Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

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Group photo of competitors, judges, time keepers and woolhandlers at the Eastern Canadian shearing championships held at Holstein, Ontario on 29-30 June 2024. Guest judge Ed Morrow (New Zealand) at left, back row.

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UNDER COVER STORY

Greetings readers and Facebook followers and welcome to this 115th edition of *Shearing* magazine, No 2 of Vol. 40.

I received an email last week from a good friend ('old mate', if you will, without overly emphasising the 'old'). His message contained latest information about New Zealand's ever-plummeting sheep numbers.

Now down to 23.4 million, he noted, and I could hear him (as a keen mag reader) wondering aloud if I might soon be out of a job. You know – no sheep, no shearing, no magazine – his logic was easy enough to follow.

When notification of the inward email appeared on my screen, I just happened to be working on the story at page 49 of this edition, analysing an 1897 Government Report on sheep numbers, districts and owners in the Colony towards the end of the nineteenth century.

At that time, 127 years ago, just under 20 million sheep roamed our green hills and valleys. Now here we are, a quarter of the way through the 21st century and it doesn't take much mathematical ability to realise that 1897 figure could be back with us in just a year or two.

So what's the remedy? Recognition on a global scale that wool provides the ultimate product in sustainability and is put to a multitude of uses accordingly? Someone or something large and powerful and innovative better get their skates on, as the saying goes. Before it really is too late.

But back to my friend's concern about the future of my "job" and whether it will survive. One would like to think the magazine will "be around" in its present format at least until after the world championships at Masterton in March 2026. That would make another five issues and would bring up 120 magazines since the first one appeared in 1984.

After that? Who knows. There is still a lot of amazing industry-related history to be captured in the meantime, even if sheep numbers continue to dwindle away.

Meantime, we hope there is something of interest here for you; note we have added two more names to our industry "Hall of Fame" – the late Claude Waite and John Fagan.

Ka kite ano
Nga mihi, Des Williams

Photo Credits: Alf Sigurd Ognedal p66; Bernie Walker collection p9, 11; Brendon Potae p40 (trophy); Elite Wool Industry Training p41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48; Facebook p23, 26, 27, 60, 61; Gabriela Schmidt-Morrell p32; Glenda Betts p65 (Bing advert); Godfrey Potterton p34; Golden Shears p59 (Anna); Internet p32, 34, 39; Jasmin Sloan cover, p62-64; Marg Forde p4, 5, 28 (Bonspiel), 65 (love wool); Megan Wilson p49; Nickel Shearing p58; Pullin Shearing p64 (Pomare); Rocky Wegner p62. All others *Shearing* magazine/Last Side Publishing Ltd.

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Shearing magazine Facebook profile for April 2024: Post reach 16,500; Engagements 2,600. Followers 4974. Follower demographics: 55.2% men, 44.8% women. Most popular by age 25-34 years, followed by 35-44, 45-54 and 55-64. By district: Gisborne 2.6%; Christchurch 2%; Alexandra, Gore, Invercargill and Masterton, all 1.6%. By country: New Zealand 57.6%; Australia 25.3%; United Kingdom/Ireland 11%; United States 1.5%. Other countries 4.6%.

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Deadline for all material two weeks prior.

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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

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.

Postponement: 2024 NZWCA North Island Industry Day
Unfortunately the NZWCA Industry Day which was set for 18 October at Feilding has had to be postponed until further notice. A new date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Tracy Paterson M2133 is NZWCA's first woman chair: At the NZWCA Board meeting following the AGM in May, Bill Dowle D1076 stepped down after 12 years as chair. Board members then voted to appoint Tracy Paterson (below left) as chair and Bill as vice chair, a swapping of their roles. Tracy and her husband Andrew farm Andrew's family property and Polwarth stud, Matakanui Station near Omakau.



Tracy is clearly a person who believes in giving back to the community. She is also a Central Otago District councillor and chairs the Central Otago A&P Association and Central Otago Health Inc.

Tracy has an obvious appreciation of wool and the importance of quality. She only classes their own wool but says: "Being a registered classer is the perfect intersection of physical work coupled with a unique skill set. The sense of pride you get looking over the bins filled with consistent and true to specification wool types is immense.

"There are a lot of things I love about being in the shed, the culmination of an entire years work – we care deeply about our sheep and the quality of the fibre on their backs, the people I work with – it is always great to see familiar faces (many of whom I consider friends) and meet new ones, of course being able to tangibly connect with the wool – there is nothing better than a beautifully grown and presented fleece."

2023 season NZWCA Classer Awards
Our 2023 Award winners were announced at the NZWCA AGM. Congratulations to the recipients of Merit Awards, and all those who received commendations.
Merit Awards went to:
NZ Merino Co Merino Award – Sharon Lawton A1563 for Ben Omar and Cluden;
PGG Wrightson Owner Classer Award – Simon Harvey FD1017 for Glen Orkney;
Wools of New Zealand Mid Micron Award and BJ Mahony Shearing North Island Award – Sonya Johansen A1099 for Timahunga;
Peter Lyon Shearing Provisional Classer/Encouragement Award and WoolWorks Crossbred Award – Tegan Caves P2177 for Merinvale;
NZWCA Discretionary Award – Kelly Paku-Taylor for Mt White
Here is the link for our June newsletter which contains the full list of recipients (Merit Awards and Commendations) and the citations for the Merit award winners on pages 20-24 https://woolclassers.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/June-2024-Newsletter-1.pdf

Wool recycling knowledge sought by Lincoln University student
NZWCA has received this request, can anyone help please? "I am a Lincoln uni lecturer. An MS student of mine studies wool recycling. Could we have an initial discussion about that? Your organisation seems knowledgeable about the topic."
Contact robert.radics@lincoln.ac.nz .

Struan Hulme a "highly worthy" NZWCA Life Member
Presentation made at recent AGM/Industry Day

The New Zealand Wool Classers Association has accorded Life Membership on only a very few occasions and has much pleasure in recognising Struan Hulme A525 (pictured below) as being highly worthy of this honour.

Wool classing has been an underpinning skill to the many roles that Struan has taken on in a distinguished career. Perhaps one of the highest personal qualities of a wool classer is the willingness and ability to pass on their knowledge to those entering the profession and building up their skills. Struan has achieved this in spades, but a great deal more besides.



Recognition is due to Struan for his wider service to the wool classing profession. It is a privilege to be able to acknowledge his service to the two organisations that have worked to set standards and to oversee them. This includes time with the association's predecessor body known as the "CRAIG Committee" (the Classer Registration Advisory Registration Group which operated under the auspices of the New Zealand Wool Board). For a period, Struan worked as the Registrar managing the registration of classers and administration of the standards including providing input to the CRAIG committee deliberations and implementing any changes accepted by the Wool Board.

More recently he became a director on the New Zealand Wool Classers Association Board as a processing sector representative appointed by the wool processing sector. In this role he has provided valuable input particularly as the thrust of the NZWCA purpose is to ensure that clips are prepared to a high standard reflecting the needs of those businesses working further along the value chain.

Struan started with Canterbury Woolscourers (now WoolWorks) in 2007 in the newly created Production Coordinator role and retired last year.

New wool tutors announced by Southern Institute of Technology

All the best and congratulations on your appointment as wool tutors to NZWCA members Becks Braddick-Tohiariki M2103 and Emma O'Sullivan P2187. New Zealand's only tertiary wool education currently is the New Zealand Certificate in Wool Technology and Classing which is delivered as a two year distance learning course (with block course attendance). SIT recently published this article about their new wool tutors: https://sit.ac.nz/News/ArtMID/6435/ArticleID/1635/Tutors-appointed-for-wool-programme



Retiring wool tutor Laurie Boniface (above right) was acknowledged at the NZWCA AGM in May for his 60-year contribution to the New Zealand wool industry, including 40 years in wool education. One of the gifts Laurie received from industry members was an Honest Wolf wool and leather bag, personalised with his name on it. The photo above shows NZWCA Board member Don Urquhart (Federation of NZ Wool Merchants) making the presentation.

The card read: *"Laurie, we acknowledge your passion for wool, your industry knowledge, your skill as an educator, your tenacious commitment to the provision of wool education, your work ethic and your outstanding humanity. Your kindness and ability to mix and communicate with everyone from all industry sectors and walks of life and your unwavering care and support for your students has earnt you much love and respect."*

* * * * * *





Above: *Flashback to New Zealand Merino Shears 2018. Woolhandler Chelsea Collier and shearer Ringakaha Paewai. Both likely contenders for high placings in the 2024 open competitions.*

NZ MERINO SHEARING GOLDEN FLEECE 2024

63rd NEW ZEALAND MERINO SHEARS 4 OCT - 5 OCT

Molyneux Stadium, Alexandra, Fri/Sat 4-5 October 2024

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

All entries by 29 September 2024

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

Enquiries: email nzmerinoshearing@gmail.com

Programme of Events

FRIDAY 4th October (Report time 7.00 am)

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

SATURDAY 5th October (Report time 7.00 am)

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

Tom moves to new challenge

(Supplied, from Tom O'Sullivan)

For those of you who may not know, recently after four years I made the decision to depart from the Campaign for Wool NZ Trust, to move my focus into what I believe is the most innovative and exciting prospect for New Zealand strong wool in years, 'FLOC' – Wool Acoustic Interior Panels and Linings. www.floc.nz

Wellington based T&R Interior Systems commenced their visionary journey with FLOC way back in 2020. In that time, they have invested a huge amount of money and resource to create this highly innovative woollen product, suitable for the built environment. I simply do not know of any other new product made 100% from New Zealand strong wool, that offers the potential that FLOC does.

For several decades, the New Zealand strong wool industry has relied heavily on the carpet and rug sector, targeting merely one surface in a building, the floor. With FLOC, we open the potential to target the other five surfaces in a built environment –four walls and the ceiling. Just a tiny market share of this potential global market will significantly drive demand for New Zealand strong wool.

The product possesses a wealth of desirable attributes for today's environmentally conscious world, including; acoustic properties, fire retardancy, sustainability and biodegradability to name just a few. The FLOC range also comes in multiple formats to suit a wide range of applications and build environments, both commercial and residential.





Above: *FLOC acoustic panels.* ***Above opposite:*** *Tom O'Sullivan on 'moving day'.*

Furthermore, we are most of the way through our journey to produce an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for the product. EPDs provide a robust, science-based communication method for demonstrating the environmental credentials of a product. EPDs are increasingly gaining global recognition in building environmental rating schemes, including Green Star in New Zealand and must comply with the principles and procedures for EPD development set out in ISO 14025:2006.

To my knowledge, I do not know of another product made from New Zealand strong wool to have achieved this standard. Whilst we are not quite there yet, we are very close and once we are, we will be announcing this exciting news!

Recently I spent time in Wellington lobbying government agencies on the merits of FLOC. This included meetings with Minister Mark Patterson, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) as well as an opportunity to present to the cross-party Primary Produce Select Committee.

With the building industry facing some hard truths about the massive amount of waste and plastic being specified and the damage this is doing to the planet, we believe FLOC is something the industry and indeed global consumers will embrace. We are simply asking the New Zealand government to 'walk the talk' with their environmental agenda and support FLOC in any way it can, for mutual benefit.

We have big plans here in New Zealand, as well as globally, and we were excited to commence our export journey via our stand in the New Zealand pavilion at the Design Show in Sydney in mid-June.

You will be hearing a lot more from us soon. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts or questions on FLOC, I would love to hear them so please don't hesitate to contact me!

Kind regards, Tom O'Sullivan

Shearing thanks the following advertisers for supporting the magazine. Without which, there is no magazine! Ace Shearing Gear page 15; Barrowcliffe Shearing page 46; Bruce Rogers Shearing page 43; Courela Clothing page 47; Davis Shearing page 42; Dion Morrell Shearing page 32; Ewe Need Us page 25; Forde Winders Shearing page 14; GM Shearing page 50; Harding Shearing page 51; Heiniger page 3, 35, 45; Jeff Dorset Shearing page 60; Kirkpatrick Shearing page 39; Lister Acto Agriculture page 24; Mahony Shearing page 55; Mallinson Shearing page 30; McConachie Shearing page 9; Mike Morgan Shearing page 21; NZ Contractors' Association page 52; NZ Merino Shears page 6; Ovis Management page 18; Paewai Mullins page 53; PayBiz page 41; Payroll Plus Ltd page 48; Peter Lyon Shearing page 44; ProShear page 31; Ratima Shearing page 29; ShearingNZ.Ltd page 16; ShearSharpNZ page 23; ShearTech page 12; Silver Fern Shearing Gear page 36; Tararua Shearing page 26; Te Anau Shearing page 19; Waimate Shearing page 10.



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

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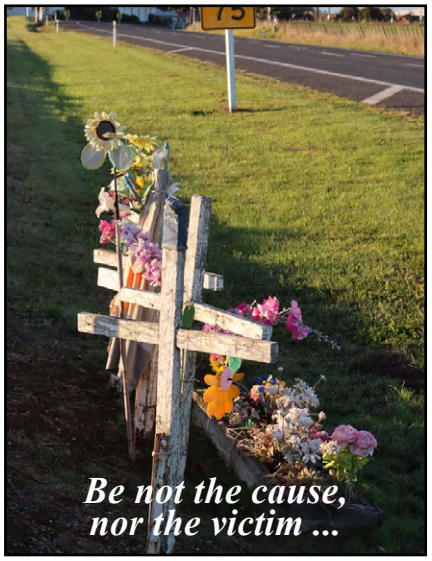



DON'T DO YOUR BACK IN

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.



Thanks for coming, Mrs Forlonge!

By Des Williams and Bernie Walker

It's coming up 50 years since the establishment of Golden Shears Australia at Euroa, Victoria, and the introduction of regular trans-Tasman tests between Australia and New Zealand. The first of the home-and-away series was held at Euroa on 26 October 1974, featuring three shearers per team. That format would continue through to 1984 when Australian Workers' Union stupidity (speaking politely) brought things to a halt that would endure until 1997, when the annual contests resumed and continue to this day.

But, before that 1974 encounter could take place, a 'shearing revolution' was necessary and that occurred 12 months earlier, at the Euroa Show on 27 October 1973. The contestants on this occasion, photograph opposite, were (from second left) John Hutchinson, Dick Duggan, Jim Walker and John Harris, with sponsor John Allan (Sunbeam Rural Division) at left.

The man at the middle of the revolution was Bernie Walker (no relation to Jim), known to *Shearing* magazine readers as a long-time contributor of shearing history articles. Bernie covers this era of Australian history in great detail in his book *A Test for the Best,* published in 2014.

Bernie had grown up on the family farm at Euroa and had learned to shear as part of the normal rural up-bringing. Entering competitions was all part of that education.

District records confirmed that the first Euroa Agricultural and Pastoral Society Show had been held in 1885, and events then included a shearing competition. With sheep and shearing very much a part of the rural scene in the lower north-east part of Victoria, one may assume that similar events were held in subsequent years until, from the 1950s, competitions were held on the back of a truck at the Showgrounds.



Above: *1973 Forlonge Invitation Championship participants at Euroa, from left: John Allan (Sunbeam, sponsor); John Hutchinson, Dick Duggan, Jim Walker and John Harris.*

And though the shearing of the sheep bore at least passing resemblance to to techniques and styles used in New Zealand (save for narrow shearing gear and much wrinklier merinos), the system of judging was radically different – revolutionary different, maybe!

In 1972 the Australian champion Brian Morrison shore a world record 410 merino weaners in Euroa's RSL Hall. The event drew huge interest and provided the catalyst for bigger and better opportunities for show-casing the shearing and wool industies. So, when Bernie and the team around him began thinking in terms of organising an 'open' competition, aided by innovative suggestions from John Allan, they realised the existing rules, set by the Shearing Competitions Federation of Australia (SCFA), effectively a sub-committee of the Australian Workers Union, would prevent such an event taking place.

"In order to understand how radical some of the proposals and ideas we were discussing were, it is necessary to enlighten readers to the way SCFA competitions of the time were run," Bernie explains in A Test for the Best.

"They featured two stands (i.e., shearers) shearing four sheep (rarely eight) with four judges. The first two judges judged the first two sheep on the board mainly for second cuts, then follwed then into the pen to check for wool left on and skin cuts, while the second pair of judges judged the second sheep on the board. The first pair then swapped stands for the third sheep as did the second pair for the fourth sheep.

"The net effect was that each judge judged one whole sheep for each shearer, and they were the only judge to see that sheep.

"The time for the event was set by the judges after

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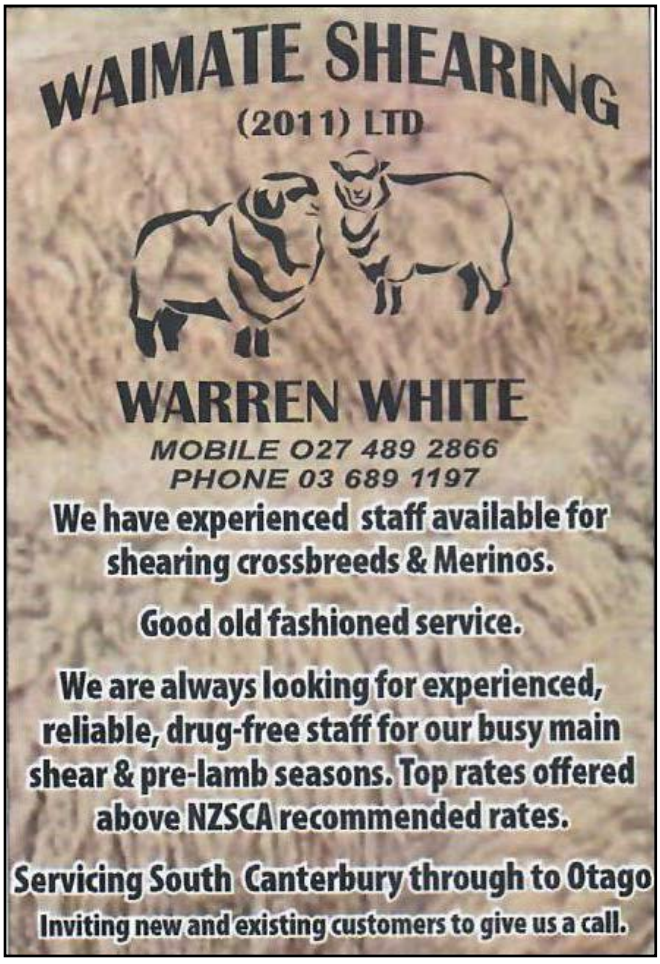
inspection of the sheep prior to the competition, and was usually three minutes per sheep for merino wethers. There was no penalty or advantage if the competitor was under the time set, but they incurred a full point penalty for every four seconds exceeding the time set. All judging for second cuts, skin cuts and wool left on was done in quarter points. In effect, the shearers were not competing against each other so much as trying to do the best possible within the allotted time."

It was noted, too, that Union rules forbade shearers from owning a handpiece. Instead, they had to pick one from a box of handpieces supplied, in the sheds and at competitions.

"And here were these people at Euroa talking about open time (fastest man to establish the time), use your own handpiece, multiple sheep, rotating board judges, four shearers competing at once, separate pen judges, a penalty of one point for every twenty seconds behind the first shearer to finish – all part of New Zealand events at the time. The issue of wide gear versus narrow gear was still years away," Bernie explained in *A Test for the Best*.

Before it could go ahead, of course, approval from the Australian Workers' Union was required. John Allan came to the fore again, with the approval letter received 12 days prior to the event.

And so, the revolutionary shearing competition took place at the Euroa A&P Show on 27 October 1973 – despite heavy overnight rain that had threatened to disrupt the event, and a state-wide power strike. It was named the "Forlonge Invitation" event after Mrs Eliza Forlonge (1784-1859), a pioneering woman (born and raised in Scotland, later emigrating to Australia with her husband John and two sons)





Above: *Bernie Walker at the Eliza Forlonge Memorial (sorry, Mrs John Forlonge!) a few kilometres from Euroa. Located at the foot of the Garden Range, the monument is in the shape of a wool pack and is known locally as 'the stone woolpack'.*

who was instrumental in introducing merino sheep to the Seven Creeks Run at Euroa, Victoria in the 1830s.

Each of the shearers shore fifteen sheep – Border Leicester/merino crossbred ewes, especially chosen to allow each shearer to demonstrate their speed and skill. The difference for the enthralled audience of spectators between this new event and previous 'shearing competitions' they had witnessed was, of course, spectacular to say the least.

Bernie Walker again: "The ground-breaking 1973 Forlonge Invitation Championship at the Euroa Show on 27 October was a tremendous success. The changes we were proposing created enormous interest. Never had so many people gathered to watch a shearing event in Australia and the Melbourne *Sun* newspaper featured a double page report on Monday morning."

From there, things developed quickly. Bernie Walker travelled to New Zealand for the Golden Shears at Masterton, met with Laurie Keats, Bob Chamberlain, Colin Gilmour-Wilson, Roy O'Hara, Doug Buick, Wally Burns and others and returned home with more than enough 'ammunition' to have Golden Shears Australia established in time for the first show at the Euroa Town Hall on 26 October 1974. And that, you might say, is where the story really begins!

The History

The first trans-Tasman shearing competition was at the first Golden Shears championships at Masterton in 1961. A test was staged there in 1963. An annual home-and-away series was initiated in 1974 with the first test at the Australian Golden Shears at Euroa, Vic., and was initially for the Sunbeam Trans-Tasman Shield, to be decided over each series of five tests, the tests being held at Euroa and at the Golden Shears in Masterton.

After the 1984 test in Euroa, the series was abandoned because of industrial issues in Australia. The tests resumed in Perth, WA, in 1997, and have been held home-and-away ever since, apart from the arrival of the Covid global pandemic in 2020. Since 1997, the tests in Australia have been held mainly in association with the Australian National Championships, at different venues each year rotated from state to state. The 50th anniversary of the start of the tests will be marked in October 2024 at Katanning, WA.



Sunbeam Trans-Tasman Shield 1974-1984
First Series

1. 1974 – Euroa: Australia 247.44pts (Steve Pittaway 32min 52.3sec, 89.02pts; Joe Nobes 33min 15sec, 83.01pts; Jim Walker 35min 2.2sec, 75.41pts) beat New Zealand 222.39pts (Norm Blackwell 32min 32.4sec, 84pts; Don Morrison 33min 35.9sec, 80.11pts; Eddy Reidy 37min 3.3sec, 58.28pts) by 25.05pts. (1 test, NZ 0 Aus 1)

2. 1975 – Masterton (8 merino ewes, 8 Romney ewes): New Zealand 237.3901pts (Don Morrison 26min 50.4sec, 83.1275pts; Norm Blackwell 26min 1.7sec, 81.0834pts; Eddy Reidy 28min 52.7sec, 73.1792pts) beat Australia 220.996pts Steve Pittaway28min 18.9sec, 74.7442pts; Jim Walker 28min 14.4sec, 74.6359pts; Joe Nobes 27min 54.8sec, 71.6159pts) by 16.3941pts. (2 tests, NZ 1 Aus 1)

3. 1975 – Euroa: New Zealand 247.102pts (Kerry Johnstone 29min 41.5sec, 86.115pts; Norm Blackwell 30min 43.4sec, 81.483prs; Roger Cox 32min 25.6sec, 79.504pts) beat Australia 246.248pts (Jim Mott 29min 27sec, 85.209pts; Peter Kelly 31min 53.2sec, 81.446pts; Tony Smith 32min 54.1sec, 79.593pts) by 0.854pts. (3 tests, NZ 2 Aus 3)

4. 1976 – Masterton (8 merino, 4 crossbred 2nd shear ewes, 4 longwool lambs): New Zealand 253.7576 (Kerry Johnstone 25min 23.4sec, 87.9584pts; Roger Cox 26min 15.5sec, 85.9575pts; Norm Blackwell 27min 24,9sec, 79.8417pts) beat Australia 218.2843pts (Jim Mott 26min 38.6sec, 78.1567pts; Tony Smith 28min 28.6sec, 73.0942pts; Peter Kelly 30min 59.4sec, 67.0334pts) by 35.6741pts. (4 tests, NZ 3 Aus 1)

5. 1976 – Euroa: Australia 271.098pts (Tim O'Connor 31min 7.3sec, 92.303pts; John Harris 31min 21sec, 90.885pts; Tony Smith 32min 27sec, 87.91pts) beat New Zealand 261.638pts (Roger Cox 31min 5.1sec, 91.371pts; Martin Ngataki 32min 9sec, 87.719pts; Don Morrison 33min 35.6sec, 82.548pts) by 9.46pts. NZ wins first series 3-2.

Second series

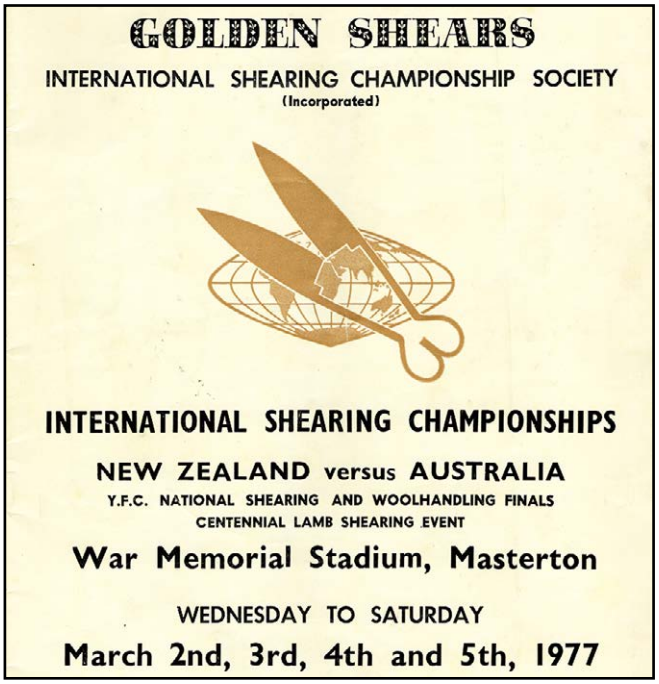
6. 1977 – Masterton (four second shear crossbred ewes, eight merino wethers, four lambs): New Zealand 259.0135 (Don Morrison 25min 18.3sec, 89.7917pts; Martin Ngataki 26min 42.1sec, 85.7059pts; Roger Cox 26min 40.9sec, 83.5159pts) beat Australia 233.3243pts (Les Arkle 26min 51.8sec, 79.5334pts; Tim O'Connor 26min 54.5sec, 76.8934pts; John Harris 25min 46.7sec, 76.8925pts) by 25.6892pts.



Participants in the first trans-Tasman test at Euroa in 1974. ***Top*** *– New Zealanders Don Morrison, Norm Blackwell, Eddie Reidy and Sam Te Whata (reserve).* ***Above:*** *Australians Jim Walker, Steve Pittaway, Joe Nobes and Bimby Martin (team manager).*

7. 1977 – Euroa: New Zealand 253.25pts (Kerry Johnstone 36min 15.5sec, 89.93pts; Kevin Walsh 38min 45.3sec, 82.85pts; Colin Gibson 39min 41.6sec, 80.47pts) beat Australia 235.69pts (John Harris 37min 40.6sec, 86.47pts; Bob Websdale 41min 27.8sec, 77.16pts; John Hutchinson 43min 33.4sec, 72.06pts) by 17.56pts.

8. 1978 – Masterton: New Zealand 228.735pts (Kevin Walsh (Timaru) 25min 40.7sec, 81.3638pts; Kerry Johnstone 25min 32.1sec, 77.9335pts; Ivan Rosandich 27min 26.7sec, 69.4387pts) beat Australia 206.1299pts (John Hutchison 25min 54sec, 77.8818pts; John Harris 27min 21.4sec, 66.2867pts; Terry O'Connor 27min 18.7sec, 61.9615pts) by 22.6051pts.



9. 1978 – Euroa: Australia 265.07pts (Dick Duggan 32min 39.15sec, 90.64pts; Steve Pittaway 34min 33.78sec, 88.36pts; Jim Walker 36min 52.6sec, 86.07pts) beat New Zealand 262.21pts (Roger Cox 32min 30.66sec, 89.56pts; Adrian Cox 32min 48.45sec, 88.09pts; Bob Michie 36min 23.4pts) by 2.86pts.

10. 1979 – Masterton (4 second-shear crossbred ewes, 8 merino wethers, 4 lambs): New Zealand 287.9089pts (Adrian Cox 22min 30.9sec, 96.8698pts; Roger Cox 23min 22.7sec, 96.175pts; Ray Alabaster 24min 46.6sec, 94.8641pts) beat Australia 277.3855pts (Dick Duggan 25min 27.5sec, 93.5271pts; Steve Pittaway 26min 3.5sec, 91.9594pts; Jim Walker 26min 33.7sec, 91.899pts) by 10.5234pts. NZ wins second series 4-1.

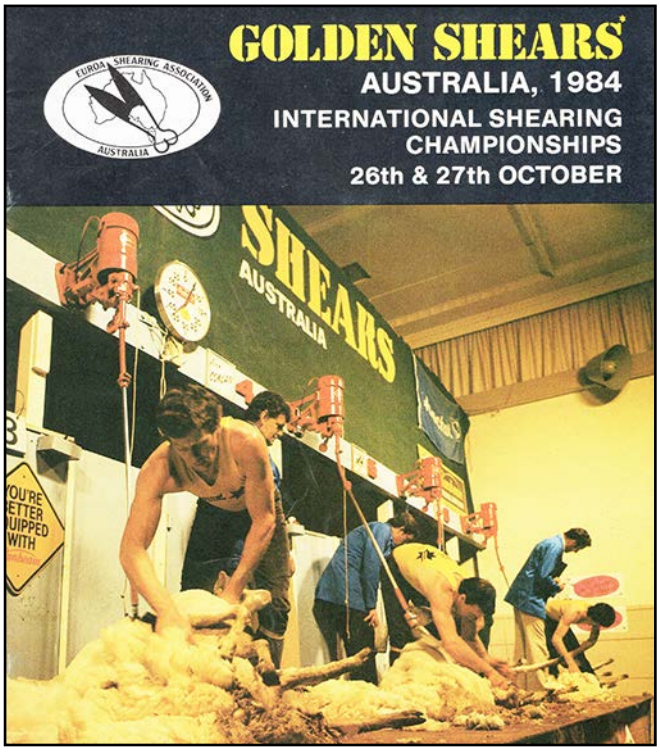
11. 1979 – Euroa: Australia 258.38pts (David Ryan 23min 44.68sec, 89.01pts; Dick Duggan 24min 15sec, 85.59pts; Bill O'Connor 26min 36.24sec, 83.78pts) beat New Zealand 250.89pts (Ray Alabaster 23min 50.57sec, 84.82pts; Kevin Walsh 25min 24.28sec, 83.98pts; Martin Ngataki 25min 20.04sec, 82.09pts) by 7.49pts.

12. 1980 – Masterton (3 secondshear crossbred ewes, 6 merino wethers, 3 lambs): New Zealand 236.6997pts (Peter Lyon 80.4336pts; Martin Ngataki 78.865pts; Kevin Walsh 77.4011pts) beat Australia 209.7978pts (David Ryan 73.1056pts; Bill O'Connor 70.6853pts; John Conlan 66.0069pts) by 26.9019pts.

Third Series

13. 1980 – Euroa: Australia 274.86pts (Mark Conlan 31min 30.7sec, 93.42pts, John Conlan 33min 10.83sec, 91.16pts; Ray Anderson 33min 54.7sec, 90.28pts) beat New Zealand 270.53pts (Samson Te Whata 33min 42.45sec, 91.54pts; Brian Quinn 33min 42.85sec, 91.08pts; Don Morrison 35min 26.68sec, 87.91pts) by 4.33pts.

14. 1981 – Masterton: New Zealand 235.1202pts (Brian Quinn 81.0677pts, Hamahona (Samson) Te Whata 77.6569pts, Don Morrison 75.3956pts) beat Australia 212.6862pts (Mark Conlan 77.7977pts, John Harris 67.5315pts, Ray Anderson 66.3577pts) by 22.434pts.



15. 1981 – Euroa: Australia 266.43pts (Mark Conlan 28min 58.18sec, 91.09pts; David Ryan 28min 40.02sec, 89.52pts; Frank Vearing 33min 41.22sec, 85.82pts) beat New Zealand 256.54pts (Adrian Cox 31min 49.75sec, 85.96pts; Jack Dowd 28min 57.38sec, 85.57pts; Bob Michie 33min 35.95sec, 85.01pts) by 9.89pts.

16. 1982 – Masterton (4 second shear, 8 merino, 4 lambs): New Zealand 221.4275pts (Adrian Cox 23min 36.1sec, 74.665pts; Jack Dowd 22min 32.63sec, 74.6094pts; Bob Michie 24min 2.38sec, 72.1531pts) beat Australia 208.3213pts (Mark Conlan 23min 18.63sec, 72.9344pts, David Ryan 22min 53.48sec, 70.8585pts, Graham Trotter 25min 35.5sec, 64.5284pts) by 13.1062pts.

17. 1982 – Euroa: Australia 267.66pts (John Conlan 28min 53.22sec, 90.43pts; Mark Conlan 30min 6.84sec, 89.75pts; Bill O'Connor 32min 11.24sec, 87.48pts) beat New Zealand 258.82pts (Samson Te Whata 31min 20.02sec, 87.04pts; Larry Lewis 31min 49.75sec, 86.91pts; Jack Dowd 31min 55.28sec, 84.87pts) by 8.84pts.

18. 1983 – Masterton (4 second shear, 8 merino, 4 lambs): New Zealand 253.4871pts (Larry Lewis 23min 30.23sec, 82.7198pts; Hamahona (Samson) Te Whata 23min 57.59sec, 85.2545pts; Jack Dowd 23min 23.59sec, 85.5128pts) beat Australia 268.966pts (Mark Conlan 24min 1.44sec, 85.1762pts; John Conlan 23min 28.25sec, 86.4958pts; Bill O'Connor 25min 53.38sec, 97.294pts) by 15.4789pts.

NB: New Zealand had switched to a penalty points system, where the team with the smallest total won. Australia retained the previous system.

19. 1983 – Euroa: Australia 269.53pts (David Ryan 30min 8.08sec, 91.1pts; Gene Mills 31min 48.88sec, 89.51pts; Bob Websdale 32min 57.56sec, 88.92pts) beat New Zealand 258.86pts (Alan Donaldson 31min 0.76sec, 87.88pts; Adrian Cox 33min 4.52sec, 86.6pts; Peter Lyon 31min 59.32sec, 84.38pts) by 10.67pts. NZ wins series 4-3.

Fourth Series20. 1984 – Masterton (4 second shear crossbred ewes, 8 merino wethers, 4 lambs): New Zealand 241.2584pts (Alan Donaldson 21min 45.74sec, 79.1412pts; Ricky Pivac 21min 53.54sec, 79.8124pts; Adrian Cox 22min 21.93sec, 82.3048pts) beat Australia 263.0443pts (David Ryan 22min 42.95sec, 85.8663pts; Gene Mills 22min 42.39sec, 88.2653pts; Bob Websdale 24min 2.63sec, 88.9127pts) by 21.7895pts.

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During the Years of Limbo

The period of 'limbo' for trans-Tasman contests between 1985 and 1997 was filled with a variety of alternatives. For example, 'East' and 'West' Australia state teams came to Masterton for three-way contests and New Zealand teams went to the Royal Show at Perth.

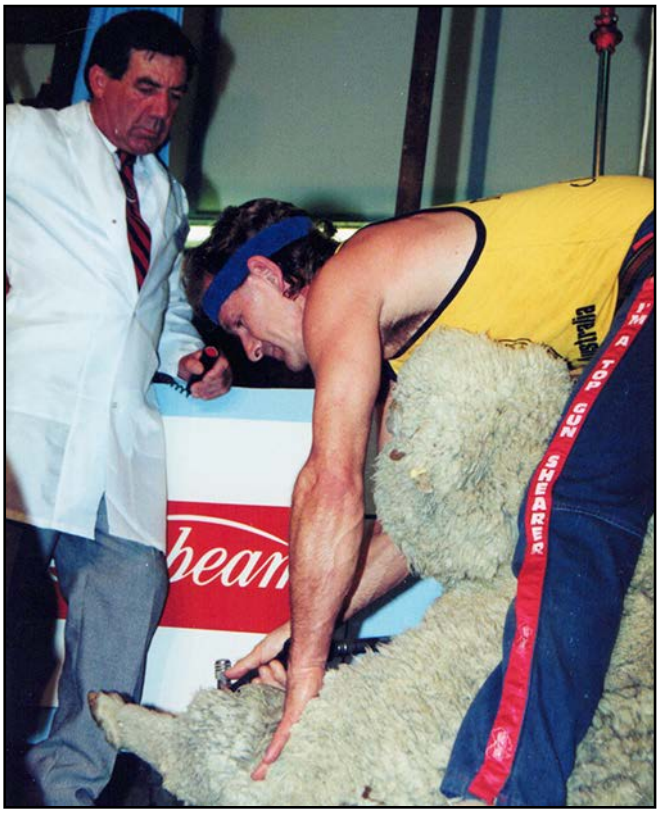
Top left: Bill Moorehead and Paul Wheeler (Western Australia); Gene Mills and Doug Bryant (Eastern Australia); David Fagan and Edsel Forde at Golden Shears 1991. The Westies won on this occasion (206.5765pts), New Zealand second (208.7326) and Eastern third with 212.1328 penalties.

Middle left: Same story, different year, better result; the teams at Masterton 1993 from left: Edsel Forde, Colin King, David Lawrence and Willie Tito (WA) with Peter Artridge and Anthony Bell, finishing in that order.

Shearing magazine's David Grace reported the action: "The international nearly brought the roof down as Edsel Forde and Dave Lawrence battled it out. Lawrence was first through the merinos in just over 12 minutes.

"As Edsel Forde overtook him on the crossbreds, the crowd roared as he went in for each sheep. "It sounded so loud up there," said Edsel. "I thought, 'Gosh, if I make a mistake!'"

"But he didn't, finishing half a sheep ahead, 19min 9sec and 7.3 points up. New Zealand won by 15 points."





Left: Laurie Donnes (Western Australia) under the vigilent eye of Vin Nesdale in the 1992 contest. He was partnered by Allen Lawrence. Above: David Lawrence (WA) in 1995. His team mate was Ray Hewton. New Zealand (Fagan/Forde 1991) and Fagan/King 1995) won both years.

21. 1984 – Euroa: Australia 267.22pts (Mark Conlan 30min 27.21sec, 89.81pts; John Conlan 28min 56.23sec, 89.35pts; Gene Mills 29min 44.84psec, 88.06ptst) beat New Zealand 252.17pts (Alan Donaldson 30min 5.91sec, 87.95pts; Samson Te Whata 32min 23.08sec, 83.65pts; Rick Pivac 32min 36.5sec, 80.57pts) by 15.05pts.

Series abandoned 1-1. Several events were staged to keep the Trans-Tasman and international relationship going, and maintain the interest of the sponsors. Home-and-away transtasman tests resumed in 1997.

22. 1997 – Perth, West Australia: Australia (Trevor Bacon, Brett King, John Ruki) 245.198pts beat New Zealand (David Fagan, Digger Balme, Atawhai Hauraki) 247.2pts.

23. 1998 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 long wool, 3 second shear): New Zealand 212.2447pts (Atawhai Hauraki 17min 17.34sec, 68.5651pts, David Fagan 18min 5.2sec, 69.0103pts; Digger Balme 19min 20.14sec, 74.6733pts) beat Australia 228.0856pts (Mike Henderson 17min 29.68sec, 69.0667pts; Hilton Barrett 19min 19.82sec, 79.3518pts; Brett King 20min 18.91sec, 79.6671pts) by 15.8409pts.



Above: New Zealand's team at Perth 1997 for resumption of 'hostilities' in the trans-Tasman rivalry. From left: Atawhai Hauraki, Harry Wells (manager), David Fagan and Dig Balme.(Bringing Mr Manager up to size!)





Above: *Venue for the trans-Tasman series at Armidale, NSW in 1998, the year woolhandling was added to the test match programme.*



Spot the difference. **Above:** *Barry Taylor at Armidale 1998, practising his backwards–over the head–upside down-don't look Mum fleece throw. Fortunately he wasn't called upon to demonstrate his multi-tasking skills in the test match.* ***Below:*** *How it should have looked, approximately*



24. 1998 – Armidale, NSW: New Zealand 212.244pts (David Fagan, Colin King, Barry Taylor) beat Australia 232.924pts (Hilton Barrett, Brett King, Mike Henderson) by 20.68pts.

25. 1999 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 long wool, 3 second shear): New Zealand 195.94pts (David Fagan 14min 21sec, 61.056pts; Colin King 15min 49.5sec, 66.075pts; Barry Taylor 15min 10.1sec, 68.809pts) beat Australia 207.807pts (Mike Henderson 15min 11.2sec, 67.866pts; Ross Thompson 15min 48.14sec, 69.712pts; Nick Endacott 16min 52.5sec, 70.229pts) by 11.867pts.

26. 1999 – Tara, Queensland: Australia 217.613pts (Nick Endacott, Mike Henderson, Ross Thompson) beat New Zealand 221.874pts (David Fagan, Darin Forde, Barry Taylor) by 4.261pts.

27. 2000 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 long wool, 3 second shear): New Zealand 214.968pts (David Fagan, Barry Taylor, Darin Forde) beat Australia 239.729pts (Brett King, Dean King, David Edgerton) by 24.761pts.

28. 2000 – Armidale, NSW: New Zealand 241.5pts (David Fagan, Darin Forde, Grant Smith) beat Australia 245.09pts (Shannon Warnest, Dean King, Ross Thompson) by 3.59pts.

29. 2001 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 long wool, 3 second shear): New Zealand 221.423pts (Darin Forde 17min 37.04sec, 71.191pts; David Fagan 18min 27.12sec, 74.106pts; Grant Smith 19min 14.06sec, 76.126pts) beat Australia 225.242pts (Nick Endacott 17min 17.38sec, 70.458pts; Dean King 18min 18.4sec, 76.085pts; Rod Moran 18min 54sec, 78.699pts) by 3.819pts.

30. 2001 – Glen Innes, NSW: Australia 269.973pts (Nick Endacott, Dean King, Rod Moran) beat New Zealand 274.385pts (David Fagan, Darin Forde, Ken Fergusson) by 4.412pts.

31. 2002 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 long wool, 3 second shear): Australia 221.657pts (Shannon Warnest 16min 32.4sec, 72.454pts; Matt Phillipson 19min 49.8sec, 77.323pts; Hilton Barrett 17min 47.6sec, 71.88pts) beat New Zealand 221.813pts (Darin Forde 16min 38.2sec, 71.743pts; David Fagan 17min 49.7sec, 73.818pts; Ken Fergusson 18min 26.7sec, 76.252pts) by 0.156pts.

32. 2002 – Esperance, West Australia: New Zealand 205.267pts (Darin Forde, Dion Morrell, John Kirkpatrick) beat Australia 219.192pts (Hilton Barrett, Matt Phillipson, Dean King) by 13.925pts.

33. 2003 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 long wool, 3 second shear): New Zealand (Dion Morrell 15min 58.4sec, 61.503pts, Darin Forde 14min 20.7sec, 62.785pts; John Kirkpatrick 17min 41.8sec, 67.673pts) 191.961pts beat Australia 209.862pts (Hilton Barrett 15min 20.5sec, 68.191pts; Jason Wingfield 18min 13.1sec, 72.071pts, Beau Guelfi 17min 22sec, 69.6pts) by 17.901pts.

34. 2003 – Esperance, West Australia: Australia (Hilton Barrett, Jason Wingfield, Beau Guelfi) 270.17pts beat New Zealand 286.77pts (David Fagan, James Fagan, Barry Taylor) by 16.6pts.

35. 2004 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 longwool, 3 second shear): New Zealand 210.312pts (James Fagan 16min 37.2sec, 66.027pts; David Fagan 16min 33sec, 67.15pts; Barry Taylor 19min 7.7sec, 77.135pts) beat Australia 213.235pts (Shannon Warnest 17min 31.2sec, 65.217pts; Jason Wingfield 18min 8.6sec, 72.18pts; Ben Frewen 18min 45.1sec, 75.838pts) by 2.923pts.



Above: *Shearing's 'Bledisloe' – the Walker-Keats Cup, the contestable silverware for trans-Tasman contests since 1999.*



36. 2004 – Roma: Australia 239.516pts (Shannon Warnest, Jason Wingfield, Ben Frewen) beat New Zealand 262.288pts (Darin Forde, Grant Smith, John Kirkpatrick) by 22.772pts.

37. 2005 – Masterton: (6 merino, 3 long wool, 3 second shear): Australia 206.1277pts (Shannon Warnest 17min 6.55sec, 64.745pts; Jason Wingfield 17min 15.34sec, 70.35pts; Daniel McIntyre 18min 46.63sec, 71.082pts) beat New Zealand 208.624pts (Darin Forde 15min 37.08sec, 64.187pts; Grant Smith 17min 35.72sec, 66.703pts; John Kirkpatrick 18min 13.56sec, 77.734pts) by 2.4963pts.

38. 2005 – Millicent, South Australia: Australia 283.277pts (Shannon Warnest, Daniel McIntyre, Karl Goodman) beat New Zealand 328.97pts (Paul Avery, Dion King, Joe Clarke) by 45.693pts.

39. 2006 – Masterton: (6 merino, 3 long wool, 3 second shear): New Zealand 202.237pts (Ken Fergusson 16min 45.52sec, 63.77pts; Dion King 17min 32.53sec, 67.293pts; Paul Avery 17min 51.7sec, 71.168pts) beat Australia 209.017pts (Shannon Warnest 16min 20.42sec, 63.937pts; Jason Wingfield 16min 47.05sec, 71.768pts; Beau Guelfi 18min 26.25sec, 73.312pts) by 6.78pts.

40. 2006 – Hay, NSW (8 merino, 8 crossbred): Australia 290.27pts (Shannon Warnest, Jason Wingfield, Beau Guelfi) beat New Zealand 311.42pts (Dion King, James Fagan, Nathan Stratford) by 21.15pts.

41. 2007 – Masterton (6 Merino, three long-wool, three second shear): New Zealand 213.661pts (Nathan Stratford 17min 51.43sec, 70.489pts; James Fagan 16min 14.47sec, 70.857pts; Dion King 16min 54.63sec, 72.315pts) beat Australia 230.445pts (Shannon Warnest 17min 52.85sec, 69.725pts; Ross Thompson 17min 29.68sec, 78.234pts; Karl Goodman 18min 51.41sec, 82.486pts) by 16.784pts.

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Combatants at Tara, October 1999. ***Top:*** *The New Zealand trio sorting sheep for the test. "The sorting will be more fun than the shearing," suggests David Fagan to Barry Taylor and Darin Forde.* ***Middle:*** *And so it proved. Australians Ross Thompson, Nick Endacott and Mike Henderson won the shearing test by just over four points – 217.613 to 221.814.* ***Above:*** *"At least we don't have to wait four more years to get another crack at them," New Zealand team manager Don Toshach (right) points out.*





Above: *Triumphant trio at Armidale 2000: David Fagan, Darin Forde and Grant Smith, with manager Alan Pretious and Bernie Walker - not certain that he wants to let go of the Cup bearing the names of himself and Laurie Keats. This was New Zealand's most comprehensive victory in Australia – a 25-point margin.*





Images from the trans-Tasman contests at Glen Innes, New South Wales, October 2001. ***Top:*** *Australian woolhandlers Moera Hammonds and Eileen Evans (61.102 penalties) lost to New Zealand (Lisa McLeod and Joanne Kumeroa) 56.266.* ***Above:*** *The New Zealanders pause for photos outside the team accommodation units. From left: Darin Forde, Ken Fergusson, David Fagan, Jeff Crengle (manager), Joanne Kumeroa and Lisa McLeod.*

42. 2007 – Warrnambool, Vic (8 merino, 8 crossbred): Australia 334.32pts (Shannon Warnest, Ross Thompson, Terry O'Leary) beat New Zealand 361.72pts (Paul Avery, Tony Coster, Joseph Paewai) by 27.4pts.

43. 2008 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 longwool, 3 second-shear): New Zealand 216.889pts (Paul Avery 17min 52.85sec, 67.559pts; Tony Coster 16min 41.95sec, 73.182pts; John Emslie 20min 2.97sec, 76.148pts) beat Australia 219.548pts (Shannon Warnest 17min 16.11sec, 66.972pts; Jason Wingfield 17min 37.04sec, 74.602pts; Beau Guelfi 19min 32.82sec, 77.974pts) by 2.659pts.

44. 2008 – Hay, NSW (8 merino, 8 crossbred): Australia 316.01pts (Shannon Warnest 22m 17.78s 97.14pts, Jason Wingfield 23m 6.7s 107.09pts, Beau Guelfi 21m 54.38s 111.78pts) beat New Zealand 343.76pts (John Kirkpatrick 25m 0.2s 117.7pts, James Fagan 23m 34.59s 109.54pts, Nathan Stratford 25m 55.4s 116.52pts) by 27.75pts.

45. 2009 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 long-wool, 3 second-shear): New Zealand 235.151pts (James Fagan 16min 9.54sec, 78.06pts; John Kirkpatrick 17min 31.27sec, 78.231pts; Nathan Stratford 18min 10.54sec, 78.86pts) beat Australia 236.042pts (Jason Wingfield 16min 22.83sec, 76.476pts; Shannon Warnest 16min 42.77sec, 77.888pts; Damian Boyle 19min 21.89pts) by 0.89pts.

46. 2009 – Warialda, NSW (8 eight merino, 8 crossbred): Australia 294.35pts (Shannon Warnest 21min 59.25sec, 90.84pts; Jason Wingfield 22min 27.23sec, 99.74pts, Damien Boyle 24min 33.03sec, 103.78pts) beat New Zealand 354.03pts (Tony Coster 24min 49.13sec, 108.96pts; Charlie O'Neill 26min 15.09sec, 117.5pts; Dean Ball 30min 30.22sec, 127.57pts) by 59.68pts.

47. 2010 – Masterton (6 merinos, 3 long wool, 3 second-shear): New Zealand 244.128pts (Nathan Stratford 17min 4.623sec, 76.648pts; Tony Coster 17min 26.324sec, 83.233pts; Dean Ball 17min 14.943sec, 84.247pts) beat Australia 253.923pts (Shannon Warnest 17min 29.109sec, 79.039pts; Jason Wingfield 16min 53.59sec, 84.013pts; Bill Hutchinson 16min 40.759sec, 90.871pts) by 9.795pts.

48. 2010 – Hay, NSW (8 merino ewes, 8 lambs): New Zealand 306.23pts (Tony Coster 20min 54.11sec, 103.77pts; Grant Smith 21min 35.18sec, 110.01pts; Cam Ferguson 19min 54.06sec, 92.45pts) beat Australia 309.68pts (Jason Wingfield 20min 34.54sec, 101.41pts; Bill Hutchison 18min 27.9sec, 117.65pts; Shannon Warnest 19min 12.41sec, 90.62pts) by 3.45pts.

49. 2011 – Masterton (6 merinos, 3 long wool, 3 seconds shear): Australia 244.589pts (Shannon Warnest 16min 22.047sec, 75.352pts, Justin Dolphin 18min 52.684sec, 81.468pts, Bill Hutchison 17min 35.377sec, 85.769pts) beat New Zealand 255.927pts (Grant Smith 16min 36.412sec, 83.987pts, Cam Ferguson 18min 15.906sec, 85.629pts, Tony Coster 17min 1.221sec, 86.311pts) by 11.338pts.

50. 2011 – Perth (16 sheep): Australia 284.86 (Shannon Warnest 24min 8sec, 90.46pts; Justin Dolphin 24min 44sec, 92.2pts; Bill Hutchison 22min 54sec, 102.2pts) beat New Zealand 327.65pts (John Kirkpatrick 24min 33sec, 101.28pts; Tony Coster 26min 2sec, 108.35pts; Colin O'Neill 23min 43sec, 118.03pts) by 42.75pts.

51. 2011 – Christchurch (12 sheep): Australia 318.523pts (Shannon Warnest 19min 33.63sec, 92.85pts; Nathan Meaney 21min 47.17sec, 105.89pts; Mark Buscomb 22min 23sec, 116.98pts) beat New Zealand 329.134pts (Tony Coster 20min 45.45sec, 107.27pts; Colin O'Neil 21min 19.23sec, 107.63pts; John Kirkpatrick 21min 41.33pts, 114.23pts) by 10.611pts.

2012 – Masterton: No test because of World Championships.

52. 2012 – Warrnambool, Vic (12 sheep): Australia 308.1pts (Shannon Warnest 18min 4sec, 91.28pts; Nathan Meaney 20min 44sec, 106.12pts; Mark Buscumb 21min 9sec, 110.7pts) beat New Zealand 309.58pts (Chris Vickers 19min 2sec, 103.18pts; John Kirkpatrick 20min 44sec, 101.95pts; Angus Moore 20min 24sec, 104.45pts) by 1.48pts.

53. 2013 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 longwool, 3 second-shear): New Zealand 266.971pts (John Kirkpatrick 17min 17.369sec, 79.702pts; Angus Moore 17min 57.01sec, 85.351pts, 2; Chris Vickers 18min 23.352sec, 101.918pts) beat Australia 274.451pts (Shannon Warnest 17min 17.273sec, 86.947pts; Justin Dolphin 20min 22.912sec, 89.146pts; Robert Glover 22min 2.162sec, 98.358pts) by 7.48pts.

54. 2013 – Warrnambool (12 sheep): Australia 270.03pts (Shannon Warnest 18min 6sec, 88.8pts; Robert Glover 19min 48sec, 89.48pts; Justin Dolphin 20min 45sec, 91.75pts) beat New Zealand 300.12pts (John Kirkpatrick 21min 38sec, 97.9pts; Dion Morrell 17min 51sec, 100.47pts; Rowland Smith 21min 50sec, 101.75pts)by 30.15pts.

55. 2014 – Masterton (12 sheep): Australia 260.81pts (Daniel McIntyre 17min 50.301sec, 84.682pts; Shannon Warnest 18min 0.075sec, 87.087pts; Jason Wingfield 17min 22.49sec, 89.041pts) beat New Zealand 280.21pts (John Kirkpatrick 18min 19.008sec, 88.367pts; Rowland Smith 19min 52.433sec, 95.205pts; Dion Morrell 17min 37.8sec, 96.64pts) by 19.4pts.

56. 2014 – Errowanbang, NSW (8 merino wethers, 4 crossbred ewes, 4 lambs): Australia 321.18pts (Daniel McIntyre 22min 42.8sec, 103.58pt; Shannon Warnest 23min 30.28sec, 107.51pts; Jason Wingfield 21min 49.34sec, 110.09pts) beat New Zealand 388.48pts (Colin O'Neill 26min 10.38sec, 124.58pts; Nathan Stratford 28min 52.56sec, 124.75pts; David Buick 29min 21.69sec, 139.15pts).

57. 2015 – Masterton (6 merinos, 3 long wool, 3 second-shear): Australia 260.679pts (Shannon Warnest 17min 27.593sec, 79.38pts; Daniel McIntyre 17min 10.33sec, 87.017pts; Damien Boyle 18min 43.973sec, 94.382pts) beat New Zealand 281.845pts (Nathan Stratford 17min 57.002sec, 87.8pts; Colin O'Neill 17min 41.777sec, 96.255pts; David Buick 18min 26.46sec, 97.99pts).







Teams at Hay, October 2006. ***Top:*** *New Zealand team manager John Wright with Dion King, Nathan Stratford, James Fagan, Sheree Alabaster and Chelsea Collier.* ***Above:*** *Australian manager Nick Endacott with Shannon Warnest, Beau Guelfi, Jason Wingfield, Sian Bacon and Michelle Walker..*

58. 2015 – Hamilton, Vic (12 sheep): Australia 271.68pts (Shannon Warnest 18min 18sec, 88.32pts; Daniel McIntyre 17min 42sec, 90.43pts; Nathan Meaney 18min 47sec, 92.93pts) beat New Zealand 298.18pts (Tony Coster 19min, 93.25pts; Troy Pyper 19min 36sec, 96.13pts; Aaron Haynes 19min 46sec, 108.8pts).

59. 2016 – Masterton (12 sheep – 6 merino, 3 longwool, 3 second-shear): New Zealand 249.918pts (Tony Coster 16min 58.904sec, 81.695pts; Aaron Haynes 17min36.487sec, 83.324pts; Troy Pyper 16min 27.98sec, 84.899pts) beat Australia 262.502pts (Shannon Warnest 16min 55.277sec, 81.43pts; Daniel McIntyre 17min 47.91sec, 86.312pts; Justin Dolphin 19min 31.856sec, 94.76pts) by 12.584pts.

60. 2016 – Warialda, NSW (16 sheep): Australia 291.07pts (Daniel McIntyre 24min 3sec, 93.9pts; Shannon Warnest 25min 28sec, 97.53pts; Justin Dolphin 26min 9sec, 99.64pts) beat New Zealand 308.28pts (Nathan Stratford 26min 9sec, 96.76pts; Rowland Smith 27min 8sec, 105.71pts; Tony Coster 26min 55sec, 105.81pts) by 17.21pts.

61. 2017 – Masterton (12 sheep – 6 merinos, 3 long wools, 3 lambs): New Zealand 225.3534pts (Rowland Smith 17min 45.072sec, 73.67pts; Nathan Stratford 18min 1.987sec, 75.016pts; Tony Coster 17min 50.029sec, 76.667pts) beat Australia 237.969pts (Jason Wingfield 15min 51.416sec, 75.071pts; Shannon Warnest 16min 58.816sec, 78.357pts; Daniel McIntyre 17min 39.154sec, 84.541pts) by 12.6156pts.

62. 2017 – Bendigo, Vic (6 merino wethers, 6 crossbred lambs): Australia 247.47pts Daniel McIntyre 19min 41sec, 80.8pts; Shannon Warnest 20mins, 81.92pts; Jason Wingfield 18min, 84.75pts, 3) beat New Zealand 290.67pts (John Kirkpatrick 21min 59sec, 93.87pts; Troy Pyper 20min 11sec, 101.75pts; Rowland Smith 22mins, 101.75pts) by 43.2pts.

63. 2018 – Masterton (12 sheep – 6 merinos, 3 crossbred longwool, 3 second-shear): Australia 251.251pts (Shannon Warnest 17min 26.542sec, 82.327pts; Jason Wingfield 16min 51.981sec, 84.182pts; Daniel McIntyre 18min 4.847sec, 84.742pts) beat New Zealand 267.029pts (John Kirkpatrick 19min 26.677sec, 87.001pts; Nathan Stratford 19min 9.981sec, 87.166pts; Rowland Smith 20min 42.231sec, 92.862pts) by 15.778pts.

64. 2018 – Perth (12 sheep): Australia 182.6pts (Daniel McIntyre 15min 2sec, 58.85pts; Jason Wingfield 14min 17sec, 61.183pts; Shannon Warnest 16min 18sec, 62.567pts) beat New Zealand 194.85pts (Rowland Smith 16min 28sec, 62.733pts; John Kirkpatrick 16min 25sec, 64pts; Nathan Stratford 17min 9sec, 68.117pts) by 12.25pts.

65. 2019 – Masterton (6 merino, 3 longwool, 3 second-shear): Australia (Daniel McIntyre 18min 6.788pts, 71.089pts; Jason Wingfield 17min 42.835sec, 72.559pts; Callum O'Brien 17min 22.279sec, 83.031pts) 226.679pts, beat New Zealand (Nathan Stratford 18min 43.28sec, 71.831pts; John Kirkpatrick 19min 26.058sec, 78.97pts; Rowland Smith 18min 59,599sec, 79.647pts) 230.448pts.

66. 2019 – Dubbo (12 sheep each – 6 merino, 6 first cross border leicester): Australia 190.87pts (Daniel McIntyre 13min 19.8sec, 55.32pts; Jason Wingfield 13min 36sec, 63.38pts; Callum O'Brien 13min 9.91sec, 72.16pts) beat New Zealand 218.22pts (Troy Pyper 13min 31.1sec, 57.89pts; Nathan Stratford 14min 21.55sec, 64.66pts; Paerata Abraham 12min 56.72sec, 95.67pts) by 27.35pts.

67. 2020 – Masterton (12 sheep- 6 merino, 3 long wool, 3 second-shear): New Zealand 227.977pts (Troy Pyper 17min 56.292sec, 68.482pts; Paerata Abraham 17min 9.053sec, 75.87pts; Nathan Stratford 17min 55.842sec, 78.625pts) beat Australia 239.289pts (Daniel McIntyre 16min 49.258sec, 66.797pts; Nathan Meaney 17min 21.445sec, 78.656pts; Damien Boyle 19min 35.047sec; 93.836pts).

68.2022 – Bendigo (6 merinos, 6 crossbreds): Australia 231.93pts (Nathan Meaney 18min 29sec, 75.87pts; Daniel McIntyre 17min 20sec, 76.42pts; Sam Mackrill 18min 58sec, 79.65pts) beat New Zealand 298.92pts (Leon Samuels 18min 16sec, 95.97pts; Nathan Stratford 22min 39sec, 100.95pts; Stacey Te Huia 18min 18sec, 101.98pts).

69. 2023 – Masterton (12 sheep – 6 merinos, 3 long wool, 3 second-shear): New Zealand (Leon Samuels 15min 55.799sec, 65.957pts; Nathan Stratford 17min 53.382sec, 68.003pts; Stacey Te Huia 16min 2.991sec,69.65pts) 203.61pts beat Australia (Sam Mackrill 17min 11.512sec, 69.992pts; Nathan Meaney 18min 6.205sec, 70.31pts; Daniel McIntyre 17min 28.975sec, 70.449pts) 210.751pts.

70. 2023 – Jamestown (12 sheep – 6 merinos, 6 crossbreds): Australia (Nathan Meaney 15min 49sec, 71.53sec; Daniel McIntyre 17min 59sec, 73.78pts; Sam Mackrill 17min 5sec, 81.83pts) 227.15pts, beat New Zealand (Nathan Stratford 18min 45sec, 78.92pts; Leon Samuels 17min 47sec, 82.85pts; Angus Moore 17min 27sec, 83.52pts) 245.28pts.

71. 2024 – Masterton (12 sheep – 6 merino, 3 longwool, 3 second-shear): New Zealand (Leon Samuels 14m 53.94s, 65.28pts; Nathan Stratford 17m 3.02s, 67.568pts; Angus Moore 16m 19.76s, 67.821pts) 200.669pts, beat Australia (Daniel McIntyre 16m 11.08s, 65.554pts; Nathan Meaney 15m 30.34s, 65.6pts; Josh Bone 17m 35.94s, 71.464pts) 202.61pts.

Summary: Since 1974, there have been 71 tests. Australia have won 38, New Zealand have won 33. Shannon Warnest has shorn 32 tests, including 30 consecutively from March 2004 in Masterton to September 2018 in Perth. Australia won 21 of his tests, and he has been the top individual at least 15 times. Jason Wingfield has shorn 21 tests for 13 wins, and Daniel McIntyre has shorn 19 tests, of which Australia have won 14.

Nathan Stratford has shorn 18 tests of which New Zealand has won 7. John Kirkpatrick has shorn 16 tests for New Zealand, for 4 wins, David Fagan shore 12 tests for 7 wins, and Tony Coster shore 12 tests for 5 wins.

* * * * * *



Above: *Nathan Stratford – has represented New Zealand in 18 tests against Australia. Pictured at Hay, 2006. Could be a traffic policeman when he retires from shearing.*



Trans-Tasman Woolhandling

1: 1998 – Armidale, NSW: New Zealand (Joanne Kumeroa, Raelene McConnachie) beat Australia (Marion Kelly, Craig Rowsell).

2: 1999 – Masterton: Australia (Eileen Evans, Rachel Henderson) 252.46pts beat New Zealand (Joanne Kumeroa, Gina Nathan) 295.13pts.

3: 1999 – Tara, Queensland: Australia (Eileen Evans, Moera Hammonds) 44.617pts beat New Zealand (Joanne Kumeroa, Leanne Peeti) 45.05pts.

4: 2000 – Masterton: New Zealand (Joanne Kumeroa, Leanne Peeti) 259.63pts beat Australia (Moera Hammonds, Craig Rowsell) 428.12pts.

5: 2000 – Armidale NSW: Australia (Eileen Evans, Aroha Garvin) 48pts beat New Zealand (Ailsa Fleming, Jackie Harmer) 168pts.

6: 2001 – Masterton: New Zealand (Ailsa Fleming, Jackie Harmer) 405.53pts beat Australia (Eileen Evans, Moera Hammonds) 444.74pts.

7: 2001 – Glen Innes, NSW: New Zealand (Joanne Kumeroa, Lisa McLeod) 56.266pts beat Australia (Eileen Evans, Moera Hammonds) 61.102pts.

8: 2002 – Masterton: New Zealand (Joanne Kumeroa, Lisa McLeod) 313.948pts beat Australia (Sian Bacon, Eileen Evans) 394.448pts.



Above: *Trans-Tasman representatives at Armidale 1998, the year woolhandling was added to the bi-annual test series. From left: Joanne Kumeroa, Raelene McConachie, Marion Kelly and Craig Rowsell. New Zealand won with 14.386 penalties against Australia's 16.261.* ***Below:*** *Raelene McConachie and Murray Tomlin were guest judges at Armidale (Australian National Championships) 1998.*







Top: *Joanne Kumeroa and Leanne Peeti hard at work in the 1999 test at Tara.* ***Above:*** *Aussies Moera Hammonds (left) and Eileen Evans won by less than half a point.*

9: 2002 – Esperance, West Australia: New Zealand (Ronnie Goss, Tina Rimene) 18.175pts beat Australia (Sian Bacon, Eileen Phillipson) 36.562pts.

10: 2003 – Masterton: New Zealand (Ronnie Goss, Tina Rimene) 452.6pts beat Australia (Aroha Garvin, Dave Summers) 529.916pts.

11: 2003 – Esperance, West Australia: Australia (Aroha Garvin, Dave Summers) 30.728pts beat New Zealand (Thomas Fleming, Waina Peneha) 37.006pts.

12: 2004 – Masterton: New Zealand (Thomas Fleming, Waina Peneha) 635.35pts beat Australia (Sian Bacon, Louise Taylor) 779.32pts.

13: 2004 – Roma, Qld: New Zealand (Angelique Gage, Tina Rimene) 18.509pts beat Australia (Sian Bacon, Louise Taylor) 23.618pts.

14: 2005 – Masterton: New Zealand (Angelique Gage, Tina Rimene) 325.468pts beat Australia (Sian Bacon, Debbie Chandler) 411.406pts.

15: 2005 – Millicent, South Australia: Australia (Sian Bacon, Debbie Chandler) 59.6pts beat New Zealand (Ronnie Goss, Tia Potae) 62.17pts.

16: 2006 – Masterton: New Zealand (Ronnie Goss, Tia Potae) 451.244pts beat Australia (Sian Bacon, Michelle Walker) 508.354pts.

17: 2006 – Hay, NSW: New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Chelsea Collier) 25.62pts beat Australia (Sian Bacon, Michelle Walker) 29.06pts.



Above: *Three of the four woolhandlers in the test at Tara (Queensland) in 1999 were back for more at Glen Innes (NSW) two years later. Moera Hammonds and Eileen Evans for Australia met Lisa MacLeod (replacing Leanne Peeti) and Joanne Kumeroa. This time victory was New Zealand's, by nearly five points.*

18: 2007 – Masterton: New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Chelsea Collier) 642.314pts beat Australia (Sarah Lannan, Mandy Symons) 801.826pts.

19: 2007 – Warrnambool, Vic: New Zealand (Joanne Kumeroa, Hanatia Tipene) 105.65pts beat Australia (Sarah Lannan, Mandy Symons) 144.68pts.

20: 2008 – Masterton: New Zealand (Joanne Kumeroa, Hanatia Tipene) 222.156pts beat Australia (Debbie Chandler, Mel Morris) 436.78pts.

21: 2008 – Hay, NSW: New Zealand (Joel Henare, Keryn Herbert) 28.09pts, beat Australia (Debbie Chandler, Mel Morris) 31.01pts.

22: 2009 – Masterton: New Zealand (Joel Henare, Keryn Herbert) 605pts beat Australia (Racheal Hutchison, Angela Wakely) 635.2pts.

23: 2009 – Warialda, NSW: New Zealand (Joel Henare, Keryn Herbert) 30.02pts, Australia (Racheal Hutchison, Angela Wakely) 36.79pts. New Zealand won by 6.77pts.

24: 2010 – Masterton: New Zealand (Joel Henare, Keryn Herbert) 270.362pts beat Australia (Racheal Hutchison, Wayne Laird) 376.816pts.

25: 2010 – Hay, NSW (8 fleeces): New Zealand (Ronnie Goss, Joel Henare) 14.55pts beat Australia (Tina Denholm, Racheal Hutchison) 20.01pts.

26: 2011 – Masterton (4 merino fleeces, 4 longwool fleeces): New Zealand (Ronnie Goss, Joel Henare) 419.2pts, beat Australia (Joe Garvin, Racheal Hutchison) 506.6pts.

27: 2011 – Perth: New Zealand (Ronnie Goss, Joel Henare) 36.2pts beat Australia (Racheal Hutchison, Fi Patison) 50.08pts.

28: 2011 – Christchurch: Australia (Aroha Garvin, Racheal Hutchison) 440.464pts beat New Zealand (Ronnie Goss, Keryn Herbert) 462.756pts.

2012 – Masterton: No test because of World Championships.

29: 2012 – Warrnambool, Vic: Australia (Aroha Garvin, Joe Garvin) 59.5pts, beat New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Rocky Hape-Taite) 64pts.

30: 2013 – Masterton (4 merino fleeces, 4 longwool): New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Rocky Hape-Taite) 390.824pts, beat Australia (Kayla Garner, Angela Wakeley, Kayla Garner) 508.062pts.

31: 2013 – Warrnambool, Vic: Australia (Kayla Garner, Angela Wakeley) 43.08pts beat New Zealand (Keryn Herbert, Tia Potae) 46.7pts

32: 2014 – Masterton: New Zealand (Keryn Herbert, of Te Awamutu, and Tia Potae, of Milton) 370.4pts, beat Australia (Sarah Moran, of Ararat, Vic., and Mel Morris, of Cressy, Tas.) 531.4pts.

33: 2014 – Errowanbang, NSW (2 merino fleeces, 2 crossbred ewes, 2 lambs): New Zealand (Ronnie Goss, Keryn Herbert) 38.46pts, beat Australia (Sarah Moran, Mel Morris) 42.63pts.

34: 2015 – Masterton (4 merino fleeces, 4 lambs): Australia (Sarah Moran, Tara Smith) 400.022pts, beat New Zealand (Ronnie Goss, Keryn Herbert) 501.488pts.

35: 2015 – Hamilton, Vic: New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Joel Henare) 42.28pts beat Australia (Sarah Moran, Tara Smith) 45.53pts.

36: 2016 – Masterton (8 fleeces per team - 4 merino, 4 longwool): New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Taihape, and Joel Henare, Gisborne) 298.17pts, beat Australia (Racheal Hutchison, Gilgandra, NSW, and Angela Wakely, Yeoval, NSW) 396.61pts.

2016 – Warialda, NSW: Not contested because the New Zealand team was unavailable because it clashed with New Zealand's World Championships team selection series event at Waimate.

37: 2017 – Masterton (8 fleeces per team - 4 merino, 4 longwool): New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Joel Henare) 298.4pts beat Australia (Sophie Huf, Mel Morris) 468.48pts.



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Top: *Teams of more recent vintage. Top: Bendigo 2022, Angela Stevens and Cushla Abraham (70.75 points) beat Rachael Hutchinson and Aroha Garvin by nearly six points.* ***Above:*** *Golden Shears Masterton 2024, manager Mark Barrowcliffe bears the quiet smile of success while Tia Potae and Cushla Abraham don't hide their happiness.*

38. 2017 – Bendigo, Vic: New Zealand (Maryanne Baty, Joel Henare) 30.9pts, beat Australia (Sophie Huf, Mel Morris) 37.55pts, by 6.65pts.

39. 2018 – Masterton: New Zealand (Maryanne Baty, Joel Henare) 285.85pts beat Australia (Sophie Huf, Melanie Morris) 453.47pts.

40. 2018 – Perth: Australia (Sophie Huf, Mel Morris) 24.68pts beat New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Joel Henare) 26.58pts by 1.9pts.

41. 2019 – Masterton: New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Joel Henare) 356.9pts beat Australia (Sophie Huf, Melanie Morris) 412pts.

42. 2019 – Dubbo (8 fleeces): New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Pagan Karauria) 26.9pts beat Australia (Racheal Hutchison, Mel Morris) 29.44pts, by 2.54pts.

43. 2020 – Masterton (8 fleeces - 4 merino, 4 longwool): New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Pagan Karauria) 280pts beat Australia (Aroha Garvin, Racheal Hutchison) 373.5pts.

44. 2022 – Bendigo: Woolhandling (6 fleeces): New Zealand (Cushla Abraham, Angela Stevens, 70.75pts, beat Australia (Aroha Garvin, Racheal Hutchison) 76.51pts.

45. 2023 – Masterton (8 fleeces): Australia (Racheal Hutchison, Mark Purcell) 282.3pts beat New Zealand (Cushla Abraham, Angela Stevens) 309.7pts..

46. 2023 – Jamestown: New Zealand (Cushla Abraham, Tia Potae) 51.35pts beat Australia Mark Purcell, Jayne Griffin) 58.1pts.

47. 2024 – Masterton: 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.

Summary: Since 1998 there have been 47 tests. New Zealand has won 36, Australia has won 11. Joel Henare has been in 14 tests for 13 wins, and Sheree Alabaster has been in 11 tests and won 9. For Australia, Racheal Hutchison has had 12 tests for 2 wins, Mel Morris has had 10 tests, 1 win, and Aroha Garvin has had 8 tests, for 6 wins.

Blades

1: 2010 Hay NSW (4 sheep): New Zealand 180.67pts (Brian Thomson 12min 12.06sec, 88.6pts; Allen Gemmell 12min 31.37sec, 92.07pts) beat Australia 240.31pts (Peter Artridge 16min 5.86sec, 132.54pts; Nick Denniss 15min 35.35sec, 107.77pts).

2: 2011 – Christchurch: New Zealand (Brian Thomson, Mike McConnell) beat Australia (John Dalla, Peter Artridge).

3: 2012 – Warrnambool, Vic (3 sheep): New Zealand 146.85pts (Tim Hogg 13min 35sec, 75.42pts; Brian Thomson 12min 2sec, 71.43pts) beat Australia 185.43pts (John Dalla 10min 57sec, 82.52pts; Peter Artridge 14min 5sec, 102.92pts).

4: 2012-Christchurch (4 sheep): New Zealand 164.011pts (Brian Thomson 14min 36.64sec, 75.832pts; Tim Hogg 14min 48.58sec, 88.179pts) beat Australia 182.355pts (John Dalla 15min 51.53sec, 77.327pts; Peter Artridge 19min 40.56sec, 105.028pts).



5: 2014 – Waimate (4 sheep): New Zealand 111.414pts (Tony Dobbs 12min 46.89sec, 53.845pts; Brian Thomson 13min 16.38sec, 57.569pts) beat Australia 145.439pts (John Dalla 13min 57.22sec, 69.111pts; Ken French 16min 16.55sec, 76.328pts).

6: 2014 – Errowanbang, NSW (3 sheep): New Zealand 328.45pts (Tony Dobbs 12min 32sec, 152.27pts; Brian Thomson 14min 17sec, 176.18pts) beat Australia 363.29pts (John Dalla 14min 58sec, 175.57pts; Ken French 13min 1sec, 187.72pts).

7: 2015 – Hamilton, Vic (4 sheep): New Zealand 189.55pts (Tony Dobbs 14min 46sec, 92.55pts; Brian Thomson 16min 15sec, 97pts) beat Australia 21.75pts (John Dalla 14min 42sec, 105.35pts; Ken French 18min 28sec, 106.4pts).

8: 2017 – Bendigo, Vic (3 sheep): New Zealand 156.4pts (Tony Dobbs 14min 11sec, 75.22pts; Phil Oldfield 16min 37sec, 81.18pts) beat Australia 164.23pts (Ken French 17min 19sec, 80.28pts; John Dalla 15min 19sec, 63.95pts) by 9.83pts.

9: 2017 – Waimate (4 sheep): New Zealand 132.1985pts (Tony Dobbs 11min 50.06sec, 51.753pts; Phil Oldfield 12min 59.91sec. 80.4455pts) beat Australia 174.038pts (Ken French 11min 44.82sec, 84.241pts; John Dalla 11min 20.94sec, 89.797pts) 174.038pts.

10: 2018 – Perth (3 sheep): New Zealand 128.7pts (Tony Dobbs 9min 57sec, 52.85pts; Allen Gemmell 12min 37sec, 75.85pts,) beat Australia 152.78pts (Ken French 11min 18sec, 74.567pts; Andrew Murray 14min 11sec, 78.217pts) by 23.48pts.

11: 2018 – Waimate (4 sheep): New Zealand 103.882pts (Tony Dobbs 12min 38.36sec, 47.918pts; Allen Gemmell 13min29.28sec, 55.964pts) beat Australia 117.515pts (Johnathon Dalla 14min 50.78sec, 54.539pts; Ken French 15min 54.53sec, 62.9765pts) by 13.633pts.

12: 2019 – Waimate(3 sheep each): New Zealand 75.3019pts (Tony Dobbs 9min 32.97sec, 33.3151; Allan Oldfield 9min 53.07sec, 41.9868) beat Australia 99.5951pts (Ken French 11min 50.09sec, 48.5045pts; Johnathon Dalla 10min 8.48sec, 51.0906pts) by 24.2932pts.

13. 2019 – Dubbo (4 sheep each): New Zealand 171.87pts (Tony Dobbs 14min 29.22sec, 84.71pts; Allan Oldfield 12min 23.18sec, 87.16pts) beat Australia 214.81pts (Johnathon Dalla 16min 44.98sec, 104.75pts; Ken French 16min 31.22sec, 110.06pts) by 42.94pts.



Above: *New Zealand blade shearers Tony Dobbs and Allan Oldfield with team manager Greg Stuart at Bendigo, 2022. They bested the Australians, John Dalla and Ken French by just under four points.*



Above: *Australian blade shearers, Johnathon Dalla and Ken French, NZ's regular trans-Tasman opponents.*

14. 2022 – Bendigo : (3 merinos): New Zealand 154.53pts (Tony Dobbs 15min 22sec, 75.77pts; Allan Oldfield 12min 42sec, 78.77pts) beat Australia 158.32pts (Johnathon Dalla 14min 19sec, 68.62pts; Ken French 16min 14sec, 89.7pts).

15. 2023 – Jamestown (3 sheep): Australia (Johnathon Dalla 14min 5sec, 64.68pts; Andrew Murray 16min 47sec, 88.02pts) 152.6pts, beat New Zealand (Tony Dobbs 14min 28sec, 79.4pts; Allen Gemmell 14min 19sec, 81.28pts) 160.68pts.

16. 2023 – Waimate (4 sheep): New Zealand (Tony Dobbs 13min 22.38sec, 48.869pts; Allen Gemmell 14min 56.9sec, 56.845pts) 105.714pts, beat Australia (Johnathon Dalla 13min 14.9sec, 49.745pts; Andrew Murray 16min 45.05sec, 67.2525pts) 116.9987pts.

Summary: Since 2010 there have been 16 tests. New Zealand has won 15, Australia has won one. Tony Dobbs has shorn in 12 tests for New Zealand, for 11 wins, and Brian Thomson 7. John Dalla has shorn in 14 tests for Australia, for 1 win, and Ken French has shorn in 10 tests.



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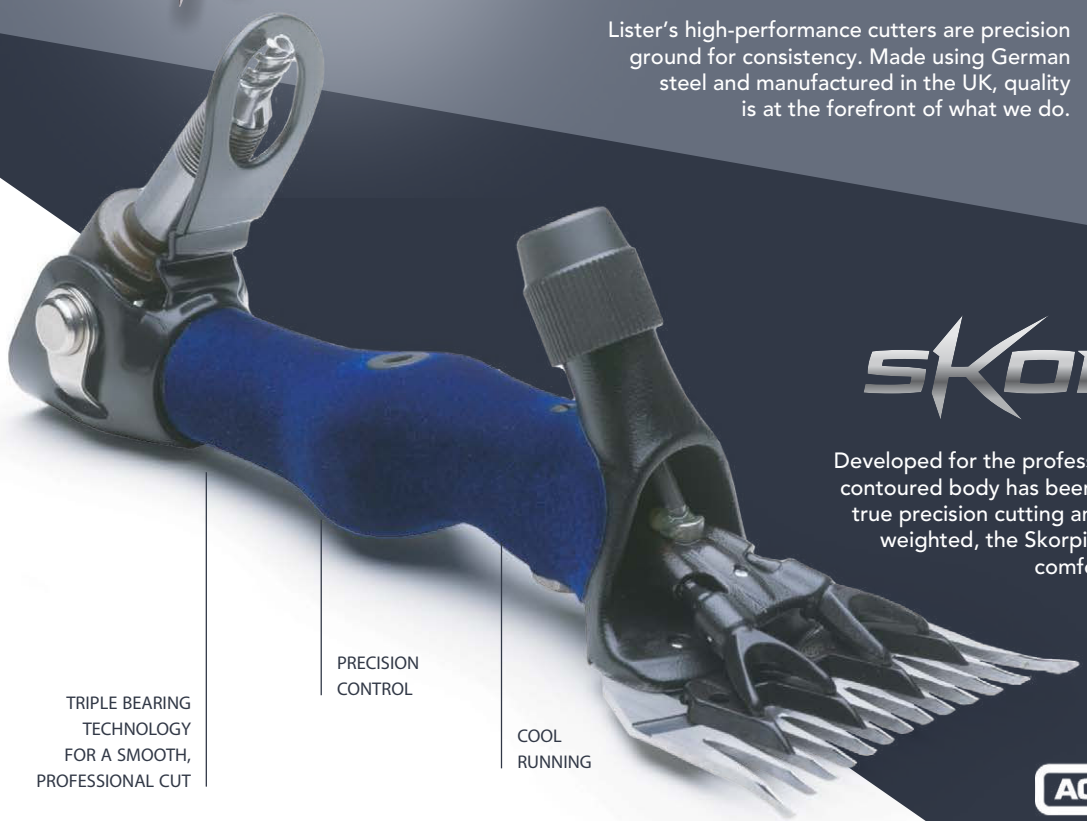

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Abraham, Paerata: 2016, 2023
Alabaster, Ray: 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1981.
Alexander, Lloyd: 1992.
Anderson, Maurie: 1972.
Avery, Paul: 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, **2005,** 2006, **2007**, 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.
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Bowen, Ivan: 1961.
Brausch, Adam: 2011
Braddick, Hemi 2023
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Dowd, Jack: 1970, 1972, 1981, 1982
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Forde, Edsel: 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994
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Herrick, Greg: 1983
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King, Colin: 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, **1987, 1988**, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996
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Lyon, Peter: 1978, 1979
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McCrea, Jerome: 2002, 2009
Michie, Bob: 1979
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Morrell, Dion: 1995
Mullins, Koro: 1993
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Ngataki, Martin: 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, **1979**, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1986
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Pivac, Rick: 1976, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987
Potae, George: 1966, 1967, **1969**, 1970, 1971, 1973
Potae, Mac: 1961
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Quinn, Brian: 1965, 1966, **1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972**
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Samuels, Leon: 2020, **2024**
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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)

(We've left this in from our previous edition because there were a couple of mistakes in it! Hopefully, not now.)

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Eight-hour tally rises again

By Doug Laing (SSNZ)

A record which had been held by New Zealand shearer Jack Fagan has been smashed in England. Gunning for the world solo eight-hours strongwool lamb-shearing record, a Kiwi exclusive for most of the past 50 years, 29-year-old Nick Greaves shore 764 lambs on the family farm, Amerton Meadows, in Staffordshire, on Saturday 3 August 2024.

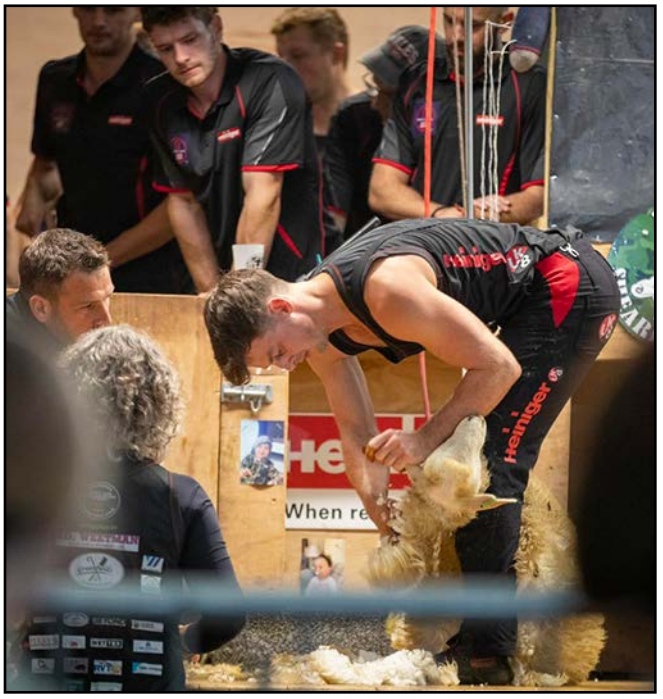
Shearing four-two hour runs, Greaves started explosively, with 199 in the first two hours, and, following with runs of 195, 190 and 180, was always well ahead of the target, the 754 set by Jack Fagan at Puketiti Station, King Country, on 22 December 2022, just two days after Taihape shearer Reuben Alabaster had set a new mark of 752.

Fagan shore consecutive run tallies of 191, 183, 190 and 190 in his big day-out, and clock-watchers were assessing Greaves' prospects from the start, with targets of under 38.15 seconds a lamb, or 23.6 lambs a quarter-hour, caught, shorn and despatched.

The average in the opening run was 36.18 seconds a lamb and the average for the day was a tick under 37.7sec, with Greaves' record meaning that all four current world solo eight-hour and nine-hour strongwool lambs records have now been set in England.

In 2022, during a two-stand big day out with Welsh shearer Llyr Jones, Greaves averaged 36.78 seconds a lamb while setting a British nine-hour solo record on UK breeds, which because of the nature of the breeds, have a lesser minimum wool-weight requirement.

Greaves' record was overseen by a four-man panel of referees appointed by the World Sheep Shearing Records Society, convened by New Zealand official Ronny King, of Pahiatua, the others being UK panellists Martyn David (Wales), Andy Rankin (Scotland) and Mark Fox (England).



Above: *Nick Greaves raises the lamb tally bar.*

A crucial point was reached on the eve of the attempt with a pre-record wool-weigh, when the wool from a sample shear of 20 of the target flock averaged 0.94kg of wool per lamb, safely over the minimum requirement of 0.9kg.

Greaves has shorn at least eight seasons in New Zealand for Hawke's Bay contractor Brendan Mahony, and in January 2020, in a blow-out ahead of a UK record bid later that year, shore 763 lambs in nine hours at Tarawera Station, in the pumice country between Napier and Taupo, on what was regarded as some of the toughest lamb shearing in the world.

By the end of the third lamb that day he needed his first cutter change, when normally there would have been one every quarter-hour, and by the end of the day he'd used more than 200 cutters, and 42 combs.

He told an English publication recently: "Lots from within shearing have inspired me but someone who has believed in me from day one is Pete Chilcott from New Zealand, who always told me I was good enough for a record and never doubted me. Pete gave me confidence when I needed it most and got me through a tally day we did in 2020 in the build-up to the first record. He has taught me the lamb pattern I use today."

In the competition arena, Greaves was fourth in the Southland All-Nations Senior Final, alongside the 2017 World championships in Invercargill, and in the Golden Shears Senior final in Masterton three weeks later.

He graduated to the Open-class, and his biggest successes came at the Royal Bath and West Show in June when he won the English National, the UK Golden Shears Open, and the Six Nations championship.

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World solo sheep shearing records as at August 3, 2024:
Eight Hours

- Strongwool ewes: 644, Rowland Smith, Trefranck Farm, Cornwall, England. July 24, 2017.
- Strongwool lambs: 764, Nick Greaves, Amerton Meadows, in Staffordshire, England, August 3, 2024.
- Strongwool ewes (women): 465, Catherine Mullooly, Nukuhakari Station, King Country, NZ, January 7, 2024.
- Strongwool lambs (women): 686, Megan Whitehead, Grant Bros Tin House, Gore, NZ, December 15, 2023.
- Crossbred lambs: 605, Aidan Copp, Stockman Stud, Melton Mowbray, Tasmania, January 28, 2023.
- Merino ewes: 500, Luke Vernon, Thornton Park Grazing, Hastings, West Australia, April 12, 2024.
- Merino ewes (women): 358, Jeanine Kimm, Daleith, Cassilis, NSW, May 4, 2024.
- Merino wethers: 373, Steve Mudford, Parkdale Merino Stud, Dubbo, NSW, Australia, September 8, 2018.
- Merino lambs: 624, Ethan Harder, Woolakabin, Williams, West Australia, September 18, 2023.
- Merino lambs (blades): 245, Sammuel Juba, Victoria West, South Africa, February 10, 2006.

Nine Hours

- Strongwool ewes: 731, Matthew Smith, Trefranck Farm Cornwall, England, July 26, 2016.
- Strongwool lambs: 872, Stu Connor, Trefranck Farm, Cornwall, England, July 31, 2016.
- Strongwool ewes (women): 458, Sacha Bond, Centrehill Station, Mossburn, NZ, February 9, 2024.
- Strongwool lambs (women): 720, Sacha Bond, Centrehill Station, Mossburn, NZ, December 19, 2023.
- Merino ewes: 540, Floyde Neil, Rockliffe Grazing, Kojonup, West Australia, April 22, 2023.
- Merino wethers: 418, Grant Smith, Lake Coleridge, NZ, November 4, 1999.
- Merino lambs: 664, Dwayne Black, Badgingarra, W.A., October 3, 2004.

Wales clinches test series 2-1 ***(By Doug Laing)***

Te Kuiti shearer Jack Fagan completed a remarkable series of four Open final wins on a United Kingdom and France tour, with victory at the Corwen Shears international lambshearing and woolhandling championships at Rhug Estate in Wales.

For the second time in four days he pipped reigning World champion Gwion Evans, whom he had beaten in the Royal Welsh Show Open on the Wednesday, having already won the Great Yorkshire Show Open final in England and the Open final at Martel in France earlier in July.

The wins came while on the Wools of New Zealand Shearing Sports New Zealand tour, which saw Fagan and teammate David Buick, of Pongaroa, also claim test match wins at the Great Yorkshire Show, in France and the Royal Wells Show.

But there was not quite the same success for the test team which was comfortably beaten by Welsh pair Richard Jones and Gethin Lewis at Corwen to secure a 2-1 series victory, a week after Lewis and original teammate Llyr Jones won the opening Welsh series test at Cothi on July 20.

The black-singlets pair were also beaten in the opening test of the tour against Scotland last month.

The 32-year-old Fagan, who won his way into the team with victory in the New Zealand Shears Circuit final in Te Kuiti in April, near-emulated an achievement of his father, Sir David Fagan who, during numerous tours in the Northern Hemisphere in 2000 had a string of wins including at the All-Ireland Championships, the Royal Bath and West and Great Yorkshire shows in England, the Royal Welsh Show and the Corwen Shears.

The Corwen Open attracted 56 entries, with Buick qualifying from the heats in fourth place of among 18 for the semi-finals and Fagan ninth.



Above: *"Hey Jack, let's climb the rails!" 'Ok, you go first.' Royal Welsh open champion Jack Fagan receives congratulations from Gwion Evans at the RWAS, Builth Wells.*



Above: *Combatants after the New Zealand vs France test at Martel, won by NZ.*

While Buick dropped out, Fagan qualified in second-place for the final, between leader Evans and world teams championship teammate Richard Jones, and then made a sprint of the final, in which the world eight-hours lamb-shearing record-holder in 11m 41s – 20 seconds clear of next-man-off Lewis.

Richard Jones had the best quality points on the shearing board and in the pens, but having finished last in 13m 14s had to settle for sixth place.

Fagan was also first to finish in the test, at 12m 28s and just three seconds quicker than Lewis. With the better quality points, and Buick incurring a maximum 5pts penalty on one lamb, Lewis and Jones won by a comfortable 7.15pts.

For Buick, who won the New Zealand Shears Open final in April, capping a remarkable comeback after suffering critical injuries in a farm accident in 2021, it was a 21st test match since a debut in a transtasman test in Australia in 2014.

While a regular shearing in the UK and France, Fagan, who also won three speed-shear events in the last week, and is a qualified shearing judge and a shearers' delegate to the Shearing Sports New Zealand national committee, was on his first tour.

In October he will be in Australia for the first of the summer's trans-Tasman tests at Katanning, WA, joined by new Golden Shears Open champion Leon Samuels and the best New Zealander in the Open final at the New Zealand Merino Shears which kicks-off the Shearing Sports New Zealand season on October 4-5. Also on at Katanning will be blade shearing and woolhandling tests, with teams each of two representatives.

Results:

Third Test (20 lambs each): Wales (Gethin Lewis 12m 31s, 47pts; Richard Jones 14m 32s, 50.45pts) 97.4pts, beat New Zealand (Jack Fagan 12m 28s, 47.75pts; David Buick 13m 18s, 56.8pts) 104.55pts. Wales win by 7.15pts and won the series 2-1.

Corwen Shears Open final (20 lambs): Jack Fagan (New Zealand) 11m 41s, 42.3pts, 1; Gwion Evans (Wales) 12m 4s, 43.65pts, 2; Gethin Lewis (Wales) 12m 21s, 45pts, 3; Llyr Jones (Wales) 12m 1s, 45.55pts, 4; Alun Lloyd Jones (Wales) 12m 2s, 46.05pts, 5; Richard Jones (Wales) 13m 14s, 46.1pts, 6.



Above: Happy in their work at Bonspiel, Moa Creek on 25 August 2024, were these Kahukura Shearing staff, from left: Amy Wanahi, Lakenleigh Mita-Ngauru, Mel Barrett, Amberlee Kahukura McGinnis (classer P 2241) and Ngahuia Mason-Goodwin.

The other trans-Tasman rivalry

By Tony Mathews (Short story)

"We humans are a competitive species," I overheard a boy say to his friend at primary school. "If your brains were gunpowder, you wouldn't have enough to blow your hat off." 'Oh yeah?' his mate replied. 'If your brains were gunpowder, you wouldn't have enough to blow your nose.'

Back and forth they went, like "you wouldn't have enough to blow the wax out of your ears" until one settled it with 'You wouldn't have enough to blow the eye out of a gnat.'

Similarly, Godfrey Bowen liked to tell of a layover he had in New York, during which he took a guided bus tour of the city. At its conclusion the tour guide produced a book of glossy photographs of the city saying, "I have this book to give away to the person on today's tour who comes from furthest away."

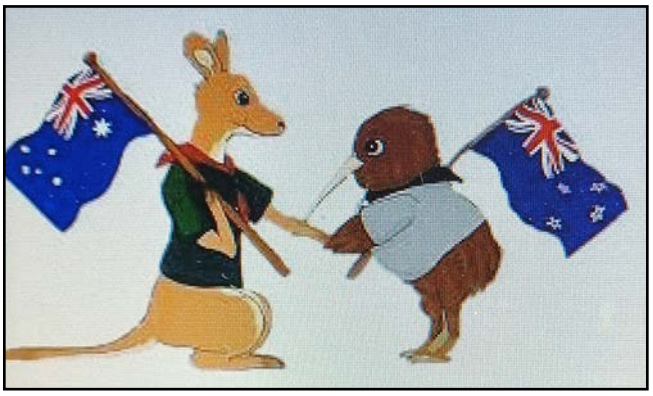
A hand shot up and from beneath it a voice said, "I'm from Chicago." From beneath another raised arm a voice said, "I'm from San Francisco." While yet another came "I'm from Argentina."

The tour guide took several steps toward the Argentinian voice when Godfrey leapt to his feet and shouted, "I'm from New Zealand, and you can't get further away than that!"

Then there were these seven shearers relaxing over a few beers before heading for the showers. "Ya know," said one, "I was only seven years old when I first set foot in a wool shed." "What?" says his mate, "I was tar boy at age six," while another says, "I was sweeping the board when I was five."

And so it went until number two said, "Mum used to rousie for Dad and, when I was a baby, she'd put me to sleep in a fadge while she worked."

There was silence for a bit, then young Wattie Wilson (not his real name) who shore on number five pipes up and says,



"I can tag the lot of ya because I was born in a catching pen." Well, that did it, mouthfuls of beer sprayed around the room like a Grand Prix winner had shaken up a magnum of champagne.

"You're a bullshitting bastard, Wilson," they chorused. 'You have gone too far this time." "I bloody was," protested Wattie. 'What,' exclaimed the ganger, 'are you telling us your mother was a ewe? And what does that tell us about your father?'

Much raucous laughter followed. "Aw you're nothing but a dirty-minded bunch of so-and-so's," admonished Wattie, 'get your minds out of the gutter. It's bloody true, I'll take bets if you like."

Now this was young Wattie's first season out with this particular contractor and, by this, their fourth week, they'd pretty much gotten his measure. 'Righto', said the ganger, 'we'll give you the floor, tell us how you came to be born in a catching pen.'

"Well, it was like this," continued Wattie. "Mum and Dad already had three kids when they got onto their first rough 200-acre block, the only building on the place was a derelict old house. The first year they were there, Mum got pregnant with me and apparently I came so quick she didn't have time to get to the maternity unit so I was born in the old house."

'You said you were born in a catching pen,' interrupted the ganger. "I'm getting to that," continued Wattie. "Anyway, by the time I was five my folks had a new house built on the place and they had converted the old place into a two-stand woolshed and the room I was born in became the catching pens so, technically I was born in a catching pen."

More silence followed before someone said, "What you're trying to say Wattie is actually you were not born in a catching pen but technically you were."

"Yeah, that's right," agreed a relieved Wattie, "you've got it in one and Dad made a lot of mileage out of it by telling every new shearer who came on the place to be careful in there because young Wattie here was born in that pen. He said it so often I totally believed him until I was about eleven."

"Well," said the ganger to more raucous laughter, 'it's a good yarn. The only true part of which is you came quick and for all we know likely still do. But right now, I suggest we put your name forward to captain the next team of Kiwi bullshit artists to take on Australia."

"With you heading the team, I truly think at last we may just have a chance of beating the blighters at their own game."

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Young farmers, young shearers for a day

By Des Williams

All seven finalists in this years Young Farmer of the Year competition had to get up close and personal with the shearing and wool industry. That's thanks to the addition of a shearing and wool practical module developed, presented and judged by New Zealand Woolclassers' Association registrar, Marg Forde, and former champion shearer Edsel Forde, better known these days as The Lifestyle Block Bloke, based on the outskirts of Hamilton.

Held at Hamilton's Claudelands Oval last month, the module required each contestant to first set up a handpiece [most forgot the oil but they didn't have to use it!], then shear a sheep, and then do the woolhandling while Forde shore another sheep. Finally, they had to sort five different wool-type samples into three categories – merino, mid-micron and crossbred.

Marg Forde says it was an honour and a pleasure to join with The Lifestyle Block Bloke in hosting and judging the module on behalf of the competition organisers. She described all seven contestants as "a credit to yourselves and rural New Zealand. We're proud to support the great work of New Zealand Young Farmers and we thank them for the chance to be involved."





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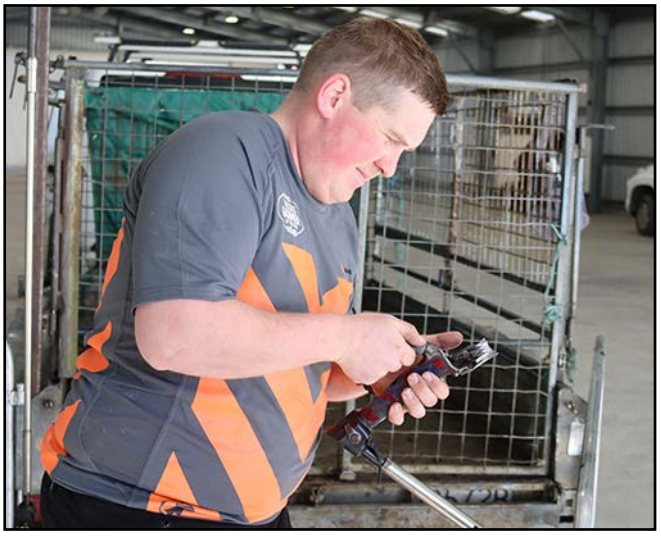
Top: *East Coast Regional finalist Archie Woodhouse from Eketahuna, starting to remove the wool.* ***Above:*** *One-handed woolhandling for Master Shearer, Edsel Forde.* ***Middle:*** *It's a real team effort – Archie's support crew. Contestants had 25 minutes to complete the module and Archie was best shearer of the seven according to* ***Shearing*** *magazine's photographer!*













Top left and right: *Zayn Jones from Taranaki-Manawatu Region (a dairy farm manager near Opiki) shearing and woolhandling.* ***Left centre:*** *Zac Thomas from Otago-Southland region (Waimumu) setting up the handpiece.* ***Right centre:*** *George Dodson from Canterbury (Tasman Region) in unfamiliar territory – a sharemilker trying to discern the different wool types. In a six-stand shearing contest George would probably have been "next in" to the final but his all-round capabilities saw him crowned FMG Young Farmer of the Year for 2024, the 56th year of the contest.*

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Rescue operation, Earnscleugh Road

By Gabriela Schmidt-Morrell

It's 6.30pm and I get a phone call from one of our guys: 'Oh, aehh, bro,… this old fella on a mobility scooter is stuck on the side of the road, just on the hill, flat battery…'

The scooter man. Every day he hustles past our place on his mobility scooter, and I wonder where he goes, where he lives. What is he doing on his scooter 2 kilometres out of town, in any weather and any season? I have been wondering about this for a few years now, but never stopped my car to ask as I manoeuvre past him.

Dion and I hop in the van and soon see our crew parked in the light of dusk, gathered around these electric wheels, and the old man on it. Some discussion is going on, some pushing of buttons, but the scooter does not budge. Gave up the ghost on the hill.

The scooter is as heavy as 2 rams together, and even less cooperative in moving it where we want it, which is in the back of our van. Luckily there is one thing shearers definitely have going for them: They are pretty strong.

In the meantime, getting the old guy in the van is an even bigger story, as he prefers to climb onto the seat himself, rather than being picked up, turned over and placed gently into position as one would think would be safer and quicker, given the unsteady feet of our new friend.

That wraps up the first part of the DMS rescue mission, and we send our crew on their way as they still have a half hour ride home… long day.

Dion and I drive back to base and recruit the last guys at dinner to help us complete this operation. I ask the old man, why he drives out into the country from his place at the retirement home. He tells me that he used to live out there, another kilometre past our place. He goes there whenever he can to 'check everything is alright at his place'. 'Just to make sure, all is as it should be', he tells us. I picture him sitting in front of his little house, looking at the leaning rock across the river on the far away mountains, maybe feeling homesick, maybe enjoying the sun and the song of the birds, maybe dreaming about what was.

I feel myself tearing up, as we slowly drive him back to his retirement place in town.

He tells us that he will get a telling off now. Its dark, he missed dinner, and he could not make the phone work to ring them…. I ask him, if he would like me to put in a good word for him. He grins and says, you can try.





Arriving there, that scooter has to come out of the van… luckily for us, we have our shearers with us, they sort that. The girls and I manage to get him out of the van and onto his crutches. He keeps a close eye on the scooter, his lifeline. On the flat, that red thing still seems to have some juice. One of our guys hops on it and does a couple of rounds. Loud laughter. The old man has a giggle. He turns to me and says: We might as well let the boys have some fun first before we tell 'them' that we are here. He checks that the boys park it properly and plug it into the power correctly.

In the meantime, I go and find the nurses, who roll their eyes and are very grateful to our muscle crew sorting quite a problem for them.

Not sure if he still got some dinner, he was two hours late after all…

I was very proud of our crew that evening. They made the old man feel safe, and one thing is for sure: That night, he was not bored.

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SHEARING SPORTS CALENDAR 2024-2025

- October 4-5 (Fri-Sat): NZ Merino Shears, at Alexandra.
- October 11-12 (Fri-Sat): NZ Spring Shears, at Waimate.
- October 19 (Saturday): Poverty Bay A and P Show, at Gisborne; Ellesmere A and P Show, at Leeston.
- October 25-27 (Friday-Sunday: Australian National Championships and Transtasman tests, at Katanning, W.A. https://www.sportsshear.com.au/national-competition/
- October 25 (Friday): Great Raihania Shears, at Hawke's Bay A and P Show, Hastings.
- October 26 (Saturday): Northern A and P Show, at Rangiora.
- November 2 (Saturday): Manawatu A and P Show, at Manfeild (Feilding); Ashburton A and P Show, at Ashburton.
- November 3 (Sunday): Wairarapa A and P Show, at Clareville (Carterton).
- November 9 (Saturday): Central Hawke's Bay A and P Show, at Waipukurau; Marlborough A and P Show, at Blenheim; Get to the Point Gymkhana Shears, at Pleasant Point.
- November 14-15 (Thu-Fri): New Zealand Corriedale Championships, at NZ Agricultural Show, Canterbury Agricultural Park, Christchurch.
- November 16 (Saturday): No competitions scheduled.
- November 23 (Saturday): West Otago A and P Show, at Tapanui; Nelson A and P Show, at Richmond Park (Nelson).
- November 30 (Saturday): Taranaki Shears, at Stratford A and P Show.
- December 7 (Saturday): Whangarei A and P Show, at Whangarei; Geyserland Agrodome Shears, Rotorua A and P Show, at Ngongotaha.
- January 4 (Saturday): No competitions scheduled.
- January 11 (Saturday): Peninsula Duvauchelle Shears, at Duvauchelle.
- January 17 (Friday): Northern Southland Community Shears (NZ Full wool championships), at Lumsden; Wairoa A and P Show Speedshear
- January 18 (Saturday): Kaikohe A, P and H Show, at Kaikohe; Wairoa A and P Show, at Wairoa; Golden Bay A and P Show, at Takaka; Southland Shears (New Zealand Crossbred Lambs Championships), at Winton A and P Show.
- January 19 (Sunday): Horowhenua A, P and I Show, at Levin.
- January 25 (Saturday): Taihape A and P Show, Taihape; Tapawera Shears, Tapawera.
- January 31 (Friday): Dannevirke A and P Show, at Dannevirke.
- February 1 (Saturday): North Kaipara A and P Show, at Paparoa; Rangitikei Shearing Sports, at Marton; Reefton Shears, Inangahua A and P Show, at Reefton.
- February 5 (Wednesday): Aria Cosmopolitan Club Speedshear.
- February 6 (Thursday): Aria Waitangi Day Sports, at Aria.
- February 8 (Saturday): Northern Wairoa A and P Show, at Arapohue (Dargaville); Te Puke A and P Show, at Te Puke; Otago Shears, at Balclutha.
- February 14-15 (Fri-Sat): Southern Shears, at Gore.
- February 15 (Saturday): North Hokianga A and P Show, at Broadwood; Ohura A and P Show, at Ohura; Murchison A and P Show, at Murchison.
- February 16 (Sunday): Counties Shears, at Pukekohe.
- February 21 (Friday): Taumarunui Shears, at Hikurangi Station, Taumarunui.
- February 22 (Saturday): Apiti Sports, at Apiti; Kaikoura A and P Show, at Kaikoura.
- February 23 (Sunday): Pahiatua Shears, at Mangaone Valley, Pahiatua.
- February 25 (Tuesday): Hawke's Bay Autumn Shears.
- February 26 (Wed): Wairarapa Pre-Shears Woolhandling, at Mikimiki, Masterton.
- February 27-March 1 (Thu-Sat): Golden Shears International Championships, at Masterton.
- March 1 (Saturday): Amuri A and P Show, at Rotherham.
- March 8 (Saturday): Kumeu A and H Show, at Kumeu; Cheviot A and P Show, at Cheviot; Mayfield A and P Show, at Mayfield.
- March 15 (Saturday): Warkworth A and P Show, at Warkworth; Waimarino Shears, at Raetihi; Methven Lamb Shears, at Methven A and P Show.
- March 22 (Saturday): Waitomo Caves Sports, at Waitomo.
- March 23 (Sunday): Flaxbourne A and P Show, at Ward.
- March 27-29 (Thurs-Sat): New Zealand Shears, at Te Kuiti.
- March 29 (Saturday): Oxford A and P Show, at Oxford.
- April 5 (Saturday): No competitions scheduled.
- April 12 (Saturday): No competitions scheduled.
- April 19 (Easter Saturday): No competitions scheduled.
- April 21 (Monday): Mackenzie A and P Show (NZ Lambshearing Championships), at Fairlie.

"If you think I'm the answer, you've asked the wrong question." (Rt Hon David Lange).

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)**
- **Claude Waite (1911-2000)**
- **Bill Meech (1914-1985)**
- **Ivan Bowen (1915-2007)**
- **Les Richards (1917-2000)**
- **Godfrey Bowen (1922-1994)**
- **Bing Macdonald (1928-2004)**
- **Makaore Potae (1934-2001)**
- **Ken Pike (1938-****)**
- **Barbara Marsh (1943-2014)**
- **Mavis Mullins (1956 -****)**
- **Keith Wilson (1957-****)**
- **Darin Forde (1965-****)**

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, 1967-68, 1970, 1971, 1972; NZ Merino Shears 1968, 1970, 1978-79.**
- **Peter Casserly 1980; NZ Golden Blades 1975-76; Omarama Shears 1995.**
- **Colin King 1984; Golden Shears 1982, 1987-88; National circuit six times.**
- **John Fagan 1984; National Lamb Shearing champion (Raglan) 1981, 1984, 1985. 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, 2011-12; NZ Open 2008-09, 2012.**

Opposite: *"Did you hear the one about the legendary English blade shearer who went to Scotland and ..." No we haven't heard that one either, but we know Graham Potterton, Hazel Potterton, Elizabeth Potterton and Jayne Tuthill were all pleased to be re-acquainted with Mr Mudge at the world champs in Scotland last year.*

Our sometimes Irish correspondent Godfrey Potterton reports daughter Hazel will be getting Kiwi citizenship in October, having previously spent considerable time in New Zealand. An occasion that may warrant Godfrey's own umpteenth visit to New Zealand, while eagerly awaiting Masterton, Golden Shears and world championships in 2026. Yes indeed!



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77.5	Regular	92.5	Regular
80	Regular	92.5	Long
82.5	Short	95	Regular
82.5	Regular	95	Long
82.5	Long	97.5	Regular
85	Regular	97.5	Long
85	Long	102.5	Regular
87.5	Regular	107.5	Short
87.5	Long		
90	Regular		
90	Long		

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Shearing Time

There's a grinding of the cutters, there's a sharpening of the combs
There's a team of eager shearers disembarking from their homes
For a place out west of sundown where the sheep are tramping in
Where a shearing shed is ready for the season to begin

There's an air of rare excitement at this busy time of year
When the sheep have all been mustered from their paddocks far and near
When their numbers have been tallied and those figures start to mount
When the boss in jubilation says you're sitting on the count

When the quarters have been readied to embrace a shearing team
When the water in the donkey has let off a hiss of steam
That means everything's in order and you're almost set to go
When an ardent team of shearers will be shearing in a row

When the gear has all been serviced and is ready for the start
When each member of the shearing team is poised to play their part
When all eyes are turned to shearing and the lively days ahead
When the focus of your labours now is centred on the shed

When the empty yards are waiting for their first big mob of sheep
They've been lying mostly dormant as though silently asleep
For some months they've sat and slumbered now since shearing time last year
Now they feel the tension building as the season's drawing near

When those yards have all been watered and the dust been dampened down
When the stores have all been ordered from the grocer back in town
When you've cleaned out all the gratings and beneath each catching pen
Then you know it's only moments till it's shearing time again

When the shearing shed has been prepared, the wool packs hung around
Where the whirring sound of cutters and commotion will abound
Where the dust off in the distance trumpets shearers to arrive
To arouse her from her dreaming as she quickly comes alive

When the roadway in's been graded to remove the nasty ruts
Winding through the holding paddocks leading right up to the huts
There's an air of expectation and it's starting now to creep
And it's all to do with shearing and it's all to do with sheep

The kitchen door is open like she's there with open arms
For another year to dazzle with her splendid rustic charms
For she's seen a lot of shearings though they're many months between
And she may be rather tired but she's functional and clean

The wool room that is empty now will see a bale or two
At the ending of this shearing they will number quite a few
And the press is primed and ready with the lever set to pull
Times in hundreds maybe thousands as it presses down the wool

Each bale will bear the branding of its coding or its class
To identify the station with its label bold as brass
Stencilled in in big black letters so no errors can be made
With its number and its nature and credentials well displayed

When the cook has cooked the tucker for the first initial meal
There's that air of expectation and excitement you can feel
When that leading sheep steps lightly on her way in to a pen
Then it's time for rush and bustle for it's shearing time again.

© Tim Borthwick (1970-2018)



Above: *Remembering Ger Heraty (1960-2014) from Tiernacroagha, Westport, County May. Ireland's blade shearing representative (with Dan Kelleher) at the world championships, Scotland, 2003. Ten years gone (died 16 July 2014) but not forgotten. RIP gentle man.*

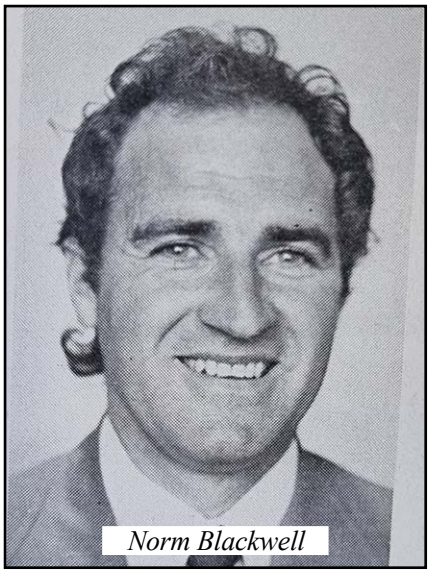


Fifty Years Ago ... 1974

Not much wrong with shearing style

This week Wool Board permanent and part-time shearing instructors from all over the country have been attending a refresher course at the shed of Messrs J.T. Denton and Sons Ltd, at Southbridge.

The course brought together some of the country's top exponents of the art. Among them were men like Norman Blackwell, who won the Golden Shears championships earlier in the year. He became Auckland provincial instructor for the Wool Board about a year ago.



Norm Blackwell

Part of his prize for winning the championship will be to shear in the Australian Golden Shears at Euroa in Victoria at the end of October. He normally shears sheep that are shorn twice a year and he regards a good tally for a nine hour day in sheep with five to seven months wool on them as 400.

At Euroa he will have to shear fine wool sheep. At Southbridge this week he had his first taste of shearing fine wools and found them different to what he is used to.

Norman said he had learnt a lot at the course about the methods of teaching others to shear.

"It is all very well to shear a sheep," he said, "but as to how to tell someone else to do it I am learning …"

Another in the group was Tom Brough, of Aria, who is a farmer as well as provincial instructor in the King Country and Waikato. He has had the distinction of being four times runner up in the Golden Shears.

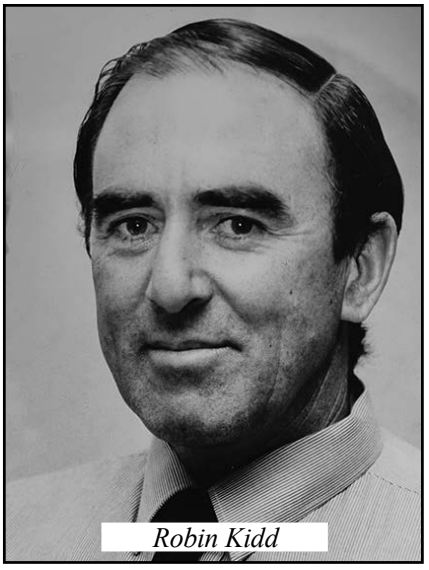
And there was also A.F. (Snow) Roffey, twice New Zealand blade shearing champion and the board's blade hearing instructor who will be holding a blade course at Rakaia in early July.

Mr. Robin I. Kidd, chief shearing instructor for the board, said that such courses were held periodically when the need for them was seen. Since the last course some new instructors had been appointed.

The instructors, he said, had looked closely at the Bowen style of shearing laid down some 22 years ago and, in fact, found little to argue with in it. No major changes had been made in it.

They had, however, decided to allow two different styles of shearing the belly - one the traditional style used for large, full wool sheep and Merinos and the





Robin Kidd

spear belly style which was very popular for most styles of sheep but particularly with lambs and where sheep were shorn more than once a year.

Likewise it was felt that two different styles should be allowed for the neck. There was the basic style of coming up under the hand when shearing the first cheek but this was felt to be a difficult blow to teach learners because it required a good deal of confidence with the handpiece.

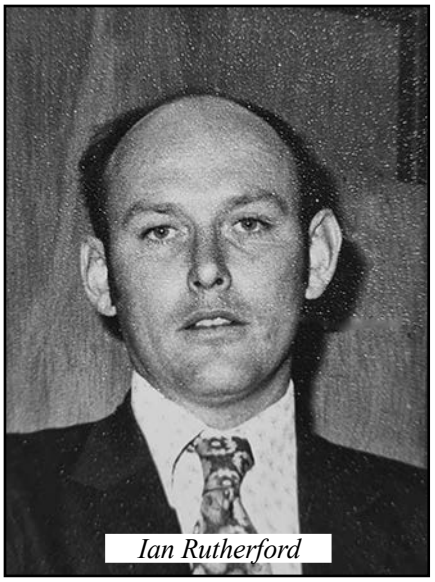
The alternative was to open up the neck with the cheek being cleared shearing from the nose down towards the ear ensuring that the point of the comb remained firmly on the skin to avoid cutting the ear. However the traditional method would still be found more suitable for sheep with barer points.

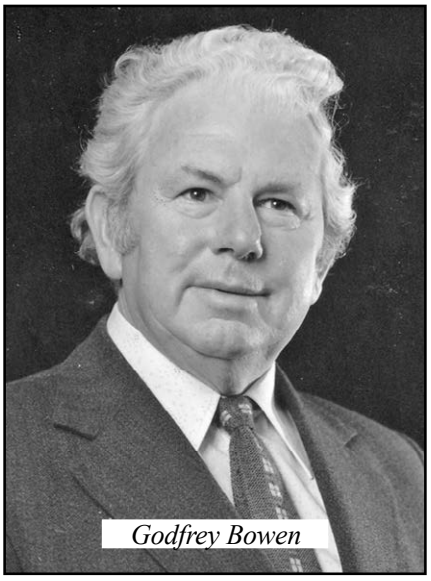
It had also been recommended that where learners had problems with control of a sheep its head should be lifted forward when the last side was being shorn.

Shearing gear also came under scrutiny and Mr. Kidd said that all of the instructors had favoured teaching learners on modern combs of the concave type as produced by either of the leading manufacturers.

Mr. I.L. Rutherford, chief instructor for the South Island, said it had been found with the concave comb students seemed to pick up shearing much easier because it followed the body of the sheep much more easily.

The technique of using the concave comb combined with its design played


Ian Rutherford


Godfrey Bowen

an important part in eliminating second cuts, which was one of the original aims of the whole shearing training programme, said Mr. Kidd

But they did not favour combs that were excessively bent or particularly those that were pulled on the bottom side in that it reduced the cutting efficiency and increased the likelihood of skin cuts.

The instructors too, directed their attention to judging of shearing and shearing competition, and Mr Kidd said that the feeling was that competitions went hand in hand with shearing instruction and the promotion of a higher standard of shearing in New Zealand.

Mr Godfrey Bowen, field director of the Wool Board, said that these courses were necessary every two or three years to bring all instructors into line in shearing style and policy. Because their job of teaching in their own areas was really a lonely one, he said that such a course also had a revitalising effect on them and made them feel part of a national scheme.

Because, too, instructors frequently did not have the time to be instructed themselves it was valuable to have these men coming together looking at what they were doing and teaching. This was essentially a practical job and theories could quickly be put to the test.

The Press (Christchurch) 24 May 1974



Above: *A young Tony Dobbs under the concentrated gaze of NZ Wool Board instructors, Robin Middleton, Ian Buchanan and Peter Taylor, c1990s. They must have known what they were talking about because the now not-so-young Mr Dobbs is still winning championship events (with blades) at the highest level.*

Indians learn to shear in New Zealand

(Christchurch Press, 5 March 1964)

New Zealand shearing and woolhandling techniques are being investigated at present by two Indian sheep men. They are Mr Krishan Swarup, wool grading officer in Rajasthan, and Mr DS Rathore, field officer at Bikaner.

They arrived in New Zealand two months ago under the Colombo Plan. Their visit resulted from representations made to the Government by the Wool Board after a visit to India by Mr Godfrey Bowen, the Board's field director, in July last year.

During their stay in New Zealand they have attended shearing courses at Massey University and Lincoln College, as well as shearing on farms in both the North and South Island. Before their return in early June they will attend courses in a wool store on servicing machines, on breeding and general farm practice.

The two officers had not seen machine shearing before Mr Bowen's visit to India and had their first opportunity to test their skill when they arrived in this country. At present they can efficiently shear three sheep in 20 minutes and they hope to increase their speed before the end of their stay.

On their return to India they will introduce machine shearing to local sheep men and instruct them on woolhandling and other techniques learnt while in New Zealand.

Both Mr Swarup and Mr Rathore gained their bachelor of agricultural science degrees at Rajasthan and Agra Universities. They joined the sheep and wool department of the Rajasthan state government in 1954. Both have had experience as farm managers, on sheep and wool research projects and as superintendents in a wool grading and marketing organisation in India.

Commenting on their visit, Mr Bowen said they were progressing well. Any help New Zealand could give to India to improve it's wool industry would pay off in the long run.

"A more efficient Indian wool industry will help maintain and increase the demand for wool, which in the future could be of benefit to this country," said Mr Bowen.

* * * * * *

Footnote: According to Dr Google, India's present sheep population is 75.3 million (2022 figures).

He loved not wisely, but too well

By Tony Mathews (Short story)

The best trade ambassador Australia never knew they had was a Kiwi, 'Ocker' Broughton, (not his real surname). Ocker absolutely loved Australian-made products, that's how he landed the title Ocker. "If it's made in Australia," declared Ocker, "it's gotta be good."

Ocker wouldn't entertain using anything other than Sunbeam handpieces and Sunbeam combs and cutters. He drove a Holden one-tonner or truck as he called it; wore Blundstone laughing-sided boots, RM Williams go-to-town clobber, an Akubra hat and listened to Buddy Williams and Slim Dusty tapes. Even Ocker's wife was made in Australia.



After his wife, Ocker's most treasured possession was the Australian-made Sidchrome half-inch drive socket set, featuring both SAE and Whitworth sockets, she had presented him on his first birthday after their marriage.

Can you still buy Sidchrome tools? If you can they will cost you an arm and a leg. Ocker said it cost his wife a full week of her pay before taxed income. For a mechanical bloke like Ocker this loving sacrifice on his wife's part did not go unappreciated so, not unexpectedly, it was a good marriage.

To keep his tools safe, Ocker had a box welded up using one-eighth inch plate steel bolted to the deck of his truck, complete with a substantial lock. "Locks as secure as Fort Knox," observed someone. "More like Fort Box," quipped a shed hand, so Fort Box it became.





If his wife was number one in Ocker's life and the treasured socket set second, third in importance was a 300-watt inverter made by Bush Ranger Auto Products in Melbourne.

"With this," declared Ocker, "there is no more buggering around in torch light, changing a wheel or trying to fix anything. Just hook up the inverter, plug in the trouble light with a 200-watt bulb and presto, instant daylight."

Then disaster struck, somehow Ocker left his inverter on the ground and ran over it with his truck. Forlornly, Ocker examined the damaged inverter, the metal casing was pushed out of square and the plastic three-pin plug broken into three. Undaunted, he took it into the woolshed and with the aid of an off-cut of 150 x 25 timber placed under a railing, and gentle pressure applied by standing on the board, he soon had the casing square once again. Then from Fort Box he produced a tube of super glue and in no time repaired the plug. Thirty-six hours later the inverter was good to go.

So thrilled was Ocker the inverter had survived being run over by his truck to the extent he was able to repair it, he decided to flick a letter off to Bushranger Auto Products extolling its durability. In his letter Ocker noted had the inverter been manufactured in any country outside Australia, notably those more populous industrialised nations to the north of us, it would have been plastic shrapnel, fair dinkum sport.

Sincere as Ocker was in his praise, the guys at Bushranger, unused to a Kiwi making positive comments about anything Australian, thought he was taking the piss. Ocker didn't expect a reply, but when he did it fair knocked the wind out of him when he read (in short):

"Dear Kiwi: We appreciate your positive comments regarding our product. Please accept this sun cap featuring our Bushranger logo but may we suggest if you intend to subject it to the truck test, be sure to remove your head from it first."

Ocker didn't say much about things made in Australia after that. In fact someone caught him using Lister cutters. When questioned, all he said was, "I thought I'd give them a try."



Mac Potae's missing trophy

By Des Williams

This magazine has several times in the past put out a plea for people to search their possessions for missing shearing trophies. Some have been missing for several years (e.g., Aria) and now we have been made aware of one that's been missing for sixty years.

The late Mac Potae won the New Zealand Maori open shearing championship held in Hamilton on 21 March 1964. His prize for winning the championship (which proved to be a one-off' event) was a silver-plated handpiece, mounted on a wooden base (the Rothmans Challenge Trophy) and 120 pounds cash.

Mrs Jenny Potae (Rotorua) and her son Brendon (Milton) still have vague memories of the handpiece in particular which was brought back after the contest to the family home at Pahiatua where they were living at the time.

Some days after the event or maybe a week or so (Mrs Potae recalls) two men called at the house while Mac was away working and asked to take the trophy away, saying it was to be engraved with Mac's name.

When weeks and months went by and the trophy was not returned, Mac Potae is said to have made enquiries and was told it was not his to keep personally but would instead be kept at a marae. Just which marae was never ascertained.

Though Mac was born and raised at Kennedy Bay, the Ngati Porou ki Harataunga marae was not established there until 1996 so Potae whanau intuition suggests it would have been taken to a marae on the East Coast.

The question remains unanswered but the Potae whanu would like some answers. The champion's blazer and ribbons remain in their possession but the trophy's return would be welcomed, even at this very late hour.

Clues, anyone?

CHAMPIONS MEET
Shearing To M. Potae

(N.Z. Press Association)

HAMILTON, March 20.

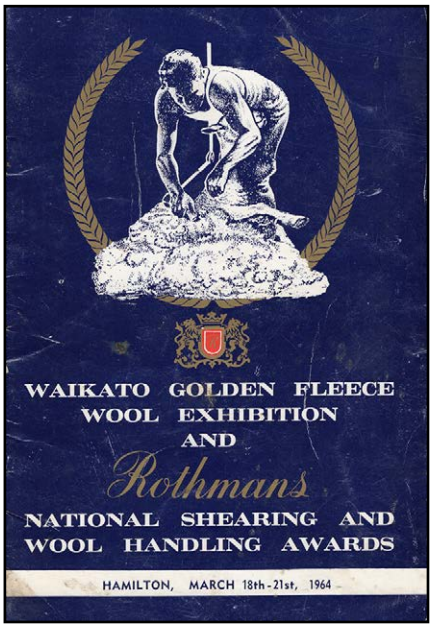
Five champions staged a thrilling battle in the final of the New Zealand Maori shearing championships last night at the Golden Fleece Wool exhibition in Hamilton.

Top honours went to M. Potae. The going was so close that Potae's win came on the quality of his work. However, he also turned in second-fastest time.

Second place went to G. Hawkins and fastest time to M. Huges with 18min 31.6sec for 15 sheep.



Above: *The only known photo (and a blurry one at that!) of the trophy presented to Makaore Potae for winning the Rothmans-sponsored New Zealand Maori open shearing championship at Hamilton on 21 March 1964. From close examination of the photo, the silver-plated handpiece is mounted on a stand at an angle, rather like a plane in take-off mode. The stand is then mounted on a (probable) wooden base maybe 25-30cm wide. A big question from the Potae whanau – Where is it now?*



Above: *Programme cover for the Waikato Golden Fleece Wool Exhibition and Rothmans National Shearing and Woolhandling Awards held at Hamilton from 18-21 March 1964.*

Mac Potae won the Maori championship (15 sheep) with 88.2 points, ahead of Geroge Hawkins (87.64), Eddie Reidy (87.38), Harry Hughes (84.95) and Manu Rangiawha (82.44).

The National championship was contested over two 20-sheep finals over two nights and won by Brian Waterson with combined aggregate 160.76 points. He beat Harry Hughes (159.75), Joe Ferguson (159.39), Bing Macdonald (155.53) and Allan Williamson (155.51).

Other events included senior, intermediate and junior shearing, shearing and woolhandling teams events and relay shearing for YFC entrants; a 'Golden Mile' clean shearing championship, Rothmans woolhandling championship and a Veterans competition. (Hamilton's main street (Victoria Street) used to be known as the "Golden Mile". Ha ha.)

The Waikato Golden Fleece Wool Exhibition was held as one of the many events staged to celebrate Hamilton's centennial in 1964. At least a couple of "old" Hamilton identities including the late Bill Richards had suggested the organisers held visions of making it an annual event to challenge and maybe out-do the Golden Shears at Masterton, which was then into its fourth year of existence. Given that Hamilton has always been a "cow town" supporting the greater Waikato dairy industry, such ambitions for the sheep and wool industry seem somewhat lofty from this distant view and especially given that Waikato has long been known as 'Mooloo' territory. "The exhibition has been in planning for around three years," said Golden Fleece Society president Mr JS Downs of Putaruru, who claimed credit for the original idea, along with Mr Fred Tipler [contractor] of Putaruru.

Out and About with EWIT

The Elite Wool Industry Training Group has had a busy few months running courses for various clients, from beginners and improver courses in crutching, fine wool, blade shearing; initiatives funded through Wool Impact Group, Contractor Specific courses, along with the Growing Future Farmers (GFF), MPI Cyclone Gabrielle Relief Fund in Gisborne, AWI/SWTI Australian Ambassadors, and the trans-Tasman trainer exchange,as well as the training partnership between EWIT and Waimarino Shears. The next few pages feature a random sample of training activity from those various locations. *(Photos and narrative supplied by EWIT administrator, Kelly McDonald.)*









***Top left**: Tony Dobbs at the Fairlie beginners shearing course, pictured doing a blade shearing demonstration for the students as they had never seen the blades in action. From left: Emma Ashworth, Mahaki Wilson, Zayden Slocombe, Rekko McCambridge, Jeremy Wilson, Tetu Livesey, Thomas Mehrtens, Billy Ennis. Trainer Tony Dobbs.*

***Above:** Tom Wilson with the Intermediate shearers at the Waimarino Shears, for whom Elite are training partners. The junior and intermediate champion shearers received a sponsored course from Elite and will attend the Waimate Shears high-performance course in the South Island. The boys will compete against four other shearers in an invitational test.*

***Top right**: Liv Gardner at the finewool trainers day. **Bottom right:** Robyne Murray tutoring the finewool trainers as the wool handling facilitator.*

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Above: *Participants in a crutching course at Mendip Hills, Cheviot. Back left: Hamish Dunlea, Seth Judge, Joel Fleming. Front left: Tyla Shanks, Erin Drummy, Kaitlyn Foote.*





Elite Wool Industry Training – images from recent courses: ***Top:*** *Fine wool course participants at Berwen Station, Omarama with instructors Willy McSkimming (front centre) and Noel Handley (front right).* ***Middle left:*** *Specific course for Dale Taylor Contracting – Dion Morrell shearing while Chardae Taylor follows closely.* ***Above:*** *Catherine Mullooly conducting a video assessment for Matt Hunt at Kyeburn.*

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Elite Wool Industry Training (EWIT) fine wool shearing and woolhandling course at Paul Paton's property, The Dolphins, Kyeburn. EWIT has held courses at the property annually since 2018. ***Top left:*** *Merlot Tupara during his practical assessment.* ***Middle:*** *Joel Henare laying it flat on the table.* ***Above:*** *Tania Morrison following suit, on the way to achieving her gold seal national certificate in finewool.* ***Top right:*** *Dion Morrell delivering a demonstration for the shearing students.* ***Above right:*** *Hauauru Tohengaroa under the watchful eye of constable Paddy Henderson. He later observed he had been 'caught speeding'.*



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Top: *the group from Kyeburn, back left: Phil Cleland (contractor), Constable Paddy Henderson, Lockie Stewart, Matt Hunt, Isaak Cleland, Sam Story, Dougal Gibson, Paul Paton (farmer), Merlot Tupara, Luke Pyper, Caleb Brooking, Adam Hodges, Etham Lysaght, Hauauru Tohengaroa, Joel McCone, Dion Morrell (trainer), Catherine Mullooly (trainer), Tom Wilson (trainer).* ***Front left:*** *Joel Henare (trainer), Robyne Murray (trainer), Allison Paton (woolclasser), Myia Pairama, Te Ao Marama Timmins, Jayda Millanta, Kate Costello, Storm Mckenzie, Rere Unahi, Tania Morrison, Ruth Williams, Maryanne Baty (trainer).* ***Above left:*** *the finewool trainers day held at the property of John and Matt Abelen, Glen Cary Station.* ***Back left:*** *DJ Crawford (assistant), Noel Handley, Alex Smith, Robyne Murray, Dion Morrell, Tom Wilson, Will McSkimming.* ***Front left:*** *Joel Henare, Maryanne Baty, Liv Gardner, Jess Toa, Catherine Mullooly.* ***Above:*** *Tyla Shanks at the Mendip crutching course.*

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Above: *Tuhoe Baker, Gisborne Boys High School at a course funded through MPI through the Cyclone Gabrielle relief fund.* ***Top left:*** *GFF beginner shearing course held in Tihoi, Taupo. From left to right: Cameron Dewdney, James Anderson, Nigel Anderson, Ben Anderson, Jaymie Maxwell, Paris Harrison, Catherine Mullooly, Sharon Stevenson, (Farmer) Alex Richardson.* ***Second left:*** *Napier Boys High School students, course funded by MPI. Back left: Thomas Turner, Angus Allan, Blake Redpath, Blake Colhoun, George Parker, Charlie Bennett, George Rickey, Guy Banks, Liam Leonard, Tom Stableford, Charlie Schaw, Craig Elliffe with trainers Noel Handley and Neil Waihape.* ***Third left:*** *Same group, stretching their limits.* ***Bottom:*** *Participants in a Wairarapa GFF beginner shearing course at Moanaroa Station, with trainer Neil Waihape discussing gear preparation.*

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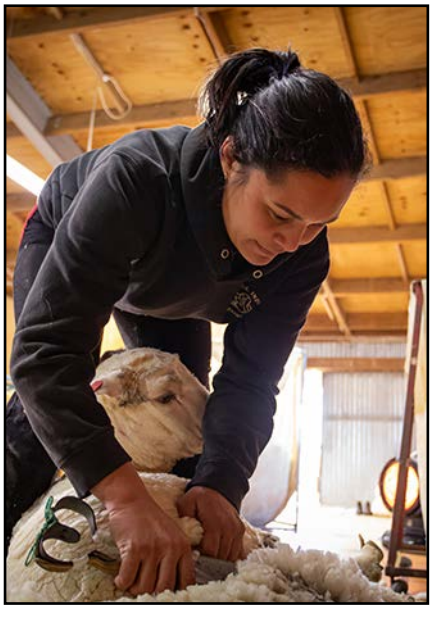



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Top: *Group photo of the team from SWTI and AWI with Tom Wilson, Dion Morrell, and Kelly McDonald as their media person. Attending the SCAA SWTI/AWI Train the Trainers two-day workshop, Telopea Downs in Victoria, Australia. Course organiser and SCAA SWTI CEO Glen Haynes invited EWIT people over to provide insight and share input, mirroring their trans-Tasman training partnership.*

Above: *a group photo of the trans-Tasman Trainee Exchange course held near Ranfurly, Maniototo region.*

Above left: *Catherine Mullooly having a blast on the blade shears at the finewool trainers day.*



Above: *Elite Wool Industry Training's Tom Wilson (back left) was recently in France with the Association des Tondeurs de Moutons (ATM) to start working together as part of the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed between the two organisations.*

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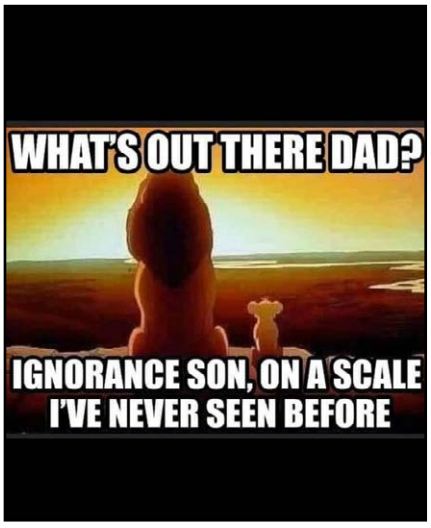




Rural Life (newspaper) interviewer: *"How long are you going to shear for?"*

Jimmy Clark *(The Southern Legend): "Until I can't."*

Annual Sheep Returns (Yr ended 30 April 1897)

Many years ago in another life that had nothing at all to do with sheep or shearing, this writer was working in a city office with a couple of other blokes ("Tony" and "Richard"), engaged on a laborious task compiling facts and figures for an annual report. At some point, Tony said to Richard, "Would you like to give me a hand with some of this statistics work?" 'No', was the flat reply. "Why not?" came the incredulous follow-up. 'Because it's bloody boring, that's why not.'

That snippet of conversation came back to mind recently when a report presented to the New Zealand Parliament ("both Houses of the General Assembly") in 1897 arrived in the mail. Editor had bought it at a second-hand book auction, thinking it might be good for a story or two.

The report contained information on the districts into which the Colony was divided; the number of sheep owners in each district; the number of sheep upon which the Sheep-rate was collected; the amount of the Sheep-rate in each district, and a statement showing the classification (different breeds) of sheep, and a list of every sheep owner in New Zealand, together with the numbers of sheep held at 30 April 1896 and 30 April 1897. A 137-page document crammed full of boring statistics, you might say. Crammed full? Certainly. Boring? Well, it depends where your heart lies, perhaps. How about the following 'stats' from 1897:

Total sheep in New Zealand:	**19,687,954**
Total North Island:	9,540,717
Total South Island	10,147,237
Total owners North Island:	8,605 (ave. 1108 sheep)
Total owners South Island:	9,863 (ave .1028 sheep)
Total owners New Zealand	18,468 (ave. 1066 sheep)

Largest Subdivisions (sheep numbers):

Hawkes Bay County (part of Napier Dist.) 1,314,372 (291 owners, led by John Studholme at Owhaoko (68,909 sheep) and RDD McLean, Maraekakao (62,000 sheep). Hawkes Bay had 45 owners with 10,000 sheep or more.

Southland/Wallace County (part of Otago Dist.) 1,307,010 (1732 owners), led by Hon. M Holmes, Castle Rock (36,000 sheep, with a further 8100 at Mararoa) and R Campbell Jnr Mararoa/Burwood with 28,249 sheep. Southland had 10 owners with 10,000 sheep or more.)

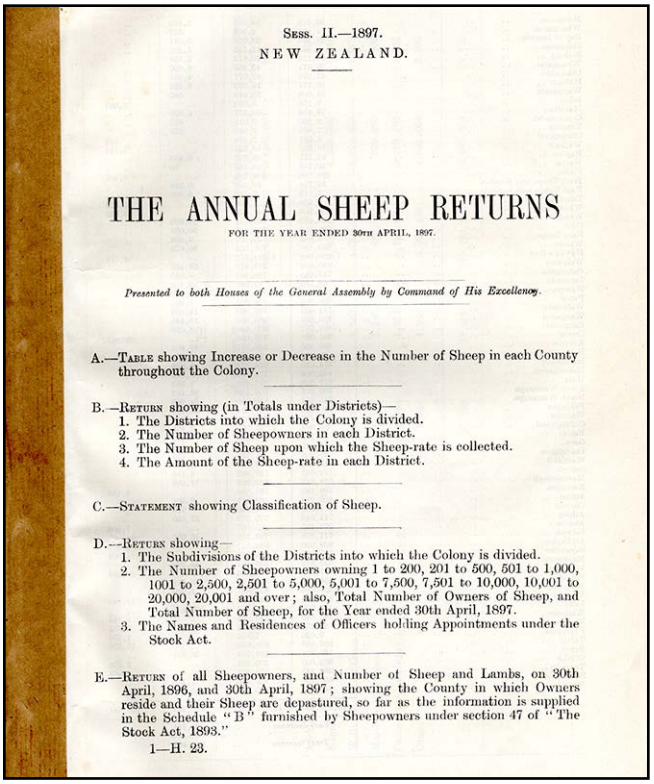
Sheep Breeds (stud and flock rams, ewes, lambs)

Merino	18,840
Lincoln	65,250
Romney	30,113
Border Leicester	23,195
English Leicester	12,634
Shropshire	8,549
Southdown	1,777
Other breeds	4,551

Flock Sheep breeding ewes (crossbred): 7,156,777

Flock sheep breeding ewes (merino): 1,365,507

All of the information in the Annual Report was 'furnished' to Government by sheep owners under Section 47 of The Stock Act, 1893. The prime purpose of the Act was to prevent the importation of stock that might be carrying infectious or contagious diseases such as anthrax, rabies, foot-and-mouth, swine fever, tuberculosis and mange. The Act gave the Department of Agriculure powers to quarantine imported stock prior to its release to purchasers.



Sess. II.—1897.
NEW ZEALAND.

THE ANNUAL SHEEP RETURNS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL, 1897.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

A.—Table showing Increase or Decrease in the Number of Sheep in each County throughout the Colony.

B.—Return showing (in Totals under Districts)—
1. The Districts into which the Colony is divided.
2. The Number of Sheepowners in each District.
3. The Number of Sheep upon which the Sheep-rate is collected.
4. The Amount of the Sheep-rate in each District.

C.—Statement showing Classification of Sheep.

D.—Return showing—
1. The Subdivisions of the Districts into which the Colony is divided.
2. The Number of Sheepowners owning 1 to 200, 201 to 500, 501 to 1,000, 1001 to 2,500, 2,501 to 5,000, 5,001 to 7,500, 7,501 to 10,000, 10,001 to 20,000, 20,001 and over; also, Total Number of Owners of Sheep, and Total Number of Sheep, for the Year ended 30th April, 1897.
3. The Names and Residences of Officers holding Appointments under the Stock Act.

E.—Return of all Sheepowners, and Number of Sheep and Lambs, on 30th April, 1896, and 30th April, 1897; showing the County in which Owners reside and their Sheep are depastured, so far as the information is supplied in the Schedule "B" furnished by Sheepowners under section 47 of "The Stock Act, 1893."

1—H. 23.



And if there is one name among those 18,468 sheep owners in the 1897 register that might be still familiar to many of our present-day magazine readers, may we suggest 'Wilson' – James Boyd Wilson of Wilson's Bay, Coromandel Peninsula? As at 30 April 1897 Mr Wilson was carrying 100 sheep, three more than at the same time the previous year.

Originally from County Antrim (Ireland), James married Mary O'Brien from County Donegal at St Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland, on 5 December 1876. (Pictured above. It is believed they met on the voyage out to New Zealand.) They took up ownership of the land at Wilson's Bay c1886, having first been offered property at Karaka. Wilson's Bay was more like Donegal and that proved to be the decisive factor.

James and Mary had four children including John George Orr Wilson, father of Selwyn John Wilson, from whom well-known shearers Keith, John and Megan Wilson descend.

Megan Wilson a long-time Thames-based landscape gardener) informs the writer that the acreage increased and sheep numbers rose to above 2000 while their parents (Selwyn and Esther) owned the farm, which was sold and subdivided some years ago. *(Des Williams)*

(Fighting) Tooth and Nail

By Roger Leslie

Shearing hobby sheep, is a great way to fill one's retirement years, but an issue I hadn't foreseen, is that most hobbyists don't know how to trim feet. Therefore it falls to the shearer to do that as well. This has never been my favourite task. When you already have a sore back, hanging onto the foot of a wildly kicking sheep, does nothing to improve this.

When I learned to shear it was at a NZ Wool Board shearing course. I'm sure some of you will remember those heady days when the government supported the wool industry. Norman Sanson of South Otago fame was the instructor and he broke us in. We started the week-long course with making a pair of moccasins out of an old sack.

Then we learned to look after our handpiece and 'do up' a comb. He taught us how to set up a grinder, change the papers, and grind our gear PROPERLY. He taught us to keep the bottom tooth down, fill up the comb, use smooth, even, full-length strokes and always remain calm. He shore a sheep blindfolded, to show us it could be done. It was a stickly little Romney hogget straight off the swedes, and he still shore it in under two minutes. He asked us if we had shorn before, and that those who had would probably be much harder to teach, because he would need to undo all the bad habits we had already acquired. He was right. This was 1971. A Sunbeam OLT Bent was the widest comb available.



Roger Leslie reveals the origins of that saying, "Fighting tooth and nail." From Denmark, just as you thought.

Norman even taught us to press wool, in case, as would probably be the case, we would be too useless to get a stand, and we would need something to fall back on. He didn't believe in hurt feelings, cotton wool, or kid gloves. He suggested the hardest thing for him would be not swearing at us. This lasted about 10 minutes. We weren't even finished the moccasins.

We never learned to trim the hooves of the sheep. Why would we? We were going to be shearers. I did get some guidance from my father, but he taught as his father before him had, using the medium of sarcastic criticism. If he remained quiet, you knew you were doing ok. He did say one helpful thing though. "If you have in your mind what a sheep's foot should look like, and cut everything off that doesn't look like that, you won't go too far wrong." And that's what I've been doing for over 50 years.

When I went shearing in Europe, I saw some pretty bad feet, but they weren't my problem. Only when I was in Denmark, did I have to trim feet. This was a part of the shearing job there and included in the price. Now my clientele are almost all hobby shepherds and I find myself trimming more and more feet. I have a bit of arthritis in my fingers, as a result of old age, and lack of proper care for my hands. Whatever the causes, handling foot shears is a painful business. I've got my eye on a nice battery-operated unit.

My observation is that there are far more bad feet found in German sheep than their New Zealand counterparts. Part of the reason is that New Zealand sheep have been selected and bred with good feet an important criterion.

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I was once asked what I thought of an expensive new ram a chap had purchased? He was a fine picture of an animal, weighing in at 200kgs, but had such crook feet he had to kneel to graze. I suggested he needed his feet cut, at the throat. This was received with rapturous applause.

Some of the shepherds I shear for, cut the feet themselves, and when I say 'cut,' I mean cut! I assume they learned the skill from Atilla the Hun. When the sheep are handed to me, all four feet are bleeding profusely all over the board (arterial bleeding is common). For some reason these animals tend to be unhappy.

I have a rule, and that is I'll do the feet of mobs less than ten, or those owned by little old ladies. I expect anyone with more than that, to learn to do the feet themselves.

Horns can also be an issue and sometimes a rogue specimen is found growing into the head of a sheep and needs the end cut off. I was shearing a mob of rams for a shepherd one day and came upon a bad case of this. I pointed it out to him and he suggested I hold it firmly while he cut the end off with his angle-grinder. He wasn't kidding and he ran to get his latest toy, and was bursting to show off his prowess with the hideous appliance. The ram and I joined in a vehement protest against this, and the bloke himself thought we were a couple of babies. I cut the offending horn tip off with the wood blade of my trusty Swiss Army knife, and no lives were lost in the process.

I wonder if good old Norman, who shore a sheep blind-folded at the Otago Shearing and Wool-handling, on his 80th birthday, could have trimmed a sheep's hoof blind-folded?

He probably could.



Norm Sanson (1929-2013) celebrated his 80th birthday by shearing a sheep blind-folded. (Him, not the sheep!)

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Things looking a bit Grey? Where to get help

Mental Health line 1737 (open 24/7)

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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).





Above left: Gerard Vaughan from ***Farmstrong*** was among the guest speakers at the New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association conference in May 2024. Farmstrong published a book two years ago (2022) entitled *Live Well Farm Well* that is chock full of inspirational stories from people who have good advice to share.

"Since Farmstrong began six years ago [now eight] we have uncovered so many stories of farmers and growers who have really taken to heart to message that to farm well, you need to live well. To have a sustainable business, you need to look after your most important asset – you, your family and your team. Developing habits that boost your wellbeing is key to this.

"... Farmstrong is all about farmers sharing with other farmers and this book is a great example of that in action," the Foreword explains.

Two shearers feature among the 30 or so story-tellers in the book. Megan Whitehead talks about the making of a world record and Alexandra-based contractor Dion Morrell has advice for looking after shearing staff.

Megan: *"If you want to get better at something, you've got to learn to work outside your comfort zone. You do go through a lot of pain in shearing, but if you come to terms with it, it becomes your friend after a while."*

Dion: *"I think some of the 'old school' shearers, contractors and farmers really need to think about how we look after these kids coming through. There's no point just saying 'harden up. It's different now. It's not a matter of whether people can do something, it's a matter of whether they should be doing it."*

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NEW ZEALAND SHEARING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION







Above: *Guest speakers at the NZSCA conference held at Wellington in May, from left: Minister for Rural Communities and Associate Minister of Agriculture, Mark Patterson (sheep and beef farmer from Lawrence); Middle: Andrew Hoggard, Minister for Biosecurity and Food Safety and Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare, Skills); Right: Andy Caughey, Chief Executive Officer, Wool Impact. Below: Avid listeners to the guest speakers!*





Above left: *Tricia and Gerard Fleming, contractors (GT Shearing) from Gisborne. Above right: Brenda Barrowcliffe (Barrowcliffe Shearing) and Melissa Garmonsway (Payroll Plus Ltd).* ***Opposite:*** *Delwyn Jones and Hanatia Tipene, contractors from Te Kuiti.* ***Below left****: Mouse O'Neill (Mouse O'Neill Shearing, Alexandra) with Daniel and Sarah Murray (South West Shearing, Lawrence)*





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Above: *More NZSCA conference attendees at Wellington last May. Left: Chris Brown (King Brown Shearing, Taumarunui) with Charlie Burton (Mackintosh Shearing, Taumarunui).* ***Above:*** *John Philp (contractor, Waikari Hawarden and owner of the Hurunui Shearing Museum) with Alan Grant (Masterton).* ***Opposite:*** *Familiar faces in 'tableaux'. You know who you are!* ***Below:*** *Shane Ratima (Hunterville) and Brendan Mahony (Napier).*





















***Top left**: NZSCA Secretary/Treasurer Suzanne Kennedy with Conference guest speaker, former All Black halfback, Piri Weepu. **Middle left:** Travis Monk of Monk Shearing, Te Kuiti. **Bottom left:** Lisa Wardill and Leonie Patrick from Shebiz Business Software, based at Cromwell, Central Otago. (Conference sponsors this year.). **Top right:** Marty and Harmony Smith from Spain & Smith, Invercargill. **Middle right:** Nigel Beckford and Bronwyn Campbell (Tahi Nga Tahi). **Above right:** Brendan Morgan (Waimarino Shears) and Mark Barrowliffe (NZSCA president) sign the Te Reo Agreement. (See next page).*

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Above: *Brendan Morgan from the Waimarino Shears Committee (Raetihi) attended the New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association conference in May to talk about the te reo [Maori language] strategy being developed by the Waimarino Shears Committee for the wider shearing industry and to introduce the karakia Te Kuti-O-Te-Rangi.*

Brendan outlined the origins of the strategy, which had arisen from simple concerns about people having their Maori names pronounced incorrectly, and to the Waimarinjo Shears seeking a point of difference for its competition.

Situated on the calendar in mid-March, Waimarino was usually two weeks after Golden Shears at Masterton and two weeks prior to the New Zealand championships at Te Kuiti. It was 'just another competition on the Shearing Sports programme.'

The strategy developed in 2021 with the introduction of basic Maori into the language of the show, aided by the commentary team and signage at the Raetihi venue.

Brendan explained the Maori Language Commission had heard of the Committee's aspirations and came 'on board' to assist, providing advice and encouragement at the highest level to spread the strategy far and wide. Though progress was hindered by the Covid 19 pandemic, the New Zealand championships had since adopted the strategy and now the New Zealand Contractors' Association was aligning to it.

In explaining the meaning of the karakia, Brendan said it had been written initially for Waimarino but was suitable for the wider industry as a whole. The word 'kuti' means to cut, he explained, and it also means 'bringing together'. It was written to make it inclusive rather than an attempt to 'ram te reo down our throats.'

Brendan said it could be used (for example) in the sheds at the start of the day, in which case the Maori version would be recited first, followed by the English version.

At the close of the day, the English version would come first, followed by the Maori version.

Later in the meeting the NZSCA (Mark Barrowcliffe, President) signed a Te Reo Maori Strategy Agreement with Waimarino Shears (Brendan) to further develop and implement a Te Reo strategy for Association members.

Karakia: Te Kuti-O-Te-Rangi
Shearing Industry Karakia

Tēnei te Kuti-o-te-rangi e tū nei	Let us be drawn together
Ka kuti te papa	Coming together on earth
Ka kuti te rangi	Coming together under the heavens
Ka hui te kōrero	Combining knowledge
Ka hui te wānanga	Combining learning
Tēnei te pō	To transition
Nau mai te ao	Into this reality
Hui e!	Uniting
Tāiki e!	In conscious thought

Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori
Maori Language Commission

Waimarino Shears.com

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



Above: *A gathering of the legends at Colin Smith's Endeavour Inlet hideaway (inset) in March 2016. Back left: Colin Smith, Ivan Rosandich, Brian McCully, Ian Rutherford, Jeff Rountree, Ken Pike, Robbie Gordon, Edsel Forde. Middle: Vin Nesdale, Brian Quinn, Eddie Reidy, Gordon Smith, Barry Palmer, Jim Keenan (obscured). Front: Allison McCully, Joyce, Barbara-Anne Reidy, Pauline Pike, Una Smith, Peter Black.*



Above: *Blanket Bay: Remembering the artistic talents of the late Kevin 'Beaver' Stevenson, who died in a Southland car crash in 2018. The shearers from left are Ivan Rosandich, Brian McCully, Ian Rutherford, Jeff Rountree, Ken Pike, Brian Quinn ... nah, just kidding. From Stevenson's notes: "In 1861 eight Maori sheared a substantial mob of sheep at a bay on the outskirts of Glenorchy. This bay was to be named 'Blanket Bay' after the use of blankets, hung over beech saplings, to form a temporary shed and shelter. The sheep were owned by Mr Gilbert Rees and the wool was transported down the lake to Queenstown by Mr Rees' whaleboat." This image is from a print gifted to* ***Shearing*** *magazine by Kevin Stevenson in 2006. The original oil painting was commissioned by Tom [CEO Levi Strauss] and Pauline Tusher, owners of Blanket Bay Lodge. Stevenson's other shearing-themed paintings grace many a living room wall, both here and abroad. We know Cliff Metherall has several over there in Canada!*



Tribute: John Kennedy (1951-2024)

Former New Zealand blade shearing champion John Kennedy died at Timaru on 1 July 2024, aged 72.

We featured a story in this magazine a while back about a trip John made to Australia with Peter Casserly. Somewhere along the line (at Jacky Howe's birthplace, maybe) the two champions encountered an inquisitive fellow who asked them what they would do if they were told they only had five minutes to live.

True to his religion, 'Casso' revealed that he would repent his sins, say some 'Hail Mary's' and hope he had done enough to gain admittance at the Pearly Gates.

Mr Kennedy said he would hope to shear three sheep and get the catch!

We will never know if John did receive the five-minute warning bell but his reply captured the essence of the work ethic endowed in shearers of the top class. For John was top class in the competition arena and holds the distinction of winning the New Zealand Golden Blades title at the Canterbury Shears as a 26-year-old in 1977, and again as a 54-year-old, in 2005. That 28-year gap between drinks is surely a record that will not be surpassed any time soon.

John described the 2005 win as the best day of his life, beating Noel Handley by half a point and with Allan Gemmell, Bryce Hepi, Justin Woodrow and Peter Race all within four points of the championship. He had won about 20 other competitions but that one stood above the others.

He recalled beating Mark Marshall, Paddy O'Neill and Peter Casserly in the 1977 final. He had also won a New Zealand junior blades title in 1973 and the merino blades title at Alexandra in 1983.

Among on-line tributes posted were the following:

"Growing up in the same farming community and sharing a common love of rugby meant that John and I played years of rugby together, firstly for the small Cust club. We were then part of an outstanding Oxford U16 team which we both [had] fond memories of and finally we played together for Rangiora High 1st XV.

"John was an uncompromising front rower who gave of his best and yielded to no-one. He was a very genuine guy who never let you down. I was able to spend some special time with John near the end and for that I am most thankful. He was a person I always respected." (Alan Harrison)

"Well JK you are going to be missed by so many people from different avenues of life from shearing, farming, rugby, fishing. I personally will miss giving you a hard time about sitting on your bucket out white-baiting, eating sandwiches until some one started catching some. Anyway John you will be missed but never forgotten my friend." (Malcolm Hellier.)

And Mark Armstrong mentioned that John had been of considerable help to the Scottish blade shearing team at the world championships.



Picture opposite: Nickel Shearing: *"My wife Edith and I are from Litchfield Minnesota which is about 75 miles west of the "twin cities" Minneapolis and St Paul. Pretty much in the middle of the state. We shear about 15000 head a year together and we do alpacas and llamas and mohair goats on occasion.*

Here in the Midwest USA we have a mix of really small flocks to larger groups up to about 1500. We do travel to other states – Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and obviously here in Minnesota. Also we do a small run in Maine where my wife has family." Photo from earlier this year working with Luke and Eddie Zeglen

Thanks Jared Nickel and welcome to New Zealand *Shearing* magazine. Feel welcome to send stories and photos of your activities in the United States. Ed.



Leon: Our Latest Master Shearer

Leon Samuels (Invercargill) was bestowed with Master Shearer status by Shearing Sports New Zealand at the Annual meeting in Te Kuiti earlier this month. He became the 69th machine shearer to meet the prescribed criteria and be accorded the honour since the Master Shearer status was introduced in 1975. Other recent Masters include David Buick (2023), Matt Smith (2017) and James Fagan and Rowland Smith (2016).

Leon has enjoyed spectacular success over the past five seasons, winning major titles on all wool types except half-breed (he made the final at Christchurch in 2021).

Follows his open record since first competing in open ranks:

- 2012-2013: 3 West Otago (1 final, 0 wins)
- 2013-2014: 4 Winton, 3 Mayfield (2 finals, 0 wins)
- 2014-2015: 6 Alexandra, 3 Ashburton, 1 West Otago, 3 Lumsden, 3 Winton (5 finals, 1 win).
- 2018-2019: 5 Winton, 6 Otago, 5 SISOY, 2 Mayfield, 4 New Zealand Shears Circuit, 2 Auckland. (6 finals, 0 wins)
- 2019-2020: 3 Waimate, 3 Lumsden, 1 Otago, 1 SISOY, 2 Southern Shears, 3 Golden Shears, 2 Mayfield. (7 finals, 2 wins)
- 2020-2021: 3 Waimate, 2 Hawke's Bay, 2 Lumsden, 2 Southland, 1 Aria, 3 Rangitikei, 1 Otago, 1 Southern Shears, 3 Apiti, 1 Mayfield, 2 Mackenzie, 6 NISOY, 1 PGG Wrightson National Shearing Circuit, 1 New Zealand Shears Circuit. (14 finals, 6 wins.)
- 2021-2022: 1 Waimate, 1 Pleasant Point, 4 Canterbury, 3 Lumsden (4 finals, 2 wins)
- 2022-2023: 4 Alexandra, 3 Waimate, 4 Lumsden, 2 Winton, 3 Aria, 2 Otago, 2 SISOY, 1 Southern Shears, 2 PGG Wrightson Vetmed National Shearing Circuit, 4 Waitomo Caves, 3 NISOY, 4 New Zealand Shears Circuit, 1 New Zealand Shears Open, 1 Mackenzie. (14 finals, 3 wins)
- 2023-2024: 1 Alexandra, 1 Waimate, 2 Lumsden, 5 Winton, 4 Marton, 1 Otago, 1 Southern Shears, 2 SISOY, 2 Pahiatua, 2 PGG Wrightson National Shearing Circuit, 1 Golden Shears. (11 finals, 5 wins)
- Total Open Wins: 20.

Major titles Summary (15):
PGG Wrightson National Circuit 2021
New Zealand Shears Circuit 2021
New Zealand Spring Shears (Waimate) 2021, 2023
Otago Shears 2020, 2021, 2024
South Island Shearer of the Year (SISOY) 2020
Southern Shears 2021, 2023, 2024
New Zealand Shears Open 2023
Mackenzie (NZ Lambshears): 2023.
Alexandra 2023
Golden Shears 2024

Others (4)
West Otago 2014
Aria 2021
Mayfield 2021
Pleasant Point 2021

World records
8 hours strongwool lambs – 4 stands: 5 February 2013 Total 2556. (Leon Samuels 648
Solo 8 hours strongwool ewes: 19 February 19 2017 Total: 605

Internationals (5):
v Australia 2022 (Bendigo), 2023 (Masterton).
v Wales 2023 (Waimarino, Waitomo, Te Kuiti).

World championships: New Zealand representative Scotland 2023.

* * * * * *



Above: *Golden Shears has appointed Anna Waddell as its new administrator. Anna replaces Deborah Keats, who has served in the role for the past ten years. Anna grew up in the Wairarapa on her parents beef and sheep farm. She is married to a Scotsman who is a builder and they have two teenage children. Best wishes in this important role, Anna.*

Una's Olympian performance

By Jills Angus Burney

It was an Olympic-sized feat. Una Cameron may not have stood on a dais in Paris, nor hung around her neck a gold medal with a bit of the Eiffel Tower on it. But on 7 August on Trefanck Farm in the south of England, Cameron (51) achieved what the UK *Guardian* newspaper called 'a feat of athleticism to rival anything accomplished by the Team GB in Paris, with just as much intensive training and support'.

Late afternoon, with a little over fifteen minutes to go Cameron crashed over her five hundred, shattering the existing world woman's ewe record by Sacha Bond in February, of 458. When doing so, Cameron broke the back of the last of the bogies in women's shearing.

For the first time in over 42 years, not since Waikato's Maureen Hyett shore under different world record rules her world ewe record of 522 in February 1982, had a woman shearer reached that pinnacle. Not satisfied with just 500, when the final bell rang Cameron who scored four rejects, had totalled 521 out the porthole. So close and yet so far. After five hundred and forty minutes of shearing, twelve hours of hustle, bustle and tussle, Cameron landed only one off that women's shearing landmark.

It's not hard to imagine that tally was her target from the outset. Tally shearing and world records are always deliberate, as Trefanck Farm sheep owner and current world men's ewe record holder, former New Zealander Matt Smith knew. Deliberate too, as Cameron's coach, Matt Smith clocked every second on every blow that Cameron made.

As she recounts, to her surprise a year ago, Cameron was offered the Trefanck Farm sheep. Prior to the Edinburgh world shearing championships in July 2023, Cameron hosted the Smith brothers (Matt and Rowly) and members of the New Zealand team training in the Scottish Borders. On the scale of respect, the offer was supported by a wealth of experience that Matt and Pippa Smith had to offer, to make yet another perfect Trefanck Farm shearing record.



This record line, said British shearing commentator, Huw Condron, was used by previous world ewe records in July 2016 (Matt Smith, 731/9 hour) and a year later in August 2017 (Rowly Smith, 644/8 hour. A charity fundraiser was held at Trefanck Farm two years ago in September 2022 with Englishwoman, Marie Prebble becoming the first woman attempting an 8-hour ewe record. Condron said that they are big strong ewes, each ewe shearing at least 3 kilos to meet the world record wool weight standard, with ninety percent having a top knot, there being no bare bellies and each ewe crutched exactly to a template.

After the World Shearing Society judges had done their tasks, and the final count posted, Cameron had an official new world 9-hour record of 517. It was a superlative performance, equal to that by Catherine Mullooly's women's 8-hour ewe record last January, of 468 at Nukuhakari Station in the coastal King Country. Had Mulloolly instead attempted the 9-hour record, she may well have been within a cooee of Cameron's effort, such was their similar pace, pattern, skill and efficiency.

There was a difference in these records that bodes well for the future in women's ewe shearing achievements. Both shearers were training on the high-performance programme by Matt Luxton of the Tamar Performance Centre in nearby Devon. Luxton deserves credit for many of the global gains in high performance shearing from when he started with Cornwall-based Matt Smith about nine years ago, prior to Smith's exceptional ewe record.

Cameron trained like she'd never trained before, losing 20kgs before the record and foregoing a cold beer at the end of the day for months in her build-up. It was a discipline

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that held her to endure that relentless catch and throw of full-grown sheep all day. It's not hard as an open shearer as accomplished as Cameron, to average less than a minute per sheep. She is, after all, the only woman in 64 years to date, to qualify from the Open Heats at the New Zealand Golden Shears. Cameron would be the first to concede that sprinting at her best over eight sheep in the Top 30 (quarter-final) at the Goldies, is a tough act to follow thirteen years later on a day equivalent to running two marathons' back-to-back.

An accomplished horsewoman, Cameron trained like a thoroughbred to Luxton's exacting standards. The weight training, cardio and mobility exercises paid off, all in her build-up before the shearing day had even started. Hauling 517 times the average ewe weight of 55kgs in the day resulted in Cameron moving 28 metric tonne of sheep across the shearing board.

Before the event Cameron confessed to raw nerves; she expected to line up somewhat afraid of her task. But buoyed by support from her partner, former Scottish international shearer, George Bayne, and a 'Who's Who' of British and world shearing, and numerous messages from the shearing fraternity around the world, Cameron held a cracking pace from her first two sheep out the porthole in just under two minutes.



Cameron selected two Norwegian team woolhandlers, Ana Leira and Jonathan Gerhard-Haakull (above) to move the wool from the raised board, believed to be the first Scandinavians to assist in a world shearing record. In an equally unique move, Cameron's pen support was former ewe record holder, New Zealander Amy Silcock who held the eight-hour record for a week in January.

Ironically, four and a half years ago Cameron had flown to New Zealand to 'second' for Silcock in the four-stand, nine-hour women's lamb team record at Waihi Pukawa Station near Turangi. At the time, Cameron herself became the first woman to 'second' in a world shearing record.

Cameron is quoted as having said the following day she 'felt like she'd been run over by a tank', that she was sore and that her 'body hurt in places she didn't know she had'.



Cameron, from St Boswells near Kelso in the Scottish Borders, fuelled herself throughout the day on famous Scottish oats and rice puddings.

The record was no mean feat for a woman of menopause age, Cameron having started her career as a shearer in her early twenties. It is a notable achievement when two of her contemporary world record holders, the first woman to shear over 700 on lambs, Sacha Bond whose ewe record Cameron broke and the eight-hour lamb record holder, Megan Whitehead, were each barely out of nappies when Cameron first swung a handpiece.

Only Rowly Smith's mother-in law and Wairoa farmer, Margie Baynes would know that feeling, when at 50 years of age in a two-stand mother and daughter eight-hour record with Ingrid Baynes in 2009, shore 433 lambs.

In a news interview in February 1982, Maureen Hyett had laid a challenge down that she believed women were every bit as competent as men. There was no reason, Hyett said, why women should not be up with the men, but that would only be when there were as many women as men out there shearing.

Prophetic words, when it is Cameron and Mullooly who've each laid the new heavyweight ewe challenge, and can take immense pride in developing any number of young women now reaching for the handpiece.

* * * * * *

Got a story for *Shearing* magazine?

Email the editor

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or phone 0274 833 465

Luke Vernon – The 500 merino ewes man

An Australia-based shearer from the tiny Central Otago horticultural township of Ettrick has become the first person to shear 500 merino ewes in an eight-hour record attempt. Luke Vernon's record-setting day took place at Thornton Park, Wandering, in the West Australian wheatbelt and about 120km southeast of Perth on 15 April 2024.

Targeting the record of 497 set by former Hawke's Bay shearer Lou Brown in 2019, Vernon entered the last two hours two-down, after successive runs of 120, 125, and 125 from the 7am start, and needing the biggest-ever two-hour run in merino ewes records history to get it over the line.

But, with mentor Michael-James "MJ" Terry at his side throughout all 480 minutes on the board he locked it in less than three minutes before the 5pm knock-off, and finished with 130 for the run.

Suspense had been the name of the game, for 24 hours earlier, the first sample wool-weigh shear before a judging panel convened by Northern Hawke's Bay official Bart Hadfield, as the statutory judge from outside Australia, failed to meet the minimum average requirement of 3.4kg per ewe, although it was achieved in two following shears.

Vernon's not committing to anything yet for the future, although the nine-hour record of 540 shorn by fellow-Kiwi Floyd Neil in West Australia a year ago dangles tantalisingly within reach, based on Friday's hourly rate of 62.5 an hour or one ewe every 57.6 seconds.

"A week off, back into the gym, and keep myself ready," said Vernon, an ex-boarder at Dunstan High School, Alexandra, who had been a shepherd at Lime Hills, Miller's Flat, when he made the move to Australia looking for farm work, and started planting trees "around Perth."

He then got a job pressing for Katanning contractor Terry, who after six months sent him to shearing school, and put him on a stand soon afterwards.



Above: *Luke Vernon with Michael-James 'MJ' Terry.*

His only previous shearing experience was while shepherding and crutching lambs for the freezing works, and he said: "There's always an opportunity around the corner. Honestly, I can't rule anything out."

It takes a lot of help, which on Friday was headed by Terry, who is still the holder of the two-stand record, set in 2003 with brother Cartwright, who held the solo record until Brown's record four years ago.

Among the others were Neil's father, Roger Neil, from Taumarunui and himself a former multi-stand record holder, woolhandlers Maria Ormsby, "on the broom" and originally from Rotorua, and Raven Waitere, Cyaniquah Rangawhenua and Santi Hemopo, and Pope Hick, the "expert" on the gear.

Others key to the record bid were contractor Rob Christinelli, of Pingelly Shearing, for whom he has shorn for the last five years out of Pingelly, and Thornton Park owners Dougal and Ashes Young.

(Doug Laing)

Eastern Canadian Shearing Championships

Jasmin Sloan reports: "Another Eastern Canadian sheep shearing championship is in the books! (Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 June 2024.)

"Thanks to Ontario Sheep Farmers, ten brand new shearers were introduced to the craft and eight more honed their skills, a Holstein Agro Expo personal best!

"The school really is a testament to training and encouraging new skills and comradery. Thank-you to Don Metheral and Pauline Bolay for instructing the course and being such constant assets to the event.

"We also hosted a Speed Shear Competition with an Open Class and a "Charlie Class" of intermediates. Open Class was won by young John Kuepfer with 41 seconds on one sheep and 1m 31s on the two-sheep final with Don Metheral on his tail at only 10 seconds behind.

"Charlie Class" was won by none other than the namesake himself! Charlie Cunningham shore one sheep in 50 seconds and the two-sheep final in 1m 52s, beating Jake Sloan by only four seconds!

"Although Competition Day (Sunday) was wet and cold the shearers kept it hot! We had 20 competitors over four classes competing and they gave it their all! Thank-you to all competitors and volunteers for making it such a positive event! The wet and cold did not hinder the excitement in the least!



Above: *Eastern Canadian Speed shear winners and finalists, from left: Jake Sloan (intermediate second), John Kuepfer (open first place), Charlie Cunningham (intermediate first place) and Don Metheral (open second place).*

FINALS

Junior/ Beginner

Rank	Name	Board	Pen Score	Pen Score	Total QTY	Min	Sec	Time PT	Total PTS
1	Brad Comfort	18	5	8	24.5	7	49	23.45	47.95
2	Brandon Derijk	71	24	21	93.5	7	6	21.3	114.8
3	Mallori Kennedy	39	38	34	75	16	38	49.9	124.9

Intermediate

Rank	Name	Board	Pen Score	Pen Score	Total QTY	Min	Sec	Time PT	Total PTS
1	Ben Burtwhistle	50	11	12	10.25	13	16	39.8	50.05
2	Bethan Lewis	62	14	15	12.75	13	4	39.2	51.95
3	Jake Sloan	85	19	19	17.33	14	5	42.25	59.58

Senior

Rank	Name	Board	Pen Score	Pen Score	Total QTY	Min	Sec	Time PT	Total PTS
1	Russell Eddy	71	17.375	17.375	11.05	17	43	53.15	64.2
2	Alan Capell	86	18.25	18.25	13.03	17	24	52.2	65.23
3	Sam Sloan	72	12.625	12.625	10.58	19	12	57.6	68.18

Open

Rank	Name	Board	Pen Score	Pen Score	Total QTY	Min	Sec	Time PT	Total PTS
1	Young John Kuepfer	51	10.583	10.583	7.7	15	31	46.55	54.25
2	Don Metheral	39	4.75	4.75	5.47	17	36	52.8	58.27
3	Pauline Bolay	75	9.75	9.75	10.59	17	37	52.85	63.44

"Thank-you to all sponsors and volunteers for making this Competition happen! A big thank-you to Ed Morrow from New Zealand for his time as head judge. We really appreciate all the expertise you brought and look forward to working with you again!

"Also, some new additions to the stage this year included a stopwatch style clock and sheep counter numbers, both great ideas from MC Jay Lennox! Thank-you for your ingenuity!

"We hope to see you all next year at the 2025 event! Details to come (in eight months or so!)"







Above: *Senior finalists, from left: Russell Eddy, Sam Sloan, Charlie Cunningham, Alan Cappell.*
Top right: *Open finalists (Big John Kuepfer, Pauline Bolay, Young John Kuepfer, Don Metheral.*
Bottom right: *Beginners class: Jay Lennox MC, Ed Morrow (head judge), Mallori Kennedy, Brad Comfort, Don Metheral (presenter). Absent: Brandon Derijk.*



Above: *Eastern Canadian Intermediate class, top left: Ed Morrow presenting, Jake Sloan, Ben Burtwhistle, Chris Eddy, Rob Worden, Rachel Duncan.* ***Bottom left****: Jay Lennox, Chloe Bermejo, Bethan Lewis.*

The Hint Paid Off

King Country-based shearing judge Ed Morrow's five-and-a-half month trip to Canada, incorporating a judging stint at the Eastern Canadian competition at Holstein, was the result of his 'reaching out' to good friend Don Metheral some time ago.

'Yes, there's every chance of your being invited over to judge,' Don replied and to his surprise, Ed was actually appointed head judge. Holstein is an area Ed and Dawn Morrow know well, having done 'lots of business there years ago' when they operated an equipment and manufacturing business, based in Calgary. (Holstein and Calgary are a mere 3500km apart!)

With Calgary not yet having resumed business post-Covid, Holstein is one of only two Canadian competitions presently operating, the other being a small show at Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

With a grandchild in each country, Ed says the present plans are to spend about six months a year in each country, with the present trip (April-September) the first stanza of their new routine.

Tribute: John Pom "Legend"

Recently our industry lost one of its true legends. Sherwyn John Pomare (13 May 1933 to 25 June 2024).What an innings and what a man!

Born in the Chatham Islands, his early career was as a commercial fisherman and casual shearer.

Shearing became his mainstay and passion when the family moved to New Zealand in the early 1970's. He shore with Ken Haldane, Webster Shearing and stunts with John Hough at Riversdale, and lastly with Pullin Shearing.

I remember Houghie saying to me "he just gets quicker every year".

He shore right through his 60's, 70's and finished casually with Pullin Shearing when he was 83. A notable achievement was the 202 lambs in the Chathams at age 80. The same shed fifty years earlier when he shore a casual 416.

Tally's weren't much of John's driver but a good honest hard days work was and you had to have your skates on to keep up with him. I fondly remember shearing with him in his 70's where he would pull out a honey, blow it out and stand there chewing his barley sugar saying "what happened".

He is remembered by many of our shearers for the time he spent mentoring and guiding them when they were starting out. As a result he is held in very high esteem and many staff still talk about the time spent and lessons learnt with John.

We all salute you John, an icon, a legend, a role model and most of all a loyal mate.

From John Grenell's song played at his service: *"Farewell from our world, thanks for being here/Miracles we've seen, sure happened now and then".*

You remain in our hearts, farewell to you John.

(Barry Pullin)



What would the old man say?

The old runholder sipped his beer in a doleful sort of way
The country's poked, he said to me – and what would the old man say?
The law's a joke and the banks are broke and too many chiefs up top.
Too many rules and too many fools and where will it ever stop?

I was out on the run just a month ago and there to my surprise
I found a colony of skinks all colours, shapes and size.
I knew that the folks who study things like that, and who live in town
Should they find these little lizards rare, they'd shut the whole run down.

My father drew this mountain run, it's called Mt Harmony
A grateful country put him there and he later sold to me.
He'd spent four long years dodging lead that the Germans threw his way,
Could he come back down that one way track, what would the old man say?

I stood awhile on the mountain side but I knew what I had to do
I'd round them up like a flock of sheep and take them to pastures new
Above their home was a barren spur and I built there a pen of tin
I'd drive the lot when the sun was hot and yard everyone within.

Next day at noon as the sun blazed down I judged that the time was right.
I barked my dogs as they sunbathed there and they started up hill in fright.
They were thirty-three in that colony and they broke for a single slide.
But I caught the lead and I drove them on with a strong-eyed dog each side.

It isn't a job that a man could do when under the spell of drink.
You need good wits and you need good dogs when droving the crafty skink.
There are few rules when you're moving bulls – go in with horse and whip.
But yawn or blink and you've lost a skink as under a stone they'll slip.

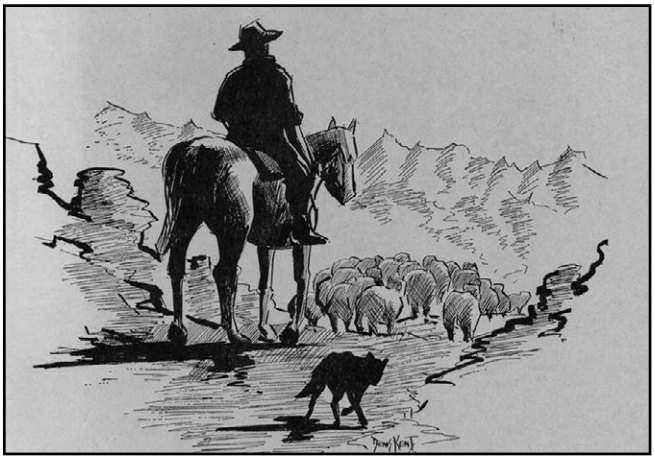
I guided them up by an old sheep track with a slew and a zig-zag hunt.
They scuttled along where the grass was sparse with their big leader up front.
He led them on with a steady pace – I could see he was old and rare
With yellow spots, purple stripes and dots, and his eyes had a plastic stare.

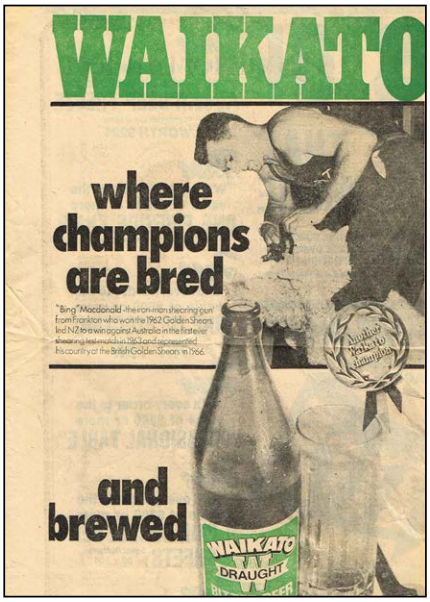
At last on the top of that little ridge we came to the pen of tin
And just like they do on the dog trial course, I yarded the mob therein.
I put them in boxes one by one and, loading my old pack horse
I then set forth and I headed north on the track to Mount Wilberforce.

And away in a lonely far-off place where nobody ever goes
Where the keas call and the rocks are warm and the tall snow tussock grows
I turned them loose there to live and breed where the elements hold the lease
While back on the slopes of Mt Harmony the merinos could graze in peace.

The old runholder's tale was told – he leaned on the bar top's edge
He shook his head as he sadly said, "Just what is our heritage?
Too many people who know it all, too many fools to bray."
And I heard him muttering as I left – "And what would the old man say?"

© Ross 'Blue Jeans' McMillan (1929-2019) (Artwork by Denis Kent, Alexandra.)





Above: *We may well get taken away by the PC police for advertising fermented beverages, but this is just a reminder of how things used to be in good ol' New Zillun. A Golden Shears champion from the Waikato, advertising Waikato ...*



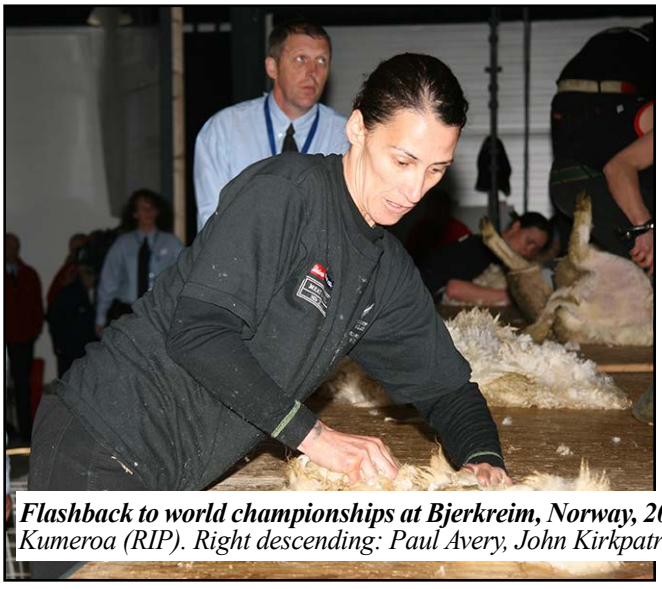














Flashback to world championships at Bjerkreim, Norway, 2008: *Left descending: Billy Michelle (RIP), Peter Race, Joanne Kumeroa (RIP). Right descending: Paul Avery, John Kirkpatrick, Sheree Alabaster. (Alf Sigurd Ognedal photos.)*