*



Above: *James Tutavaha at Golden Shears 2024*

"Timo shore for several years and then he got recruited to go and play Rugby for Taranaki. He played more than 40 games of NPC rugby and now lives in New Plymouth with his family."

James is presently building a house on his Masterton Block. He had a shear in the open competition at Golden Shears but "didn't do very well. It was my first show in about three years. I would like to get back into it but I'm just trying to get everything together right now. It's been a tough couple of years farming."

* * * * * *

- James Tutavaha achieved several prominent placings as a junior shearer in the 2003-04 season, including Horowhenua (2nd), Dannevirke (2nd), Taihape (4th), Feilding (4th), Apiti (5th), Pahiatua (5th) and Golden Shears (4th). In the intermediate grade James' best performance was 5th at Pahiatua in the 2005/2006 season.
- Timo Tutuvaha was third in the Golden Shears junior final in 2004 and was placed in five other finals, including a win at Horowhenua. Timo's best effort as an intermediate was a sixth placing at the Taranaki Shears in 2006.

* * * * * *



WOOL IMPACT



Above left: *Ryan Cosgrove (Campaign for Wool) and Stuart Heal (Wool Impact)*

THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL

Step forward for New Zealand wool: Strategic Alliance

A formal Strategic Alliance established by Wool Impact and Campaign for Wool NZ (CFWNZ) aims to create efficiencies and strengthen collaboration between the two organisations, delivering better outcomes for wool growers.

Wool Impact and CFWNZ's chairs signed an agreement last month which outlines how the two parties will work together to drive change within the strong wool sector. The signing heralds an exciting, collaborative and well-considered pathway forward for New Zealand wool, says Ryan Cosgrove, CFWNZ chair. "Both organisations have, for a long time, seen an opportunity to team up on a number of plans, projects and purposes. Formally outlining what those shared goals are, achieving alignment on those goals, and limiting the possibility of duplication when working towards achieving outcomes is a huge step forward for the industry."

The Strategic Alliance is the output of a steering group established in 2023 and encompassing board members and executives from both CFWNZ and Wool Impact. It will be implemented immediately.

"Although our two entities have been working together in an informal capacity for over a year, this Strategic Alliance is a significant step, and one that will serve to further nurture relationships and create stronger synergies," says Stuart Heal, Wool Impact chair.

There are six projects, initially, that are defined within the scope of the Strategic Alliance and cover:

- Joint communications and engagement to deliver collective and consistent messaging to partners and stakeholders;
- Developing an evidence-based 'wool story' to be used by partners in the promotion of New Zealand strong wool;
- Delivering resources and activities to support the increased use and specification of wool in architecture;
- Collective input into the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO) working groups and events to elevate strong wool globally;
- Facilitating events that support greater connectivity within the wool industry to achieve greater use of wool and shared learning;
- Collectively investigating the framework for a sustainable working body for the New Zealand wool sector.

For wool growers, who fund CFWNZ through a per-kilo voluntary contribution, as well as central government and sheep sector stakeholders falling under the Wool Impact funding umbrella, it means their investment goes further to drive meaningful change for everyone involved in growing, manufacturing, exporting and retailing wool.

Representatives from each entity will report back to their respective boards on progress, with full board-to-board meetings held throughout each year. "For too long, our industry has worked in silos," says Ryan. "By signing this agreement, we are committed to identifying and eliminating duplication, as well as ensuring sound operational models and cost efficiencies are in place to get our industry back on track."

Stuart agrees that the Strategic Alliance signals a considerable shift in how New Zealand strong wool is promoted – and the wool community is better supported – now and in years to come. "It's great to be working together to unify the wool industry and build a better future for our New Zealand-grown super fibre.

"It's exciting, and we believe it shows real progress in bringing together our sector and delivering greater impact."

About Campaign for Wool NZ

- The Campaign for Wool is a global initiative highlighting wool as an eco-friendly, comfortable, fashionable and durable fibre, and a preferred alternative to cheaper and more disposable options. It aims to educate consumers worldwide of wool's many benefits.
- Established in New Zealand in June 2011, the Campaign is focused firmly on increasing the value of wool, from the end consumer all the way back to the farm gate, with a current strategic focus on a number of projects that move the dial. These projects include wool in education, and developing a multi-channel campaign that significantly grows consumer, business and government awareness of wool as a super-fibre.
- The Campaign for Wool NZ is generously funded by New Zealand wool growers and commercial partners.

About Wool Impact

- Wool Impact is setting out to solve problems with wool, and in doing so reinstate demand and value for New Zealand's strong wool and wool growers. Wool Impact is connecting value chains, innovation and research investment and advocacy groups. Strong wool growers' ability to keep producing this quality fibre, is contingent upon connectivity with the needs of local and global brands, and their discerning end users. Wool Impact wants to see strong wool growers have sound market intelligence and pricing signals that sure up their future investment in wool.
- Wool Impact is funded through the Ministry for Primary Industries' Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures programme alongside sheep sector investors WoolWorks, Silver Fern Farms, Alliance Group, ANZCO, AFFCO and Progressive.

NZ

WOOL USER (n=652)

Wool User Profile

New Zealand wool users are reasonably evenly split by gender and are more likely to have kids at home versus non-users. In general, wool users have a higher annual income. Although a high percentage of wool users are still renting or boarding, since 2021 we have seen an increasing trend in this group towards planning to build their own home within the next 12 months. Talking to New Zealand wool users and architects in the planning stages of building will be critical to reaching more wool users.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL

Wool user defined as:
"Often or sometimes buy items made from sheep wool".
Significant differences relate to comparisons with 2021 data
*Does not include those identifying as other.

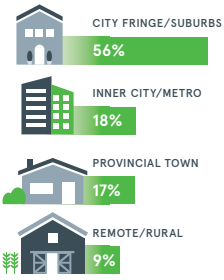
Gender*



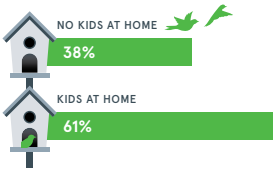
48% FEMALE

52% MALE

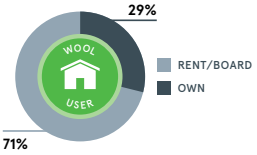
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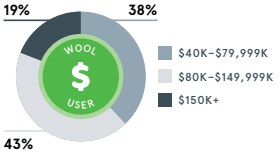
Household Composition



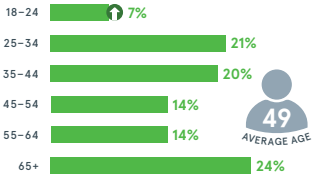
Home Ownership



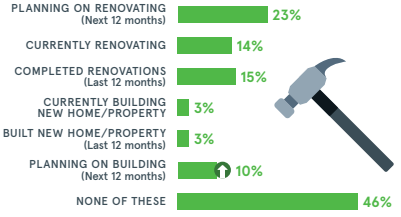
Annual Household Income



Age (YEARS)



Property Build or Renovation Status



KEY

Statistically significant increase since 2021 | Statistically significant decrease since 2021

USA

WOOL USER (n=570)

Wool User Profile

USA wool users have a reasonably even gender split and are younger than non-users on average. Since 2021, a significant trend toward households with kids at home can be seen. Not only are users more likely to own their own homes versus non-users, the trend toward home ownership since 2021 is also increasing, and they are much more likely to be renovating versus non-users. An opportunity to increase frequency of purchase in the home will be an important opportunity in the market.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL

Wool user defined as:
"Often or sometimes buy items made from sheep wool".
Significant differences relate to comparisons with 2021 data
*Does not include those identifying as other.

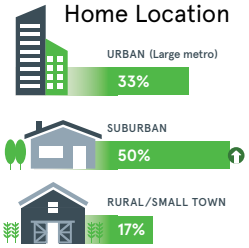
Gender*



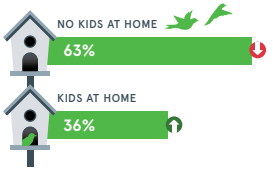
46% FEMALE

54% MALE

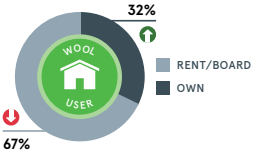
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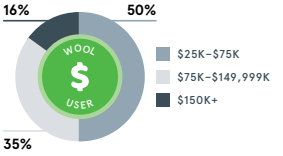
Household Composition



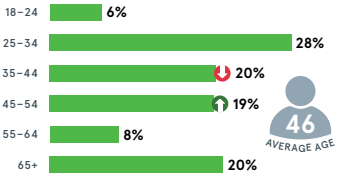
Home Ownership



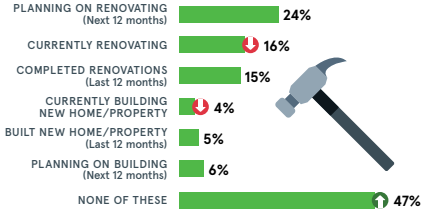
Annual Household Income



Age (YEARS)



Property Build or Renovation Status



KEY

Statistically significant increase since 2021 | Statistically significant decrease since 2021

Martin Booth – the shearing bug is real

By Des Williams

Martin Booth joined Lister as Head of Sales and Commercial at its Stonehouse factory, near Bristol, in January 2020. As if starting a new job with a major company and no previous background in agriculture wasn't challenge enough, along came the Covid-19 global pandemic.

Within a couple of months Britain and the rest of the world was in lockdown mode. Martin and his new workmates at Lister joined the millions of people world-wide who began 'working from home'.

"That made the first six months or so in my new role very interesting, a steep learning curve, you might say. I came into the company having never been a shearer – shearing products and the agricultural sector generally was entirely new to me. I did however have an extensive background in sales and marketing as well as design and technology, mainly in the educational sector, and from running my own companies."

Martin says his family had grown up in the nearby town of Dursley, home of the original Lister Company established in the 19th century and suppliers of sheep shearing equipment to Australia and New Zealand for many decades.

"Although Lister may have been the best-known manufacturing company in Dursley, employing hundreds of people, I never really envisaged that I might some day be working for them. When I came into the position someone warned me that 'shearing will get to you, it's a real bug.' I thought well, maybe … but I wasn't really convinced.

"Then I went to my first shearing competition and started getting to know some of the shearers and even at the small shows, you just get drawn in. It really is a 'bug' as that person had warned me. And now, after four years in the job I've got to know the shearers and for me it's about helping them to do well and to see the industry doing well.

"I'm now focused on getting Lister back to being a force in the industry, not just with shearing but with the whole range of other products Lister produces. It's really fascinating seeing combs being made and the work and research that goes into getting handpieces operating correctly."



Above: *Peter Vujcich, judging in the Senior shearing heats at Golden Shears, Masterton, last month.*



Above: *Martin Booth, Lister's Head of Sales and Commercial, during a visit to New Zealand and Australia last month.*

Martin's recent visit to New Zealand and Australia was his first time 'down under'. His week in New Zealand included some time in Auckland with Lance and Richard Waddell from Acto Agriculture, and of course attendance at the Golden Shears in Masterton.

"I've had a chance to see some of the United Kingdom shearing competitions and have been to Norway as well. But Golden Shears New Zealand is a most prestigious show and Lister is very proud to be a part of that. Lance and Richard Waddell our New Zealand distributors at Acto Agriculture have been a big part of it as major sponsors for many years, along with Sir David Fagan, our Lister Technical Consultant and Ambassador.

"I also got the chance to go out [during Golden Shears] with a couple of guys to a shed where the Mongolian group were working. Lister has been doing some work with them also and it was really nice to see the inter-actions going on there. The Mongolian boys have learned an awful lot in a short time during their visit to New Zealand."

Martin was also delighted to announce during his visit that Lister would be continuing its support for Golden Shears, including the World Championships at Masterton in 2026.

Martin also spent some time in Australia during his time in the southern hemisphere, visiting Lister's Australian distributors Stockowners Shearing [Rick Baldock at Lonsdale, South Australia] who also sponsored the Australian team for the trans-Tasman shearing competition at the Golden Shears.

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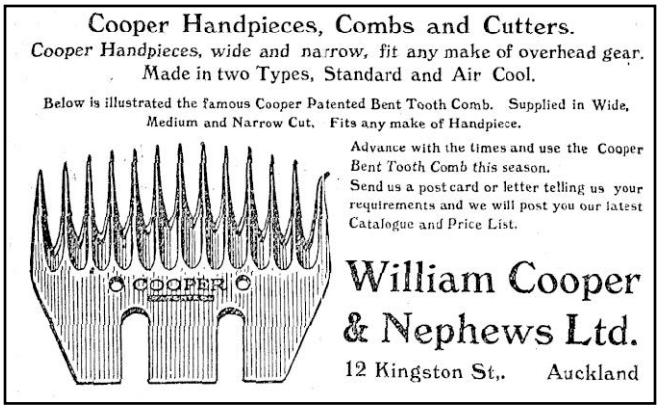
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www.acto.nz

One Hundred Years Ago ... 1924

Shearing innovation: There appeared for the first time late last season in New Zealand on a commercial basis a shearing comb known as the Cooper Patented Bent Tooth. A few words on the history and marvellous success of this invention will interest shearers and other users.

The first Bent Tooth made its appearance in Australia about 1915, and was adversely criticised by most shearers. One shearer, however, who used the first machines introduced in Australia was so impressed with the possibilities of the Bent Tooth Comb that he spent two years experimenting in shaping the point and investigating its virtues. Laughed at in every shed he entered with this comb, he ultimately managed to interest a very fast shearer in a Queensland shed to try it. The result was that within a week every shearer in the shed was using it. This team of fast shearers went to another shed where three times the number were employed, and here, also, every man turned to the Bent Tooth; but it instantly received a setback by the shed hands asking the executive of the Union to forbid its use, stating as the reason that owing to the bend it was wider, and shearers could shear quicker and better with the Bent Tooth, causing the shed to be "cut out" in less time.



The Cooper Patented Bent Tooth Comb. Note the extent of the 'bend'! (Eat your heart out, Jack Dowd, Larry Lewis, et al.)

This matter was brought up at the conference of the AWU in 1920, when the Bent Tooth was placed in the same class as the wide comb, which is forbidden to be used in Australian sheds unless everyone in the shed is agreeable.

But the first few shearers who had used them in 1919 and found what a wonderful improvement the Patent Bent Tooth was, discarded the union rule in such a number of sheds that the sales, in spite of the embargo, went up 100 percent. The year 1921 saw the AWTU conference rescinding the rule on the Patent Bent Tooth comb, and even extending the width of comb permitted to be used without restraint to 2 1/2 inches.

The removal of the Union rule against the Cooper Patented Bent Tooth Comb instantly sent the demand up to unexpected strides, and the factory was hard pushed to meet the demand. Year 1921, saw the increase over 1920 115%, and in 1922 the sales doubled, and in 1923 it is safe to say 90% of Australian sheep were shorn with Bent Tooth Combs.

Until last year it was not possible for the makers to supply the Cooper Patent Bent Tooth Combs to any other than the Australian market, but with increased manufacturing facilities it is now available in New Zealand in wide, medium and narrow sizes, and judging by the reception received last year, most of New Zealand sheep will be shown at the 1924-1925 shearing with Cooper Patented Bent Tooth Combs.

(Advt. *Ashburton Guardian* 24 September 1924)







Top and Above: *Bob Anderson of parts unknown was shearing at Mangatoi Station in the heart of the King Country in 1924, one hundred years ago. Centre image shows the well-preserved interior of the historic shed while above, the exterior wasn't doing too well at the time of these photos, taken maybe 20 years ago.*



Jayne can take her sheep across London Bridge!

(Supplied)

County Antrim sheep farmer Jayne Harkness-Bones, also a manager at British Wool's Ulster Wool Depot in Muckamore, is celebrating becoming a member of The Worshipful Company of Woolmen – one of the oldest livery companies in the City of London, dating back to 1180.

The honour was bestowed due to all the work she does in raising the profile of the magical material that is wool – especially British and Ulster wool.

Following her freedom of London ceremony at the City of London's Guildhall, Jayne became the first person from Northern Ireland to be clothed as a Liveryman for many years. The event was held at Carpenters' Hall, which also hosted a Civic Dinner by kind permission of The Master, Wardens & Court of Assistants of the Woolman and attended by The Lord Mayor.

Clerk to the Woolmen, Duncan Crole says: "The Woolmen are delighted to welcome Jayne into the fold. We encourage membership from all professions and walks of life and are especially pleased to admit those with the passion for sheep and wool that Jayne brings."

After having a career in psychotherapy for more than a decade, the roots of the family farm called her back and she subsequently began employment closer to home working at British Wool's only grading depot in Northern Ireland - Ulster Wool.

Anyone that knows Jayne will know how passionate she is about sheep farming and wool. Always asking questions, Jayne likes to communicate with like minded others and bring people together to learn through networking events at the Ulster Wool depot or attending other agri events.



Above: *Jayne Harkness Bones, new member of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen which dates back to the 12th century!*

Back in 2017 Jayne wrote up the ideas of a project to help young people understand why our landscape needs sheep to graze it, why sheep need to be shorn, and obviously… how wonderful wool is.

Another first led by Jayne - Ulster Wool welcomed its first ever masters marketing Student from Queens University Belfast in 2020, Dr Bernard Mulholland. Together they developed the project into 'Wool Innovators' and invited SENTINUS to work in collaboration with Ulster Wool to deliver the project. The only thing that was missing was some funding.

Fast forward to 2023 and Jayne approached the Worshipful Company of Woolmen to ask if 'Wool Innovators' would be something they would be interested in supporting, and low and behold they said yes!

The project is currently in full motion as SENTINUS are making the final preparations and selection process for the winning schools.

From a very early age Jayne has been surrounded with and involved in wool. Her father was a contract sheep shearer and she would long for the summer holidays so she could go out and help with the harvesting of wool. She also observed the Worshipful Company of Woolmen as they would attend the Balmoral Show annually to present prestigious awards to the shearing section winners. she comments: "Over the years I have seen the Masters coming to the show and always thought how wonderful it was – even the name – Worshipful Company of Woolmen has such a prestigious ring to it."

She added: "In particular I remember Master Elizabeth Peacock, and thinking to myself wow! Isn't it wonderful that the Woolmen can have women in it too!" (Next page)



Never in a million years did she think that being a part of such an ancient guild would ever be possible, but much to her shock (and delight) it happened.

"I am honoured to have been clothed as a Liveryman, and it was a pleasure to attend the Civic dinner with my father. I'm very excited to see what happens next and have faith that wool will make the comeback that it deserves."

She continued: "Fast fashion in oil-based clothing, carpet and soft furnishings have to stop being produced so cheaply. Wool is sustainable, has a natural carbon cycle, is durable, natural and fire retardant to name but a few of the positive qualities. We have a responsibility to think before we make a purchase and do our best to reduce micro-plastics entering our environment and ecosystems."

To be a Freeman of the City of London and liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, means that you have the right to drive sheep across London Bridge.

The Sheep Drive continues to this day, and is an historic annual event organised by the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, and Jayne is looking forward to taking part next September 2024. There are over 200 current members of the livery and it is open to anyone who is interested.

If you would like to find out more information, please visit **https://www.woolmen.com/about/join/**

And remember, "there's no substitute for wool!"

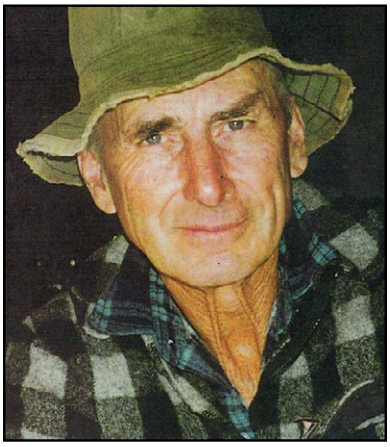


Above: *Jayne Harkness Bones, new member of the ancient Worshipful Company of Woolmen with her father, Robert Harkness, former Northern Ireland shearing representative and world championships judge.*

Who is the Real Golden Shearer?

The question was recently posed by a magazine reader – who is New Zealand's real Golden Shearer – or who has produced the absolute best performance in a Golden Shears Open final?

As 'receiver of the question', the *Shearing* magazine editor suggested you would have a 60% chance of being correct if you said, without any further research, 'David Fagan'. Picking one from the 25 champions over 64 years would give you those odds. But wait, there's been some mighty clean quality shearers over that time – Bing Macdonald, Stewart Symon, Roger Cox, Martin Ngataki, Ivan Rosandich, Paul Grainger – maybe one of them produced a great time to go with their immaculate quality in a one-off 'golden performance'?



Brian Waterson: 'If you win your shears are indeed golden.'

There's also the slight complication in that the scoring system changed from 'plus points' to 'penalty points' in 1983. It is possible to convert from one to the other but you need to know the exact time recorded by those pre-1983 winners (and the other finalists, if the winner wasn't first off.) The fastest man received 50 'time points' and a quality rating of up to 50 points. Time points were then deducted from second and third fastest etc. at the rate of one point per every 20 seconds. So a shearer finishing 20 seconds after the winner would receive 49 time points, and so on.

For example, Bing Macdonald won with 90.125 points in 1962, made up of 50 points for time and 40.125 points for board and outside job (equal to 9.875 penalties by today's system). That was the best score prior to 1983. Second best was Roger Cox in 1977 who won with 89.9584 points, being 50 points for best time and 39.9584 points for quality (10.0416 penalties board and job combined).

The drawback in this 'plus points' system was the need for everyone to have their shear before the time points and finishing order could be calculated.

With the introduction of penalty points and time calculated at one point per 20 seconds or three points per minute, the shearer's points could be calculated immediately.

A heat shorn in six minutes 20 seconds would concede 19 time points, to which the quality could be added as soon as the judging was completed. Thus a shearer conceding two points on the board and eight points out the back would have ten quality points added to the time penalties for a total of 29.000 points.

We are now close to being able to identify **THE GOLDEN SHEARER**!

Was it David Fagan with the first 'sub-sixty' score (58.556) in 1996? Nope. John Kirkpatrick with 58.43 in 2002? Was not. Fagan again, with 56.07 in 2003. No Sirree. (That was made up of 46.35 points for time and 9.72 for quality.) Ah then, surely it was Johnny Kirkpatrick with 54.922 in 2008? Close, but no cigar!

Let's start that drum roll ROLLIN! Yes, Mr Smith it was, in 2023. Over twenty sheep he gave up to the judges just 52.64 points, of which the time 16.6.81 made up 48.34 and the balance 4.3 for quality. (Board 1.4 and outside job 2.9).

All of which recalls to mind a distant but somewhat related conversation with 1963 Golden Shears champion, Brian Waterson, who praised the equipment rather than the man (or woman). *"To me the words "Golden Shears" mean what they signify. If you win, your shears are indeed golden."*

With all due respect to the mighty 'Wart', and to the stunning performance by Rowland Smith last year, in this writer's view the man and his shears who produced the single-most, all but flawless Golden Performance in living memory was – David Fagan in 2004! Time points 49.00 and quality rating 7.89. Total 56.89. Let intelligent debate commence!

Shearing Sports' Rural Sports Award Winners

(From New Zealand Championships Souvenir Programme)

Erana Stevens-Tulip is a beacon of leadership within Shearing Sports.

A cornerstone of the New Zealand Shearing Championships committee, Erana was pivotal in nurturing a new executive committee through their transitional phase, ensuring continuity and operational excellence. She secured

Erana's commitment to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment is evident through her implementing the first bullying and harassment policy for the New Zealand championships.

The policy showcases the committee's unwavering stance against all forms of misconduct, fostering a safe and supportive atmosphere for competitors, judges, officials and volunteers.

Erana spearheaded the implementation of a Te Reo Maori strategy, facilitating cultural appreciation and competency among committee members.

Beyond her contributions to Shearing Sports, Erana's impact extends to her local community, where she actively participates in extramural studies and engages as a member of the local bowling club.



Erana Stevens-Tulip from Te Kuiti, winner of the Freebairn & Hehir Lawyers Outstanding Contribution to New Zealand Rural Sports Award.

Clay Harris: In the 2022-2023 shearing sports season, Clay Harris from Piopio competed in thirteen finals and emerged victorious in ten, a feat that highlights his exceptional shearing prowess.

He secured four consecutive wins at prestigious events, including the Otago Shears, Southern Shears, Golden Shears and New Zealand Shears.

Internationally, he won victories in the United Kingdom and achieved commendable results in Australia.

Now 21, Clay's journey in shearing sports began as a junior competitor in 2019, gradually ascending through the ranks with victories in the junior and intermediate classes.

His consistent success and dedication to his craft positioned him as one of the sport's most promising talents.



Clay Harris from Piopio, the Fonterra Young New Zealand Rural Sportsman of the Year Award winner.

With aspirations of joining the ranks of open-class shearers, Clay harbours ambitions of setting a world record and, outside of shearing, is an avid hunter.

NB Sacha Bond was also a nominee in the Rural Sportswoman of the Year which was won by Timbersports' Anne Paterson.

* * * * * *





Chris Dickson, Open Challenger winner at New Zealand Championships.



Jack McAlister, 13-year-old Piopio College student, was one of many hard workers "taking away the wool" at the New Zealand Championships.

'Miracle Man' wins the biggie

By Doug Laing (Shearing Sports NZ)

Wairarapa shearer David Buick has brought off possibly one of the most amazing comebacks in New Zealand sport by winning the New Zealand Shears Open shearing final in Te Kuiti, less than three years after a farm accident left him fighting for his life and wondering if he would ever walk again.

The accident happened when he was crushed in a collapsing ditch during drainage excavation on his farm near Pongaroa on October 20, 2021, buried up to his chin in sodden dirt.

With complex pelvic fractures and other injuries he was flown in a critical condition to Palmerston North by rescue helicopter and spent months recuperating in hospital and in a retirement home in Dannevirke to be closer to wife Rebecca, son Michael and daughter Gemma.

Now known among the fraternity as "the miracle man" Buick (pictured opposite) did learn to walk again, and 12 months ago in Te Kuiti shore in a father-and-son contest with Michael and surprised even himself by qualifying for the 2023 Open quarterfinals.

Father and son earlier on Saturday won the 2024 whanau event, which attracted 25 family pairings, but the big hint of a miracle in the making came when Buick was third in the Golden Shears Open final in Masterton on March 2 – shearing the 20 sheep in 16min 16.064sec, 21 seconds quicker than eventual winner and Southland shearer Leon Samuel and more than a sheep ahead of all four other finalists.

The big win came on Saturday night when he was a minute quicker, beaten to the finish only by Northland shearer Toa Henderson, who shore one of the fastest 20-sheep finals in New Zealand history in finishing in 14min 59.75sec.

The 45-year-old Buick ultimately had a winning margin of just 0.504 points in his first win since the North Island Shearer of the Year final in Te Kuiti on April 9, 2021, an 11th win in 2020-2021 making him the No 1-ranked Open shearer for that season.

He had also been a multiple New Zealand representative



and national lambs shearing titles winner, was in August last year acclaimed a Master Shearer by Shearing Sports New Zealand, and has now won 33 finals since first appearing in the Open class in 2002.

Henderson was runner-up for a second year in a row, a night after 2023-2024 win No 13, in the North Island Shearer of the Year final, and being named No 1-ranked Open shearer for the season, while third was defending champion Samuels.

There were emotional scenes after the win was announced by arena commentator Norm Harraway, even the beaten finalists appearing as happy as the victor, who said soon afterwards he didn't know if he'd ever had the dream of winning such a big title again after the death-defying extremes of the last two years and six months.

But he had long harboured the "secret dream" of one day becoming the first shearer to complete a sequence of wins in all five grades at Te Kuiti, following wins in the Novice grade in 1995, the Junior final in 1997, the Intermediate grade in 1999, and the Senior final in 2002.

The back-story was first revealed publicly last year as the family became confident of a full recovery, although on Saturday night Buick was in wonderment as to how he had shorn better, and more successfully, than when he was "100 per cent."

Further detail emerged in a printed championships programme feature, and in an on-the-couch interview he and Rebecca had with shearing veteran-turned commentator Digger Balme before special guests at the shears 24 hours before the big win.

After the victory, amid wellwishers reckoning there should be a movie, he confirmed he will take his place in the New Zealand team in the UK this year with Te Kuiti shearer Jack Fagan, who won his place with victory in the New Zealand



Shears Circuit final, an event won 17 times between 1985 and 2010 by father and shearing legend Sir David Fagan, currently president of the New Zealand Shearing Championships Society and chairman of Shearing Sports New Zealand.

It was also a triumphant night for Te Kuiti woolhandler and farmer Keryn Herbert who claimed the New Zealand Shears Open woolhandling title, in an all-King Country trifecta, with second place going to 2013 winner Hanatia Tipene, of Te Kuiti, and third place to Miriam Haig, of Taumarunui.

It was Herbert's 58th win in 21 years of Open competition, but which until Saturday night in either a Golden Shears or New Zealand Shears Open final, although she won a World teams title in 2010 and is acclaimed a Master Woolhandler.

The Senior shearing final on Saturday night completed a Golden Shears-New Zealand Shears double for Taumarunui shearer Forde Alexander – but only just.

Shearing the 12 sheep in 11min 45.23sec and beating next-man-off and Wyndham shearer Nathan Bee by 46 seconds, he saw Bee's superior quality close the gap to just 0.071 points in the final count. Third place went to Rangiora shearer Blake Crooks, who was named No 1-ranked Senior shearer for the season with 8 wins.

Poverty Bay angus stud manager Dylan Young won the Intermediate shearing final, 29 years after father Tony Young won the shears' Senior final, while earlier in the championships Napier shearer Kaivah Cooper added the Senior title to a Golden Shears win four weeks earlier, and the Novice final was won by Abbey Grant, from Turakina, and the women's final was won by defending champion Laura Bradley, from Papatawa, between Dannevirke and Woodville, also completing a Golden Shears-New Zealand Shears double.

In woolhandling the Senior final was won by Rahera Kerr, of Hauturu, the Junior final was won by Rongomai Hepi, of Taumarunui, and the Novice final was won by Arleigh Tamati, of Waitara.

On Friday night, Wales beat New Zealand for the first time in a shearing test in New Zealand, although shearers Gethin Lewis and Llyr Jones conceded a 1-2 series loss to Kiwis Paerata Abraham and David Gordon.



Above: *David Buick (in pen) with son Michael, competing in the Whanau Teams event, which they won.*

Results from the 38th New Zealand Shears shearing and woolhandling championships at Te Kuiti on Thursday-Saturday, April 4-6, 2024:

Shearing:

Wools of New Zealand International Shearing Series, Third Test (20 lambs): Wales (Gethin Lewis 16m 7.23s, 55.912pts, 1; Llyr Jones 16m 19.7s, 62.685pts) 119.597pts, beat New Zealand (David Gordon 16m 18.97s, 57.949pts; Paerata Abraham 15m 43.72s, 61.836pts) 119.785pts, by 0.188pts. New Zealand won the series 2-1.

New Zealand Shears Open final (20 sheep): David Buick (Pongaroa) 15m 16.67s, 53.734pts, 1; Toa Henderson (Kaiwaka) 14m 59.75s, 54.238pts, 2; Leon Samuels (Invercargill/Roxburgh) 15m 24.5s, 54.675pts, 3; Hemi Braddick (Eketahuna) 15m 35.52s, 54.826pts, 4; Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 16m 53.73s, 57.737pts, 5; Reuben Alabaster (Taihape) 16m 38.63s, 58.63pts, 6.

New Zealand Shears Circuit final (15 sheep – 5 merino, 5 second-shear, 5 lambs): Jack Fagan (Te Kuiti) 16m 50.69s, 67.535pts, 1; Toa Henderson (Kaiwaka) 16m 11.63s, 68.248pts, 2; Leon Samuels (Invercargill/Roxburgh) 16m 30.23s, 70.246pts, 3; Matene Mason (Masterton) 18m 11.61s, 72.848pts, 4; David Gordon (Masterton) 18m 21.95s, 73.232pts, 5; Paerata Abraham (Masterton) 18m 1.91s, 73.563pts, 6.

North Island Shearer of the Year final (20 sheep – 10 ewes, 10 lambs): Toa Henderson (Kaiwaka) 14m 47.84s, 55.642pts, 1; David Buick (Pongaroa) 15m 11.92s, 56.446pts, 2; David Gordon (Masterton) 15m 58.06s, 56.553pts, 3; Jack Fagan (Te Kuiti) 16m 8.44s, 58.122pts, 4; Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 17m 3.02s, 58.501pts, 5; Paerata Abraham (Masterton) 15m 14.69s, 63.535pts, 6.

New Zealand Shears Open Plate (10 sheep): Brett Roberts (Mataura) 9m 10.52s, 34.126pts, 1; David Gordon (Masterton) 9m 9.81s, 35.791pts, 2; Dean Ball (Te Kuiti) 9m 51.55s, 36.778pts, 3; Jack Fagan (Te Kuiti) 9m 29.13s, 37.657pts, 4; James Ruki (Te Kuiti) 9m 46.13s, 37.707pts, 5; Digger Balme (Otorohanga) 8m 2.58s, 52.529pts, 6.

New Zealand Shears Senior final (12 sheep): Forde Alexander (Taumarunui) 11m 45.23s, 46.179pts, 1; Nathan Bee (Invercargill) 12m 31.66s, 46.25pts, 2; Blake Crooks (Rangiora) 13m 5.52s, 47.109pts, 3; Te Ua Wilcox (Gisborne 13m 14.72s, 47.153pts, 4; Kapua Brown (Taumarunui) 12m 8.84s, 47.775pts, 5; Sean Fagan (Te Kuiti) 12m 39.73s, 47.904pts, 6.

New Zealand Shears Intermediate final (8 sheep): Dylan Young (Gisborne) 10m 28.13s, 38.782pts, 1; Ethan Fladgate (Te Awamutu) 10m 30.53s, 39.027pts, 2; Emma Martin (Wyndham) 11m 15.34s, 41.142pts, 3; Blake Mitchell (Patea) 9m 35.94s, 41.172pts, 4; Josh Balme (Otorohanga) 12m 42.34s, 44.367pts, 5; Duncan Adams (Scotland) 11m 29.52s, 45.851pts, 6.

New Zealand Shears Junior final (5 sheep): Kaivah Cooper (Napier) 7m 18.56s, 27.528pts, 1; Lachie Cameron (Pohangina) 7m 51.98s, 29.799pts, 2; Jet Schimanski (Gore) 7m 45.78s, 31.289pts, 3; George Peacock (Dannevirke) 7m 43,78s, 34.189pts, 4; Tom Clarkson (Martinbotough) 8m 30.31s, 35.316pts, 5; Tessa Berger (Ahuroa) 9m 55.75s, 43.988pts, 6.

New Zealand Shears Novice final (2 sheep): Abbey Grant (Turakina) 6m 25.3s, 31.765pts, 1; Mack Belton (Whanganui) 6m 0.52s, 35.526pts, 2; Rebecca Dickson (Hunterville) 9m 14.42s, 36.221pts, 3; Shawna Swann (Wairoa) 6m 23.47s, 37.174pts, 4; Jess Parkhouse (Napier) 5m 17.44s, 41.872pts, 5; Holly Bird (Taihape) 9m 20.06s, 46.503pts, 6.

New Zealand Shears women's final (6 sheep): Laura Bradley (Papatawa) 6m 10.25s, 25.513pts, 1; Catherine Mullooly (Matawai) 7m 18.81s, 30.941pts, 2; Danielle Mauger (Mullalyup, W.A.) 9m 0.02s, 32.501pts, 3; Lydia Thomson (Rangiora) 8m 50.86s, 32.876pts, 4; Emma Martin (Wyndham) 8m 35.66s, 33.616pts, 5; Cushla Abraham (Masterton) 9m 25.53s, 41.94pts, 6.

Open challenger (10 sheep): Chris Dickson (Masterton) 8m 34.34s, 35.317pts, 1; Ricci Stevens (Napier) 9m 24.61s, 35.731pts, 2; Jimmy Samuels (Marton) 8m 14.89s, 36.645pts, 3; Floyde Neil (Taumarunui/Boyup Brook, W.A.) 8m 19.17s, 38.759pts, 4; Lyr Jones, Llanrwst, Wales) 8m 33.56s, 39.678pts, 5; Paraki Puna (Napier) 9m 37.53s, 41.077pts, 6.

Development Teams Challenge (4 sheep): Canterbury (Blake Crooks 4m 34.19s, 19.71pts; Emma Martin 6m 13.42s, 23.421pts; Reuben King 5m 22,27s, 27.864pts) 70.995pts, beat King Country (Forde Alexander 4m 43.81s, 19.191pts; Josh Balme 6m 6.31s, 26.816pts; Kapua Brown 4m 27.95s, 27.148pts) 73.155pts.

Whanau teams (6 sheep): David and Michael Buick (Pongaroa) 6m 53.47s, 26.507pts, 1; Digger and Josh Balme (Otorohanga) 7m 8.81s, 27.774pts, 2; Riki and Reuben Alabaster (Taihape) 6m 32.03s, 28.102pts, 3; Dawson and Daniel Biggs (Mangamahu) 6m 27.36s, 28.368pts, 4; Mike and Toa Henderson (Kaiwaka) 6m 47.81s, 28.724pts, 5; James and Hemi Braddick (Eketahuna) 7m 9.16s, 29.958pts, 6.

Open speed shear final (2 sheep): Jimmy Samuels (Marton) 48.88s, 1; Reuben Alabaster (Taihape) 50.08s, 2; Hugh De Lacy (Rangiora) 52.77s, 3; Brett Roberts (Mataura) 54.81s, 4.

Senior speed shear final (1 sheep): Blake Crooks (Rangiora) 26.81s, 1; Josh Chrystal (Napier/Ohakune) 29.47s, 2; Mitchell Menzies (Amberley/Eketahuna) 30.02s, 3; Sean Fagan (Te Kuiti) 32.75s, 4.

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Woolhandling:

Open final (6 sheep): Keryn Herbert(Te Kuiti) 54.62pts, 1; Hanatia Tipene (Te Kuiti) 83.562pts, 2; Miriam Haig (Taumarunui) 89.618pts, 3; Jasmin Tipoki (Napier) 90.742pts, 4; Chelsea Collier (Hamilton) 101.688pts, 5.

Senior final: Rahera Kerr (Hauturu) 58.4pts, 1; Vinniye Phillips (Taumarunui) 68.356pts, 1; Amy Bell (Weber) 80.006pts, 3; Saskia Tuhakaraina (Gore) 82.8pts, 4; Whakapunake (Naki) Maraki (Flaxmere) 118.914pts, 5.

Junior final: Rongomai Hepi (Taumarunui) 70.97pts, 1; Rahera Lewis (Taihape) 89.57pts, 2; Makayla Neil (Piopio) 95.944pts, 3; Mere Maraki (Flaxmere) 104pts, 4; Jayda Milanta (Tauranga) 112.81pts, 5.

Novice final: Arleigh Tamati (Taranaki) 58.6pts, 1; Sophia Humphrey (Masterton) 63.82pts, 2; Ngawai Barker (Te Awamutu) 67.75pts, 3; Ohomairangi Ngatai-Hewitt (Te Kuiti) 91.77pts, 4; Aylah Paul (Taumarunui) 95.31pts, 5.

Inter-Island Challenge: South Island (shearers Nathan Stratford, Brett Roberts, Leon Samuels; woolhandlers Chelsea Collier, Monica Potae, Charis Morrell) 165pts beat North Island (shearers Toa Henderson, Paerata Abraham, David Buick; woolhandlers Jasmin Tipoki, Hanatia Tipene, Miriam Haig) 197pts.





Miriam Haig returned to competitive woolhandling after many years away and made the New Zealand final.







Top: *Scotland's Duncan Adams finished sixth in the Intermediate final.* ***Middle:*** *'Team manager' Kyle Balme with the coveted Contractor's Relay trophy, won by the Balme team (Jack Fagan, Dig Balme and Callum Bosley).* ***Above:*** *Close-up of the trophy Kyle is holding, a mounted, leather-gripped, silver-plated Wolseley handpiece of not recent vintage.*







Top: *Action from the Inter-Island challenge at the New Zealand championships. The South's Monica Potae looking for ... the red ribbon!* ***Middle:*** *Monica and Charis Morrell blending in unison.* ***Above:*** *Hemi and James Braddick finished sixth in the Whanau teams event. Was Hemi suggesting to his Dad that he made only two second cuts? Or predicting they'd come second?*













NZ Championships Photo Gallery: *They came to the Les Munro Centre in twos and threes – well it might seem that way.* ***Top:*** *King Country veteran Bruce Neil with son Roger (left) and grandson Floyde.* ***Middle:*** *Glenn Forde (left) with Llion Jones (Wales) and Josef Winders (Invercargill).* ***Above:*** *Raetihi contractor Jack Pue with sons Cleveland (left) and Kingston. Jack and Kingston shore in the Whanau teams event.* ***Top right:*** *Wales team manager and judge Hywell Jones with Sports Shear Australia's chairman, David Lawrence, who also judged at the championships.* ***Second right:*** *Clarry and Oshila Greathead from Tuakau, who helped take away the wool for the three days of competition.* ***Third right:*** *Mother and daughter Sue Turner and Peggysue Tohengaroa, competitors in the open woolhandling and intermediate shearing, respectively.* ***Bottom right:*** *Penny and Allen Loomb (Power Farming Te Awamutu),enjoying the entertainment at the Friday night session of the New Zealand championships. (Power Farming Te Awamutu sponsored the women's shearing event, won by Laura Bradley of Woodville.)*

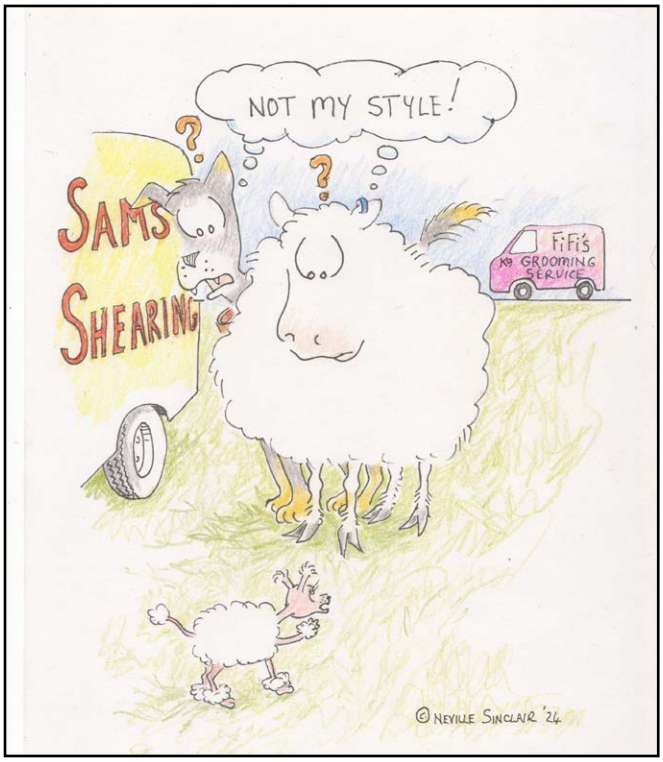


NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIPS
OPEN FINALISTS 1985 – 2024
(No contests 2020, 2022 due to Covid 19 Pandemic)

Alabaster, Reuben: 2024 (1)
Avery, Paul: 1992, 1993, 1994, **1995**, 1996, 1998, 1999, **2000**, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, **2007**, 2008, 2009, 2010 (16).
Ball, Dean: 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2015 (10).
Balme, Dig: 1990, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 (9).
Barnett, Mike: 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995 (6).
Braddick, Hemi: 2021, 2024 (2)
Buchanan, Ian: 1987, 1989 (2).
Buick, David: 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, **2024** (10).
Clarke, Joe: 1993, 1997, 2000, 2001 (4).
Cox, Adrian: 1986 (1).
Cox, Roger: 1985 (1).
Crawshaw, Craig: 1990 (1).
Dowd, Jack: 1986 (1).
Fagan, David: 1985, **1986**, 1987, **1988, 1989**, 1990, **1991, 1992**, 1993, **1994**, 1995, **1996, 1997, 1998, 1999**, 2000, **2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006**, 2007, 2008, 2009, **2010**, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 (30).
Fagan, James: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2015 (6).
Fagan, John: 1985, 1986, 1988, 1991 (4).
Ferguson, Cam: 2010, 2011, 2019 (3).
Forde, Darin: 1998, 2012 (2).
Forde, Edsel: 1988, 1989, **1990**, 1991, **1993** (5).
Gordon, David: 2023 (1)
Grainger, Mark: 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2021 (5).
Grainger, Paul: 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 (9).
Harrison, Simon: 1991 (1).
Haynes, Aaron: 2014 (1).
Henderson, Toa: 2023, 2024 (2)
King, Colin: 1985, 1986, **1987**, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999 (8).
King, Dion: 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, **2015**, 2017 (11).
Kirkpatrick, John: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, **2008, 2009**, 2011, **2012**, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021 (21).
Lewis, Larry: 1987, 1988 (2).
MacDonald, Alan: 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002 (14).
McCrea, Jerome: 2011 (1).
Morrell, Dion: 1994 (1).
Mutch, Gavin: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023 (5).
Roberts, Brett: 2021 (1)
Rosandich, Ivan: 1985 (1).
Ruki, John: 1985 (1).
Samuels, Leon: 2023, 2024 (2)
Smith, Rowland: 2010, **2011**, 2012, **2013, 2014**, 2015, **2016, 2017, 2018, 2019**, **2021**, 2023 (12)
Stratford, Nathan: 2003, 2004; 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2023, 2024 (13).
Wilson, Keith: 1989 (1).
Win, Jason: 2011 (1).

(41 finalists)

10 Plus Finals appearances:
Sir David Fagan 30
John Kirkpatrick 21
Paul Avery 16
Alan MacDonald 14
Nathan Stratford 13
Rowland Smith 12
Dion King 11
Dean Ball 10
David Buick 10





Mike back in familiar territory

By Des Williams

Such is the longevity of most 'volunteers' who turn up year after year to help run the Golden Shears at Masterton, it's not every day you spot a 'new face' sitting there or standing there, helping with the seamless continuation of events for three days. But Mike Charteris was something of a 'new face' this year and you'd be very short-sighted if you missed him sitting just inside the main hall, at the wool-pressing registration desk. All efficiency and beaming smile of welcome for competitors and curious journalists alike.

But he's a new face back in old familiar territory - his father, Mick Charteris won the Golden Shears junior championship in 1962 with the best points ever, and his mother, Myrna Charteris was 'rousie' for Brian 'Snow' Quinn the night in 1980 when he won the world championship. We will come back to that history a little later.

So *Shearing* catches up with Mike again, a couple of weeks after the event for a yarn and it comes as no surprise to soon learn that it was John Hodder had 'roped him in' a few months ago, knowing that some extra help would be needed this year. If there is one name synonymous with wool pressing at Golden Shears (apart from Goodger, that is!), it would have to be that of Mr Hodder, former Wairarapa contractor and organiser who has been 'running the woolpressing show' for many years.

"I had done a bit of work with John over the years, just helping him out here and there and he said to me they could do with a hand at the Shears this year," Mike recalls. "I told him I hadn't been there in ages and it would be good to come back again, so that's how I found myself helping to administer the wool-pressing.

"I really enjoyed doing that because it must be more than 20 years since I was last there. I used to do the shows and my Mum, Myrna Charteris had been a rousie there for 20-odd years. She was one of a bunch of those girls who all did more than 20 years of service doing the woolhandling for those big finals. Dave McPherson looked after that side of the wool for years and years. It was a well-run operation.

Mike's own career in the sheds started in traditional fashion, when he was in his early teens, going out during school holidays with his father, who was contracting around the southern Wairarapa. He enjoyed the shed-handing work and developed himself into a very good presser.

"I started out rouseabouting and pressing for my Dad, he had a shearing run here, running six or seven crews at the height of the season, he would do most of the sheep here in the south Wairarapa from the mid-1970s to the early 1980s. Most of the sheds were stay-out, he had no quarters. There were quarters at most of the stations back then.

I never really intended to be a shearer but then my mate took me away down south to a job pressing. I loved pressing and that was in the days of the two-man, double side, sewing up the bales with bag needle and twine and all that extra work.

It was my first trip on the inter-island ferry on the way down, we slept on the ferry and then got the train from Christchurch down to Omakau, going via Middlemarch and Hyde and other places where I would end up doing some work. Once down there I was keen to get on the handpiece but it took me ages to get a shearing stand, but I finally did.



Above: *Mike Charteris, happy in his work at the Golden Shears wool-pressing.*

Unfortunately I was too good on the press so the contractors tried to keep me pressing the wool rather than let me shear. I should have made a hash of that job and I might have got to be a shearer more quickly!

I boarded with a family down there for my first year. There were five in the family and they made room for me in the house. I also worked in an open run around west Otago – Heriot, Tapanui, and that was real good.

A guy called Gordy McDonald was running the gang at first and then Kelvin Robertson took it over. It was a nice little run around Omakau there, he used to run three or four gangs and three or four-stand stand sheds and I was fortunate enough to be on a run there where the farmers fed you. They were bloody awesome, it really opened my eyes up to that side of the industry as opposed to here in the Wairarapa and other parts where farmers were considered the enemy.

I also worked for a guy Basil Lawry who had a one-gang operation at Gore in the early days. I teamed up with him and we just kept working away. I was fortunate to keep finding the right people and the right jobs.

At the end of that first season down south I came back up to work for Dad, sailing on the inter-island ferry out of Lyttleton. We were coming back up for Golden Shears and I was under-age but my mate managed to get me a drink at the bar and we got boozed up, then got the train to Masterton and went to Golden Shears. I have a feeling that was close to being one of the last ferry sailings out of Lyttelton.

I ended up doing quite a few pre-lamb seasons around Omakau. There was a bunch of shearers here at Martinborough who had an affiliation with Gordy McDonald at Omakau and that's how I ended up going to Omakau in the first instance. And that routine was still going on when I left in 1985 and went to Australia, guys from here were still going down to Omakau. That's how it worked, you'd get a leg in the door

somewhere and keep going back to that particular place.

Things have changed quite a bit over the years but I managed to work around New Zealand quite well, mainly in Southland and Otago, and up the East Cape, I did a season over Awakino way and then in my later days I came back here to the south Wairarapa.

About 1985 Mike decided to try his luck in Australia and there he stayed as a base for the next ten years or so, doing some shearing in Western Australia while travelling around other parts of the world, including the United States, United Kingdom and Scotland.

In 2009 he married a New Zealand woman he'd met in Australia and they, together with her daughter revisited some of the countries and places Mike had been to in earlier years. Back in New Zealand, he spent some time 'doing up' his house at Martinborough to make it suitable for home stays.

"Then we went back to Australia for nine years during which I changed my career from being a shearer to being a city boy in Brisbane! We were there until 2019 and then decided it was time to come home again, luckily just before the Covid pandemic struck.

"But I've always kept in touch with what's being going on in the industry, both through *Shearing* magazine and on the internet. I've never lost that affinity with such a great industry to work in, with so many like-minded people to get the job done. Like when I started there were 72 million sheep in New Zealand, SMPs (supplementary minimum price levels to guarantee farm income, etc) and all that and a bit later on sheep numbers dropped to 40 million and now they are about twenty million. Dramatic changes all around."



Charteris Heads Golden Shears Junior Finalists

(New Zealand Press Association)
MASTERTON, February 28.

M Charteris, a 25-year-old shearer from Martinborough with 93.34 points, headed the six junior finalists on the opening day of the Golden Shears championships at

Mike's father, Mick Charteris won the Golden Shears Junior title in 1962 with 94.67 points, a score that wasn't beaten in a final for the next 20 years. He had fastest time so that would have earned him 50 points for time and 44.67 out of 50 for his quality. (His qualifying score was 93.34.)

"The importance of quality was something that Dad installed in my own mind as a shearer because, as a contractor, he was always very conscious of the job outside that his shearers were doing for the farmer and his sheep."

Mick Charteris was presented with his prize at Golden Shears by Prime Minister Sir Keith Holyoake. The other finalists were Bruce Demler of Te Uku; Len Bregman (Frankton), John Worboys (Woodville), DJ Mortleman (Matawai) and L Death of Stratford.

Mick Charteris died in 1985, aged about 52.

* * * * *



Above: *World championship final at Masterton in 1980, with Myrna Charteris 'doing the wool' for Brian 'Snow' Quinn. Others in the photo are Robin Coutts (top left), judges Kevin Vincent (Australia), Kevin Nesdale and Alistair Simpson.*

Tribute: Debbie Lawrence (Top Gun)

Supplied

Debra Anne Lawrence (nee McAuliffe) was born on Saturday 24 July 1954 at St John Hospital, Northam. (100 km east-northeast of Perth). Known as Debbie, she attended primary school at St Joseph's Convent (now School) in Northam and continued to Northam Senior High School for her 1st, 2nd, and 3rd years.

Debbie grew up just a short walking distance from the Northam swimming pool and spent many hours there from a young age. She became a champion swimmer and contested many junior state titles. Her coach, Peter Vincent was sad when she gave up the sport as he thought she had the ability to go much further with her swimming, possibly even to Olympic level.

Debbie met Noel Lawrence in May 1969 when she was nearly 15 and he had just turned 17. When working as a shearer close to Northam, Noel would drive his new yellow Ford Capri past the high school at lunch time and pick Debbie up and the two would have lunch in the parking area.

Debbie left school in 1969 and commenced work at John Frost's Chemist in the main street of Northam, a job she really enjoyed.

Debbie and and Noel married on 1 September 1973 and then they shifted to Perth, as Noel had just graduated as a police officer. They bought a caravan and lived at the Queen's Park Caravan Park for three years.



Debbie Lawrence (1954-2024)

In Perth Debbie worked with another chemist in Barrack Street and she remained working there until Noel was transferred to Geraldton Traffic in1975 (420km north of Perth). Debbie commenced work at the new Boans Myers department store, in the cosmetics section.

In February 1978 they returned to Perth and bought a home in Inglewood. Whilst living there, their first child, Tyson, was born on 9 June of that year.

It was around about this time that Debbie got into cake making and cake decorating and made many decorated cakes for weddings etc for friends, family and others.

Debbie also commenced a small skin care business called Metrin where she purchased the product from Canada. She ran this business for 40 years, handing it over to her daughter Amber only three years ago.

In early 1986 whilst Debbie was pregnant with Amber, (youngest child) Noel (whilst on Long Service leave from the Police Force) and brother Kevin went to New Zealand for a month or so to try their hand at shearing over there. Kevin and Noel worked with Elbert de Koning out of Ohai, Southland, on the South Island.

Noel came back to Perth with a pair of carpet shearing moccasins and asked Deb if this was something they could make. Noel went ahead and purchased a metre of outdoor carpet for $39.00. He cut the old moccasins down and used them as a pattern to make some new ones. but Debbie's Bernina sewing machine could not handle the thickness, so they had them sewn up at a Saddlery shop in town.

In May 1986 (after Amber was born) they purchased a hand-operated sewing machine and put it in the back shed of their Ballajura home. Either Noel or Debbie would turn the wheel and the other would move the moccasins under the needle. This didn't last long as coordination between the two was difficult. Moccassins were only a few of the shearing items that were sewn. Debbie cut out and sewed some of the smaller things. She cut out combs pouches from outdoor carpet with a pair of scissors. She also started cutting out and making shearers belts. Noel still had his 'day job', working on the force in the Police Air Wing and was only able to assist on days off or weekends. For the first couple of years the comb pouches, moccasins, belts etc. were made for Warrie Shearing products in Mount Barker.

As demand for their products grew, they took on their first employee.

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(From page 38)

Debbie knew a lady who had kids at the same school and she knew that she could sew. Debbie asked if she was interest in a bit of sewing. She said 'Yes' and that same lady, Lyn Quill, is still with Top Gun after 38 years. Deb and Noel operated out of their back shed for four years before moving into an industrial building in Malaga.

During the period late 1980s and early 1990s as the business was getting off the ground Debbie attended shearing competitions with Noel in various country towns throughout Western Australia, selling shearing gear to the shearers from sales stands set up at the competition alongside his rusted Blue Ford van.

Around 1990, Debbie decided the wholesale business, known then as Lawrence Shearing Products, should go retail and the new business name ***'Top Gun Shearing'*** was decided upon and commenced in Carson Road, Malaga. It was now that Debbie had decided they should try and contact as many shearers as she could. She attended the local Post office and was able to get them to provide as many of the yellow business pages phone books as they could locate across Australia. This amounted to many kgs of books. Over the weeks/months she was able to locate the shearers who had their names in the book, record their names and send out an introductory letter to them all. All this was done before computers were introduced to the business.

As Noel was often away with his job, Debbie managed the shop with sales, purchases, queries and Noel only helping on the weekends or after arriving home from work.

Debbie managed the customers, the accounts and was also committed to cutting out and designing the various items that needed to be made.

She did all of this whilst raising the four kids, (Tyson, Amber, Clint and Ryan) Three of whom work in the business today.)

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Customers were wanting shearing singlets and contractors and shearing competitions wanted them printed. Top Gun purchased a hand operated screen printing machine and Debbie and Noel were often at the shop late at night getting the printing done for the customers. Debbie placing the singlets on the platen and drying them with a heat gun, being careful not to burn too many.

She remembers the occasion where a shearing competition in the south of the state had forgotten to arrange singlets. Debbie was advised early afternoon the day before the competition to see if there was anything she could do. Debbie said she could do something not wanting to see the competition go with out. She got to work and designed the logos and Noel had them made up onto silk screens and had them printed by late that evening. The singlets were collected by the competition rep very late that night and the competition had singlets for the day.

Debbie remembers the time when an old shearer rang and wanted to talk to Noel. As Noel wasn't there, she said let me see if I can help. Reluctantly he told Debbie his problem, and (unsurprisingly) she was able to help. He made the comment "you really do know something about shearing". He phoned often after this and always spoke to her as there was no need to ask for Noel. (Debbie often commented, "do you want to speak to the man in charge or the woman who knows what's going on".)

Debbie's customer service was second to none, she always went that extra mile to ensure customer satisfaction. Many times if a customer was late getting his order in and all couriers had gone, she would drive to the Perth Airport where the local freight sorting was done and delivered the parcel into the system, ensuring delivery next day anywhere in the state of WA and quite often to the east coast. She was always excited when a parcel was delivered in the east less than 24 hours after it had been freighted.

She loved serving the customers and many which became great friends. She was a good listener and adviser and great at what she did. This interest in people and their lives came naturally and over the following years the business (Debbie) was getting enquiries from many countries around the world.

Customers would ring and ask for Debbie as they knew she knew what their singlet size was, or what their credit card details were or what a part number for the item they were chasing was. She loved to talk to them and they loved to talk to her.

Top Gun had at least three moves as the business grew and Debbie had her way as to how the new shop should be laid out to display the gear that was to be sold. She had her ideas as to how details should be recorded on the computers, though initially apprehensive by others, her new methods proved themselves a great improvement.

More recently, Debbie had a few battles with health-related items, and valiantly fought through many different challenges. She as always, showed a silent strength, alongside Noel, her loving life partner, amongst all the battles on the doorstep.

Debbie passed away suddenly and peacefully, at the age of 69, in her sleep on her favourite couch late Monday afternoon, 5 February 2024.

* * * * * *



Woolhandling Judges at Golden Shears. *Back left: Jo Hopkirk, Bo Paku-Clark, Dayna Te Aho, Dawn Aramoana, Fiona Healey, Heidi Middleton, Rose Puha, Holly Tarrant. Front left: Linda Tarrant, Lisa McLean (Australia).*

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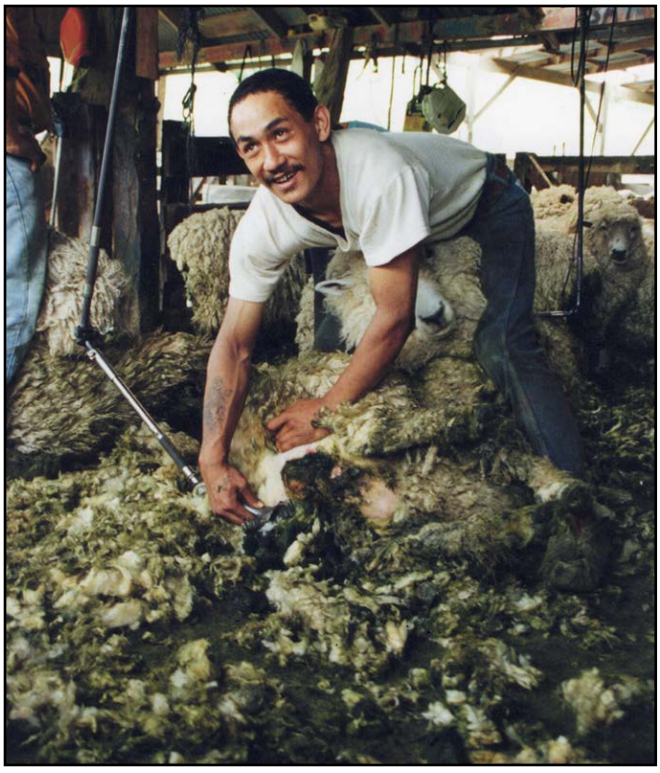
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Above: *We published this photo 30 years ago (Shearing March 1994), in black and white. Tim Anderson of Taihape, dagging sheep at Makuku Station on the Parapara, north of Whanganui. Having so much fun!*



Above: *A much cleaner environment for Charlie Bennett, working for a Dion Morrell Shearing gang (Alexandra) at Beaumont Station, August 2023.*



Above: *Looking out over the covered yards at Beaumont Station with sheep to be brought up for shearing by Dion Morrell's crew, August 2023*





Above: *Southern Shears 2005, the day a Southland farmer came from no-weir and photo-bombed the senior woolhandling presentations. Tina Elers, Hanatia Tipene, Cindy Hiri and Roberta Harre all said they had no idea weir he came from and no idea weir he went. And the cameraman was too busy to notice, but he looked like a nice chap so nobody was stewing on it.*



Above: *The Magnificent Seven of 1960s western movies fame. From left: Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, Horst Buchholz, Robert Vaughn, Charles Bronson, Brad Dexter and James Coburn. But if they were shearers, what would their names be? I'll start: (in no particular order): Keith Wilson, Ken Pike, Darin Forde, ...*

Opposite, more history: *New Zealand Shearing Championships, open woolhandling finalists 1994 – 30 years ago! From left: Michael Youngman (Mannell and Follick, sponsor): Huia Puna, Riversdale, 5th; Elsie Lyon, Alexandra, 4th; Aroha Garvin, Milton, 3rd; Oti Mason, Dannevirke, 2nd; Raelene Howes, Gore, 1st. Raelene had started the season by winning the New Zealand Merino Shears open woolhandling final at Alexandra and she also won finals at Esperance (WA) and the Southern Circuit at Southern Shears. She was top-ranked open woolhandler for the season, finishing five points ahead of the rising star, Joanne Kumeroa (RIP).*

Oti Mason also enjoyed a successful 1993-94 competition circuit, winning open finals at Poverty Bay, Manawatu, Taihape and Taranaki. He was also runner-up at four other venues apart from Te Kuiti (NZ Championships) and attained SSNZ number 3 ranking.





Leon Samuels Golden Shears Open Champion 2024

"It's just a yard of purple ribbon but the effort that it inspires
Is created by the message it carries, to which every young shearer aspires
It's not the money – it's the achieving, what only some of the best have done
For it sets the seal of Champion on the career of a shearing gun."

Just a Yard of Purple Ribbon *© BK Walker 1983*

HOW DOES LEON COMPARE? The recent achievements of our new Golden Shears open champion Leon Samuels (the 25th since 1961) have certainly brought forth some generous korero in recognition of his 'trifecta' – Golden Shears, New Zealand second shear championship (Te Kuiti) and New Zealand fine wool titles (Alexandra), all held concurrently. And how does that compare with some of our past champions? Preliminary research indicates only Brian Quinn has done that before.

But wait ... there's more ... Leon also won the New Zealand lamb shearing championship at MacKenzie Shears at the end of last season and the Waimate full wool title this season. So, over two seasons he has held (concurrently) New Zealand championships in fine wool, full wool, second shear, lambs and the coveted Goldies.

Now let me step back a bit – I have a story yet to be written about our 'great all-rounders', based on conversations with, and notes provided to me by the late Murray McSkimming. (I lost the notes for a year or two!) They form the basis of the 'Shearing Hall of Fame' that I have been publishing in recent editions of *Shearing* magazine. To cut a long story short here, I have used Mr Quinn as the yardstick, with ten items from his career record as appropriate criteria for comparison purposes.

1. World championship/world team representation
2. World record (individual 8hr or 9hr)
3. New Zealand Golden Shears
4. New Zealand Merino Shears
5. New Zealand Championship Te Kuiti (Royal Show prior to 1986)
6. New Zealand full wool championship (Waimate)
7. New Zealand championship crossbred lambs (Riversdale/Winton etc)
8. National multi-breeds circuit (McSkimming Memorial)
9. New Zealand Corriedale championship
10. Southern Shears (Gore)

Seven Wonders of the World

No, we are not suggesting Leon Samuels belongs in this list, not yet anyway! From the reprints department: "A group of students was asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World. Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Pyramids;
2. Taj Mahal;
3. Grand Canyon;
4. Panama Canal;
5. Empire State Building;
6. St Peter's Basilica;
7. China's Great Wall.

"While collecting the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not yet finished her paper. She asked the girl if she was having trouble and the girl replied she couldn't quite make up her mind, because there were so many to choose from. The teacher told her to read out what she had written and suggested, "maybe we can help". The girl hesitated, then read:

1. To see;
2. To hear;
3. To touch;
4. To taste;
5. To feel;
6. To laugh;
7. To love.

"The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we take for granted are truly wonders."
(From *Shearing* magazine August 2009)

So how do others compare? Sir David Fagan ticks off nine, with just the NZ Merino Shears missing from his list. (He did make the final once.) And Leon Samuels also ticks NINE, with just the NZ Corriedale championship yet to be achieved.

Colin King ticks eight, with New Zealand Merino Shears and a world record missing.

Edsel Forde ticks eight, with world championship and New Zealand Merino Shears missing.

John Kirkpatrick also ticks eight, with individual world record and NZ Merino Shears missing.

Of course, Quinn, Fagan, King, Forde and Kirkpatrick achieved some of those items multiple times, but as Murray McSkimming suggested, you only have to do something once to prove your worth. Leon now has 15 major titles to his credit, including Southern Shears (3), Otago Shears (3) and NZ Spring Shears Waimate (2).

And lest we forget: Sir David Fagan won 642 open championships around the world between 1983 and 2016.

(*Adapted from Facebook Post March 2024*)

Groundswell NZ

Groundswell started tractor protests because unworkable regulations were making life impossible for food producers and rural communities, while little to no attention was paid to the impact of those regulations. Farmers needed an uncompromising voice to speak on their behalf.

It worked. Your issues got national media coverage and the politicians had to listen to grassroots farmers.

We've seen a transformation in the way agricultural and environmental policy is talked about in New Zealand and in how the voice of farmers is represented to those who hold power on behalf of Kiwis.

That isn't to say that the job is done – not by a long shot. Those changes are just the first step in getting the change in policy, law, and action that we need if family farming is to continue and rural communities are to survive.

We haven't yet won all the debates we're fighting, but the grassroots farmer is now a major voice in those debates, not just a bystander to be talked about.

Now, with the farmer protests overseas, some are asking why Groundswell isn't protesting along with them.

First, Groundswell NZ stands with food producers everywhere, but there are a few points of context that come into play.

A major part of the European protests is about the subsidies those farmers get. It's important to note that farmers in New Zealand don't get subsidies and we don't want them.

Those subsidies are between those farmers and their governments. Any protest in New Zealand won't affect how those political fights go.

We're focused on the political and regulatory situation here at home, which brings us to our second point.

The new Coalition Government has promised to make major changes on the issues we've been campaigning on. The promised set of changes isn't perfect and a promise is not an action, so we're not planning to take it easy.

But protesting about a government before they've had the chance to go wrong will backfire. If we make a fuss now, those politicians who would rather drag their heels on reform can write off the Groundswell movement as people who grumble no matter the weather.

The many urban folk who look favourably on farming and the tractor protests will be confused about what we want, since the Government can just say that they're making the changes we're asking for.

Protests and direct action are still on the table, but we have to use them strategically to get the change we need.

We will keep reminding the Government that we are paying close attention to whether they're keeping their promises and meeting the deadlines they set.



The Groundswell movement is not about which parties are in government, but how those parties treat food producers and rural communities.

They know that if we don't see change, we will take action – just like we did with the last government. We're telling the Government what changes need to be made and pointing out where their plans fall short.

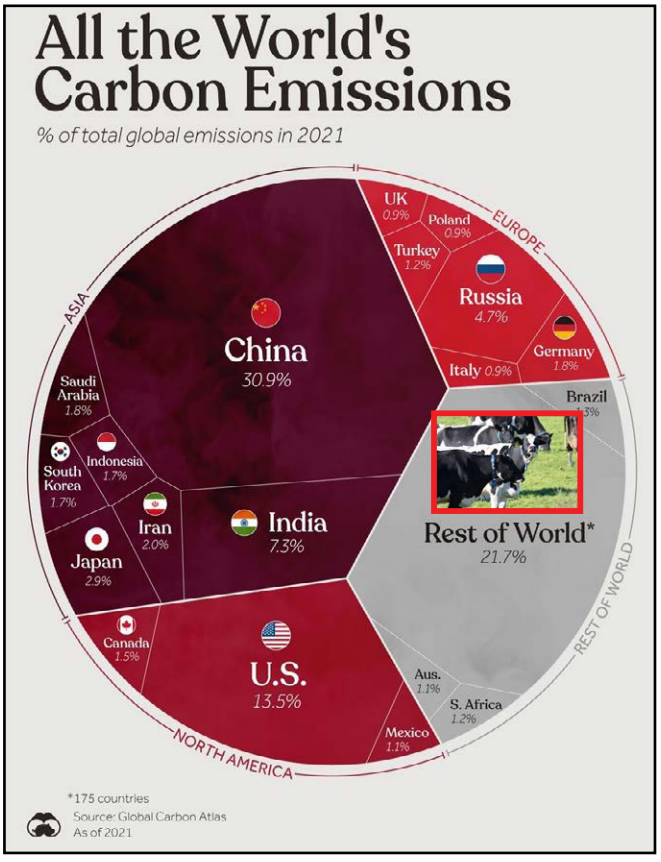
We will also be holding local and regional councils to account. Some of them are in blatant defiance of the general election result and changes in policy, seemingly dedicated to an ideological view of environmental regulations (more on them soon).

With these councils acting contrary to the new Government's directions, against the interests of their residents, and harming food producers, Groundswell is considering what action to take to demonstrate who the public stand with.

Groundswell is standing up for food producers and rural communities and it's your support that gives us the backing and resources to make the politicians take grassroots voices seriously.

Thank you again for your support. Kind regards, Bryce McKenzie, Laurie, Mel and the Team at Groundswell NZ

PS. We are a grassroots movement representing farmers, growers, and rural communities without the resources of the political parties or levy bodies. If you can, chip in to Groundswell NZ so we can continue to defend rural New Zealand and restore New Zealand's pride in farming.



Above: *Yep, it's definitely cow farts from New Zealand that are causing all the problems. (*Rest of the World = 175 countries.)*

"The truth does not require your participation in order to exist. Bullshit does." (Terence McKenna).

Joe Ferguson (1936-2024) New Zealand Champion

Joe Ferguson had a New Zealand shearing championship purple ribbon somewhere in his 'bottom drawer'. Not from Te Kuiti, but from the Royal Show at Auckland in 1960, back when 'the Royal', wherever it was held, carried the dual status of New Zealand championship. It was a title Joe won (he explained in a Shearing magazine interview some years ago) only because his major rival Bing Macdonald 'nicked a tit' in the final. And putting a sheep around Godfrey Bowen also helped his cause on the day!

Joe (real name George Norrie Ferguson) died at Whangarei in early January (noticed published 13 Jan), aged 86. He'd been brought up on a farm near Morrinsville, but his father died at a young age and Joe himself was only about five. His mother (who he described as 'a wonderful woman') had to battle on, doing the best she could on the farm while raising the family. Joe's older brother had to leave school and find work for himself.

Without Dad around, Joe (*pictured right*) found himself getting into trouble, especially fights with other boys and he was always getting offside with one of his teachers. After one episode the teacher gave him 20 'cuts' [leather strap on the arm!] and 'thirty thousand lines' to write over the weekend and sent him to see the headmaster. "But I had just turned 15, it was a Friday and so I just left school. That teacher might still be waiting for his 30,000 lines!"

In a career-defining move, Joe went to the movies that night at Morrinsville and met a bloke who told him he was learning to shear.

"I said, 'what's that?' He said, 'shearing sheep, Stupid!'

'So Stupid asked him if there was any chance of him getting a job there too.'

And so the young Fergie found himself working for Ian Hutchings and Jack Woodcock. Rousing at first, in the time-honoured tradition, before graduating to finishing last sides and shearing a couple at smoko.



Shearing in different parts of the country in the next few years, and after some time in Australia, Joe decided he wanted some experience 'working in a Maori gang', so he and a mate went to Hawkes Bay and found work with a contractor named Tutu Waretini.

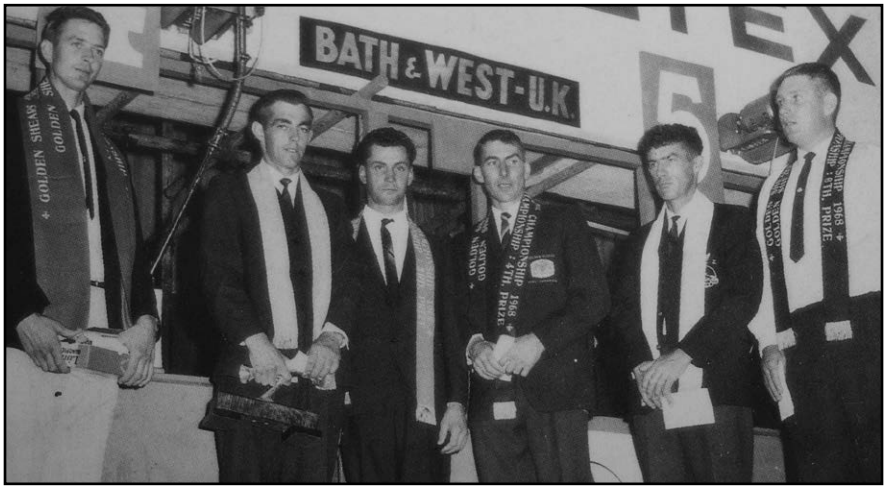
"One day Tutu told me he was taking me up to shear at the Hamilton Show. I told him there's no way I was going up there to shear against Bowen or Manu Rangiawha. But he took me anyway and I shore in a heat against both of those guns. Both finished a whole sheep ahead of me – Bowen walked off the stage as soon as he'd finished but Manu stayed beside me, offering encouragement all the while. He told me that I would eventually make the grade – 'In another couple of years, or even sooner – you just wait and see.'

"I was very embarrassed but Manu's kindly manner made me feel much better. He was a magnificent man and that gesture stuck with me all my life."

As Manu had prophesised, Joe did indeed make it in the big time and it was much 'sooner' than the predicted couple of years.

With a New Zealand title under his belt Joe went seeking similar success at the first Golden Shears. He qualified for the semis in sixth place behind Godfrey, Bing Macdonald, Ivan Bowen, Harry Hughes and Mate Simon, but then it was his turn to nick the little milk dispenser and he missed the final.

Joe made amends the following year (1962) by finishing second to Macdonald – just 16 seconds behind



Above: *Golden Shears finalists 1968, from left: Brian Quinn, Tom Brough, Joe Ferguson, Brian Waterson, Allan Williamson, Ron Stuart.*

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on the clock but nearly five points adrift overall. That's as close as Joe got to winning the Golden Shears Open championship at Masterton.

Apart from that Royal Show in 1960, Joe's biggest moment came in 1973 when he won the inaugural McSkimming Memorial National Championship. His other major titles included the Western Shears at Raglan in 1971, the New Zealand Spring Shears at Waimate in 1972 and the National Lamb Shears at Raglan, 1972 and 1974.

By 1975 Joe was done with shearing in New Zealand and he moved to Australia, working for a time at Mount Isa and also as a shearer. He met and married Pauline (a Kiwi) and in 1997 they moved back to Whangarei, where Joe operated a lawn-mowing business (always careful not to make any second cuts on the grass!)

"It's a good occupation," Joe reckoned – "like shearing, wet days generally mean a day off, and at my age, days off are always welcome."

Joe Ferguson, a true legend of the New Zealand shearing industry, is survived by Pauline, three children from a first marriage, nine grandies and ten great-grandchildren.

* * * * * * *





Treasure comes in different forms. ***Top:*** *The "pure gold" commentary team at Golden Shears, from left: Norm Harraway, Rowena Duncum, Tuma Mullins, Jimmy Samuels, John McBride and Gerald Spain.* ***Above:*** *The Silverware for Saturday night presentations. The McSkimming Memorial at left.*

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Above: *Ray Kinsman, Hemi Braddick and Flynn Harvey (with world records judge Alistair Emslie) together shore 1745 sheep at Pohuetai Station, Dannevirke, on 19 January 2024 for a new eight-hour, three-stand strong wool ewe record. Kinsman contributed 565, Harvey 581 and Braddick 599. The trio received their certificates at Golden Shears in March . Hemi Braddick also enjoyed a successful season on the show circuit, including a fourth placing in the New Zealand Championships open final at Te Kuiti on 6 April 2024.*

Recent Deaths



Above: *The late Tony Cook, who died at Blackall, Queensland, on 14 January 2024, aged 54. Loved husband of Samantha and father to Levi, Brodie, Nikita, Cuba, Wyatt and Aspen. He is pictured shearing at Otematata in 1993.* ***Inset****: Tony at the Warrnambool Shears in 2002. Sorry we couldn't find the coloured version. RIP Tony.*



From Shearing Sports Wales: It is with great sadness that we share with you, the very sad news of the passing of Estyn Bufton. Known to so many of us in the Shearing World as 'Buff', he was a serving member of the Royal Welsh Shearing Committee since 1994, and has worked tirelessly as a shearing steward at the Royal Welsh Show since 1981. He was the Welsh Team manager at the World Championships held in Scotland in 2003 and last year he was awarded an Honorary member of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society for his exceptional service to the society and shearing. Our heartfelt condolences, Buff will be dearly missed."



Above: *Grant Borchardt, Sports Shear Australia shearing judge and one of seven Australian members of the World Sheep Shearing Records Society judging panel. Grant was on the panel for three world records last year; Aidan Copp's crossbred lamb tally of 605 at Melton Mowbray, Tasmania on 28 January 2023; Floyde Neil's merino ewes tally at Kojunup on 22 April 2023, and he was convenor of the panel that judged Sacha Bond's strong wool lambs record of 720 at Centre Hill Station, Mossburn, on 19 December 2023.*

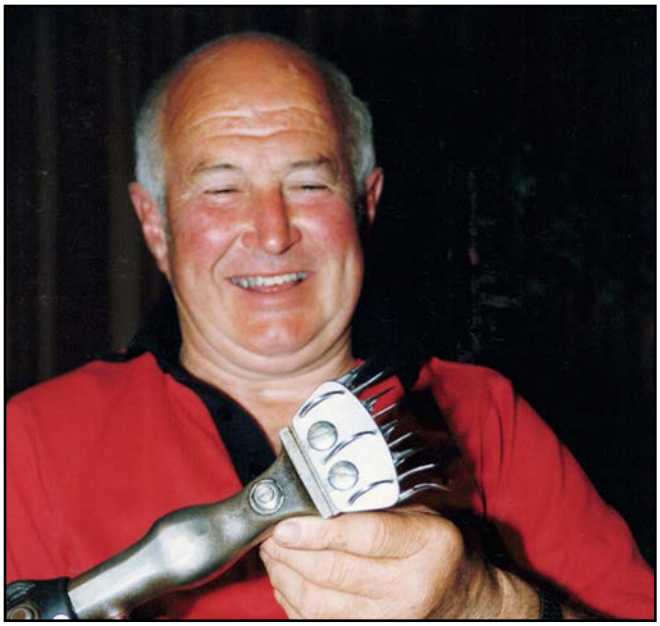
A sheep farmer and grain grower at Tara, Qld, Grant died at his home in March 2024. He is pictured above while judging at the Australian National championships at Tara in 1999. The following year, at Armidale NSW, this writer (in his role as Shearing Sports New Zealand media man) was snooping around the judging area after the trans-Tasman shearing test, trying to get a hint on who might have won. Darin Forde, David Fagan and Grant Smith had looked like they were running Shannon Warnest, Ross Thompson and Dean King very close in all aspects – time, board and outside job. The writer made eye-contact with Grant Borchardt, with a "come on Grant, give us a hint" type of look. 'Bugger off,' he said, 'we're not talking to you Kiwis at the moment!' "Thanks Grant, receiving you loud and clear." And so it proved, a rare 'away' result in the Walker-Keats Cup. New Zealand victors by 241.500 penalties to Australia's 245.090. (Des Williams)

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Above: Renown collector of shearing equipment, Ritchie Gould of Pleasant Point, died at the Elloughton Gardens Rest Home, Timaru, on 7 February 2024, in his 87th year. Dearly loved husband of Margaret and father of Raewyn and Bruce (deceased) and grandad to grandchildren and great-grandchildren. *Shearing* magazine carried a story about Richie's collection and museum in 1991.

"Richie Gould of Pleasant Point has an air-driven handpiece, believed to have come to Akaroa with the early settlers. It is powerd by bellows, pumped by hand or foot. And so simply made it runs like a clock, Richie told the magazine editor, David Grace.

"It is one among 80 handpieces that Richie has collected over the past six years. He also has more than 180 combs and cutters. A prize in the collection is the Smoko handpiece, well-named because it ran very hot. Made in Sweden at the turn of the century, it had forks like a modern handpiece. You used a screwdriver to apply pressure".

At the time of his interview (1991), Richie had been shearing for 34 years and was "always on the lookout for old shearing gear or information about it."

Richie was always a willing provider of information about old shearing equipment. RIP Richie Gould.



Above: *Tom Evans MBE, FRAgs, known as The Voice of Welsh Shearing, died peacefully at his home, Aberannell Bungalow, Beulah, on 13 December 2023. He was in his 81st year. A Facebook post from Shearing Sports Wales dated 14 December noted how Tom had dedicated his time to commentating at the Royal Welsh Show (Builth Wells) for more than 40 years, along with many other shows around the country.*

Tom had published a book in July 2023 entitled A Life in Farming. The sub-title asked, 'Where the Hell's the time gone?" Good question! Tom was loved husband of the late Margaret; father to Amanda, Michael, Philip and Julie, and grandad to Greg, Paul, Kelly and Amy.

Tom's fellow Welsh commentator, Huw Condron described Tom as "a great mentor and an inspiration to the agricultural sector." Tom was presented with the MBE in 2020.

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Your four-letter guide to better business

(Reprinted from Shearing August 2010)
With the New Zealand Shearing Contractor's Conference coming up in Wellington on 1-2 May 2024, we thought it might be timely to reproduce this little item – an entertaining presentation that Danette Moriarty (Moriarty Shearing, North Canterbury) gave to the NZSCA annual meeting in 2010. Presenting about the role of women in the shearing contract business, Danette suggested women's involvement could be enhanced considerably if they adhered to four cornerstones, which she summarised thus:

Fun
Understanding
Communication
Knowledge

Danette then used the Initialism to add some further pointers.

The **FUN**, she suggested, might come through the following:

- Seek balance
- Set 'Office Day/s'
- Happy work environment
- It's okay to use Day Care
- Separate business and private phone lines
- Appreciate your partner's strength and abilities and use them as well
- Make time that the family is together
- Make 'business-free' rooms in the house
- Have set office systems
- Keep documentation up-to-date
- Employ office staff
- Make time for friends and staff
- If you enjoy the shed work, make time for it.

The **UNDERSTANDING** will be enhanced by:
Calendar out things that need to be done (the "man" of the business may then gain a better appreciation of what it is you do!)

- Plan together
- Value your position in the business
- Take a wage, even if token
- Determine roles and titles
- Prfesent yourself professionally
- Push the envelope

The essentials of good **COMMUNICATION**:

- Present a united front
- Don't be isolated
- Appropriate to the situation
- Consideration
- Part of the team
- Concentrate on the BIG issues

And finally, work hard to increase your **KNOWLEDGE**:

- Be realistic
- Investment in training
- Use electronic systems internal and external
- Question the big guys, e.g., IRD, ACC, DOL
- Create your own network
- Attend free seminars in your area
- There are no dumb questions
- Use Google if you need quick answers!

NEW ZEALAND SHEARING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association Inc.

Conference: Wednesday 1 May 2024
AGM: Thursday 2 May 2024

Venue: InterContinental Hotel Wellington

Theme for 2024: Refocus and Refresh

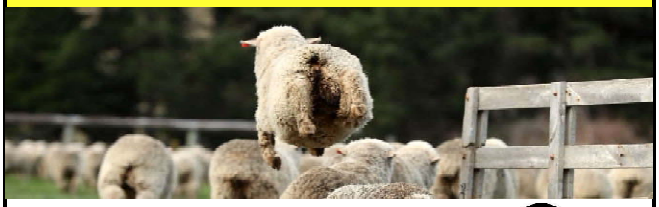
Additional information will be emailed to members before the AGM.

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Music from The Wide Brown Land

"I love a sunburnt country, A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges, Of drought and flooding rains,
I love her far horizons, I love her jewel sea,
Her beauty and her terror – The wide brown land for me."



If you've ever delved into Australian Bush Poetry you'll be familiar with names that our fathers and forefathers knew – 'Banjo' Paterson, Henry Lawson, Adam Lindsay Gordon, John O'Brien, Breaker Morant, Dora Wilcox, Mary Gilmore, Dorothea McKellar (author of the above lines) and others.

Their traditions have been carried on by the likes of Kelly Dixon, Ray Rose, Milton Taylor, Jack Drake, Gary Fogarty, and by those who put their verses to music and sing them – Slim Dusty, John Williamson, Reg Poole, Tom Maxwell – all massively talented, all capable of bringing a lump to the throat or a tear to the eye. There are probably just as many talented performers who somehow go un-noticed except in places like Tamworth.

So, here's the lyrics to a couple of songs (c2000) by a prolific Queenslander named Graeme Connors, who has produced some 17 albums since 1974 and has won fourteen Golden Guitar Awards. He was inducted onto the **Australian Country Music Roll of Renown** in 2016. Get on YouTube and have a listen:

Let the Canefields Burn
There's a painting of my grandfather on my mother's side
In the hallway of the homestead, in a special place of pride
With his bulldogs and kanakas, back in 1893
In a linen suit and a panama, they say he looked like me

And the story goes he came out, to make a brand-new start
In an effort to forget a sad affair of the heart
And with these romantic notions, to the colonies he came
Where he settled in the tropics and made his fortune growing cane

Refrain
Well, let the canefields burn / Let the flames rise
Let the politicians and the bankers in the city look up
In wonder at the glow in the skies
Let the canefields burn / Let me feel no pain
When I drown my soul in whisky / And dance in the flames

There's a photo of my parents, taken in between the wars
In London, Rome or Paris, I don't know for sure
But it hangs there in the hallway and there's one for every year
Fortunes made, and fortunes paid, For champagne souvenirs

So, let the canefields burn / Let the flames rise
Let the politicians and the bankers in the city look up
In wonder at the glow in the skies
Let the canefields burn / Let me feel no pain
When I drown my soul in whisky / And dance in the flames

And now they say they're gonna take this all away from me
The cars, the cane, the homestead, all my family history
Well, tomorrow, when the bankers come to settle all their claims
Let the auctioneer open with a price for charred remains

And let the canefields burn / Let the flames rise
Let the politicians and the bankers in the city look up
In wonder at the glow in the skies
Let the canefields burn / Let me feel no pain
When I drown my soul in whisky / And dance in the flames

© *Graeme Connors*

The Ringer and the Princess
Everybody called him Dingo
He didn't seem to mind the name
Aboriginal and Asian blood
Ran 50/50 in his veins
With skin like saddle leather
An inscrutible kind of smile
Beneath the brim of his akubra
He had the dreaming in his eyes

She had a bloodline back to Europe
The boss' daughter, Maryanne
Home for Christmas at the station
From a boarding school in Cairns
With such a perfect face and figure
The boys'd blush when she walked by
Behind her back they called her princess
Cause she had the distance in her eyes

Refrain
Oh the ringer and the princess
The dingo and the deer
I'll tell you their story
If you want to hear

December rain fell with a vengence
From a cyclone in the Gulf
Bone dry gullies turned to rivers
And plains became a sea of mud
So the boss brought everyone together
The family and the stationhands
To open gates and knock down fences
And give the stock a fighting chance

Well the princess she was out there
Riding right alongside the men
Leading horses up to safety
Trying to bring the stragglers in
Till she heard a wild commotion
A little further down the way
A mare was trying to cross a gully
And it's foal was being washed away

Now the young have always been impulsive
The princess had no second thoughts
She rode her mount into that gully
Trying to save the drowning horse
But in the midst of the raging water
Her pony lost it's step and fell
And with her foot caught in the stirrup
The princess disappeared as well

Dingo saw the whole thing happen
And like a man possessed he rode
Straight into that swollen gully
About a hundred yards below
And by the time the others got there
All hope of finding her was gone
Till Dingo staggered from the water
With the princess in his arms

Refrain

Now the princess owns the station
Her dad, the boss, has long since died
And although she never married
Dingo's always by her side
And still the gossips talk about them
Even after all these years
About the ringer and the princess
The dingo and the deer
© *Graeme Connors*

(And thanks for the CD, Bernie Walker!)

The Presser

The shearing was awful, the weather was crook,
The team was half poisoned, made ill by the cook.
The roads were all closed, so the blokes got no mail,
And none of the wool could be carted to rail.

The owner was bossy, a military chap,
So smart in his breeches, his tweeds and his cap.
He'd said to the shearers, "Before you begin,
Remember the wool's mine, the sheep need the skin."

He lined up the classer, the wool roller too,
He gave them instructions on just what to do.
"You must keep this floor spotless without any mess,
It was then he went round to the bloke on the press.

"It's very important believe me my man,
To press all the bales to one weight if you can.
I want them all even, so try not to fail,
Three hundredweight neat is the weight for a bale."

For daily inspection he'd entered the shed,
The standard of shearing was shocking he said.
The wool staff were useless, the wool room a mess,
Then each day he'd go round to the bloke on the press.

He'd go to the scales and pick up the book,
And carefully then at each entry he'd look
To check all the entries for yesterday's date,
To ensure that each entry showed three hundredweight.

And there in the book every morning he'd see,
The weights just as even as even could be.
He'd smile at the presser and go on his rounds
As he saw all the weights were three thirty-six pound.

Some bales of oddments and bellies were light,
But all of the fleece wool was even all right.
It really was pleasing he had to confess,
To see such a job with an old squatter press.

When shearing had finished he paid off the team
With a blasphemous curse – "You're the worst that I've seen."
He paid off the wool staff as if in duress,
And then he went round to the bloke on the press.

He took off his cap and he held out his hand,
And said, "Thank you my man, for you've met my demand.
Here's your cheque and a bonus, you've earned it I think."
The presser said "thanks" and went off for a drink.

As soon as the presser arrived at the bar
He shouted for all of the blokes near and far.
He had a fat bonus to spend without fail,
Because three hundredweights he had put in each bale.

Then later that night as the grog took its toll,
The presser got full and lost all self-control.
He was grateful, he said, that a bonus was paid,
It was then he confessed not a bale had been weighed.

© Mike Stephens (Yendon)



Above: *Cushla Abraham's winning bale at Golden Shears weighed 150kg – the Golden Shears target weight exactly. That's about five pounds (weight) less than the "three hundredweight" demanded by 'the military chap' in the poem opposite. But who knows, perhaps they'll write a poem about you some day, Cushla!* ***Below:*** *Tina Elers about to have her bale weighed.*



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Top left: *Philip Morrison, new life member of Shearing Sports NZ.* ***Centre left****: David Buick, new Master Shearer.* ***Bottom left****: Master commentator, John McBride, recipient of the Alistair Simpson Memorial Trophy for outstanding service to the industry.* ***Above:*** *the media team at Golden Shears – Doug Laing, Amy Nikolaison, Pete Nikolaison and Wayne Keating.*







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NEW ZEALAND SHEARING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

Not of shady character

By Roger Leslie

I was visiting a school the other day and was fascinated with the shade sails stretched over playing and communal congregating areas. Any child that peeped out of under these sails, even for a moment, must be wearing a large sunhat. There seemed a to be a fetish for shade, at the same time as many oncologists are saying children are lacking sufficient sunshine in their lives.

In the shearing world, there's a vast difference in the approach taken to this subject. I did a season in Central Queensland in 1975, and there the union dominated industry, would 'down tools' if even a nail hole worth of sunshine found it's way onto a shearer. On the other end of the scale, when I began shearing in Germany, I found that sheep owners sought out with single-minded dedication, the hottest and sunniest spot available. This would, throughout the entire heat of the day, be devoid of the faintest hint or hope of shade. When the sun went down, they were visibly sad. There was always a good reason they had to be shorn there, but invariably it was pitilessly sunny. We were new boys on the block and didn't want to have the name for whinging, so we shore and burned like overdone bacon rind.

Often the shepherds were family, with a father/son thing going on, when it came to serious decisions, like siting the pen. The son would speak better English, and old dad not so much. We would implore the son to find a shadier spot, maybe under those trees over there? But no, dad says we can't shear there. The son would roll his eyes and lift his palms in a hopeless pantomime of helplessness. What could he do? He understood and agreed, but dad was the boss. Sorry.

Once we learned some German, important words like 'Schatten' (shade), became a part of our vocabulary. We started to defend ourselves and stand our ground over pen placement. We also had a wide enough client base, not to have to put up with nonsense. We started hearing the reasoning behind some of the dust bowls we'd shorn in. Things like 'we've always done it there, for hundreds of years we've done it there. Nobody complained before.'

This same mentality was applied to drafting and the movement of sheep. Both needed a good kick up the generational pants.



In these family situations, a good person to appeal to was the wife of the son. The older woman would have been beaten into submission years ago by superstition and non-scientific reasoning, but the younger woman was usually still fighting such things. We would go to her and explain the dangers of serious sunburn and how needless this was when there was an excellent old oak standing just across the field. She would agree and give her husband and father-in-law a good roasting, while we stood innocently by. The two men, brave and unshakable in the presence of shearers would cower, kick the ground and mumble, under this onslaught. Then we'd move the pen under the oak (regardless of the frowns of the ancestors). You might think we were cowards. You would probably be correct. It was also good use of resources.

One such father/son situation, that lacked a younger wife, comes to mind. The old man was adamant, and the son didn't care. Generations of shearers had shorn there, without so much as a whimper, and these Kiwis turn up and there's nothing but complaints. It was a particularly hot and sunny day, and the sheep were panting from heat exhaustion, in the pen. Everybody was unhappy, except Opa. He was loving it, still wearing the suit coat he got married in. Money shouldn't come easy, was his catch-cry. I asked if we could construct some shade with a plastic cover? No, they didn't have a cover. What about that one lying there beside the wool bales? No, we need that in case it rains. Look at the sky, there's not a cloud in it! It hasn't rained for a week and there's none forecasted. Doesn't matter, you can't have it.

To reinforce this point he stepped onto the cover, and defiantly thrust out his craggy old jaw. I'm slightly ashamed to say, I gave the cover a good jerk, and Opa was tipped, rather satisfyingly, off his perch. The cover worked a treat, but he never gave up going on about it. He was a persistent old codger. Makes it much harder to get sheep in the pen with that cover flapping there (on this windless day).

All these years later, the younger son is now the old guy, and we laugh reminiscently about the old days and Opa's stupid ideas about shade. But I see in the eyes of the son a sad mourning for the good old days when men were men, just a bit burnt.

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Above: *Regional teams contested the 'reinvigorated' Alec Cullen Trophy at Golden Shears in March. Back left: Phil O'Shaughnessy ("Commentator who deserves the mike at Ellerslie or Trentham"), North Zone Laura Bradley and David Buick;South Zone 4 Alice Watson and Angus Moore; North Zone 1 Toa Henderson and Tommy Stevenson; South Zone 3 Ant Frew and Reuben King. Front left: Alan McLeary (Shearwell Data, sponsor); South Zone 4 Brett Roberts and Nathan Bee; South Zone 2 Hugh De Lacy and Blake Crooks; North Zone 2 Te Ua Wilcox and Tama Niania; North Zone 3 Jack Fagan and Forde Alexander. Inset: the Alec Cullen Trophy.*

Alec Cullen Trophy Well Travelled

The Alec Cullen Trophy, which resurfaced at Golden Shears last month in the Regional Teams Challenge, has enjoyed something of an eratic career over the past 30-odd years.

Carved from a single piece of wood by Lloyd Cullen of Waipu, the handpiece replica complete with comb and cutters was sponsored by Agrisales NZ Ltd and first contested at the Kumeu Country Day on 25 January 1990.

Organised as an attraction for international visitors in Auckland for the 1990 Commonwealth Games, eight regions in the North Island were each invited to send two contestants. Here's how *Shearing* magazine Vol 6 No 1 of March 1990 described the outcome: "A good crowd on a summer's day watched a hot contest with a surprising outcome.

"It wasn't the mighty men from the west who took away the trophy but East Coasters ['Sunshine Coast'] Stephen Cooper and Jamie Fleming, closely followed by the northern team of Lloyd Alexander and Bruce Woodcock.

"Phil O'Shaughnessy was the caller (and he deserves the mike at Ellerslie or Trentham). He says everyone wants to see the contest continue. Just how still has to be decided. It might stay in Auckland but he would prefer to see it travel around, perhaps with the winners hosting the next contest. It could be a boost, he says, for the smaller regions.

"Twenty-four leading shearers were invited to the Country Day. The final saw John and David Fagan, Alan McDonald and Edsel Forde on the stand, with Edsel taking the $1000 first prize.

"The day failed in one respect: though 12,000 to 15,000 attended, the show did not draw the hoped-for crowd of overseas visitors in Auckland for the Commonwealth Games. For that, it should have probably held in the central city."

News of the trophy reappeared in *Shearing* magazine of March 1993 when (still) holders Sunshine Coast thwarted a challenge from Aoraki (Mid-Canterbury) at Tauranga.

"The open shearers shore eight sheep, the seniors six. Before a very biased "Coast" crowd, Jamie Fleming and Kevin Walsh were blow for blow on their first sheep when the heavens opened in a tropical downpour. The 100 or so spectators crowded in under the covers amidst woolhandlers, wool, judges and shearers. It was the most closely-watched contest in years.

"Senior shearer Matt Tyree had to work very hard to stay in touch with Gisborne speedster, Henry Isaacs. Half way through, one sensed the trophy's future home might be determined by the woolhandlers.

"And yet the edge seemed very slight. It was all action and it weas all over in less than nine and a half minutes. All but the small South Island contingent were delighted with the

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outcome, victory for the "Coast" by a surprising eight points."

That same report noted that a second challenge, from the northern region team a couple of weeks later, ended at Matamata when the northerners turned back from their journey to Tauranga because another Tauranga downpour had made it impossible to provide dry sheep.

That challenge was renewed in January 1994 when *Shearing* recorded the Sunshine Coast team of Jamie and Ailsa Fleming, Ross McBeth and Sandy Tuapawa had sent the Northland team home empty-handed.

More years skip by – to November 2000, when *Shearing* reported that the East Coast team had retrieved it from the Southern region team – where and when Southern made its successful challenge is not known, for the moment at least.

From a Des Williams report: "Although originally seen as a national trophy, the Agrisales trophy has spent all its days in the North Island and, to this writer's knowledge, has only once been challenged for by a South Island regional team [Aoraki, as mentioned above].

"Regional teams must be made up of an open and senior class shearer, together with an open and junior class woolhandler, all of whom have to have been resident in their region for at least a year. The "holders" must accept up to four challenges per season.

"The trophy has to be one of the classiest non-silver pieces of sporting hardware anywhere in New Zealand, and deserves a higher profile than it presently carries."

Then Eileen Smith of Waimate sent out something of a search party – she reported in *Shearing* magazine November 2019 that the trophy had been spotted at the Royal Show in Auckland: *"It is now a trophy for a competition between the top two North Island shearers that don't make the Golden Shears final versus the top two South Island shearers that don't make the Golden Shears final. It's just good to know where it is and that it's being competed for,"* Eileen Smith said.

And so, the quality of the competing teams at Golden Shears 2024 pictured above might indicate that the Alec Cullen Trophy has at last emerged from the "woodwork" (of course, pun intended!) onto a stage befitting its quality craftsmanship.

* * * * * *









Top: *Victors and vanquished: The Sunshine Coast team of Henry Isaacs, Jamie Fleming, Hugh McCarroll (manager), Greta Henare and Ailsa Fleming that defeated Aoraki (**Middle**, Alastair McIntyre (manager), Phyllicia Ratana, Lyn Anderson, Matthew Tyree and Kevin Walsh at Tauranga on 16 January 1993.* ***Above:*** *Sandy Tuapawa teamed with Ailsa Fleming, Jamie Fleming and Ross McBeth to defeat Northland's challenge in January 1994.*

The Schoff family's 'Blue Ribbon' affair

By Des Williams

The next laugh is never far away when you are yarning with Queensland shearing identity, Phil Schoff. Phil represented Queensland at the Australian National Championships several times (going back 25 years or so) and he, with shearing mate Karl Goodman and woolhandlers Moira Hammonds and Dave Summers, won the Australian national teams title at Armidale in 2000.

That event, he describes as one of the proudest moments of his life, but watching three of his grown children all winning Australian titles at the Nationals (Jamestown) in 2023 might just about have topped that.

"Yes that would certainly take some beating – 'Slim' (Alex) won the open woolhandling title at Jamestown last October, 'Bear' (Grace) won the intermediate shearing and 'Choppo' (Karl) won the novice shearing title, having taken up the handpiece just a few months earlier."

'You refer to them by their nicknames – so what do they call you?' *Shearing* asks. "They call me Mr Schoff," the tall man with the 'Sam Elliott mustache' replies, with the proverbial mile-wide smile. (Shades of Sidney Poitier's – "They call me Mr Tibbs" from the classic movie, *In the Heat of the Night*.)

The writer and 'Mr Schoff' first met each other at the Aussie Nationals in 1998 at Armidale, where Phil was a senior finalist. The following year, at his home town of Tara he was shearing in the open class and then, as noted, progressed to representing the victorious Queenslanders back at Armidale a year later. [Some of these exploits were captured at the time by the Shearing Sports New Zealand media man, attending with his camera!]



Above: *The Schoff family at Golden Shears Masterton, 2024. Back left: Michelle, Phil and Grace ('Bear'). Front left Alexander ('Slim'); Karl ('Choppo') and Holly, 'the horse-riding girl'.*

The success of the Schoff siblings at Jamestown meant a trip to Golden Shears Masterton, where Alex took part in the trans-Tasman woolhandling test. It also paved the way for an extended trip to New Zealand for some additional competition experience.

For Phil, who began shearing as a teenager, it all started back in 1996, when he attended his first Sports Shear Australia competition.

"Three years later I got the opportunity to represent Queensland in 1999 at Tara, which was my home town at the time – I was living just a little bit south of there, and then I represented Queensland again in 2000 at Armidale and we came out the champion State team.

"I shore at shows for a couple of years after that and then we bought a large block out west and it was too far to travel to competitions. We were about 100kms from town – out Cobar way in central western New South Wales, and that's where our kids grew up.

"I did all my own shearing out there, we were running sheep and feral goats on 100,000 acres. It was a long skinny block about 30km long and about 10 km wide. So that took a bit of managing with a heap of dogs and a fast motorbike!

"I grew up in a shearing family. Dad shore a bit, mainly on cocky blocks. My grandfather was a blade shearer and my great grandfather too – they were both pretty handy back in the past. I started shearing Dad's sheep when I was just a kid and a neighbour would come over and help – he could really shear and I just adored him and wanted to be able to shear just like him. (To page 57)

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Above: *Alex Schoff (left) and the Australian woolhandling team at Masterton – Marlene Whittle, Lisa McLean (woolhandling judge) and Steve Mudford (team manager).* ***Opposite:*** *Grace Schoff shearing in the junior heats.*

"Terry Mickan was his name and there have been a few other influential people back in my earlier life. There were no shearing schools to go to back then so you had to learn by watching and studying good shearers whenever you could – the old fellas, the better ones. There was another bloke lived just out of town named Neville Hughes, and Russell Kirkbride was another one I saw, he was brilliant. He won the Diamond Shears at Longreach a couple of times. So, I learned a lot from those blokes just by watching them because they tended not to tell you too much, unless you asked.

"I stayed pretty close to home while I was shearing, we'd do all our own sheep and probably 70kms would be as far as I'd go to other sheds but we had work for 12 months of the year. And then it got a bit dry there for a little while so I had to venture a bit further out. I went to work for a contractor at Charleville named Trevor Coldwell. He was a lovely bloke and looked after me well, always had me in his number one crew.

"That's where I met my wife, Shelly, [Michelle] out at Cunnamulla and we are the proud parents of our four – three of them working in the shearing industry and the fourth, Holly, she's a horse-riding girl. Shelly has also spent much of her life in the sheds, woolhandling and wool classing."

Phil says the Queensland sheep population is gradually coming back after dwindling down to "bugger all" a few years ago, but he notes many younger generation people on the farms now are running cattle and growing grain because the sheep are too hard to work. "Now you've got to travel inter-state to get full-time shearing work, down to the Riverina or New England regions."

Phil sold the "big place" at Cobar about thirteen years ago, when the kids had to go to school. They moved back up to Chinchilla, home of the late Steve Handley ('the Chinchilla Killer"). "I never shore with Steve because we were in different crews, but he was a solid man. A lot of blokes tried to beat him in the sheds but they just couldn't."

Coming to Masterton as support crew for the three Schoff competitors was Phil's first time at Golden Shears, but he'd represented Queensland at the Canterbury Shears about ten years ago, taking part in the 'Canterbury Challenge', a popular but short-lived regional exchange organised by Gavin Rowland, then with Tectra.

"That was a lovely experience, we met a lot of great people over here [NZ]. We all treat each other equal. We enjoy a bit of banter with great blokes like Norm Harraway and Barry Taylor, acquaintances from Armidale and other places back in time. If you know someone in the industry you know a lot of people. But we had a great time. We always got the blue ribbon for second place in New Zealand, which is given out for first place over home!"

The Schoff family's exploits at Jamestown did not go unnoticed by the Australian media. Australian Wool Innovation's *'Beyond the Bale'* magazine reported: "In October [2023], three siblings of the Schoff family in Queensland each won titles at the National Shearing and Woolhandling championships. (To page 58)

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Opposite: *Phil Schoff in his own competition shearing days – Glen Innes Nationals in 1999, and* ***(Above)*** *at Hay in 2006.*

They [Alex, Grace and Karl] are now Queensland's representatives in AWI's Wool Ambassadors Program, an important role as confidence returns to the state's wool-growing industry."

"The whole Schoff family is a credit to our shearing and wool industry," another Australian visitor to Masterton was heard to remark.

Prior to Golden Shears, Grace competed at the Otago Shears, Balclutha (second in junior final) and at Gore's Southern Shears, where she won the junior final. At Golden Shears, Alex was 23rd in the open woolhandling; Grace was next in (seventh) to the junior final and Karl was runner-up in the novice final. (Another bluddy blue ribbon!)

Alex then teamed with Marlene Whittle to contest the trans-Tasman woolhandling test against New Zealand, represented by Tia Potae and Cushla Abraham. The Kiwi team again prevailed, as they had done in the first leg of the series at Jamestown last October.

Trans-Tasman rivals, but also trans-Tasman cousins, this writer suggests, reflecting on the fun and good times enjoyed with 'Mr Schoff' 25 years ago. Qualities he is passing on to his next generation.

"A lot of shearers think they can't do anything else but I bought a farm from my shearing, and bought a couple of old trucks, and then I bought a flasher one," Phil explains. "Experience in running a shearing business generally stands you in good stead for other occupations. I've told my kids – they are happy shearing and woolhandling at the moment, but they need to think about what they might want to do in the way of something different, down the track. For example, they've each bought vintage cars – something that will hold its value and can be sold for profit later on.

"For a lot of people it's a bloody hard gig when you shear all your life and you strive to be the best, and all of a sudden you have to pull up and step back from the thing you've been doing all your life. They realise the years have caught up with them and finding some other way of making a living can be very difficult."

* * * * * *

Freedom Is Not Free

IT WAS THE VETERAN,
not the journalist,
who gave us freedom of the press.

IT WAS THE VETERAN,
not the poet,
who gave us freedom of speech.

IT WAS THE VETERAN,
not the campus organizer,
who gave us freedom to demonstrate.

IT WAS THE VETERAN,
those who salute the flag,
who serve beneath the flag,
and whose coffins are draped with the flag,
who purchased our freedom



If You Love Your Freedom
Thank A VET!

Author unknown

(Revisiting) Hay and Hell and Booligal

"You come and see me, boys," he said;
"You'll find a welcome and a bed
And whisky any time you call;
Although our township hasn't got
The name of quite a lively spot –
You see, I live in Booligal.

"And people have an awful down
Upon the district and the town –
Which worse than Hell itself the call;
In fact, the saying far and wide
Along the Riverina side
Is 'Hay and Hell and Booligal'.

"No doubt it suits 'em very well
To say its worse than Hay or Hell,
But don't you heed their talk at all;
Of course, there's heat – no one denies –
And sand and dust and stacks of flies,
And rabbits, too, at Booligal.

"But such a pleasant, quiet place –
You never see a stranger's face;
They hardly ever care to call;
The drovers mostly pass it by –
They reckon that they'd rather die
Than spend the night in Booligal.

"The big mosquitoes frighten some –
You'll lie awake to hear 'em hum –
And snakes about the township crawl;
But shearers, when they get their cheque,
They never come along and wreck
The blessed town of Booligal.

"But down to Hay the shearers come
And fill themselves with fighting-rum,
And chase blue devils up the wall,
And fight the snaggers every day,
Until there is the deuce to pay –
There's none of that in Booligal.

"Of course, there isn't much to see –
The billiard-table used to be
The great attraction for us all,
Until some careless, drunken curs
Got sleeping on it in their spurs,
And ruined it, in Booligal.

"Just now there is a howling drought
That pretty near has starved us out –
It never seems to rain at all;
But, if there should come any rain,
You couldn't cross the black-soil plain –
You'd have to stop in Booligal."

"We'd have to stop!" With bated breath
We prayed that both in life and death
Our fate in other lines might fall;
"Oh, send us to our just reward
In Hay or Hell, but, gracious Lord,
Deliver us from Booligal!"

'Banjo' Paterson



And not just to Tipperary

It's interesting how the mind works when, for no apparent reason, it recalls a snippet of a conversation from 18 years ago. This writer was in Hay, New South Wales, where the Australian National Championships and the trans-Tasman shearing and woolhandling tests had been held for the year of 2006. It's Sunday morning, cold as with wind blowing in unhindered from the South Pole, outside a motel with people in cars and buses preparing to hit the road.

"Ah well," he said, to the group nearby, "it's been a great weekend. [Our shearers lost but our woolhandlers won.] "Now we have a six-hour drive to Melbourne, a four-hour flight to Auckland and a two-hour drive to Hamilton – I'll be home again in 12 or 13 hours from now."

"You'll still be home before me," this Aussie replied. "I've got to drive to Adelaide, which is 15 hours away."

* * * * * *

As a life-time student of Australian bush poetry and bards such as Banjo Paterson, the trip to Hay with the New Zealand Shearing and Woolhandling team (as then Shearing Sports New Zealand media officer) he knew the trip to Hay would take him close to the location of Paterson's famous poem, *Hay and Hell and Booligal.*

"While you are at Hay, having travelled 12 or 13 hours to get there, you might as well try and go that little bit further up the road to Hell and Booligal," he surmised. A check with Dr Google revealed it's just under 80km. And 'Hell' is the old hotel at One Tree Plain, about half way between the two towns. It closed in 1947.

"Your wish is my command," says Australia's number one shearing historian and writer, Bernie Walker – the man who ran Golden Shears Australia from his home town of Euroa, in Victoria, from 1974 to 1984. So we hit the long and non-winding road north and soon enough came to those places made famous by Paterson. *Below: the road to Hell; Bernie and Margaret Walker at the Hell marker post, and the old hotel which must have served the Devil's drink.*



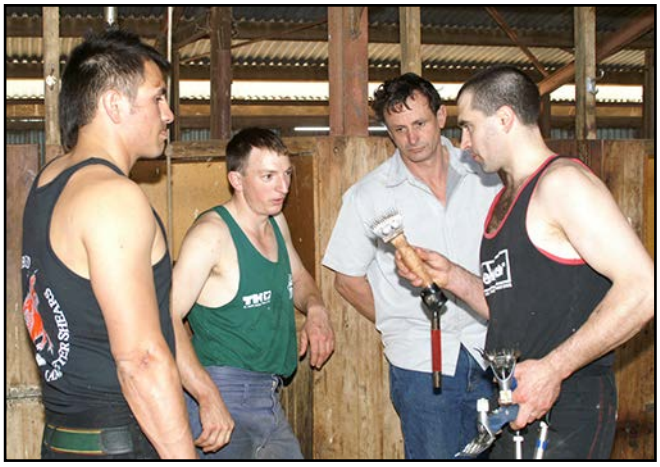




Turning back the clock

The trip to Hay, New South Wales, for the Australian Nationals and trans-Tasman tests in 2006 was notable, in the mind of this writer, for perhaps the finest piece of team management skills ever witnessed, in any sport with which he has been associated, and that's many. Former School master and Manager John Wright from Alexandra really rose to the occasion when required. The time has passed for revealing details, but not forgotten. New Zealand team members in **main photo:** Dion King, John Wright, James Fagan, Nathan Stratford. Front: Sheree Alabaster and Chelsea Collier. **Centre:** shearers with judge Paul Harris; Sheree and Chelsea at the practice table. **Bottom left:** Moira and Barry Hammonds with Doug Grant at back. **Bottom right**: Woolhandling judges revising their skills. **Following pages:** Competitors at Hay, 2006.













Laurence Bateman


Jeremy Fuller



Robert Glover



Benny Barrett



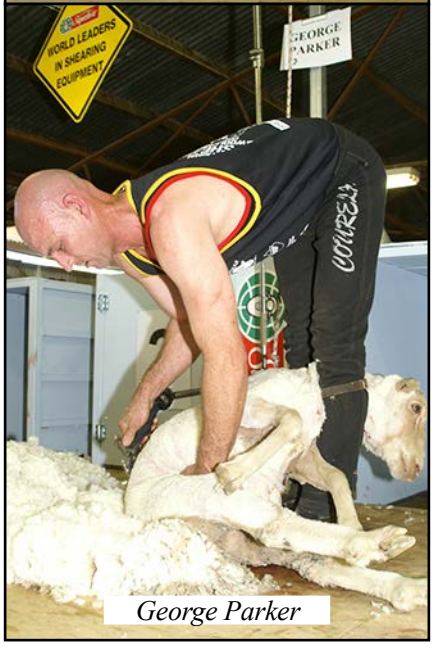
Bevan Gould



Karl Goodman



Dave Edgerton



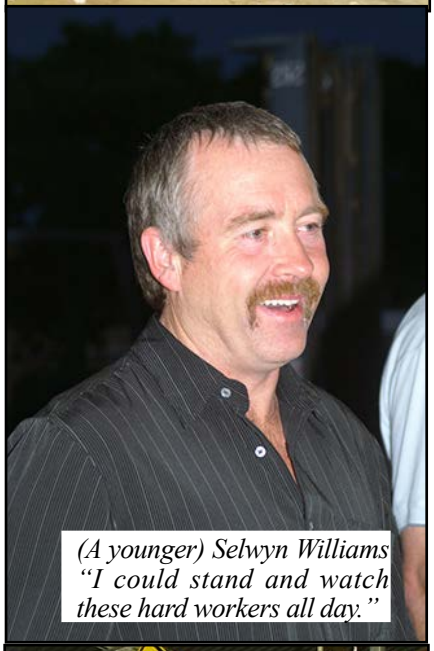
George Parker



Beau Guelfi



Steve Mudford



(A younger) Selwyn Williams "I could stand and watch these hard workers all day."



Nick Endacott



Peter O'Hara



Matthew Phillipson



Rod Moran



Tyson Scholz



Shannon Warnest



Ross Thompson









Top left: *The Australian team – Nick Endacott (manager), Shannon Warnest, Beau Guelfi, Jason Wingfield, Sian Bacon and Michelle Walker.* ***Bottom left:*** *Rose Armstrong.* ***Top right:*** *Mark Purcell.* ***Above right:*** *Sian Bacon.*

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).

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Multi-cultural shearing industry

By Gabriela Schmidt-Morrell

Lots of different languages this year at our quarters! Some confusion around who said what in what language or accent and what it meant. Some head scratching going on, lots of laughs over untrue stories, and plenty of new connections built.

Where are all these people coming from? This summer alone we had Australia, Canada, South Africa, France, Germany, Switzerland, England and Wales represented in the team. Our phone is running hot with enquiries for stands from young people all over the world.

We call them 'the Internationals', and they seem to like New Zealand.

Characteristically they have a few things in common, regardless of their nationality:

All are mega keen to learn, take every day offered to them, ask a lot of questions, watch others, attend shearing shows, and are generally interested in anything that goes in this foreign country they find themselves in.

Their passion for the job is contagious and they seem highly motivated to leave a good impression on the places they are visiting.

We enjoy employing them, even though the tallies don't always set the world on fire and they don't generally stay for more than a few weeks.

International staff bring fresh air into our business and a positive energy into the team. Sometimes, they even come back the following year.

One Frenchman in particular comes to mind, who worked for us as a 19-year-old young man. He barely spoke a word of English, and, as we found out on his first day, could also barely shear a sheep.

Dion did not know where to hide this dude, any presser of ours could shear better than him. When I entered his tallies into my laptop, I first thought, there was a number missing….

But man, was he keen. He worked so hard and if he didn't have work, went out with the team anyway. We couldn't help but like him, and after the three months with us, he definitely passed as a shearer.

He has been back five more times since and has become a bit of a gun and an absolute top shearer in his home country. Over the years he sent numerous French shearers our way, equally keen and equally likeable. Merci!

He is paying forward everything he learnt in New Zealand to young shearers back in his homeland of France. We can honestly say that he had a positive impact on our business, and equally, shearing in New Zealand had a positive impact on his life.

Clearly, our industry is becoming increasingly diverse and multicultural. We experience this as a desirable development.

How cool would it be if everyone could travel the world at some stage in their life! Learn how to integrate in a different country and cope with a different language. I think it helps us grow.

And if you can't do that, just hang out with our teams, and get a taste of it!



Above: *Gitenait Marco from France, competing at the Golden Shears under close watch from judge David Hodge. 'Marco' was one of the international contingent who spent the season working for Morrell Shearing at Alexandra. (But not the one mentioned in the story!)*

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"The truth does not require your participation in order to exist. Bullshit does." (Terrence McKenna).

Heiniger's Dale Harris enjoys Icon global launch

By Des Williams

Dale Harris is Heiniger's Current General Manager for Sales, Marketing and Research & Development, based in Perth Head Office, looking after Australia and New Zealand. The company has been based in Perth for more than three decades. Dale came on board with Heiniger about two and a half years ago as part of the company's succession planning for when current (long-time) Managing Director Gary Lyons retires next February.

"The plan is for myself and current CFO Rhys Davies to co-manage the business as joint CEO's into the future.

"My background is a combination of shearing and farming and I'm passionate about both. My father was a professional shearer back in the 1980s in Western Australia and he taught me to shear during my university holidays to earn a bit of extra income. I still enjoy it, I jumped on the handpiece the other day out at Te Hape Station [near Te Kuiti] and had a go, but I wouldn't call myself a professional by any means.

"We still have the family farm over in Western Australia, running a sheep stud business and I love to keep involved with that as much as time allows. That's about an hour north of Perth at a place called Gingin, in a tight little farming community called Beermullah.

"The family has had the farm out there for maybe 75 years and though I don't have a lot of time to spend out there these days I do get involved when I can and I've got good staff up there running the place."

Dale did his degree in agricultural science at the University of Western Australia and then got involved in the animal health industry, working with a number of Australian and global animal health companies. He got to travel all around the world with that work, allowing him to experience a lot of related businesses in Asia, and the United States before coming back to Perth.

"That allows me to really enjoy my role with Heiniger, getting around Australia and across to New Zealand, getting out on farms and working with our Heiniger teams in Christchurch and the North Island.



Above: *Dale Harris, Heiniger's General Manager for Sales, Marketing and Research and Development during a visit to New Zealand for the New Zealand championhips at Te Kuiti earlier this month, coinciding with the world-wide launch of the new Icon SFX handpiece.*

"The development of new and improved equipment is an on-going process and in the case of our new Icon SFX handpiece, it was launched globally on the same day in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. That was pretty different because we haven't done that before.

"The new model brings in new and improved materials, including new cog material that makes them run smoother and quieter and they last longer. In the back joint they've been able to make the steel a little bit thinner and create some slightly different dimensions to make the handpiece lighter."

Family-wise Dale has three grown children – Jack is about to turn 21 and is doing a Bachelor of IT degree in Perth and he also spends time working on the farm. He also has two daughters, Helena has just started university and Sarah has two years left at High School. They are all based in Perth.

"In terms of outside interests, I loved my cricket and football as a junior but unfortunately my work made it difficult to continue those endeavours because I was away from home such a lot. In my younger days I was able to play cricket in the same team with my Dad – he opened the bowling and I opened the batting. So yes, I've had some good times with sport but not at a super-high level.

"From my perspective, business-wise I'm really happy where Heiniger is at, particularly in the shearing industry, but also in our other lines of grooming equipment."

* * * * * *

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Spotlight on the women's records

By Jills Angus Burney

Mention the words sheep shearing in provincial and urban New Zealand since December 2023, and it's a telling sign of the record-breaking season that all so many across the motu could talk about were women shearers.

Indeed, fronting the cover of the 2024 New Zealand Shearing Championships programme was none other than the two of the five-world record-setting women shearers, Catherine Mulloolly and Sacha Bond who were each partly based in the King Country this summer.

A smashing start to the season was made when on 15 December 2023, Megan Whitehead and her cousin, Hannah McColl demolished two world records, the existing World Women's Solo eight-hour and the two-stand strongwool lamb records by 380 lambs, with individual tallies of 686 and 597 respectively.

With Whitehead on her own putting 85 lambs around the superb effort of 601 by Bond a year ago, in which Bond had also added 91 and crushed the 510, 8-hour record set by Canadian, Pauline Bolay in December 2019; the eight-hour strongwool lamb record has moved almost two hundred lambs and within a cooee of 700 in just two records in fourteen months.

It is such an astonishing achievement comparable only to that by the rivalry for supremacy between John Fagan and Sampson Te Whata over two shearing seasons. Between their six shearing records in twelve months from November 1979, they raised the bar immeasurably that took the men's solo nine-hour records from Te Whata cracking 650, to Fagan cracking the first 720 in December 1979, both cracking 740 in the 1979/80 season, then in December 1980 at his own woolshed at Hauturu, Fagan making a penultimate, unrepentant statement with his legendry first 804 on 8 December 1980. It's a mark of the status of a nine-hour lamb record where under world rules in all forty-four years, the men's tally has only lifted 68 lambs to 872.



Above: *Megan Whitehead in a South Otago woolshed, August 2023, doing the hard yards upon which world records are built.*

There were a few more surprises in the same week as when the women's two-stand record fell, so did the women's solo nine-hour lamb record. On 19 December 2023 at Centrehill Station near Mossburn, Southland, Sacha Bond eclipsed her February 2023 tally of her first 600 in eight hours, and in the longer traditional endurance day, demolished Whitehead's January 2022 nine-hour solo record of 661 by 59 lambs to reach 720, becoming the first woman shearer ever to break the 700-tally mark.

What's even more exciting for women's shearing is how far these two athletes can go when you consider in her February 2022 tally, Whitehead shore 661 lambs at 49.01 seconds a lamb all day, and that Bond paced her 720-lamb record at 45 seconds flat for each one.

However, Whitehead's truly magic memorial on 15 December is the promising future by shearing her lambs all day at 41.9 seconds, which is a 770 pace if she'd done nine-hours, and now just two seconds per lamb off John Fagan's historic first 800/day achievement.

Twelve months after missing the tally on her previous attempt, on 7 January 2024, Pahiatua's Amy Silcock returned to Ross na Clonagh farm to put 16 around the 370-ewe record established in August 2022 by UK farmer, Marie Prebble.

However, reminiscent of young Taihape gun, Reuben Alabaster holding the men's eight-hour solo for just three days before Jack Fagan broke it a summer ago, Silcock also relinquished the tally book three days later on 10 January at the Mulloolly ewe record at Nukuhakari Station, on the Waikawau coast north of Awakino. (To page 68)

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If there can ever be said to be a perfect record, Catherine Mullolly's was one of the best. On flighty perendale ewes, but with sublime fitness, skill and composure, Mullooly surpassed Silcock's tally by another 79 ewes, to reach a milestone of 465 in eight-hours, or 61 seconds per ewe all day.

On 18 January 2024 back at Centrehill Station near Mossburn, Sacha Bond uplifted by six ewes the nine-hour ewe record. Bond ending the day on 458, surpassing the tally of 452 shorn near Alfredton, Wairarapa by Marton's Kerri-Jo Te Huia on 15 January 2018.

A superb competition shearing display rounded off the season when the successful senior shearer, Laura Bradley of Woodville in the Women's Open Final on Friday 5 April at the New Zealand Shearing Championships, displayed a dominating shear over six sheep in six minutes for total points of 25.513. Less the sixth sheep, and had that shear been in the Open heats the following morning, there is no doubt that Bradley could have qualified just behind third qualifier, Reuben Alabaster on 21 points. Now, wouldn't that have closed the gender gap once more?

It's been a summer where the women's achievements have lifted the sport out of the rural media and into main stream news. It will be even more sumptuous when the legendary Scottish shearer, Una Cameron breaks the age barrier record by starting her nine-hour strongwool ewe record attempt in Cornwall on 7 August at 51-years-old, a year older than Marg Baynes was in 2009 in her mother-daughter two stand lamb record with Ingrid (Baynes) Smith.

And contemplating the future may be an Australian lineup of women eyeing up merino ewe records this year. With Sacha Bond now currently based back in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, the cast of competent experienced shearers for vacant merino world women's records has already started with Jeanine Kimm of Bathurst lining up the eight-hour merino ewe record on 4 May at Dalkeith Cassius, north west of Sydney, New South Wales.

If the known record flocks are readily made available for the talented young Australian women, Kimm's won't be the only women's merino record in 2024. Its only a matter of time before Deanne Sarre's 1993 Guiness World Record tally of 380 in eight hours on merino lambs is uplifted by this new sassy generation.



Above: *Shearing shed, Easter Island. We are guessing none of our readers have ever shorn there? From Google: By 1877, the once-thriving population of Rapa Nui had dwindled to 110 inhabitants. The island was still unclaimed by any foreign country, largely due to its lack of rivers, trees, and other valuable resources. But in 1888, Chile annexed Easter Island, thinking that the land had agricultural and military potential.*

In 1896, a Valparaiso businessman turned the island into an enormous sheep ranch and essentially imprisoned the few remaining Rapanui in the village of Hangaroa. For the next half century, living conditions deteriorated for the oppressed islanders. In 1903, the Easter Island Exploitation Company was created, for the purpose of commercially producing wool and animal byproducts. The already abused landscape suffered further under the following decades of sheep raising, from drastic changes in the vegetation to destruction of archaeological sites, while the native people's lives were largely controlled by the Company.

And the mystery is, this photo has been in ***Shearing*** *magazine archives for who knows how long? From whence it came?*



Above: *Nothing mysterious about this photo apart from the fact that it is very difficult to capture the essence of judging "out the back" at competitions. After many years of trying – this one might do it, from Golden Shears 2024. The sheep holder has the sheep for judging in the third observation mode (left side, right side, tipped up) and you can literally see Willie Buick doing the sums in his head before completing his assessment and entering a number into the computer scoring system.*

Shearing magazine's
New Zealand Shearing Industry Hall of Fame

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

- James Apes (1855-1938)
- Alex Hutchinson (1865-1943)
- Raihania Rimitiriu (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)
- 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-****)

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

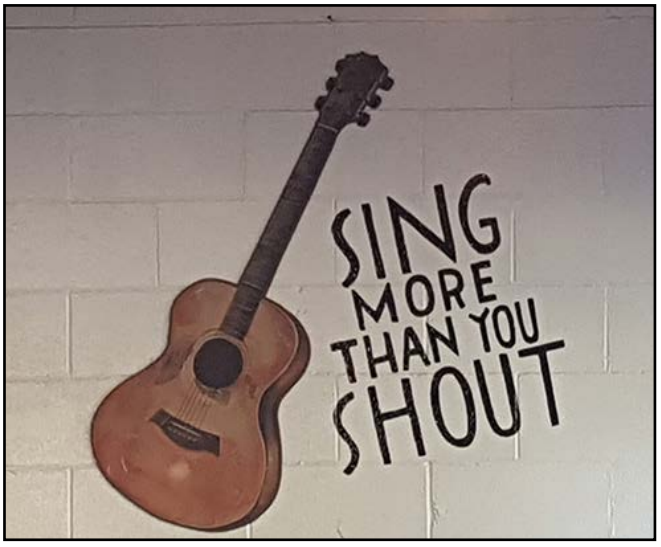
- Roger Cox 1977; Golden Shears 1977-78, 1980; Southern Shears 1974-79 incl.
- Brian Quinn 1980; Golden Shears 1965, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972; NZ Merino Shears 1968, 1970, 1978-79.
- Peter Casserly 1980; NZ Golden Blades 1975, 1976; Omarama Shears 1995.
- Colin King 1984; Golden Shears 1982, 1987-88; National circuit six times.
- David Fagan 1988, 1992, 1996, 1998, 2003; Golden Shears 16 times; NZ Open 16 times.
- Tony Dobbs 1988; Golden Blades 18 times.
- Joanne Kumeroa *(1969-2015)* 2003, 2005; Golden Shears 1995, 2001, 2004, 2010-12; NZ Open 1992, 1995-96, 2001-02, 2007.
- 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, 2012; NZ Open 2008, 2009, 2012.

JEFF DORSET SHEARING
ROTORUA

TO OUR CLIENTS WE OFFER
- Drug-free gangs
- H&S Policy systems in place
- Proven shearing and woolhandling services

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

Jeff – 027 492 0758
Office – 021 414 914 *jeffdorset@xtra.co.nz*
We support all that is best in shearing



"Did you realise Facebook's 'fact checkers' are controlled by the same people telling the lies?" (A Nony-Mouse).

SHEARING SPORTS NZ FINALISTS 2023-2024 (Unofficial)

Open Machines

Adam Gordon (Masterton)
3 Canterbury open plate

Alex Clapham (England)
2 Pleasant Point open novice
6 MacKenzie Shears

Alex Smith (Rakaia)
4 Ellesmere
6 Canterbury open plate
2 Reefton open plate

Andrew Deverall (England)
2 North Kaipara
2 Arapohue
1 North Hokianga

Angus Moore (Seddon)
2 Canterbury
1 Cheviot
1 Flaxbourne

Ant Frew (Pleasant Point)
3 Ashburton A&P
2 Pleasant Point
2 Duvauchelle
2 Mayfield
1 Methven
1 Oxford
2 MacKenzie Shears

Baden Barker (Tapawera)
3 Tapawera open plate
2 Murchison open plate

Braydon Clifford
3 Duvauchelle

Brett Roberts (Invercargill)
2 NZ Merino Shears
3 Waimate winter comb
4 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
2 Ashburton A&P
6 Canterbury
2 West Otago A&P
3 Winton (NZ Xbred Lambs)
4 Otago
4 SISOY
6 Pahiatua
1 Mayfield
4 MacKenzie Shears
1 NZ Shears open plate

Brook Hamerton (Ruawai)
4 Central Hawkes Bay

Cam Ferguson (Waipawa)
3 Horowhenua Royal

Casey Bailey (Riverton)
3 Lumsden (NZ Full wool)
4 Winton (NZ Xbred Lambs)
5 Otago
2 Golden Shears

Chris Dickson (Masterton)
6 Apiti
2 Waimarino

Chris Jones (Blenheim)
4 Nelson A&P
2 Golden Bay
4 Tapawera
4 Reefton
3 Murchison
3 Flaxbourne

Chris Vickers (Palmerston)
4 Waimate winter comb

Clay Harris (Te Kuiti)
2 Ohura

Colin Dennison (Kurow)
6 Waimate winter comb

Corey Barrowcliffe (Piopio)
3 Waimate Lister open plate
2 Ellesmere

Corey Palmer (Dipton)
Waimate Lister open plate
4 Lumsden (NZ Full wool)
6 Winton (NZ Xbred Lambs)
6 Otago
6 Southern Shears
6 SISOY

Cory Smith (Rakaia)
4 Pleasant Point open novice

Dan Berger (Ahuroa)
3 North Kaipara

Daniel Biggs (Mangamahu)
4 Taranaki Shears

David Buick (Pongaroa)
2 Great Raihania Shears
2 Apiti
3 Golden Shears
2 NISOY
1 NZ Open

David Gordon (Masterton)
5 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
2 Wairarapa
2 Manawatu
1 Central Hawkes Bay
5 Canterbury
4 Horowhenua Royal
5 PGG Wrightson
1 Waimarino
1 Hawkes Bay Autumn
3 NISOY
5 NZ Shears circuit
2 NZ Shears opern plate

David Gower (Whangamomona)
3 Amuri

Dean Ball (Te Kuiti)
3 NZ Shears open plate

Dean Herlihy (Whangamomona)
2 Amuri

Dig Balme (Te Kuiti)
3 Wairoa
6 NZ Shears open plate

Duncan Higgins (Blenheim)
3 Nelson A&P
2 Tapawera
2 Flaxbourne

Duncan Leslie (Alexandra)
5 NZ Merino Shears
4 Canterbury open plate

Eli Cummings (Pleasant Point)
1 Pleasant Point open novice

Floyd Harre (Tapawera)
1 Tapawera
3 Oxford
1 Reefton

Floyde Neil (WA)
2 Waimate Lister open plate

Frank Bint (Nelson)
4 Murchison

Gavin Mutch (Dannevirke)
1 Taranaki Shears
1 Wairoa
4 Taihape
4 Dannevirke
5 Rangitikei
1 Ohura
5 Counties
3 Taumarunui
4 Apiti
6 Golden Shears

Gethin Lewis (Wales)
2 Horowhenua Royal
4 Taumarunui
5 Kumeu

Grant Smith (Rakaia)
6 NZ Merino Shears

Hemi Braddick (Eketahuna)
3 Poverty Bay
4 Great Raihania Shears
1 Wairarapa
3 Manawatu
2 Taihape
3 Dannevirke
4 Pahiatua
4 NZ Open

Hori Rata
5 Waimate Lister open plate

Hugh De Lacy (Rangiora)
1 Northern A&P
3 Pleasant Point
1 Canterbury circuit
2 Cheviot
2 Oxford
3 MacKenzie Shears

Jack Fagan (Te Kuiti)
2 Waimate winter comb
6 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Poverty Bay
3 Central Hawkes Bay
4 Canterbury
1 Agrodome Rotorua
2 Winton (NZ Xbred Lambs)
3 Taihape
3 Aria
4 Southern Shears
3 SISOY
3 Counties



Open finalists at Flaxbourne: Richard Sampey (4th), Chris Jones (3rd), Duncan Higgins (2nd), Angus Moore (1st).

3 Apiti
3 PGG Wrighton circuit
3 Kumeu
4 Waimarino
4 NISOY
1 NZ Shears circuit
4 NZ Shears open plate

James Ruki (Te Kuiti)
2 Canterbury open plate
2 Agrodome Rotorua
4 Te Puke
5 Golden Shears
6 Kumeu
6 NZ Shears open plate

Jayden Mainland (Kaiwaka)
3 Whangarei A&P

Jesse Barclay
3 West Otago A&P

Jimmy Samuels (Marton)
6 Rangitikei

John Kirkpatrick (Pakipaki)
3 Great Raihania Shears
2 Central Hawkes Bay
3 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Jordan Boyes (Owaka)
1 Ellesmere

Josef Winders (Invercargill)
6 Waimate Lister open plate

Joseph Gordon (Masterton)
1 Manawatu

Justin Meikle (Oamaru)
2 Methven

Kerry Irvine (Tapawera)
4 Tapawera open plate

Leon Samuels (Invercargill)
1 NZ Merino Shears
1 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
2 Lumsden (NZ Full wool)
5 Winton (NZ Xbred Lambs)
4 Rangitkei
1 Otago
1 Southern Shears
2 SISOY
2 Pahiatua
2 PGG Wrightson circuit
1 Golden Shears
1 Mackenzie Shears
3 NZ Shears circuit
3 NZ Open

Lionel Taumata (Mataura)
5 Ashburton A&P
5 Canterbury open plate
1 Duvauchelle
6 Taumarunui
4 Mayfield

Luke St George (Houhara)
3 North Hokianga

Luis Pincol (Chile)
3 Northern A&P
4 Pleasant Point
4 Canterbury circuit

Lyall Windleburn (Rangiora)
3 Ellesmere
4 Northern A&P
4 Ashburton A&P
2 Canterbury circuit

Mark Grainger (Te Kuiti)
3 Taranaki Shears
6 Taihape
4 Aria
1 Te Puke
3 Ohura
4 Counties
2 Taumarunui
2 Kumeu

Matene Mason (Masterton)
4 NZ Shears circuit

Murray Henderson (Halcombe)
4 Manawatu

Nathan Stratford (Invercargill)
3 NZ Merino Shears
1 Waimate winter comb
2 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Ashburton A&P
1 Pleasant Point
1 Canterbury
1 West Otago A&P
1 Lumsden (NZ Full wool)
2 Rangitikei
3 Otago
5 SISOY
5 Southern Shears
5 Pahiatua
1 PGG Wrightson circuit
4 Golden Shears
5 NISOY
5 NZ Open

Neville Osbourne (Dargaville)
2 Whangarei A&P
4 Kaikohe
1 Arapohue Nth Wairoa
2 North Hokianga

Nick Nalder (Takaka)
2 Nelson A&P
3 Golden Bay
3 Tapawera
2 Murchison

Paerata Abraham (Masterton)
5 Waimate winter comb
2 Poverty Bay
3 Canterbury
1 Winton (NZ Xbred Lambs)
1 Horowhenua Royal
5 Apiti
4 PGG Wrightson circuit
4 Hawkes Bay Autumn
6 NISOY
6 NZ Shears circuit

Paul Hodges (Geraldine)
5 Lumsden (NZ Full wool)
3 Reefton
3 Mayfield

Paraki Puna (Napier)
3 Wairarapa
5 Taihape

Phil Wedd (Silverdale)
3 Kaikohe
1 North Kaipara

Phillip Price (England)
4 Agrodome Rotorua

Ralph Smith (Dargaville)
5 Arapohue Nth Wairoa

Reuben Alabaster (Taihape)
4 Ohura
3 Te Puke
6 NZ Open

Ricci Stevens (Napier)
5 Agrodome Rotorua

Richard Sampey (Rangiora)
2 Tapawera open plate
1 Reefton open plate
1 Murchison open plate
4 Flaxbourne

Robert Herbert (Kaikoura)
1 Tapawera open plate
3 Kaikoura

Rowland Smith (Maraekakaho)
1 Dannevirke
3 Southern Shears
2 Counties

Sam Win (Reefton)
3 Reefton open plate
3 Murchison open plate

Shaun Burgess (Rakaia)
3 Canterbury circuit
4 Duvauchelle
4 Reefton open plate
1 Amuri
2 Kaikoura

Simon Goss (Apiti)
4 Kumeu

Stacey Te Huia (Alexandra)
4 NZ Merino Shears

Stuart Connor (England)
2 Wairoa
2 Aria
5 Taumarunui
3 Pahiatua
3 Waimarino

Taare Edwards (Taumarunui)
4 Waimate Lister open plate
2 Northern A&P
1 Canterbury open plate
5 Canterbury circuit

Tama Nahona (Kaiwaka)
2 Kaikohe

Tama Niania (Gisborne)
5 Poverty Bay
1 Great Raihania Shears
4 Wairarapa
4 Wairoa
3 Rangitikei
2 Te Puke

Toa Henderson (Kaiwaka)
3 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
4 Poverty Bay
1 Whangarei A&P
1 Kaikohe
1 Taihape
2 Dannevirke
1 Rangitikei
1 Aria
2 Otago
2 Southern Shears
1 SISOY
1 Counties
1 Taumarunui
1 Apiti
1 Pahiatua
6 PGG Wrightson circuit
1 Kumeu
2 Hawkes Bay Autumn
1 NISOY
2 NZ Shears Circuit
2 NZ Open

Travers Baigent (Wakefield)
1 Nelson A&P
1 Golden Bay
2 Reefton
1 Murchison
1 Kaikoura

Trevor Holland (Inglewood)
2 Taranaki Shears

Whakapunake Maraki (Flaxmere)
3 Agrodome Rotorua
Willie Hewitson
4 West Otago A&P

Willie McSkimming (Oamaru)
3 Pleasant Point open novice
6 Canterbury circuit
3 Methven
4 Oxford
5 MacKenzie Shears

Open Blades

Allen Gemmell (Rangiora)
4 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
2 Canterbury

Andrew Murray (Australia)
6 NZ Spring Shears Waimate

Evelyn McGregor
5 Canterbury

John Dalla (Australia)
3 NZ Spring Shears Waimate

Ken Robertson
5 Ashburton A&P

Mike McConnell (Rangiora)
2 Oxford

Noel Handley (Rangiora)
2 Northern A&P
3 Ashburton A&P
3 Oxford

Phil Oldfield (Geraldine)
5 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Reefton
2 MacKenzie

Shaun Burgess (Rakaia)
3 Northern A&P
4 Ashburton A&P
4 Canterbury
2 Reefton
4 Oxford
4 MacKenzie

Tim Hogg (Timaru)
1 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Northern A&P
2 Ashburton A&P
3 Canterbury
1 Oxford
3 MacKenzie

Tony Dobbs (Fairlie)
2 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Ashburton A&P
1 Canterbury
1 MacKenzie

Senior Machines

Aaron McGee (Ireland)
6 Canterbury
2 Nelson A&P
3 Winton NZ XB Lambs

Adam Reid
3 Amuri

Aiden Tarrant (Taumarunui)
1 NZ Merino Shears
2 Waimate winter comb
2 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
3 Ellesmere
3 Taranaki Shears
3 MacKenzie Shears

Alan Boler (Dargaville)
3 Whangarei A&P
2 Kaikohe
2 North Kaipara
2 North Hokianga
4 Counties
6 Kumeu

Alex Butler (Northern Ireland)
6 Taihape
4 Rangitikei
3 Aria

Allan Oldfield (Hutt Valley)
5 Kumeu

Alice Watson (Seddon)
4 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
3 Canterbury
3 Nelson A&P
4 MacKenzie Shears

Andrew Booth (Waimate)
5 Waimate winter comb
6 MacKenzie

Blake Crooks (Rangiora)
6 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Northern A&P
1 Ashburton A&P
1 Canterbury
1 Nelson A&P
! Duvauchelle
1 Lumsden NZ Full wool
2 Winton NZ XB lambs
4 Otago
4 Taumarunui
4 Pahiatua
6 Golden Shears
4 Mayfield
2 Methven
1 Oxford
1 MacKenzie Shears
3 NZ Championships

Blake McKenzie (Riverton)
3 Southern Shears
5 Apiti

Blake Overs (Australia)
6 NZ Merino Shears

Bradman Franks (Levin)
2 Horowhenua Royal

Brendon McGregor
2 West Otago A&P

Bruce Grace (Wairoa)
2 Poverty Bay
4 Wairarapa
3 Manawatu
4 Central Hawkes Bay
2 Taranaki Shears
3 Agrodome Rotorua
2 Wairoa
3 Rangitikei
3 Dannevirke
1 Aria
1 Otago
2 Taumarunui
3 Apiti
5 Pahiatua
4 Golden Shears
2 Waimarino

Callum Bosley (England)
4 Taihape
2 Rangitikei
5 Taumarunui
1 Te Puke
6 Pahiatua
2 Kumeu

Chris Malcolm (Winton)
4 Southern Shears

Cody Mackinder (Taumarunui)
3 Wairoa

Dan Billing (Dannevirke)
4 Flaxbourne

Daniel Seed (Woodville)
4 Manawatu
2 Counties

David Hodge (Te Puke)
3 Poverty Bay

Dave Stokes (Kaikoura)
3 Kaikoura

Dre Roberts (Mataura)
4 NZ Merino Shears
4 Ellesmere
2 Ashburton A&P
1 Pleasant Point
2 Canterbury
1 West Otago A&P
5 Lumsden NZ Full wool
4 Winton NZ XB Lambs
3 Otago
2 Southern Shears
3 Taumarunui
3 Pahiatua
3 Mayfield
2 MacKenzie Shears

Ellis Rees (Wales)
3 Waimarino

Forde Alexander (Taumarunui)
1 Great Raihania Shears
1 Manawatu
2 Central Hawkes Bay
4 Taranaki Shears
4 Agrodome Rotorua
3 Taihape
4 Dannevirke
2 Aria

1 Ohura
1 Golden Shears
1 Waimarino
2 Hawkes Bay Autumn
1 NZ Championships

Gabriel Winders (Winton)
2 Agrodome Rotorua
2 Golden Shears
3 Kumeu

Grant Cook (Okaihau)
4 Kaikohe

Hamish Barker (Tapawera)
2 Golden Bay
3 Tapawera
2 Reefton

Hamuera Cribb (Kennedy Bay)
5 NZ Merino Shears

Hemi Paniora (Rolleston)
4 Canterbury

Jack Gordon (Timaru)
4 Duvauchelle

Jack Pringle (Balclutha)
5 Otago
5 Southern Shears

Jake Hamerton (Napier)
5 Agrodome Rotorua

Jack Hutchinson (England))
4 Poverty Bay
2 Wairarapa
4 Horowhenua Royal
6 Apiti

Jake Williams
5 Poverty Bay

James Napier (Riversdale)
2 Lumsden NZ Full wool
6 Winton NZ XB Lambs
6 Otago
6 Taumarunui

James Parsons (Whangarei)
1 Whangarei A&P

James Wilson (Darfield)
2 Ellesmere
5 Ashburton A&P
4 Pleasant Point

Jacob Brunton (Levin)
3 Horowhenua Royal
Jesse Sullivan (Harihari)
3 Duvauchelle

John Cherrington (Ngaruawahia)
3 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
2 Northern A&P

Jordon White
3 West Otago A&P

Josh Devane (Taihape)
1 Amuri
2 Oxford

Josh Quinn (Seddon)
5 Canterbury



Senior finalists at Flaxbourne: Timo Hicks (1st), Seymour Lambert (2nd), Josh Quinn (3rd), Dan Billing (4th)

Kapua Brown (Taumarunui)
1 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
3 Wairarapa
1 Taranaki Shears
2 Mayfield
3 Flaxbourne
5 MacKenzie
5 NZ Championships

Laura Bradley (Woodville)
3 Great Raihania Shears
1 Wairarapa
2 Manawatu
3 Central Hawkes Bay
1 Horowhenua Royal
2 Taihape
2 Dannevirke
1 Rangitikei
1 Apiti
2 Pahiatua
4 Hawkes Bay Autumn
Lee Cheyne (Ohinewai)
1 North Kaipara
3 Northern Wairoa
5 Counties

Liam Norrie (Amberley)
4 Ashburton A&P
3 Pleasant Point
2 Duvauchelle
1 Reefton
6 Southern Shears
1 Methven

Mal Morgan (Cheviot)
2 Amuri

Marites Woods (Australia)
2 NZ Merino Shears

Mark Calder
4 West Otago A&P

Mark Ferguson (Masterton)
4 Great Raihania Shears
4 Wairoa
5 Taihape
5 Rangitikei
4 Ohura

Mark Taylor (Kurow)
1 Waimate winter comb

Michael Johnstone
1 Golden Bay

Mike Boyd (Kaikohe)
1 Kaikohe
3 North Kaipara
2 Northern Wairoa
1 North Hokianga
3 Counties
4 Kumeu

Nathan Bee (Southland)
4 Lumsden NZ Full wool
1 Winton NZ XB lambs
2 Otago
1 Southern Shears
4 Apiti
1 Pahiatua
3 Golden Shears
1 Mayfield
1 Hawkes Bay Autumn



Intermediate shearer Julian Karl (Germany) had a successful campaign on the NZ Shearing Sports circuit: 4th at Lumsden (NZ Full wool); 6th Winton (NZ XB lambs); 2nd Otago; 4th Southern Shears; 3rd Taumarunui; 3rd Pahiatua and 6th at Golden Shears (above).

2 NZ Championships

Nikki Guttler (Australia)
6 Rangitikei

Rakai Barrett (Kawhia)
3 Ohura

Reuben King (Kaiapoi)
5 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Ellesmere
3 Northern A&P
3 Ashburton A&P
2 Pleasant Point
3 Methven
3 Oxford

Richard Lancaster (England)
3 Lumsden NZ Full wool
4 Winton NZ XB lambs

Rob Hervey (Murchison)
1 Murchison

Roger Cook (Okaihau)
3 North Hokianga

Ruby Stone (Waimate)
6 Waimate winter comb

Sam Bryan (West Melton)
4 Northern A&P
4 Oxford

Scott McKay (Christchurch)
2 Tapawera
2 Kaikoura

Sean Fagan (Te Kuiti)
2 Ohura
1 Taumarunui
4 Waimarino
6 NZ Championships

Seymour Lambert (Ward)
1 Kaikoura
2 Flaxbourne

Steve Coop (Warkworth)
2 Whangarei A&P
3 Kaikohe

Taelor Tarrant (Taumarunui)
3 Waimate winter comb
3 Te Puke

Tawhaarangi Taylor (Murupara)
4 Waimate winter comb

Te Ua Wilcox (Gisborne)
1 Poverty Bay
2 Great Raihania Shears
1 Central Hawkes Bay
1 Agrodome Rotorua
1 Wairoa
1 Taihape
1 Dannevirke
2 Te Puke
3 Hawkes Bay Autumn
4 NZ Championships

Timo Hicks (Tapawera)
4 Nelson A&P
1 Tapawera
1 Flaxbourne

Tommy Stevenson (Ruawai)
4 Aria
1 Northern Wairoa
1 Counties
1 Kumeu

Tyron Cochrane (Australia)
3 NZ Merino Shears

Will Sinclair (Balclutha)
2 Apiti
5 Golden Shears

Intermediate Machines

Aaron Christensen
1 Kaikoura

Angus Crombie (Marlborough)
6 Canterbury

Ash Nitschke (Cheviot)
1 Amuri

Ben Nilsson
1 Northern Wairoa

Billy Collins (Ward)
2 Kaikoura
4 Flaxbourne

Blake Mitchell (Patea)
1 Taranaki Shears
4 Rangitikei
1 Waimarino
1 Hawkes Bay Autumn
4 NZ Championships

Brad McNamara (Le Bons Bay)
1 Duvauchelle

Caleb Brooking (Mataura)
2 Ellesmere
2 Northern A&P
3 Ashburton A&P
2 Mayfield
2 Methven
3 Oxford
5 MacKenzie Shears

Casey Aramaketu (Gisborne)
3 Mayfield

Cheydon Winiana (Nuhaka)
3 Poverty Bay
2 Wairarapa
3 Manawatu
2 Counties
6 Taumarunui
3 Te Puke
1 Kumeu

Coby Lambert (Napier)
4 Canterbury
3 Taranaki Shears

Cody Waihape (Mataura)
2 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
3 Ellesmere
2 Ashburton A&P
1 Pleasant Point
2 Canterbury
1 West Otago A&P
2 Taranaki Shears
1 Lumsden
3 Otago
1 Southern Shears

2 Apiti
1 Mayfield
1 MacKenzie Shears

Daniel Vallejo (Argentina)
4 Northern A&P

Danielle Mauger (Australia)
2 Taihape
2 Rangitikei
1 Dannevirke
1 Aria
1 Taumarunui
1 Te Puke

Dannielle Boyd (Dargaville)
1 North Hokianga

Dean Cottrell (Cheviot)
2 Amuri

Duncan Adams (Scotland)
3 Duvauchelle
3 Hawkes Bay Autumn
6 NZ Championsips

Dylan Lowe (Australia)
4 Otago
3 Southern Shears

Dylan Young (Pehiri)
1 Poverty Bay
1 Great Raihania Shears
1 Manawatu
2 Central Hawkes Bay
1 Agrodome Rotorua
5 Wairoa
1 Apiti
2 Pahiatua
2 Golden Shears
1 NZ Championships

Emily Spencer (Tasmania)
6 Otago

Emma Martin (Gore)
1 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Ellesmere
1 Northern A&P
1 Ashburton A&P
2 Pleasant Point
1 Canterbury
2 West Otago A&P
2 Lumsden
1 Winton
1 Otago
2 Southern Shears
5 Taumarunui
4 Apiti
1 Pahiatua
4 Golden Shears
4 Mayfield
1 Methven
2 MacKenzie Shears
3 NZ Champ[ionships

Ethan Fladgate (Te Awamutu)
1 Nelson
3 Agrodome Rotorua
2 Taumarunui
3 Golden Shears
3 Kumeu
2 Waimarino
1 Oxford
1 MacKenzie Shears
2 Hawkes Bay Autumn
2 NZ Championships

Ethan Galatly (WA)
5 Otago

Ethan Tomney (Australia)
5 Southern Shears

Ged Billing (Masterton)
1 Flaxbourne

Gevius Hughes (Taumarunui)
2 Duvauchelle

Gus Berger (Ahuroa)
1 North Kaipara

Harlan Haare (Ohai)
4 Winton

Hautapu Makaere (Waikato)
3 NZ Spring Shears Waimate

Hazel Wood (Ruawai)
1 Whangarei A&P
5 Kumeu

Heath Barnsdall (Piopio)
1 Rangitikei
2 Aria
2 Ohura
1 Counties
5 Pahiatua
3 Waimarino
4 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Jake Goldsbury (Waitotara)
3 Great Raihania Shears
3 Wairarapa
3 Horowhenua
6 Taihape
4 Dannevirke
1 Ohura

James Hogan
4 West Otago A&P

Jayden Turner
6 MacKenzie Shears

Jim Comrie (Dargaville)
3 Northern Wairoa

Jimmy Peters (Ward)
3 Flaxbourne

Josh Balme (Te Kuiti)
5 NZ Championships

Julian Karl (Germany)
4 Lumsden
6 Winton
2 Otago
4 Southern Shears
3 Taumarunui
3 Pahiatua
6 Golden Shears

Kimberley McLean (Motueka)
1 Golden Bay
1 Tapawera

Kyle Rhodes (Wairoa)
4 Taumarunui

Liam Smedley (Kaeo)
3 North Hokianga

Logan Blackburn (Tangiwai)
3 Ohura

Louis Coombe-Gray (Waipukurau)
4 Central Hawkes Bay

Lucas Vallego (Chile)
5 Ashburton A&P

Luke Magee (Ireland)
3 Taihape

Luke Parkhouse (England)
2 Wairoa
1 Horowhenua Royal

Lydia Thomson (Rangiora)
4 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
4 Ellesmere
3 Northern A&P
4 Ashburton A&P
3 Pleasant Point
3 Canterbury
4 Taranaki Shears
4 Ohura
4 Counties
4 Kumeu

Matekino Puhia (Raupunga)
5 Poverty Bay

Matthew Smith (Otorohanga)
5 Counties
6 Apiti
4 Te Puke
2 Kumeu
4 Waimarino

Marius Klopper (South Africa
6 NZ Spring Shears Waimate

Martin Marshall
3 Counties

Merlot Tupara (Marlborough)
5 Canterbury

Michael Buick (Pongaroa)
1 Wairarapa
3 Central Hawkes Bay
2 Horowhenua Royal
6 Rangitikei

Mitch Nation (Napier)
2 Great Raihania Shears

Neil Bryant (Levin)
4 Horowhenua

Oliver Hogan (Woodlands)
5 Lumsden

Paddy Dunne (Ireland)
4 Pahiatua

Pam Irvine (Tapawera)
3 Golden Bay
3 Tapawera
1 Murchison

Pat Corrigan (Ireland)
5 Rangitikei
3 Apiti

Pax Leetch (Golden Bay)
2 Golden Bay

Ramari Rogers (Geraldine)
3 Amuri



Intermediate finalists at Flaxbourne: Ged Billing (1st), Will Billing (2nd), Jimmy Peters (3rd), Billy Collins (4th)

Rex Finlayson (Kai Iwi Lakes)
2 North Kaipara
2 Northern Wairoa
2 North Hokianga
6 Kumeu

Richard Parore (Ashburton)
3 Methven

Rhys Morris (Wales)
4 Agrodome Rotorua
4 Taihape
2 Dannevirke
4 Aria

Rory Owen (Wales)
2 Agrodome Rotorua
1 Taihape

Ross Kehely (Kaitaia)
6 Pahiatua

Ryan Hodgkinson (Tapawera)
4 Tapawera

Ryka Swann (Wairoa)
2 Poverty Bay
5 Agrodome Rotorua
4 Wairoa
5 Taihape
2 Te Puke
5 Apiti

Sam Hodgkinson (Tapawera)
2 Tapawera

Sam McCone (Geraldine)
4 Pleasant Point
4 MacKenzie Shears

Sam Parker (Raglan)
4 Poverty Bay

Scott Smith (Dargaville)
3 North Kaipara

Sion Davis (Wales)
2 Winton

Stephane Celhabe (France)
3 Lumsden
3 Winton
6 Southern Shears

Thomas Adams (Blenheim)
2 Nelson A&P

Tim Dickson (Feilding)
5 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
4 Great Raihania Shears
4 Wairarapa
4 Manawatu

Tim Hogg (Timaru)
2 Oxford

Tini Papanui (Feilding)
2 Manawatu
1 Central Hawkes Bay
3 Rangitikei
3 Dannevirke
3 Aria
1 Golden Shears

TK Kempthorne
3 West Otago A&P

Tomos Davies (Wales)
3 Wairoa
5 Golden Shears

Wayne Malcolm (Winton)
5 Winton

Will Billing (Masterton)
2 Flaxbourne

Junior Machines

Arana Marshall (Huntly)
2 Counties
6 Taumarunui
3 Kumeu

Ashlee Blanchett (Brightwater)
3 Nelson A&P
1 Reefton
2 Murchison

Barney Richardson (England)
4 Taihape

Bedwyr Gruffyd (Wales
3 Aria

Bedwyr Siencyn (Wales)
4 Pahiatua

Ben Vanner (Wairoa)
2 Te Puke

Benazzi Ward (Pirinoa)
5 Apiti

Benji Armstrong (Rotorua)
3 Agrodome Rotorua

Bryce Win (Dovedale)
2 Tapawera

Callum Griffith
1 Ellesmere

Charles Klopper (South Africa)
2 Winton

Charlie Baker (Australia)
6 Otago

Chloe Lund (England)
1 Duvauchelle
3 Winton
4 Mayfield

Connor Wilkinson (Wyndham)
3 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
5 Lumsden
4 Winton
5 Southern Shears

Dominic Waihape (Temuka)
3 Pleasant Point

Donnie Stringer (Ranfurly)
5 NZ Spring Shears Waimate

Ellis Jones (Wales)
1 Horowhenua
1 Taihape

Ella Caves (Loburn)
4 Ashburton A&P
2 Pleasant Point
2 Duvauchelle

Emilia Meling (Norway)
1 Kaikoura
3 Flaxbourne
4 MacKenzie Shears

Emma Hodgkinson (Tapawera)
1 Tapawera

Ethan Baldwin (Lake Grassmere)
4 Flaxbourne

Evan Rowbothan (Wales)
2 Lumsden

Ethan Eade
3 MacKenzie Shears

Ewan Davies (Wales)
2 Taihape
2 Dannevirke

Flyn Innes (Martinborough)
5 Pahiatua

George Peacock (Dannevirke)
4 NZ Championships

Gevius Hughes (Taumarunui)
4 Manawatu
3 Taranaki Shears

Grace Schoff (Australia)
2 Otago
1 Southern Shears

Hanna Johns (Banks Peninsula)
4 Duvauchelle

Jack Murray (Clarence)
2 Flaxbourne

James Hogan (Invercargill)
5 Otago

Jesse McIntyre (Wairoa)
3 Wairoa

Jet Schimanski (Gore)
1 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Ashburton A&P
1 Pleasant Point
1 Canterbury
1 Lumsden
1 Winton
4 Otago
6 Golden Shears
3 NZ Championships

Jodiesha Kirkpatrick (Gisborne)
4 Poverty Bay
3 Central Hawkes Bay

Joel Burton (Taumarunui)
2 Taranaki Shears

Joel McCone (Geraldine)
2 Amuri

John Wilson (Sheffield)
2 Kaikoura



Junior finalists at Flaxbourne: Sam Murray (1st), Jack Murray (2nd), Emilia Meling (3rd), Ethan Baldwin (4th).

Josh Wilson (Dunsandel)
3 Oxford

Josh Youngman
2 Ellesmere

Kaivah Cooper (Napier)
1 Poverty Bay
1 Great Raihania Shears
1 Wairarapa
1 Manawatu
1 Taranaki Shears
1 Agrodome Rotorua
2 Wairoa
3 Taihape
1 Rangitikei
1 Taumarunui
3 Dannevirke
1 Apiti
1 Pahiatua
1 Golden Shears
1 Waimarino
2 Hawkes Bay Autumn
1 NZ Championships

Kane Miles (Christchurch)
4 Canterbury

Keith Marshall (Te Akau)
3 Counties

Kingston Pue (Raetihi)
4 Waimarino
Kingston Renata
2 Wairarapa

Lachie Cameron (Hunterville)
3 Great Raihania Shears
3 Manawatu
1 Central Hawkes Bay
4 Taranaki Shears
3 Horowhenua Royal
6 Rangitikei
2 Aria
1 Ohura
3 Taumarunui
4 Dannevirke
2 Apiti
3 Golden Shears
2 Waimarino
23 NZ Championships

Lachie Crafar (Kimbolton)
2 Northern A&P

Lea Brabant (Germany)
3 Otago

Lemore Gillies
6 Canterbury

Levi Beedles (Rangiora)
1 Northern A&P
3 Ashburton
1 Amuri

Levi Mason
3 Ohura

Leevi Lex Wilson (Wyndham)
4 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
6 Winton

Maaka Nikora-Powell (Taumarunui)
2 Ohura

Malcolm Nahona (Kaiwaka)
1 Kaikohe
2 North Kaipara

Maliek Mullins (Taihape)
4 Rangitikei

Marshall Buckman
3 Wairarapa
2 Manawatu
2Horowhenua
5 Rangitikei
4 Taumarunui
1 Dannevirke
4 Apiti
2 Pahiatua
5 Golden Shears

Mathew Norman (Fairlie)
4 Pleasant Point

Matthew Cuttance
3 Te Puke

Matthew Roy (Fairlie)
6 MacKenzie Shears

Maureen Chaffey (Pongaroa)
4 Great Raihania Shears
4 Wairarapa
4 Central Hawkes Bay
3 Waimarino

Max McTavish (Lawrence)
6 NZ Spring Shears Waimate

Orlando Ratima (Hunterville)
5 Taihape
2 Rangitikei
2 Taumarunui
3 Apiti
3 Pahiatua
2 Golden Shears
1 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Paddy Dunne (Ireland)
2 Agrodome Rotorua
1 Wairoa
3 Rangitikei
1 Aria
1 Otago

Paul Finlayson (Kai Iwi Lakes)
1 North Kaipara
1 Northern Wairoa
1 North Hokianga
2 Kumeu

Peter Losty (Ireland)
2 Ashburton A&P
3 Canterbury
6 Apiti
6 Pahiatua

Phoebe Raynor (Motueka)
2 Golden Bay

Phoebe Smith (Orlando USA)
4 Horowhenua

Renee Tarrant (Taumarunui)
2 Mayfield
1 Methven

Raupunga Puhia (Raupunga)
3 Poverty Bay

Reuben Wilkinson (Wyndham)
2 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
4 Lumsden
5 Winton
6 Southern Shears

Roy Pomare (Gisborne)
5 Poverty Bay

Ryan Mackie Jones (Wales)
3 Lumsden

Sam McGuigan (Gore)
3 Southern Shears

Sam MacLean (Richmond)
3 Tapawera

Sam Milman (England)
4 Wairoa

Sam Murray (Ward)
1 Flaxbourne

Sam Story (Coatesville)
2 Nth Hokiangta
5 Kumeu

Sam Wilson (England)
1 Mayfield

Sophie Green (Okuku)
4 Oxford

Tana Maguire (Piopio)
4 Ohura

Tessa Berger (Ahuroa)
3 North Kaipara
4 Kumeu
6 NZ Championships

Thomas Curnow (Nelson Lakes)
2 Nelson A&P
3 Golden Bay
1 Murchison

Thomas Marchant (Marama.)
1 Nelson A&P
4 Agrodome Rotorua
1 Counties
5 Taumarunui
4 Golden Shears
1 Kumeu
1 Oxford
1 MacKenzie Shears
3 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Tom Borlase (Southland)
2 Southern Shears

Tom Clarkson (Martinborough)
4 Hawkes Bay Autumn
5 NZ Championships

Tom Kerley (Wairoa)
2 Poverty Bay
2 Great Raihania Shears
5 Agrodome
2 Central Hawkes Bay
1 Te Puke
1 Golden Bay
4 Aria

Tom Pritchard
4 Southern Shears

Tomos Davies (Wales)
6 Taihape

Trace Patton (Timaru)
5 Ashburton
5 Canterbury
5 MacKenzie Shears



Opern Plate finalists at Canterbury Shears, from left: Sponsor, Taare Edwards, James Ruki, Adam Gordon, Duncan Leslie, Lionel Taumata and Alex Smith.

Trae Karaka (Amberley)
2 Canterbury
2 Methven

Tye Meikle (Oamaru)
3 Mayfield
3 Methven
2 Oxford
2 MacKenzie Shears

Wolfgang Reiss (Austria)
3 Duvauchelle

Novice Machines

Abbey Grant (Turakina)
4 Rangitikei
3 Apiti
3 Waimarino
1 NZ Championships

Alex Glasgow
4 Taumarunui

Alex Jansen (Stratford)
1 Taranaki Shears

Alex Wrenn (Dannevirke)
1 Waimarino

Angus Monk (Te Kuiti)
3 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Ashlee Blanchett (Brightwater)
3 Nelson A&P junior final

Ashlin Swann (Wairoa)
2 Great Raihania Shears
2 Wairoa
1 Taihape
1 Rangitikei
2 Dannevirke
1 Aria
1 Te Puke
3 Pahiatua
1 Golden Shears

Ben Solomon
5 Apiti

Beth Kerley (Wairoa)
4 Taranaki Shears
6 Taihape

Blake Wildermoth (Kaitieke)
1 Taumarunui

Brianna McBride
2 Northern Wairoa

Bruce Anderson
4 Wairoa
4 Te Puke

Bugs Butler (Tikokino)
6 Golden Shears

Camden Bolton
2 Wairarapa
3 Manawatu
1 Horowhenua

Chloe Bingham
2 Taihape

Ged Billing
1 Wairarapa

George Coplestone (Mangamingi)
3 Taranaki Shears

George Peacock (Waipukurau)
4 Wairarapa
2 Manawatu

George Prouting (Dannevirke)
3 Central Hawkes Bay
2 Pahiatua

Grace Croasdale (Eketahuna)
6 Pahiatua

Grady Collis (Tauhoa)
2 Central Hawkes Bay
3 Dannevirke
2 Apiti
1 Pahiatua
5 Golden Shears

Hamish Cook (Okaihau)
1 North Hokianga

Harry Peacock (Waipukurau)
1 Central Hawkes Bay
3 Horowhenua
3 Pahiatua

Hunter Wigglesworth (Marton)
3 Rangitikei
1 Taumarunui

Jacob Booth (Waimate)
1 NZ Spring Shears Waimate)

Jacob Cook (Okaihau)
1 Kaikohe

James Robertson (Feilding)
3 Great Raihania Shears

Jess Parkhouse (Napier)
5 NZ Championsips

Joe Smith (Stratford)
2 Taranaki Shears

Holly Bird (Taihape)
6 NZ Championships

Karl Schoff (Australia)
2 Golden Shears

Kane Miles (Christchurch)
2 NZ Spring Shears Waimate

Kevin Noone (Ireland)
1 Wairoa
2 Rangitikei
2 Taumarunui
1 Dannevirke

Kingston Pue (Raetihi)
5 Taihape

Lydia Wood (Ruawai)
1 Northern Wairoa

Mac Foreman (Pahiatua)
4 Waimarino
1 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Mack Belton (Whanganui)
5 Taumarunui
2 NZ Championships

Manawa Hunt (Oamaru)
3 NZ Spring Shears Waimate

Matthew Cuttance
3 Te Puke

Ngahuia Salmond (Te Kuiti)
1 Winton

Noah Hendrickson
4 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Phoebe Rayner (Motueka)
4 Central Hawkes Bay

Rebecca Dickson (Halcombe)
3 Taihape
3 Taumarunui
4 Golden Shears
2 Waimarino
2 Hawkes Bay Autumn
3 NZ Championships

Rikihana Salmond (Te Kuiti)
4 Winton

Ryan Craw (Coromandel)
4 Apiti
3 Golden Shears

Sarah Davis (Rerewhakaaitu)
3 Winton

Shawna Swann (Wairoa)
1 Great Raihania Shears
3 Wairoa
2 Aria
2 Te Puke
5 Pahiatua
4 NZ Championshiops

'Sweetheart'
2 Winton

Tatijana Keefe (Raupunga)
1 Manawatu

Te Anna Phillips (Taumarunui)
2 Horowhenua
4 Taihape
5 Rangitikei
3 Aria
6 Taumarunui
6 Apiti

Te Ariki Te Hau (Flaxmere)
4 Great Raihania Shears

Waiari Puna (Napier)
3 Wairarapa
4 Manawatu
4 Horowhenua
6 Rangitikei
4 Dannevirke
1 Apiti
4 Pahiatua

Open Woolhandling

Amy Ferguson (Invercargill)
3 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
4 SI Circuit Waimate
2 Canterbury
3 Southern Shears

Ana Braddick (Eketahuna)
1 Rangitikei

Angela Stevens (Napier)
4 Taihape

Azuredee Paku (Masterton)
3 Agrodome Rotorua

Brittany Tibble (Gisborne)
2 Poverty Bay
4 Taumarunui

Candy Hiri (Mataura)
4 NZ Merino Shears Alexandra
1 South Island Circuit Waimate

Chelsea Collier (Hamilton)
3 Aria
2 Taumarunui
5 Apiti
1 Hawkes Bay Autumn
5 NZ Championships

Cheri Peterson (Milton)
3 Canterbury

Cushla Abraham (Masterton)
4 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
2 SI Circuit Waimate
1 Manawatu
3 Central Hawkes Bay
3 Horowhenua
2 Rangitikei
3 Otago
2 Southern Shears
4 Pre-Shears
3 NI Circuit

Foonie Waihape (Alexandra)
4 Golden Shears

Hanatia Tipene (Te Kuiti)
2 Aria
2 NZ Championships

Jasmine Tipoki (Napier)
1 Wairarapa
4 Central Hawkes Bay
1 Horowhenua
4 NZ Championships

Joel Henare (Gisborne)
3 NZ Merino Shears Alexandra
1 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Poverty Bay
1 Canterbury
1 Lumsden
2 Otago
1 Golden Shears

Keryn Herbert (Te Kuiti)
3 SI Circuit Waimate
3 Poverty Bay
2 Great Raihania Shears
2 Wairarapa
1 Central Hawkes Bay
3 Winton
1 Taihape
1 Dannevirke

6 Rangitikei
4 Southern Shears
3 Ohura
1 Apiti
1 NI Circuit
2 Hawkes Bay Autumn
1 NZ Championships

Lashara Maguire-Ratima (Winton)
6 Southern Shears

Logan Kamura (Marton)
2 NZ Merino Shears
3 Manawatu
4 Horowhenua
3 Taihape
3 Rangitikei
1 Ohura
1 Taumarunui
1 Pre-Shears

Marika Braddick (Eketahuna)
6 Apiti
2 Pre-Shears

Miri Haig (Taumarunui)
1 Aria
2 Ohura
5 Taumarunui
3 NZ Chapionships

Monica Potae (Kennedy Bay)
4 Great Raihania Shears
1 Agrodome Rotorua
2 Winton

Ngaira Puha (Kimbolton)
1 Great Raihania Shears
2 Dannevirke
2 Apiti
4 NI Circuit

Ngaio Hanson (Eketahuna)
3 Wairarapa
4 Manawatu
2 Central Hawkes Bay
2 Horowhenua
5 Taihape
5 Rangitikei
4 Apiti
3 Pre-Shears
2 NI Circuit

Nova Kumeroa (Mataura)
3 Great Raihania Shears
2 Manawatu
5 Southern Shears

Pagan Rimene (Alexandra)
2 Lumsden
1 Winton
1 Otago
1 Southern Shears
2 Golden Shears

Peggy-Sue Tohengaroa (Piopio)
3 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Ratapu Moore (Seddon)
4 Canterbury
3 Apiti

Ricci Stevens (Napier)
3 Dannevirke

Samantha Gordon (Masterton)
4 Poverty Bay
4 Rangitikei

Sue Turner (Taumarunui)
2 Agrodome Rotorua

Te Anna Phillips (Taumarunui)
4 Agrodome Rotorua
2 Taihape
3 Taumarunui

Tia Potae (Milton)
1 NZ Merino Shears
2 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Jamestown Open (Australia)
3 Lumsden
3 Golden Shears

Tina Elers (Mataura)
4 Otago

Senior Woolhandling

Amy Bell (Weber)
2 Great Raihania Shears
4 Manawatu
2 Central Hawkes Bay
6 Rangitikei
2 Apiti
2 Hawkes Bay Autumn
3 New Zealand championships

Angeline Colquhoun (Mast.)
3 Wairarapa

Anne Connell (Gisborne)
2 Poverty Bay
1 Ohura

Ashleigh Mei
3 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Ashleigh Ostler (Marton)
3 Central Hawkes Bay
2 Horowhenua
3 Rangitikei

Autumn Hiri (Gore)
2 Otago

Autumn Waihape (Gore)
3 Lumsden
2 Southern Shears
Charis Morrell (Alexandra)
1 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
Charlotte Stuart (Omarama)
4 SI Circuit Waimate
1 Canterbury
1 Lumsden
3 Winton

CJ Darlington (Masterton)
4 Horowhenua

Cortez Ostler (Marton)
1 Rangitikei
3 Apiti

Crawford Cook (Mangaweka)
1 Taihape

Emma Martin (Gore)
4 Canterbury
2 Lumsden
4 Winton
4 Otago
3 Golden Shears

Kalah Hadfield (Gisborne)
5 Taumarunui

Krome Elers (Mataura)
1 NZ Merino Shears Alexandra
3 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
2 SI Circuit Waimate

Krystal Gulliver (Gore)
3 Southern Shears

Lee George (Te Kuiti)
4 Agrodome Rotorua
1 Aria
2 Ohura

Lucy Gee Taylor (Rangiwahia)
3 Canterbury
2 Winton

Maiden Elers (Mataura)
3 SI Circuit Waimate

Mere Maraki (Flaxmere)
4 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Nohokainga Maraki (Flaxmere)
3 Great Raihania Shears
2 Wairarapa
2 Aria
3 Taumarunui
4 Apiti

Rahera Kerr (Hauturu)
3 Poverty Bay
4 Rangitikei
4 NI Circuit
4 Golden Shears
1 New Zealand championships

Ryley Paul (Wairoa)
4 Great Raihania Shears
5 Taihape

Sarah Davis (Rerewhakaaitu)
1 Otago

Saskia Tuhakaraina (Gore)
4 NZ Merino Shears Alexandra
4 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 SI Circuit Waimate
2 Canterbury
3 Otago
1 Southern Shears
1 Pre-Shears
1 Hawkes Bay Autumn
4 New Zealand championships

Shakira Matenga (Dunedin)
3 NZ Merino Shears Alexandra
4 Waimate

Tatijana Keefe (Raupunga)
1 Great Raihania Shears
2 Manawatu
1 Central Hawkes Bay
3 Agrodome Rotorua
1 Horowhenua
4 Taihape
4 Pre-Shears
2 NI Circuit

Tira Ngarangione (Gisborne)
3 Pre-Shears
2 Golden Shears

Tramon Campbell (Gisborne)
1 Poverty Bay

Tre Ratana Sciascia (Taihape)
2 NZ Merino Shears Alexandra
2 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
4 Southern Shears
4 Taumarunui

Te Whetu Brown (Hastings)
4 Poverty Bay
1 Manawatu
3 Taihape
1 Dannevirke
3 NI Circuit

Vinniye Phillips (Taumarunui)
3 Manawatu
4 Central Hawkes Bay
2 Agrodome Rotorua
2 Taihape
5 Rangitikei
3 Ohura
1 Taumarunui
1 Apiti
2 Dannevirke
2 Pre-Shears
1 NI Circuit
1 Golden Shears
2 New Zealand championships

Waimarama Manukau (Gore)
1 Winton

Whakapunake Maraki (Flaxmere)
1 Wairarapa
1 Agrodome Rotorua
3 Horowhenua
2 Rangitikei
3 Aria
2 Taumarunui
3 Dannevirke
5 New Zealand championships

Junior Woolhandling

Alice Otimi
2 Ohura
1 Taumarunui

Ashley Clarke (Gore)
2 Southern Shears

Brittany Smith (Christchurch)
1 Canterbury

Bryndyll Pinkham
2 Taumarunui

Cally Spangler (Australia)
4 Golden Shears

Capree Wallace (Taihape)
4 Rangitikei
1 Aria
2 Apiti

Chloe Henderson (Feilding)
1 Taihape
2 Rangitikei
2 Aria
4 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Christie Burn (Dannevirke)
4 Canterbury

Eleri Bradley (Woodville)
1 Wairarapa
2 Horowhenua
1 Dannevirke

Grace Croasdale
2 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Hemi Taurima
4 NZ Merino Shears Alexandra
Jake Phillipson (Australia)
1 Pre-Shears

Jayda Milanta
5 New Zealand championships

Jevana Manson (Piopio)
3 Agrodome Rotorua
3 Taihape

Jodiesha Kirkpatrick (Gisborne)
2 Poverty Bay
2 Central Hawkes Bay
2 Golden Shears

Kaivah Cooper (Napier)
5 Rangitikei
4 Taumarunui

Kalyah Ferguson (Waipawa)
4 Great Raihania Shears
6 Rangitikei

Katie Karauria (Napier)
3 NZ Merino Shears Alexandra

Kelly Barrett (Kawhia)
3 Poverty Bay
4 Manawatu
1 Central Hawkes Bay
2 Lumsden
2 Winton
1 Otago
5 Taumarunui
2 Dannevirke
2 Pre-Shears
3 NI Circuit
3 Golden Shears

Lea Brabant (Germany)
2 Otago

Lucy Elers (Mataura)
1 NZ Merino Shears Alexandra
3 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
1 Lumsden
1 Winton
3 Otago
1 Southern Shears
1 Golden Shears

Makayla Neil (Taumarunui)
2 NZ Merino Shears Alexandra
1 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
2 Great Raihania Shears
2 Wairarapa
3 Central Hawkes Bay
1 Agrodome Rotorua
1 Rangitikei
3 Apiti
3 Pre-Shears
1 NI Circuit
3 New Zealand championships

Marama Timmins
3 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Mere Maraki (Flaxmere)
3 Manawatu
4 Central Hawkes Bay
2 Taihape
3 Rangitikei
1 Apiti
3 Dannevirke
4 Pre-Shears
2 NI Circuit
4 New Zealand championships

Ngahuia Salmond (Te Kuiti)
4 Agrodome Rotorua
4 Winton
4 Taihape

Paige Marshall (Taumarunui)
3 Ohura
1 Hawkes Bay Autumn

Rahera Lewis (Taihape)
3 Great Raihania Shears
2 Manawatu
2 Agrodome Rotorua
3 Horowhenua
5 Taihape
3 Aria
1 Ohura
3 Taumarunui
2 New Zealand championships

Renee Apanui
1 Poverty Bay

Rongomai Hepi
1 New Zealand championships

Sarah Lewis (Gisborne)
2 NZ Spring Shears Waimate

Te Aroha Little (Balclutha)
3 Lumsden
3 Winton
4 Otago
3 Southern Shears

Tess Kelly (Rakaia)
4 NZ Spring Shears Waimate
2 Canterbury

Tessa Kirdy (Ashburton)
3 Canterbury

Tui Travis (Levin)
1 Horowhenua
Waiari Puna (Hastings)
4 Poverty Bay
1 Great Raihania Shears
3 Wairarapa
1 Manawatu
4 Horowhenua
4 Apiti
4 NI Circuit

Waikawa Sciascia (Porangahou)
4 Southern Shears

Novice Woolhandling

Addison Tarrant (Taumarunui)
1 Taumarunui

Alyssa Bartlett (Gore)
2 Southern Shears
Aqua Lee Ruru (Gisborne)
4 Poverty Bay

Arleigh Tamati (Taranaki)
1 New Zealand championships

Aylah Paul
5 New Zealand championships

Caitlin Mitchell (Australia)
1 Rangitikei

Caitlin Murphy (Pongaroa)
2 Taihape
2 Dannevirke
4 Apiti

Capree Wallace (Taihape)
2 Central Hawkes Bay
1 Taihape

Corey Barrowcliffe (Piopio)
3 Manawatu

Corey Salmond (Dunedin)
2 Rangitikei

Ela Herbert (Wales)
5 Rangitikei
3 Taumarunui

Gemma Buick (Pongaroa)
1 Dannevirke
2 Wairarapa
4 Central Hawkes Bay
4 Taihape
1 Apiti

Georgia Rata (Taumarunui)
1 Manawatu

Jemma Brears (Ohura)
3 Apiti

Kaivah Cooper (Napier)
2 Manawatu
1 Central Hawkes Bay

Kaylah Ferguson (Waipawa)
2 Poverty Bay

Kirsty Simmons (Hastings)
5 Taihape

Layiss Atkins
3 Poverty Bay

Leila Tipoki (Napier)
3 Central Hawkes Bay

Maaka Nikora (Taumarunui)
4 Taumarunui

Mared Jones (Wales)
3 Dannevirke

Mark Delaney (Australia)
2 Taumarunui

Ngaire Karaka (Turakina)
3 Rangitikei

Ngawai Baker
3 New Zealand championships

Ohomairangi Ngatai-Hewitt
4 New Zealand championships
Olivia Burton (Taumarunui)
5 Taumarunui

Peighton Kimura-Boyes
4 Southern Shears

Peti Biddle (Gisborne)
4 Poverty Bay

Piata Braddick (Eketahuna)
3 Wairarapa
4 Manawatu

Queenie Hiri (Gore)
3 Southern Shears

Shaquille Hauiti
1 Poverty Bay

Sophie Humprey (Masterton)
1 Wairarapa
6 Rangitikei
2 Apiti
2 New Zealand championships

Tori Bendall (Mangaone)
3 Taihape

Vicky Kawenga (Mataura)
1 Southern Shears

Zamal Koptha (Hastings)
4 Rangitikei

* * * * * *

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