

Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

Number 81. Vol 29, No 1, April 2013
ISSN 0114-7811 (print) ISSN 1179-9455 (Online)



The scene at Tangihau Station, Rere, on Saturday 29 November 1975, when Roy Baker's gang set a world 10-stand record of 4891 perendale lambs, with Gisborne's Larry Lewis claiming an individual record of 593. See Cover story page 24.



Last Side Publishing
Hamilton, New Zealand

FREE
See inside for
mailing rates



Heiniger

Don't risk life threatening lock-ups, ensure the overheads in your shed are Heiniger EVO's, the first shearing plant in the world to be manufactured with an electronic safety switch and downtube insulation technology.

- ✓ AWARD WINNING SAFETY
- ✓ DURABLE HIGH PERFORMANCE MOTOR
- ✓ QUIET AND SMOOTH RUNNING
- ✓ SOFT START FOR INCREASED HANDPIECE LIFE

Motor Power: 300 watt
3 Speed: 3500/3200/2700 rpm
Machine Weight: 7.8 kg

Heiniger New Zealand Pty Ltd
1B Chinkook Place, Hornby
CHRISTCHURCH NZ

P: (03) 3498282
F: (03) 3498292
E: mail@heiniger.co.nz
www.heiniger.com

Shearing

Promoting our industry, sport and people

Number 81: Vol 29, No 1, April 2013

ISSN 0114 - 7811 (print)

ISSN 1179 - 9455 (online)

CONTENTS

- 5 Golden Shears
- 10 Unanswered letter
- 12 Four-stand photo essay
- 14 Shearing in New Caledonia
- 16 The accommodating Germans
- 18 Industry in disarray?
- 22 Tasmanian guns
- 24 Tangihau 1975
- 26 Long-lost family connections
- 27 Frog Potae obituary
- 28 Maurice Megahey obituary
- 29 Near-perfect record for Bruce
- 30 Masterton still waits
- 31 Ross Webster obituary
- 32 Poet's corner (Blue Jeans)
- 33 Donkeys to the rescue
- 34 New Zealand championships
- 37 50 years of Ngawai sheep and shed
- 38 Photo essay Western Shears

Publisher: Last Side Publishing Ltd, Box 102, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand. Tel 07 839 2891: Fax 07 843 8944:
Email: shearingmag@xtra.co.nz
Printing: APN Print, Auckland.
Copyright: All material subject to usual arrangements.
Subscribe to *Shearing*: New Zealand - send name, postal address and \$20.00 cheque to receive six issues (two years) of *Shearing*. Australia - send name, address and cheque \$NZ40.00 (equivalent) for two years subscription. Other countries - send name, address and cheque \$NZ60.00 (equivalent) for two years subscription.

Photo credits: Cover, p24 Barry Baker collection; p9 Andrew Chapman; p10 Errol Hadfield; p11 Tom Harding; p14/15 Janice Gillgren; p16 Roger Leslie; p19 Jeremy Goodger; p22/23 Bernie Walker; p23 Barry Harcourt; p26 John Kennedy; p28 Jayne Harkness-Bones; p31 Margaret Webster; p33 Bruce Lines; p36 Dr Clive Dalton; p37 Noel Handley/Tectra.
All others *Shearing* magazine/Last Side Publishing.

**Next edition due 22 August 2013.
Deadline for all material
two weeks prior.**

UNDER COVER STORY

When entertainer Taisha (right) at the NZ Championships last week started singing the old John Fogerty hit *Have you ever seen the rain?* she might have drawn various responses from her audience: "Rain - I've forgotten what it looks like" from the drought-stricken farmers; "It can come now, our sheep are all under cover" from the show organisers; or even "It's too late, all the flowers in my garden are dead" from your average home-owner.



Finding good entertainers to fill gaps between events at major competitions must provide the biggest headache for organisers - more difficult than finding good sheep, good venues, good sponsors, supporters and competitors.

I reckon Taisha did a great job - clear, strong voice, foot-tapping songs, involved her audience and oozed personality. Unlike fellow entertainer and "comedian" Guy Cator - lost somewhere in a 1960s time-warp with bad language, sexist "jokes" that weren't funny and a "gag" that involved a lighted cigarette in a hall where smoking is banned and in a country where smoking is banned nearly everywhere except in your own home.

One patron suggested to me the audience showed him little respect by talking during his act. Showing and earning respect is a two-way street. Mr Cator didn't earn nor deserve respect for the standard of his performance. With the first sexist joke you immediately alienate half your audience. Just as he did years ago, at Golden Shears. Makes the laughs hard to come by when you do that.

Take care people, see you in August.

Ka kite ano

Des Williams (editor)

New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association Annual Conference

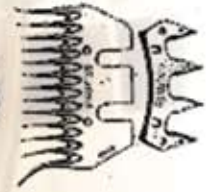
16/17 May 2013
Southern Cross Scenic Hotel
Cnr Princes & High Streets, Dunedin

Contact the secretary for details
(contactus@nzshearing.co.nz)
www.nzshearing.co.nz



DAVE BATEMAN

SHEARING SUPPLIES



Quality, Affordable gear. Fast, Friendly service

-orders welcome anytime -

Freephone 0800-837 300 or www.batemanshearingsupplies.com



BB

AA

CUTTERS \$4.50

AA and BB types, 3.5 and 4.5 thickness, also available in wide throw



13 TOOTH COMBS \$21

Huge range of sizes available

COVER AND 9-TOOTH COMBS \$23

We also stock Convex, 20 tooth & left handed combs



HANDPIECES

1D Oilbath model	\$395
2C 4 single race bearings	\$470
3C Trident heavy duty, twin race bearings	\$510

REPAIR KITS

suit Sunbeam, Beiyuan and Heiniger

Major kits	\$125
Minor Kits	\$70

PARTS

Chicken feet - fit Sunbeam, Beiyuan, Heiniger	\$35 pair
Comb Screws	\$11 each
Inner and Outer Flexi's 1.5m 1.8m and 2m	Outer \$130 Inner \$90
Handpiece Cogs	\$55 pair

for a full list of products please visit our website www.batemanshearingsupplies.com

FREE POST WITHIN NEW ZEALAND, ALL PRICES INCLUDE GST

Dave Bateman Shearing Supplies Ltd
414 Waihola hwy, RD 1 Milton
freephone 0800837300 fax 03 4178375
email service@batemanshearingsupplies.com

all parts made by
北元  **BEIYUAN**

Golden sharers

By Des Williams

One commentator at Golden Shears described Rowland Smith as the highest paid shearer in New Zealand. And then, for those a bit slow on the uptake he added – “well he has to be, at two metres tall!”

And 26-year-old Rowland went pretty high in the public's estimation when, with Golden Shears silverware raised aloft in one hand, he donated the \$3000 winner's cheque held in his other hand to the Cancer Research fund. The audience rose as one to acknowledge the gesture with a standing ovation.

An hour earlier, the TAB and form favourite had looked to have the Golden Shears open final won in the first six or seven sheep. Then he appeared to let it slip away somewhat on the next half dozen before extracting himself from a sizeable time deficit to beat Dion King, John Kirkpatrick and Cam Ferguson by mere fractions in the computer calculations. Finding themselves a sheep or more behind the pace in a frenetic 16 minutes of flying wool, other finalists Gavin Mutch and Nathan Stratford battled admirably if a little forlornly as to their chances.

Twenty-four hours earlier, the War Memorial Stadium (sorry Genesis Energy Centre, that name just doesn't hack it – apart from the “energy” bit) was awash with emotion as cancer sufferer Joanne Kumeroa, six times the Goldies open woolhandling champion, revealed her terminal health issues with the audience. Not for her own sake she said, but if she could encourage others to take their health seriously then some good could come of her own plight. “Our industry is full of people who won't take half a day off to have an ache, pain or niggling injury checked out by a doctor, instead we staunchly soldier on in the belief that everything will be alright,” Joanne said.

Such was the impact of Joanne's bravery that all the finalists in the women's invitation shear immediately donated their prize money to the pink ribbon buckets being carried around



No, the ladies left and right were not part of the prize package for winning the Golden Shears open championship, but Rowland Smith won the hearts of just about everyone in the audience when he made the spontaneous gesture of donating his cheque to the Cancer Research Fund. “This [Golden Shears title] is not about the money,” he said by way of explanation.

the stadium, and woolpressing open champion Jeremy Goodger followed suit a few minutes later.

Rowland Smith, Hastings-based and recently married, who lost his own mother to cancer several years ago, had not a moment's hesitation before donating his cheque to the same cause. “This competition is not about the money,” he said. (But wild horses could not have relieved him of that purple ribbon!)

And Rowland claimed a little niche of shearing history for himself, being the only Junior champion (2004) to go on and claim the open championship as well. He'd also won the senior title in 2006 after finishing fourth in the 2005 intermediate final. Now wouldn't that have been some grand slam!

Rowland becomes the 23rd shearer to win the open championship in its 53-year history and is sixth youngest behind Brian ‘Snow’ Quinn (24yrs 1mth), David Fagan (24yrs 4mths), Alan Donaldson (24yrs 11mths),

Roger Cox (25yrs 9mths) and Paul Grainger (26yrs 1mth). But Rowland has usurped Messrs Quinn and Donaldson in at least one respect – he's a couple of notches taller than those two previously highest paid shearers!

MAHONY SHEARING
PO BOX 3381, NAPIER
TEL 06 835 9571



Permanent positions for quality shearers and shedhands

Member of the NZ Shearing Contractors' Association

**OMARAMA
HOTEL**

Ross and Marie Kelman welcome you to the best pub this side of the Black Stump. Great bar, restaurant, accommodation and shearing company. Tel 03 438 9713.

Results 53rd Golden Shears, Masterton, 28 February-2 March 2013

International:

Lister Trans-Tasman shearing (6 merino, 3 longwool, 3 second-shear): New Zealand (John Kirkpatrick, Angus Moore, Chris Vickers) 266.971 pts beat Australia (Shannon Warnest, Justin Dolphin, Robert Glover) 274.451pts).

Elders Primary Trans-Tasman woolhandling (4 merino fleeces, 4 longwool): New Zealand (Sheree Alabaster, Rocky Hape-Taite) 390.824pts, beat Australia (Angela Wakeley, Kayla Garner) 508.062pts.

Shearing

Golden Shears Open (20 sheep): Rowland Smith (Hastings) 61.151 1; Dion King (Hastings) 61.255 2; John Kirkpatrick (Napier) 61.481 3; Cam Ferguson (Waipawa) 61.517 4; Gavin Mutch (Whangamomona/Scotland) 67.162 5; Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 69.008 6.

Senior (12 sheep): Corey Palmer (Dipton) 51.685 1; Bryce Guy (Kaeo) 51.927 2; Casey Bailey (Masterton) 52.722 3; Hemi Braddick (Eketahuna) 54.029 4; Brett Roberts (Mataura) 56.55 5; Steven Hanson (Eketahuna) 62.874 6.

Trust House Intermediate (8 sheep): David Gordon (Masterton) 42.599 1; Simon Goss (Kimbolton) 43.169 2; Phoenix Hawkins (Martinborough) 47.457 3; Andrew Leith (Dipton) 47.826 4; Scott Speed (South Australia) 51.145 5; Gavin Kelly (Taihape) 53.504 6.

PGG Wrightson Junior (5 sheep): Marshall Guy (Kaeo) 30.579 1; Kahn Culshaw (Mataura) 34.839 2; Dylan Jones (Llanrwst, North Wales) 38.707 3; Matthew Truscott (England) 40.017 4; Jayden Hiroti (Raetihi) 44.981 5; Josh Balme (Te Kuiti) 49.508 6.

ANZ Novice (2 sheep): James Alford (Gisborne) 28.688 1; Laura Bradley (Woodville) 30.579 2; Paul Knyvett (Matamata) 34.282 3; Mike Boyd (Dargaville) 16.654 4; Chris Sandall (Auckland) 44.893 5; Mat Macrae (Masterton) 49.885 6.

PGG Wrightson National Circuit (3 merino, 3 halfbred, 3 longwool, 3 second-shear, 3 lambs): John Kirkpatrick (Napier) 77.343 1; Tony Coster (Rakaia) 79.329 2; Gavin Mutch (Whangamomona/Scotland) 80.507 3; Angus Morre (Kaitangata) 87.169 4; Grant Smith (Rakaia) 88.206 5; Tony Nott (Blenheim) 96.929 6.

Woolhandling:

AgITO Open (6 longwool and 4 second-shear fleeces): Joel Henare (Gisborne) 184.552 1; Joanne Kumeroa (Hamilton Vic/Whanganui) 251.862 2; Keryn Herbert (Te Awamutu) 334.494 3; Sheree Alabaster (Taihape) 414.344 4.

Te Puni Kokiri Senior (4 fleeces): Ataneta Puna (Napier)

192.06 1; Logan Kamura (Marton) 192.06 2; Kim Sowry (Eketahuna) 198.8 3; Peggysue Tohengaroa (Aria) 249.84 4.

Tetra Junior final (4 fleeces): Sarah Higgins (Havelock) 166.160 1; Daine Rehe (Te Teko) 198.590 2; Lauren Sargeant (Masterton) 234.35 3; Robyn O'Donnell (Masterton) 276.070 4.

Paewai Mullins Novice final (1 fleece): Tameka Durdy (Gisborne) 90.6 1; Liana Rangiawha (Tauranga) 109 2; Jared Fletcher (Winton) 118 3; Natalya Rangiawha (Taihape) 121.00 4.

North Island Open Circuit (3 longwool fleeces, 3 second-shear fleeces): Keryn Herbert (Te Awamutu) 175.18 1; Sheree Alabaster (Taihape) 189.944 2; Leonora Smith (Gisborne) 204.53 3; Trish Moke (Waipawa) 232.44 4.

Woolpressing:

Farmlands / Woolpacks NZ Men: Jeremy Goodger (Masterton) 76.9 1; Vinnie Goodger (Masterton) 96.6 2.

Farmlands / Woolpacks NZ Women: Christine Wolland (Pahiatua) 130.1 1; Fiona Christensen (Masterton) 130.2 2.

Farmlands / Woolpacks NZ Pairs: Jeremy Goodger (Masterton) and James Goodger (Masterton) 53.8 1; Conan Harmon (Masterton) and Vinnie Goodger (Masterton) 90.0 2.

Triathlon (shearing, woolhandling, woolpressing):

Jeremy Goodger (Masterton) 203.9 1; Vinnie Goodger (Masterton) 220.7 2; Cushla Abraham (Masterton) 243.9 3.



Dumb sheep? Pretty clever we thought, especially this couple, photographed in parched country west of Taupo last month. They'd found the only shady spots available. Or perhaps they were hiding away because they knew Batman (yes, it was him, below) would be at Golden Shears.



EWENIQUE SHEARING PARTNERSHIP

We service a large Wairarapa client base and offer both permanent and seasonal positions for professionally motivated shearers and woolhandlers. Full accommodation available.

Phone Rick MacLeod 06 377 1942
Members NZ Shearing Contractors' Association



Purple Ribbon event becomes Pink Ribbon event.

It started as just an idea to “refresh the programme” as Golden Shears President, Mavis Mullins explains. “After the world championships in 2012 we were looking to introduce something new and, since we hadn’t held a women’s event for a long time, we thought that would be a good idea, especially if we could get all our women world record-holders together. Then after seeing Joanne Kumeroa at Warrnambool in October, part way through her chemo treatment for cancer, we added the dimension of making it a cancer research fundraiser.

“Joanne was going to shear in the event but in the end she just couldn’t and a team of Golden Shears women took her stand. With collections being taken up in the stadium during the event, and all the contestants deciding to donate their prize money to the

cause, it all became a very emotional “pink ribbon” event with the generosity of competitors and audience alike absolutely unprecedented at Golden Shears.

“Then other competitors such as woolpressing champion Jeremy Goodger donated his prize money to the collection and of course, Rowland Smith followed suit after winning the open championship on the Saturday night. All up more than \$10,000 was raised, which is a fantastic outcome.”

Women’s Invitation (5 sheep): Sarah Goss (Kimbolton) 35.812 1; Ingrid Smith (Hastings) 37.875 2; Jills Angus Burney (Carterton) 40.622 3; Marg Baynes (Wairoa) 45.888 4; Golden Shears Whanau (Catherine Mullooly, Cushla Abraham, Pagan Rimene, Brya Harrison, Cath Thompson) 46.293 5; Kerri Jo Te Huia (Te Kuiti) 47.195 6.



Whether by accident or design, Tama Mason of Masterton was dressed in theme colour pink when Shearing’s photographer caught him taking a keen interest in events. Dad, Paddy Mason, may have been on stage shearing for the woolhandlers at the time.

Ainsley Shearing Co.
Central Otago

- * We have an excellent pre-lamb run
- * We employ quality-conscious people
- * If you perform, work continuity is guaranteed

Phone Daryl or Toni on
03 445 0403

Hillis Shearing

Southland
Available for shearing,
crutching and
lamb crutching

**Shearers and woolhandlers
required. Great working
environment, excellent
accommodation**

Phone Bill or Sharon
03 203 7052 or 027 628 3830

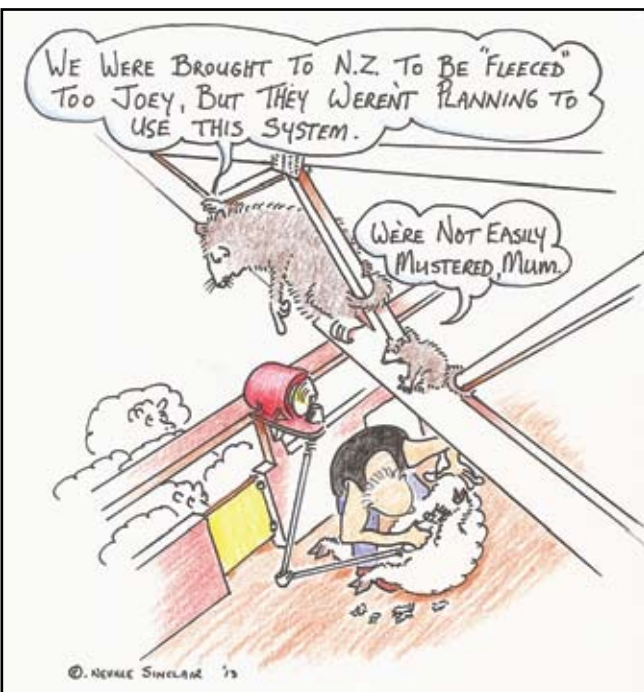
SHEARNZ
Blade Shearing Equipment

Handshears for dagging, trimming and shearing. Set, sharpen, service and restore. Simple, effective sharpening and grinding systems.

Contact: Expert blade-shearer Phil Oldfield
064 03 693 9877 mobile 064 21 237 2519
Email: oldendale@xtra.co.nz
GET the EDGE!




Above: Don't squeeze too hard Mark, that dook is a bit sore, along with the rest of my body! Eru Weeds receives congratulations from World Records Society chairman Mark Baldwin after his part in the new four-stand, eight-hour lamb tally at Centre Hill. Chas Tohiariki (left) shares the pain! (See pages 12 and 13). Below: Shearing judge and former open class competitor Mark Barrowcliffe of Aria, pictured at Ngongotaha's Agrodome Shears with children Atiria, Tana, Topia and Cory.



The generations may change but many names at Golden Shears remain the same. Emily Te Kapa of Scotland (above, with Scottish judge Dave Turner) is the daughter of 1966 Open finalist, the late Joe Te Kapa. Natalya Rangiawha (below) is the daughter of Rei Rangiawha, who shored in the Open finals of 1981 and 1982.





Based in Riversdale, Southland

Shearers / Shedhands
Wanted for hard working,
professional team
Must be honest and reliable
Permanent or Seasonal

Main shear 5 January - mid April
Pre-lamb 1 June to September
Top accommodation
Top pay rates
Paid weekly

Phone:
Roger 03 202 5543 Cell 027 205 2192
Email: southlandwideshearing@xtra.co.nz

Book Review

Andrew Chapman has done it again. As a sequel to his best selling book *Woolsheds*, released 18 months ago, the award-winning Melbourne photographer and author has produced another magnificent 210-page hardcover book titled *Around the Sheds*. (The Five Mile Press).

Extending the theme of his two previous books, *The Shearers* and *Woolsheds*, Andrew has visited every State in his quest to secure stunning photos of the people, the dogs, the wool presses, the sheep and the sheds themselves.

Well known Australian wool industry author and woolgrower, Charles Massy, in an introduction to this outstanding book, says, "Andrew Chapman has brilliantly captured the essence of that combination of design, organisation and people that comprise our bush cathedrals – and the nation shaping occupation of shearing, which harvests the 'golden fleece'."



With the eye of a professional photographer who sees things most of us walk by or ignore, Andrew uses light, shadows, early or late sunlight and angles – always prepared to wait until the light is just right. The results can be seen in this great book. Andrew says, "If you don't do the road trips and if you don't make the effort to get out of bed early, you may as well stay home." But as Alan Atwood wrote in his introduction, "He [Andrew] also has a gift that has nothing to do with technology: an affinity with people."

Look for this worthy companion to *Woolsheds* in good book stores or contact Andrew direct at 6 Ridge Road, Kallista, Victoria, Australia 3791, phone (61 3) 9752 1492. The book is great value at RRP A\$39.95 plus postage and handling if applicable. (Bernie Walker)

BEST DRESSED

The country races years ago provided entertainment,
With chances for the ladies to parade in fine arrainment,
And men would not attend or let convention pass them by
Unless they wore a suit; or sports coat, hat and fancy tie.

Whilst blokes were quite content to look a fair bit like the rest,
The ladies tried their utmost to be judged the very best
And accept the trophy offered when the judges' notes revealed
The winner of the top prize for the Fashions On The Field.

As years elapsed the races lost importance in the main
And TV and computers quickly built upon their gain.
Attendances declined and numbers lessened at the track
Thus interest in the fashion stakes grew somewhat rather slack.

Though dress codes for the feminine attendees stayed the same,
For males it went to blazes, which was truly such a shame
As suits and coats, discarded now in favour of less formal
Social wear, gave way, with shorts and tee shirts seen as normal.

But thanks to corporate sponsors and a 'look ahead' committee,
The incentive now is stronger for the ladies to look pretty
And exhibit class and beauty in their elegant display
To get rewards, so well deserved, at ending of the day.

But still the men don't dress up and are horrid fashion drones
Or style-free scruffy creatures like some Neanderthal clones,
And truthfully, opinion says those creeps are truly wrong
And should not be considered to receive a fashion gong.

So imagine my surprise when at a recent presentation
My name was called to take the stage to generous ovation.
To the absolute amazement of the local racing folk
The judge was most praiseworthy, and here's the words he spoke:

*'Congratulations Sir, well done, you've won the major prize.
You've raised the standard markedly, to everyone's surprise.
In recent years the competition's grown downbeat and duller.
And the reason that you've won the prize - your thongs are both
one colour!'*

© Milton Taylor 2012

BRUCE ROGERS SHEARING CONTRACTOR SOUTH CANTERBURY

- Quality and service guaranteed
- Good accommodation and conditions
- Jobs available year-round for good shearers and shedhands
- Member NZ Shearing Contractors' Assn

Tel 03 693 8087

Te Anau Shearing

We have jobs for
experienced
shearers and shedhands

Phone Andrew on
03 249 7005



Reliable staff required. We offer top rates, accommodation, meals and transport. Give us a call.

Dave or Jane Gard
03 436 0112 - 0272 947 652
Kurow

From an unanswered letter

By Des Williams

A letter that lay unanswered since 1962 proved to be the key to rekindling of a trans-Tasman friendship forged in central Queensland shearing sheds 50 years ago.

Errol Hadfield of Blenheim had first gone to Australia in 1959 to shear for Grazcos. He started at the Oakwood shed, north of Charleville, with an all-up team of 60. There were 20 stands on two boards and the overhead shaft shearing plant was driven by a 9hp steam engine.

Errol soon struck up a friendship with a bloke named Peter O'Mara. They worked in several sheds together after Oakwood, and would spend days off at weekends following other pursuits such as hunting and shooting.

"I had three years in Australia from 1959 to 1961 and during the off-season I drove large combine harvesters on the Darling Downs. By my third year I was also a qualified wool-classer and "expert". Grazcos paid me the equivalent of the ringer's tally as well as something extra for my role as shed overseer. After three years I had £12,000 in the bank and was able to come home and buy my first farm, with my savings boosted by the fact that the exchange rate between the two countries back then was in favour of New Zealand currency. There was good money to be had but sadly not everyone put their wages into the bank. Many were the poker games played after work and into the night, aided by the light of old carbide lamps, and many an IOU took claim on hard earned wages, lost at the card table."

With life full on in his new farming venture, Errol didn't have much time to reflect on his time in the sheds but then, one day in 1962 he received a letter from Peter O'Mara, who had taken the time to write to Errol while waiting on sheep to dry. "He was at a shed out near Mount Margaret and the vote on wet sheep / dry sheep as required by Union rules had resulted in an even split, so work was halted. As Peter explained in the letter, he'd decided to go back to the shed anyway and spend the time writing me a letter.

"I was thrilled to get such a very interesting letter from him, and then I put it aside after telling myself that I would write a reply very soon."

Time went by and the promised response didn't get



The Hadfields (left) and O'Maras recount 50 years

written. In fact fifty years passed and, about the time when Errol and his wife Kaye were making plans for a motor-home holiday in Queensland, the letter resurfaced and Errol set about trying to find his old mate.

"I tried the Australian white pages on the internet and found about 20 people by the name of O'Mara, so I started ringing them a couple at a time. I had no luck until a young bloke answered one day and said he had an uncle that he thought used to be a shearer. He promised to try and find a number and call me back.

"Sure enough, he replied the next day and told me that Peter was living somewhere north of Brisbane. We were actually heading that way at the time and were able to meet up and spend a whole day together. It turned out that Peter had continued shearing for several years after our seasons together, and then he'd bought a fishing boat. Unfortunately that ran aground somewhere so he returned to the sheds and continued shearing until the 1980s.

"Peter and his wife Wilga, now retired, live an hours drive north of Brisbane and over the years they have explored and revisited most of the Australian outback in their caravan."

And Errol too retains his love of the Outback, having done the "Darling River Run" from Bourke to Wilcannia with Kaye two years ago, and a cattle drive along the Birdsville Track in 2005.

Y-NOT SHEARING
Flinders Ranges
South Australia
WANTED
Quality shearers and shed staff
All camp out sheds
Excellent conditions
No drugs
Phone ++61427672370

**FOSTER**
SHEARING LTD
Pleasant Point - Geraldine
Reliable, professional staff
required for our pre-lamb & main
shear run in South Canterbury.
Fine wool staff required from
August to November
Accommodation available,
top pay rates.
Ph Joel
03 614 7791 or 0274 075 531

MICHELLE
SHEARING LTD
18 Johnson Street, Milton
Are you focused on the future
of our industry? Do you have
positive and clean work habits?
Want to be paid once a week and
finish the season with money in
your bank?
Then give us a call. Phone
TONY MICHELLE
03 417 8312

Swiss makes

By Tom Harding

To the Swiss shearer, they are what dog-shit is to the park-keeper. Nothing elicits coarser under-the-breath rants of the F-word than turning up at a farm that keeps them.

Known colloquially as 'Blackface', their proper name translates into English as something like the 'Swiss Brown-faced Mountain Sheep'. They are basically some variation of the Hampshire or Oxford Downs that were exported to Switzerland many years ago and have undergone selective breeding for strength and traits including aggression and psychosis ever since.

Imagine full, six year-old Romney ewes on methamphetamine; double or treble the anger, and you are getting somewhere close. They don't kick; they boot. With the unmistakable intention of inflicting maximum pain and injury on the shearer, and/or damage to his or her gear.

A comparable level of pure, unadulterated rage can be found in certain hill breeds of sheep, but these are small, light, open and generally good shearing, enabling one to tolerate it. Bred into a 100kg beast with dry-cutting wool down to its toes, this shearer-bashing Swiss attitude presents a far greater problem.

They used to say that just the thought of stepping into a boxing ring with Iron Mike Tyson was enough to reduce some grown men to tears. Wrestling a 120kg Blackface ram down onto the shearing board – the preliminary test of strength that precedes the six or seven minute brawl for possession of wool that will follow – can have a similar effect, believe me.

"You guys exported these sheep to Swissy to try to get rid of them from the UK," a Swiss contractor once said with a wry smile, "and now you moan because you have to come here and shear them for us!"

My personal record for tolerance must surely be shearing a flock of these prime specimens soaking wet, in leggings.



They all had long tails, hanging with cricket-ball dags, and were being drenched as they came up the race (it goes without saying that they were fresh-off-the-paddock full). I texted a good mate in New Zealand. "At least they didn't have metal ear tags!" came the reply. . .

Of course, I had forgotten to mention that they did indeed have metal tags, cunningly hidden amongst the wool that grows right down to the tips of the ears.

"A metallic clang warned me that my comb and the horn had made contact. The sudden locking of my handpiece signified damage. Half the teeth on my comb were missing and the cutter was broken. It did not help matters when a couple of my 'tormentors' walked up and said, "Having a little trouble, Kiwi?" and then told one of the shedhands to go outside and get a handful of grass in case my sheep starved to death!

(Bill Richards, describing his first day in Australia, in *Off the Sheep's Back*, Lindon Publishing 1986.)



Clutha PRINT

COMMERCIAL PRINTERS

Commercial printers to the Shearing Industry in New Zealand since 1996

OPEN SHEARERS / SHEDHANDS
purchase your **Shearer Wage Details** or **Shedhand Wage Details** books now.

Only \$15.00 incl each + p&p
(Freight free if you order 3 or more books)

No order too big or too small

Call us now or order online at
www.cluthaprint.co.nz

Ph: 03 418 4044 or 0800 776 848



Centre Hill Station near Te Anau provided the venue for a new world record on 5 February 2013 when shearers John Kirkpatrick (650), Leon Samuels (648), James Mack (643) and Eru Weeds (615) established the benchmark of 2556 lambs in eight hours. With no previous record to chase, the quartet was hell-bent on setting a tally that would present a decent day's work for future challenges.

As proof of the old adage about the best laid plans sometimes going astray, the sheep got very wet overnight prior to the official wool weight being ratified by the team of judges, calling on good old Southland improvisation to get them dry enough to shear. Giant hair dryers and diesel heaters eventually got the job done late on the Monday

(4 February), allowing the judges to give the go-ahead for a 7.00am start the following day. (It's a pity they weren't able to apply the "Godfrey Bowen rule" for dry sheep – see Ngawai story, page 37!)

Keen observers Darin Murray and Shane Harvey (above) carried the facial worry lines while the drying attempts were in progress and the rain continued outside, but frowns later turned to smiles exemplified by Mouse O'Neill and Huw Condron (bottom left) when the trial sheep were shorn and the fleeces weighed an average 1.5kg, well above the minimum requirement of 0.9kg.

Images above and on opposite page tell part of the story of a day that ended with four new names in the record book.

NZ Shearing Contractors' Association Inc

New members welcome. Join now!



Keep abreast with the new rates and changes in legislation.

National President: Barry Pullin. Tel 03 347 8970. Email: shearing@xtra.co.nz
National Secretary: Cheryl Christie, PO Box 11, Ashhurst. Tel 027 263 7634: Fax 06 326 8041
E-mail contactus@nzshearing.co.nz



All sore but happy after eight hours of voluntary hard labour, from left: James Mack, Leon Samuels, John Kirkpatrick and Eru Weeds. Their respective woolhandlers (Tia Potae, Bernadette Forde, Ronnie Goss and Eru's mum, Diane) worked almost as hard!

New experience in New Caledonia

By Janice Gillgren

When my husband Mark was asked to shear about 1500 sheep on New Caledonia – which is most of the sheep there – we were keen. It seemed like a good way to get a working holiday, but the language barrier for us (Nouvelle Calédonie, as it is properly known, is a French-speaking country) meant some unanswered questions before we left. What would the conditions be like? How much should we charge for shearing, when we didn't even know how much it was going to cost us to eat and stay there?

Mark got the job through a farmer local to us, who has been to one of their annual agricultural shows several times and recommended him. Getting a shearing job there is by invitation only, because the New Caledonia government wants its local people to have first chance at getting the available jobs. The previous shearer on NC had given up a few years ago, and the farmers were getting desperate.

I booked our flights in early November 2012 and we left a few weeks later. Jean Marc Devillers, who works for their agricultural company UPRA, had organised our itinerary, and took us everywhere in his work vehicle. All the farms we went to were on the west coast; starting from just north of Noumea, up to nearly the northern tip, then back down again.

Jean Marc took us to some of the usual tourist spots on the way, such as a coffee museum, a farm park, and some delightful beaches; as well as some less frequented places including a sheep dairy farm, and a beach from where nickel was transported from the nearby mine (open-cast on top of a mountain) to Noumea to be sold. Nickel is NC's primary income earner, followed by tourism.

Mark and I stayed primarily in hotels, and ate mostly in restaurants; neither of which we usually do a lot. Fortunately most people there knew a lot more English than the French I recall from my schooldays, so we managed okay with the added use of a French-English dictionary when necessary. We also stayed a few times in farmer's homes, and were made to feel very welcome in each of them.

Mark sheared small flocks ranging in size from one



Shall we dance? Yes indeed we shall, especially if you have next to no wool underneath that fine body. Mark Gillgren with a New Caledonian.

over-indulged pet sheep, to the largest flock of 500+; with most flocks about 50-100 in number. We worked out a structured charge per sheep, depending on how many the farmers had, which ended up being reasonably close to what we needed to earn.

The sheep breeds were primarily Suffolk, Wiltshire, and some older breeds that could date back to Captain Cook's visit, and were an indeterminate mixture. There were a few Merinos in good condition, but most of the breeds had little if any wool under their bellies. Some had only a strip of wool down their backs. Jean-Marc's job involves obtaining genetic stock, and he hopes to improve the breeds, both for meat quality and less wool.

The wool was considered useless there, and thrown over the fence, or towed off on a trailer, to rot where it landed. This is due to a few factors – the wool is often not of very good quality because of the breeds, and also because of the heat and predominantly low quality of feed, due to poor soils. (To page 15)

Wide-combing it with ...

© Last Side Publishing 2013

With a name like Shearer, that Labour leader bloke could end up as Prime Minister some day, you reckon?



Oh yeah no, definitely!



Buck Naked and Doug Deep

They are coming in for shearing not sheep measles.

Make sure all dogs used are treated monthly for sheep measles.



**OVIS
MANAGEMENT**

For more information contact your veterinarian or phone Ovis Management on 0800 222 011

or go to www.sheepmeasles.co.nz

The Meat Industry and Farmers working together

The sheep often suffer from ticks, some from facial eczema; and some from nasty thistles Mark was warned about, that can work their way through the skin, be it sheep or human. The other main reason for wool being discarded is because the climate is too hot for people to wear wool there, so they don't see a need for it. (The temperature ranged from about 25-35 degrees C while we were there).

The farmers want their sheep shorn so they are more comfortable in the heat, grow better, and can be more easily treated for pests and diseases. Mark encouraged them to find a purpose for the wool – weed mats, perhaps – in order to create a market for it, and thus raise its value.

A reporter from the main New Caledonia TV station came out to one of the farms to film and interview Mark, which meant he was easily recognised wherever we went after that. He put some wool on his head during the interview to demonstrate that they should think about what to do with the wool, which must have looked really funny, judging from how many people laughed at him later. We were really disappointed to miss seeing it on TV ourselves.

The primary reason farmers keep sheep is for the meat: mutton is valued there, especially in contrast to venison. Deer are a major pest on the island, and like our possums here, the locals are more than happy to cull them. There is plenty of beef farmed on NC, so it's common too. They also have a lot of seafood, which, like in New Zealand, is prized and enjoyed.



A serious case of alopecia, sheep-style. The Demarra breed - and whatever wool they do carry through to shearing is of poor quality and virtually useless.

We stayed in Noumea for the last four days because we had to get Mark's shearing gear fumigated, which involved leaving his gear with the fumigation department on a Friday and picking it up on the Monday. The resulting certificate meant that going through customs back in Auckland was a breeze. (We had also had to get his gear checked out with quarantine in Auckland before we left, in order to gain a required certificate to enter the country.)

Noumea is a delightful city – very relaxed; tourist-oriented but not so much that its character is lost amid moneymaking – and was a great place to relax in and end a wonderful working holiday. We look forward to going back again.

NEW CALEDONIA

Draw a line east of Brisbane, and another one north of Auckland; and New Caledonia is where the lines meet. Noumea, the capital, is better known than the rest of the island, as it's a deservedly popular place for a Pacific Island holiday. It has a population of about 90-100,000; which is about a third of the total population of the islands.

The main island of New Caledonia is long and narrow, about the size of Northland and Auckland put together; and topographically similar to our South Island, with a wide ridge of steep and sharply contoured mountains running from north to south.

Apart from the mountains, the land is primarily low, rolling hills; with some flat land. Some places are luxuriantly green, but most areas suffer dryness from the constant winds.

There are three other main islands, which are populated mostly by the Kanaks; the native Melanesian people, and not visited by tourists as often as the mainland. The East coast of the main island is also populated mostly by the Kanaks.

The West Coast is populated by a mix of Polynesians, (primarily), Melanesian, Asian, and European people. Like our Iwi tribal groups, all the land is also divided between the Kanak tribal areas.

The main island is surrounded by a coral reef with World Heritage status, which is second in size only to Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Matson Shearing Ltd
PO Box 7125, Wanganui 4541

Motivated and reliable staff wanted.
Busy main shear and second shear run.
Good food and top class accommodation.

Phone Lee : 06 344 5224
Mob. 0274 425 443

ADRIAN COX
SHEARING LTD

has vacancies for
experienced shearers and
shedhands for
stayout work on his
fine wool run based
in South Canterbury.
excellent working
conditions.

Give Adrian a
call today!
Tel 03 614 7811

The accommodating Germans

By Roger Leslie

I watched with interest the series on Prime TV based on Peter Lyon's Gang at Alexandra. It's not just because I was once a shearer that I think this is a bit of quality TV compared to the pap that is usually served up. In particular I took note of the various shearers' quarters on offer around the region and compared them with the places I have slept in over the years.

Germany is a medium-sized country with many people, few sheep, fewer shepherds and naturally even fewer shearers. The Schäfers (shepherds) are generally divided into dikers, wohnschäfers, hobbysschäfers and wanderschäfers. There are others of course but these are the main sub-species.

The dikers are contracted to keep the grass under control ('control' being the main word in the German language and psyche) on the dikes of the vast array of waterways around the country, from sea dikes to the canals. Part of the usual dike contract is a good house and wintering barn.

The wohnschäfers live in a house that is rented or belongs to them and travel to the place they have their sheep grazing each day. Sometimes they have a few hectares at home as well and the odd one, a slaughter house.

The hobbysschäfers have sheep only as a side interest; have other jobs and usually nice houses.

These three groups all live at home and the shearers are offered excellent accommodation, in most cases as good, or better, than any hotel.



The comforts of home away from home

It's the fourth group, the wanderschäfers (walking shepherds), that I want to focus on as they had the most interesting variety of habits. This group are like Gypsies and as such, are generally spoken about with disfavour by the public at large and especially the other shepherds.

Occasionally one will see a documentary about them on TV where they are portrayed in traditional garb, warming the hearts of viewers as they wander along with smiling obedient dogs trotting at heel. The reality is somewhat different though as they hold up traffic for kilometres in both directions and sometimes 'accidentally' let the sheep break into someone's corn or standing hay.

Everything is temporary with these folk and they personify the term 'of no fixed abode'. When working with them we are never sure where we will be, what we will be doing, who we will be doing it with, or if the police will eventually be involved.

In the early days, our grasp of the German language was rudimentary at best and the finer details of many arm waving loud arguments with land owners were lost on us, but the intent was not.

Every day the caravans would be hauled into a haphazard circle, much like a Wild West wagon train, but not as organised. They had the wild part

down pat anyway. Some of the packs of mongrel dogs would be tied to the corners of the sheep pens and the rest to the corners of the shearers' caravan where they could chew bones, bark and dig holes the whole night through. Food would turn up miraculously, occasionally, and the idea of maintaining a structured Kiwi shearing day was soon abandoned in favour of the military ideal of eating when there's food and sleeping when there's somewhere to lie down.

We were never sure where the caravans came from that were our quarters. Whether they just 'found' them or if some less important part of the team had been ousted to make room for the shearers, was never discussed. One thing they all had in common was their general state of dilapidation. If the door, which usually bore the marks of forced entry, would close fully and stay closed all night it was one of the better ones. Heck, if it had a door at all it was right up there. Light was by candle. Washing facilities were optional and in a bucket. The toilet was where you could find that essential blend of shelter and privacy.

The main caravan would double as the dining hall and the centre of activities like group discussions, donnybrooks and police enquiries. The women who travelled with these itinerant circuses were an interesting and fascinating bunch.

(To page 17)

SWEAT APPAREL

100% NZ
SHEARING APPAREL
DESIGNED BY ROD SUTTON
www.sweatapparel.co.nz
Phone (03) 424 0903

Robertson Shearing Ltd

Lawrence

Wanted: honest, reliable staff

**Good accommodation and
meals provided**

**Phone Mouse on
03 485 9127**

(From page 16)

They were usually hoarse from shouting and chain smoking and could hold their own in any sort of opinion forum. They were not folks to mess with as they emphasised their points with carving knives and large soup ladles. The usual security structures that most women are comfortable with, were not available to them, so they adapted and handled things in their own way.

On one memorable occasion we were eating lunch in such a caravan which although designed for two, was seating six. The meal consisted of stale bread, sausage of uncertain origin and cheese that may have once formed part of an anti-aircraft arsenal. The party was in full swing when the support structure at the back end of the vehicle, slipped off its pile of assorted blocks and collapsed.

The drawbar end rocketed skyward and butt end in which we sat dropped onto the ground. The six of us all slid together into a heap and the food cascaded over us. Without turning a hair, or dropping the ash from his cigarette, the alpha shepherd gave voice and called for assistance.

“Jungs! (Boys)” he roared, and as if that were instruction enough. He waited while they righted the upended wagon. Half of them swung on the drawbar while the others lifted the other end back into place. The front crashed back down. The dust finally settled and calm was restored. You would think they did this kind of thing every day (they probably did). It certainly added to the rich tapestry of our experience.



From opposite ends of the spectrum - left, Taz Yong Ma of Korea, surely the first from his country to compete at Golden Shears. Right, John T L Davies of Wales, former world championship finalist and 2013 Welsh team manager. John T L was one of three “John Davies” in the Welsh team back in the 1980s so the ‘TL’ initials became a distinguishing and enduring part of his name.



Pomare Hapeta-King stands beside the evidence of his hard labour at Mt Zion Station, Whanganui, in February 2013, where he produced 50 bales in two days working for contractor Lee Matson. Pomare has been pressing for about a year.

No seatbelt? No chance. No sympathy!



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

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

**Forde Shearing Ltd
Southland**

**Staff required for new
season. For all
enquiries please phone
Darin or Julie**

**0272 297 760 or
03 235 8853**

PAUAS FROM A FRIEND

Received
Bashed
Minced
Onioned
Egged and floured

Bowled
Stirred
Pattied
Panned
Cooked and devoured

Industry in disarray?

By Des Williams

A woman named Kirsty Macfarlane, given address Varsity Lakes, Queensland, wrote to the *Southland Times* late last year, claiming the shearing industry is in total disarray. Kirsty's comments were prompted by the road death of shearer Michael Gray and she revealed that her own son, Troy Macfarlane Adamson, had died in a road accident in February 2011.

Kirsty Macfarlane claimed her son (a presser) had been bullied at a party before taking off "in a van that was unregistered, unwarranted, unattended, with the keys in the ignition". He crashed off a bridge 200 metres from the party and "died upside down in a creek". Hence her conclusion, an industry in disarray.

Kirsty's letter drew a response from New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association president, Barry Pullin of Rolleston, who commented as follows on some of Kirsty's claims:

"Any death in our industry is a tragedy, especially so in a tight knit community such as the New Zealand shearing industry. The effects ripple out and it is so true about the two-degrees of separation.

"The 'hell' as Kirsty McFarlane refers to can be stopped short by very simple actions. That is, people, contractors, shearers/shedhands and pressers having the guts to stand up and say NO.

NO to drugs.

NO to drink driving.

NO to speeding.

NO to riding in unsafe vehicles.

And

YES to seatbelts.

YES to individual responsibility.

"The first act of any criticism should be to take a good hard look at yourself in the mirror. Could you have done something to prevent this incident? What is your responsibility? To yourself and to others?"

"As Kirsty McFarlane asks in her letter, 'are people happy to sit back and do nothing?'"

As Barry Pullin points out, more and more contractors are doing random drug and alcohol testing. A number of contractors have introduced a total alcohol ban which has 100% backing of their teams. Well done to them.

"The Shearing Industry best practice guidelines are the cohesive decision of the New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association to set benchmarks of best practice and enable people to have confidence that they have met their moral, social and legal obligations as defined by our industry.

"For these guidelines to have meaning and impact they had to be accepted by other industry stakeholders. This was the catalyst for the formation of the New Zealand Shearing Industry Health & Safety Committee.

"These stake-holders include the likes of Federated Farmers, ACC, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and New Zealand

Police, to name just a few. To say that these guidelines are useless and have no meaning is to belittle the efforts of every stake holder in the industry over the past 10 years.

"However, as the tee-shirt says, 'Shit happens' and sometimes no matter what you do, nothing will change what has happened. That's life.

"To those employers out there reading this, be aware that you have your part to play. Can you honestly front up to a grieving family and know that you did all you could to spare the pain and tragedy of a death?"

"To individuals out there, you have an even bigger part to play. Laws are made for a reason, abide by them. It is time people took responsibility for their own actions.

"Travelling in a vehicle without a seatbelt on is illegal. Driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. Driving a vehicle with the wrong driver's licence is not only illegal but plain stupid. You not only put yourself at risk, but other road-users too. No amount of written documents will reduce these deaths if individuals don't do their part. It is 2013, let's get with it."

To which this magazine can only add its total endorsement. So, is there anything here you don't understand?

NO to drugs.

NO to drink driving.

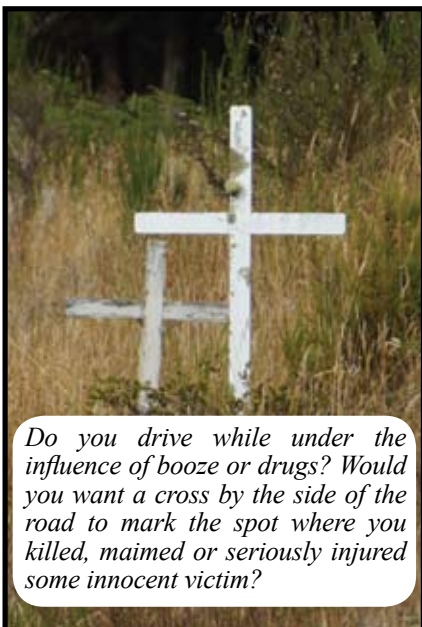
NO to speeding.

NO to riding in unsafe vehicles.

And

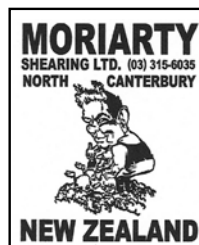
YES to seatbelts.

YES to individual responsibility.



Do you drive while under the influence of booze or drugs? Would you want a cross by the side of the road to mark the spot where you killed, maimed or seriously injured some innocent victim?

Main Shear Staff Required



Located in the Amuri Basin, North Canterbury

Longstanding Local Family Run Business

Inclusive, supportive team environment

Strong health and safety focus

NZSCA active members

We look forward to your enquiry

Please phone Greg or Richard Moriarty: (03) 315-6035

moriartyshearing@amuri.net



Ewenique Shearing gang, top left: Neil, Buck Thompson. Second row left: Dave Edmonds, Kereana Graham, Darryl Edmonds. Middle row left: Tim Wilson, Vinnie Goodger, Whatarangi Graham, Levi Edmonds, Bo Paku, Rose, Shane Hawkins. Second bottom row left: Rachael, Ray Edmonds, Ricky Jackson, Parnia. Front: Jeremy Goodger.

DION MORRELL SHEARING

PH. 03 448 9170
M. 027 630 9081
dmshearing@xtra.co.nz



Positions available for permanent and seasonal staff with good work ethics

**Opportunities to upskill for Shearers, Woolhandlers and Pressers
Cook's position for Pre-lamb available**

Good accommodation! Book in now!

All enquiries to Dion and Gabriela welcome

Prepare for pre-lamb in four easy steps

(With compliments of Dion Morrell Shearing)

Up-skill before heading South:

- Attend a grinding school or/and a fine wool course.
- Work on your technique to utilize this high-earning period without getting too exhausted due to lack of skill.

Improve your fitness and strength:

- Enter a gym programme to work on your core strength and general fitness.
- Explain to your gym instructor what your job is, what it requires and then let him put together a 6-week programme for you.
- Do some regular fast walking or running up hill.
- Get ready mentally to work every day available to you.

Stock up on shearing gear:

- New or thick cutters are a must for cover comb work.
- When booking your stand ask your contractor what kind of shearing gear runs best in their area.
- Have two handpieces so there are no hold-ups for you in case of a break-down.

Book your stand early:

- To ensure getting a good run of work, book your stand early and confirm it closer to the time.
- Stick to the date you arranged with your contractor to secure your place.



Why train with Tectra?

At Tectra we have over 50 years experience delivering high quality education and training to people in New Zealand's wool industry and, more recently, the wider agriculture industry.

We work to provide training that results in job outcomes for trainees, higher productivity and efficiency for employers and a greater return for the industry.

For more information contact your local Regional Training Manager, call us free on 0800 350 035, or visit our website www.tectra.co.nz.

Operations Manager Wool Harvesting Training

Noel Handley

Tel 03 353 9297 or 027 295 4176

Regional Training Managers & Modern Apprentice Coordinators

Dean Te Huia (Northern and Western North Island)

Tel 07 878 7666 or 027 495 0601

Ian Hopkirk (Southern North Island)

Tel 06 353 2965 or 027 230 6659

Bill Hale (East Coast North Island)

Tel 06 843 3187 or 027 492 8979

Norm Harraway (Northern South Island)

Tel 03 303 5412 or 027 292 4767

Chas Tohiariki (Southern South Island)

Tel 03 235 2787 or 027 246 5538

Modern Apprentice Coordinators and Wool Handling Managers

Huia Whyte-Puna (North Island)

Tel 07 878 7666 or 027 452 4600

Tina Rimene (Upper South Island)

Tel 03 314 7048 or 027 702 8269

Robyne Murray (Lower South Island) National Classing Manager

Tel 03 448 7901 or 027 581 8144

Manager Industry Studies

Laurie Boniface (Based at Massey University)

Tel 06 350 2304 or 027 433 8925

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NATIONAL CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

Limited Credit Package Entry

Level: Nicholas Kay, Sonny Roore.

Machine Shearing Cross Bred

Level 2: Antony Carson, Brendon Scannell, Chad Bailey, Claude Elers, Conor Devoy, Cyrus Walpole, Danny Mason, Delacy Kahika, Denny Thompson, Dudley Storey, Eru Keil, Grace Hawea, Howie Campus, Luke Thurbon, Michael Halcrow, Michael Tait-Jamieson, Milton O'Donnell, Murray James, Neil MacDonald, Riki Joseph, Robert Thompson, Scott Kahu, Shaun Mathieson, Sidney Woollaston, Tama Keelan, Topia Roore, Whetu White.

Machine Shearing Fine Wool

Level 2: Ashley Patterson, Brett Langrell, Krishane Edwards, Michael Weatherburn, Paul Smith, Rangipa Christiansen, William Tahere.

Wool Handling Level 2:

Alan Berrigan, Alana Trow, Alexander Smith, Alice Matiaha, Alicia Poihipi, Amy Brown, Angela Lucking, Anna Lissington, Annabelle Burgess, Anthony Wall, Aroha Tai, Ashlee Burgess, Baylee Glasgow, Brianna Lindsay, Chanel Muir, Charlotte Bonny, Charlotte Poffenroth, Cheryl Potaka, Cheyenne Tahu, Chiara Kiri Kiri, Darcy Kerei, Daryl Ngaronoa, Denise Haupapa, Elsie Ratima, Emma Bannister, Emma Savill, Erica Stevens, Fiona Sasse, Frank Mitchell, Greyson Tibble, Hamish Botting, Isabel Tait, Jane Rapana, Jennifer Kumeroa-Teua, Jessica Elliffe, Jessica Wihone, Joanne Turner, Joseph Gwynn, Josephine Houppapa, Juanita Palmer, Julia Albert, Julie Perkins, Kahakaha Makaore, Karina Kiry, Karlee Johnston, Kathryn Lewis, Keryn Swainson, Kristina Gilmour, Lauren Williams, Leah Fletcher, Leiana Hata, Lisa Sperling-Muntz, Maria Whatarau, Marie Christiansen, Marlene Thomas,

Melissa Stuart, Mihiterina Hika, Monica Skipper, Nathan Poi, Ngaripa Chase, Nicola Lissington, Nova Elers, Paige Henderson, Pati Wilson, Pauline Hakaraia, Pauline Mokalei, Rachel Jupp, Rangimahora Campbell, Ripeka Kershaw, Roxanne Ditchfield, Rupiana Walker, Ryan Dippie, Saecharn Staples, Sally Coster, Samantha Beardsley, Sharlene French, Sharon Williams, Susan Morris, Tata Te Aho, Te Wharepapa, Te Whakapono Te Whata, Tiana Graham, Toni Nepe.

Machine Shearing Cross Bred

Level 2 Junior: Alexandra Malcolm, Alexander Smith, Anthony Wall, Ben Fisher, Daniel Marshall, David Edwards, Dean Herlihy, Haymin Morgan, Jacob Horne, Jacqueline Wihongi, Michael Story, Ngaripa Chase, Oliver Cambridge, Phoenix Hawkins, Raymond Kinsman, Tawhai Reti, Thomas Lambert, Timothy



Partners in Wool Harvesting Training



Mahony, Tremain Edwards, Tyler Gilchrist, Zachery Wilson, Brendon Humphries.

Machine Shearing Level 2 Learner:

Aaron Nind, Alastair Smith, Alexandra Malcolm, Alexander Smith, Alistair Clemens, Allan Bell, Andrew Miller, Anthony Chase, Anthony Wall, Ashley McLachlan, Bill Elers, Brendon Humphries, Bruce Fifield, Bruce Hair, Carl Peacock, Casey O'Brien, Christian Kuti, Christopher Kavanagh, Claire Mullins, Clayton Taylor, Cleveland Todd, Conor Willetts, Craig Rowe, Daniel Dysart, Daniel McColl, Daniel McLachlin, Daryl Harrison, David Edwards, David Jackson, David Koster, David Mau, David Te Kapa, Dick Keefe-Wilson, Digby Livingston, Disraeli Downs, Emma Salvation, Gareth Davis, George Smith, Glen Moir, Hamish Botting, Harley Whareahuru, Hayden Gould, Hugh Hanara, Huti Pungatara, Ian West, Isaac Hyland, Isaac Scott, Jackson Flett, Jacob Ruddenklau, James De Pass, James Hoban, James Nimmo, James Nunn, Jamie Angus, Jason Cole, Jason Hetet, Jeffrey Chambers, Jeremy Exton, Jessie Toole, Jimmy Pukeroa, John Mills, Joseph Bradley, Joshua White, Julie Forrester, Lachlan Chilwell, Leon Jovanovic, Logan Hedley, Marley Wilson, Matthew Denson, Michael Bouman, Michael Hayes, Michael Story, Michael Young, Mitchell Mainwaring-Day, Ngaripa Chase, Patrick McNamara, Patrick Minhinnick, Patrick Spooner, Pete Rigby Jnr, Phillip Jones, Raymond Barrett, Raymond Kinsman, Rii Haitana, Robbie Stevens, Roman Chaffey, Ross Farley, Ryan Woodford, Samuel Hetet, Scott Howatson, Shaine Roberts, Shanon Jackson, Simon Pittaway, Sophia Clark, Stephen McLellan, Steven Cox, Tamaha Topia, Tamati Duncan-Aramoana, Taylor Rangitaawa, Te Takarangi, Te Purei Apatu, Tepohe Takarangi, Thomas Hetet, Thomas Hooke, Thomas Hopkirk, Thomas Lambert, Thomas Pears, Tony McGee, Tremain Edwards, Tremough McLeod, Wilfred Waihape, William Buchanan.

Blade Shearing Level 3: Allan Oldfield, Kerry Beckett, Ross Kelman.

Certificate of Completion Modern Apprenticeship in Agriculture Machine Shearing Cross Bred Level 3:

Aaron Bell, Aaron Kahukura, Bradley Bell, Gregory Price, Jonathan Guthrie, Justin Chapman, Lance Guy, Michael McConnell, Ruby Stone, Wilson Marshall, Wi-Poutu Ngarangione.

Certificate of Completion Modern Apprenticeship in Agriculture Wool Handling Cross Bred Level 3:

Brydie Taylor, Grace King, Rebekah Nelson, Shirley Munro, Simon Gaffney, Terangimaria Edwards, William Marshall.

Machine Shearing Cross Bred Level 3:

Aaron Bell, Bradley Bell, Gregory Price, Jonathan Guthrie, Justin Chapman, Lance Guy, Michael McConnell, Rowan Moorhouse, Ruby Stone, Wilson Marshall, Wi-Poutu Ngarangione.

Machine Shearing Fine Wool Level 3:

Andrew Westland, Jay Stringer, Kevahn Stringer, Ross McCone.

Wool Handling Cross Bred Level 3:

Adrian Dempsey, Brydie Taylor, Grace King, Rebekah Nelson, Simon Gaffney, Terangimaria Edwards, William Marshall.

Wool Handling Fine Wool Level 3:

Ngatoia Karipa, Pirihiha Hamiora, Sharon Lawton.

Wool Pressing Level 3: Henare Ruha.

Certificate of Completion Modern Apprenticeship in Agriculture Machine Shearing Crossbred Level 4:

Brett Williams, Cain Kahukura, Daniel Newell, Floyd Aranui, Kerri Jo Te Huia, Patrick Duncan, Robert Mudgway, Rowan Moorhouse, Te Phillips, Winson Whare.

Machine Shearing Cross Bred Level 4:

Brett Williams, Floyd Aranui, Kerri Jo Te Huia, Te Phillips, Winson Whare, Ann Kennedy, Candy Hiri, Courtney Hokianga, Daveena Wiari, David Ropiha, Dawn Ratana, Dolorosa Rangiuai, Fern Ormond, Hayley Holm, Heniata McGee, Ingrid Neera, Karen Waihaki, Maria Cross, Noveanne Reid, Tania Kahukura, Tanyah Maraku.

CERTIFICATE IN WOOL TECHNOLOGY

The Certificate in Wool Technology is an extramural tertiary-level course for people interested in the production, harvesting and preparation of wool. This two-year programme develops the knowledge and skills needed to supervise clip preparation in the shearing shed and to class wool in the shed or store.

Who should do the course?: Anyone wanting to understand wool and the wool industry in New Zealand will find the Certificate in Wool Technology extremely valuable. Students come from a wide array of backgrounds - leading wool handlers, farmers, wool brokers and people working in the wool marketing and processing industries have completed this internationally recognized qualification.

How is the programme run?: The course is a two-year, part time programme consisting of papers taught extramurally through study guides and assignments. Practical block courses are held in both the North and South Islands and those students who select to do the Wool Classing module undertake considerable in-shed practical work. On successful completion of the certificate you will be offered automatic entry into the NZ Wool Classers Association.

What's new?: In response to industry demand, we have developed a Wool Classing Module that will allow leading wool handlers to focus their programme on wool classing. This has a strong practical component that involves trainees working alongside mentors in live-classing situations. This allows you to learn the business alongside industry professionals.

Aligned to equivalent Australian qualification: An added benefit for people graduating with the Wool Technology classing qualification is the opportunity to have your classing stencil endorsed in Australia. This requires a short bridging course to get you qualified to class wool in Australia.

Registration: Applications for enrolment are open now so don't delay!

Funding: Ministry of Social Development student loans are available. Contact StudyLink on 0800 889 900 to discuss your entitlement. You may be entitled to a training incentive allowance from Work and Income New Zealand. Contact your Case Manager to discuss your entitlement.

When the Tassie guns were firing

By Bernie Walker

During the 1940s several significant shearing records were established in Tasmania which seemed to escape the notice of the shearing industry on the Australian mainland. These remarkable achievements are worthy of further recognition. All were established using the narrow (65mm) combs of the time and, whilst some people refer to Tasmania as 'the tally State' due to the smaller finewool merino sheep, these shearers also shored some big numbers on the mainland. Prominent among them was Vincent Rainbird, arguably the greatest Tasmanian shearer ever (see *Shearing* Nov 2008) who was reported to have shorn over 300 for five successive days in South Australia.

On 1 December 1941, the *Launceston Examiner* reported that Allan Hayes of Campbell Town had recently registered the following performances. At 'Beverley', 231 per day; at 'Baskerville', 233; at 'Bloomfield Estate', 262. The following year, in November 1942, it was reported that he had established a Tasmanian record of 311 on 'Bloomfield Estate' at Ross, overtaking the record of 247 set at the Lawrenny shed of Brock Brothers by Clarrie Freeman, and Freeman's personal record of 303 set in Victoria. Mr A W Burbury, father of the property owner, said Hayes' tally on the day was, as usual, without blemish. "He never cuts a sheep and seldom scratches one," Mr. Burbury declared.

The *Hobart Mercury* of 4 December 1943 then recorded that Cliff Clark of Cressy had shorn 317 sheep in 8 hours on the 'Billop Estate', including 87 for the last run. This became the new Australian machine record, overtaking Dan Cooper Snr's tally of 316 at 'Bundoran Station' on the Lower Flinders in Queensland on 22 September 1910. Three years later, on 14 November 1946, Allan Hayes shored 318, again at 'Bloomfield Estate', to break Clark's record and fail by only 3 to equal Jack Howe's outright Australian record. Just prior to this, Hayes had shorn 33,000 in 37 weeks on the mainland. Sadly, Allan Hayes passed away at the age of 42 on 3 May 1952 having shorn more than 500,000 sheep in his short career.



Hayes (pictured above) was regarded as one of the best bushmen in Tasmania, a keen deer stalker and an excellent shot, as well as being one of Australia's fastest shearers. He was born at Cressy, but had lived in Campbell Town for 10 years prior to his death.

When Dan Cooper Jnr from South Perth, WA shored 325 at 'Glenara' near Apsley, Victoria, on October 22nd 1947, he not only broke his father's former machine record, but also that of Allan Hayes, and became the first Australian to eclipse Jack Howe's blades record of 321.

In 1948, two years after Allan Hayes set his record, the great Clarrie Freeman again emerged when four men shored 1000 merinos in a day on the property of Mr A Morrison at St Peters Pass. Freeman's share was 318, to equal the Hayes' record. It is also claimed that Freeman once shored 100 in Victoria in the morning, caught the plane to Tasmania and shored another 100 there in the afternoon. He and his brother Col, also an outstanding shearer, spent quite a few months each year in the Riverina around Hay. They also shored in Queensland and South Australia as well as Victoria. (To page 23)



Cross's Country Clothing

Hardworking clothing for hardworking Kiwis

Quality Cotton Long Tail Shearing Singlets
Colours: Black, Red and Royal Blue
Sizes Small - XXL @ \$16 + GST + freight
Hoodies, trackpants and screenprinting available

Contact us ...

Tony and Karen Cross

4 Waimea Valley Road, Mandeville, RD 7, Gore 9777.

Tel 03 208 9484. Email: sales@countryclothing.co.nz

**Shearers,
Wool handlers,
Pressers**

**We have vacancies
give us a call!**

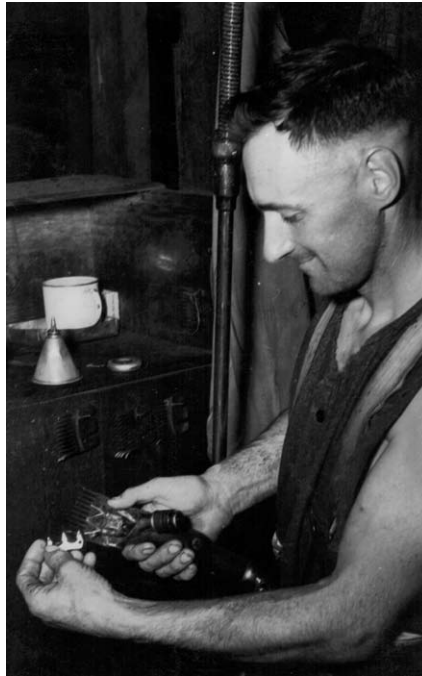
Jock Martin, Lawrence
Call or txt us on 0274 337 813
Free phone 0800 7432 7464
www.southern-shearing.co.nz

But on 14 September 1951, the late WE (Ted) Rieck, 26, from Port Augusta in South Australia was shearing at 'Brinard Station' near Julia Creek in Queensland, and became the next holder of the record. The 'Brinard' shed had 10 stands and the contractor, Mr M Jenkins, signed a declaration which read, "Mr Rieck carried out his work in an exceptionally good manner and registered a single count of 326 sheep on September 14th during the Brinard shearing. He was on the run from April 10th to September 19th. In that time he shored 22,850 sheep. His highest tally for a week was 1334, and for a day 326." This record was equalled by another Tasmanian, Gordon Cahill, in 1960.

Rieck's new record ushered in the 1950s and 60s which introduced men like Kevin Sarre, Brian O'Mahoney and Jack Cameron to the realms of the record breakers. But that's another story.

No doubt there have been other men who shored narrow gear tallies similar to these. Let us know about them so their efforts can be recorded.

Postscript. Des de Belle of Canberra informs me that Fred



Clarrie Freeman, shored 100 sheep in a morning in Victoria before flying to Tasmania and shearing another 100 in the afternoon.

'Charleville' Vernon also shored 318 in 8 hours, at 'Mahrigong Station', Corfield, in September 1925. Corfield

is situated midway between Winton and Hughenden in some of the finest sheep country in Australia.

So another 'gun' joins the ranks of the record breakers. For the sake of the Tasmanians, I'm glad he didn't shear 319.

Special thanks for assistance with this story to Don Hayes, Tasmanian AWU organiser, who contacted Allan Hayes' widow Jean. He also enabled me to contact the Freeman family, Barry (son of Clarrie) and Judy in Tasmania, and Pat (daughter of Col) and her daughter Joanne in Queensland.

HART SHEARING Blenheim

For competitive rates and
fast, efficient service
Ring Ken or Pip Hart

03 577 6224
or Ken on
0274 390 304

Integrity Shearing Ohai

OHAI, SOUTHLAND

DARYN & CHARMAINE
MURRAY

Integrity Shearing giving you
the respect
you deserve

TEL 03 225 4605

FAX 03 225 4020

Email: integrity.shr@xtra.co.nz

Freephone 0800 124605



There was at least one notable omission from our story in the August 2012 edition about people with shearing whanau connections excelling in other sports. Two-times world champion Bobby Dowling (pictured) is the son of long-time Southland shearer, Kevin Dowling and mother, Dorothy, and nephew of former Nightcaps based contractor, Murray Dowling.

Bobby Dowling won his world titles in the double-handed sawing event, teaming with the great Jason Wynyard to win at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2010, and again at Hayward, Wisconsin, in 2012.

The 24-year-old Invercargill land surveyor was a highly promising rugby player as a teenager until injury persuaded him to make timber sports his preferred recreation!

(Barry Harcourt photo)

Tangihau Station 1975

By Des Williams

We asked in our August 2012 edition if anyone could help with information about the 10-stand record set at Humphrey Bayley's Tangihau Station on 29 November 1975.

Terry Cresswell of Gisborne remembers it well, being the day Robert Muldoon got himself elected Prime Minister of New Zealand for the first time and the day Roy Baker's gang shored 4981 lambs to establish a world record.

Larry Lewis led the charge with 593 for a new individual record. The other shearers were Bill Cooper (545), Tim Takarua (522), Victor Lewis (510), Reuben Lewis (500), Bailey Edwards (496), Allen Lewis (488), Regan Campbell (455), Rodger Baker (443) and Barry Baker (429).

Terry himself was fleece-o that day, together with Roy Baker's son, Shan. Other shed staff included Leon Baker, Cherry Campbell, Jane Davis, Rora Poutu, Maria Munroe, Janet Wilson, Rose, Freda and Maurice Ratapu; Marcia Tibble, Vickie Horsfall, Ruth Marsh, Kate Martin, Mihi Kerei, Wayne Fairlie, Tony Grace, Sid Nepia, Sharon McCann, Maria Savage and Jenny McLean. Roly Field was the wool classer and the cooks were Linda Baker and Mareayne Wardman. Toby Mullooly was Tangihau manager and Mark Lewis head shepherd.

Barry Baker recalls the gang also set new records for four, six and eight stand gangs (the Lewis boys 2091; Lewis brothers plus Cooper and Takarua 3158; those six plus Edwards and Rodger Baker 4109).

Contemporary press reports from the Baker scrapbooks record how Rodger Baker had an accident early on in the day when a misplaced blow resulted in part of a comb becoming embedded in his foot. He remained undaunted however and after treatment by a St John Ambulance representative was able to carry on and complete the day.

"The shearers took their records quietly and as one member put it, 'a lot more tired than we were this morning at five o'clock.' Mr WA Teutenberg, one of the judges who supervised the shearing, said the overall standard of work was good. The lambs had not been altogether good cutting. They had been weaned for several days and had quite a



The Super 10, from left: Regan Campbell, Bill Cooper, Allen Lewis, Barry Baker, Rodger Baker, Reuben Lewis, Bailey Edwards, Victor Lewis, Larry Lewis and Tim Takarua.



lot of dirt on their backs. None had been crutched before shearing, he said."

The record certificate issued by the Shearing Records Committee records the record flock was a mixture of ewe and wether lambs. Terry Cresswell recalls the wether lambs were shorn during the last run.

McCONACHIE SHEARING LTD WINTON

Raelene and Jamie are just a phone call away for all your shearing needs.

We also encourage our staff to improve their skills through shearing sports competitions.

Tel 03 236 9987
Mob 0274 336 477

POVERTY BAY SHEARING LTD Makaraka, Gisborne

Top quality shearers and shedhands wanted. Plenty of work from November thru to March.

Phone Phill or Tup
now on 06 867 1125

JEFF DORSET SHEARING

ROTORUA

"We support all that is best in shearing."

DRUG FREE GANGS
TOP RATES

Jeff 0274 920 758
or 07 348 0318
jdorset@reporoa.co.nz



Errowanbang

New Zealand blade shearers John Kennedy, Michael O'Brien and Ross Kelman (pictured opposite from left to right) were standout performers among about 40 exponents of the ancient craft who gathered at the historic Errowanbang shed near Carcoar, central-west New South Wales, last November.

With all proceeds from the three-day event going towards restoration of the historic shed, John Kennedy reports that many of the 4000 to 5000 people who attended were amazed by their speed and skill with the blades.

"There is a lot of interest in blade shearing in Australia, much of it coming from stud owners wanting to know how to set shears, what stones to use for grinding and other basic information."

The shed itself is built on four levels, nestled into a hillside, and can house 3000 sheep under cover. With the restoration programme attracting a lot of interest, the shed is becoming a "must see" in the New South Wales outback, John Kennedy says. The shed was built in 1886 and remains functional in a reduced capacity.



Courela Clothing

5 Phillip Street
STREAKY BAY
South Australia 5680

Ph/Fax: 08 8626 1285

Try our new black
stretch shearing pants

*If it's used in the Shearing Industry
then chances are - we sell it.
Shop online at www.courela.com.au*

Long-lost family connections

By Jills Angus Burney

Last year I learned that my maternal grandmother, Dorothy Williamson had lived in the Ida Valley prior to her marriage in 1938. After 30 years of shearing, travelling and working in Central Otago this was a special discovery for me, for I'd had no idea of my Central Otago ancestry.

Then, during the 2012 New Zealand Merino Shearing championships, the Central Otago Museum presented me with a copy of a book tracing my Williamson birth family back through 150 years in Central Otago. With both lawyers and shearers and generations of farmers as kin, I had simultaneously found both my whakapapa (ancestry) and my turangawaewae (homeland). As an adopted child, my lifetime search for information was over.

On returning to the Stadium I shared my excitement with several friends, including merino shearing legend, Murray McSkimming. Not only were some of the judges also aware of my family, but Murray had been the proverbial 'boy next door'.

Now 82, Murray explained that his family had shifted from Patearoa in the Maniatoto in 1935, to farm next door to the Williamson family. He not only knew my grandmother, but said my great-grandfather, Edgar (Ted) Williamson had mixed frequently with his parents at the St Bathans' district gatherings.

He described my great-grandfather's property, now Michael Peak Station, at the northern tip of the Ida Valley,



Murray McSkimming was able to fill in some family history gaps for Jills Angus Burney.

bordering Williamson's Creek and Williamsons' Hill. Ted Williamson farmed Michael Peak from 1893 with his first wife, Christina Munro (until her death in 1914) and with his second wife (Josephine Tolmie) from 1920.

Michael Peak was carved from the original Blackstone Hills Station when a government decree broke many stations into smaller grazing runs. Like many in the high country, they also accessed a government lease 'run' behind St Bathans' and nearer the impressive Hawkdun Range.

Murray described riding to Blackstone Hill school, where my grandmother and her siblings attended. He

spoke of the great pressures those farming near St Bathans felt during the 1930s Great Depression and of the rabbit problem. He recalled that Michael Peak would have been about 5000 acres of scrub and dirt with large tracts of dry rocky hills without much water. In his view, at 2000 feet above sea level the Ida Valley veldt was very cold high country. They had a very limited growing season and mostly ran half bred sheep of a merino-romney cross, and some cattle.

As the depression years squeezed wool prices and meat markets, many farmers lived off rabbits: killing and eating them and selling carcasses to the city dwellers. From seven kilometres away at Wedderburn station, they would daily send apple cases of rabbit carcasses on the unrefrigerated train to butchers in Dunedin.

When Blackstone Hill School closed in 1945, McSkimming spent his last half year at primary school back in the Patearoa with his grandmother before attending Waitaki Boys High at Oamaru. At the end of his third form year Murray returned to work his summer holidays on nearby farms. The following year, aged 15, he left school and his sister was sent away for her year at boarding school.

McSkimming recalls his early jobs marking lambs, dipping and helping the neighbouring farms at crutching and shearing time. Blade shearing was still the predominant shearing method in the Maniatoto with average tallies of 80-150 per day while the best on narrow machine gear was a shearer, Ben Bennett (Teviot) doing over 200 sheep in one day at Millers Flat.

While McSkimming was doing his compulsory military training in 1950 his father sold the farm near Williamson's Creek and started a two-stand, machine shearing run from Clyde. Murray then returned from the army and started his lifelong career in the shearing industry.

Little could I have imagined such a neighbourly connection with Master shearer, Murray McSkimming when meeting the legend during my first pre-lamb season in 1983. And if the saying is that people are six-times removed from one another, it surely ain't so for Kiwis!

Proud to support N.Z. Shearing Magazine

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

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

All enquiries welcomed. Contact Peter or Elsie
Tel 03 448 6378 Fax 03 448 9201
Email: elsie@peterlyonshearing.co.nz



Frog earned Prime Minister's salary

By Des Williams

The trail from Kennedy Bay to Hawke's Bay was something more akin to a well beaten track by the time 16-year-old Colin "Frog" Potae decided he wanted to be a shearer, like his older brothers Eric ('Bounce'), Mac, George and Bill.

That seamless transition from high school student at St Stephen's College south of Auckland to the paid work force was encouraged by Frog's teacher, who told the fourth-former: "Frog, we can't teach you any more so I suggest it's time you left school and got a job."

Many were the stories told at Frog's tangi at Kennedy Bay on 15 December 2012, where he was laid to rest after his death nine days earlier at Hamilton, Victoria, his home for the past 23 years. Like the origin of most nick-names, there came a simple explanation as to how the young Colin became 'Frog'.

When his voice "broke" as an early teenager, a mate asked Colin what had happened because he was suddenly talking with a voice like a "bloody frog". The abbreviated version endured to the extent that many workmates over the next 50 years would wear a puzzled look at the mention of Colin Potae, but everyone knew the bloke named Frog Potae.

Like his older brothers before him, Frog had grown up on the family farm at Kennedy Bay, attending the local primary school and taking his turn, morning and night, to help his mother Mona with milking up to 70 dairy cows. This role was necessary because father Anaru was also a shearer, and away from home plying his trade more often than not.

And while Frog's decision to leave high school was made for him by that St Stephen's teacher, his move to Hawke's Bay was also largely pre-determined. Older brother Mac had gone some years earlier in circumstances that bear repeating here!

While mowing hay one day with the horse team, young Mac had worked his way too far into a corner, and couldn't get out again without unhitching the team. His father noticed the young man's self-induced predicament and came across the paddock yelling some



Colin "Frog" Potae, 1948-2012. There was a time when Frog was earning more money than the Prime Minister!

uncomplimentary advice. Mac was quick to come up with some advice of his own, telling father that he could mow his own hay paddock.

"He jumped the fence running and just kept on going until he reached the Hawke's Bay and started working for the noted shearing contractor, Bill Meech," Mac's younger brother, Bill Potae would recall many years later.

George Potae too would take his turn to leave Kennedy Bay and work many years for Bill Meech (before going south to establish Potae Shearing at Milton, in 1960). And later still, Bill Potae would journey to Hawke's Bay, not to take up shearing (that would come later), but to attend Te Aute College, where his talents would immediately shine on the rugby field.

So Frog Potae arrived at the Meech headquarters in 1964 looking for work and the hard-nosed contractor knew that if this young Potae had a work ethic anywhere near that of brothers Mac and George, he would be good enough. And so it proved, with Frog graduating to the handpiece after the compulsory apprenticeship as "rousie" and wool presser.

Very soon Frog was working his way up to big numbers and though, by his own admission he wasn't the

cleanest shearer in the gang, he always made sure that the backs of his sheep were clean "because that's the part the cocky looks at" when checking quality in the count-out pen.

There was a time, too, when Frog was working at Smedley Station (Central Hawke's Bay) and he posted tallies in excess of 600 on six consecutive days. The Station manager remarked at the end of that week how Frog was earning more money than the Prime Minister. "Well so I should be 'cos I'm probably working ten-times harder than the bastard," Frog replied.

From the Hawke's Bay, Frog moved down to Milton and worked many years with Potae Shearing, alternating with off-seasons in Australia. In the late 1980s Frog and his wife Vicki made a permanent move to Australia and made their home in Hamilton, Victoria, where he continued to shear sheep until declining health brought his days on the handpiece to an end.

Apart from shearing, Frog had a life-long love of the sea, and of diving. His nephew Brendon recalled a time when they were home in Kennedy Bay over Christmas and they went out fishing in Frog's 10-foot dinghy, powered by an unreliable seagull motor.

After anchoring awhile at a favoured spot some distance from shore, Frog tried to start the motor, to no avail. Several minutes of pulling rope and seeking divine intervention from above proved unsuccessful so Frog unscrewed the motor and dropped it overboard.

"That's clever," Brendon told him. "What do you mean?" Frog asked. "Because we've only got one oar!"

Frog's death on 6 December 2012 came after a lengthy period of illness, though he fought the inevitable with all the strength and willpower that had been his hallmark in the shearing sheds of Australasia.

He came home in November 2012 for what he knew would be his last visit to Kennedy Bay. He enjoyed several days with mates, reminiscing about times gone by and facing his last days (years before his time, all agreed) with considerable dignity.

Frog is survived by wife Vicki and grown children Moana, Rangī, Tamai and Simon.

Obituary: Maurice Megahey

By Jayne Harkness-Bones

Northern Ireland's stalwart of sheep shearer training and competitions, Maurice Megahey, passed away on 26 November 2012, after a period of ill-health. His involvement with shearing spanned more than five decades.

Maurice attended his first sheep shearing course as a member of the Lylehill Young Farmers Club of Ulster in 1961. Then in 1964, along with Edwin Adams and Jim Allen, Maurice attended the British Wool Marketing Board shearing course at Bush House, Edinburgh, Scotland where they all gained their instructor's badges after receiving tuition from Godfrey Bowen.

That same year Maurice set a new All-Ireland record of 272 sheep in a nine hour day at Allam's Market, Oxford Street, Belfast, beating the previous record of 258 set by Arthur Shane of Wexford. On completing his new record Maurice was reported in the local press saying "I was confident to beat the record, but after I had to get a bucket of water and put my feet in it."

By 1968 Maurice had retired from competition shearing, realising he could do more to improve the standard of shearing through training and judging. He also promptly commissioned a sculpture to create what has become renowned as the 'Ringer Trophy' for the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society championship. This Trophy is unique and typified his generosity.

In 1977 an exchange scheme was arranged between the British Wool Marketing Board and the New Zealand Wool Board. Maurice took part in this scheme and shearers in Ulster gained great benefit from the skills and ideas of his experiences. As a regional member for Northern Ireland on the British Wool Marketing Board he achieved much for wool producers in the province and was duly elected as the Ombudsman for the BWMB.

Maurice became a member of the RUAS and later was elected to the RUAS Council. He was a founder member of the Sheep Shearing Committee and served for many years as Chairman. In 2009 Maurice received the @Tyrone Crystal Perpetual Plate, which is presented annually by the RUAS to a member having made a significant contribution to the work of the society.

Always having shearing in Northern Ireland at the forefront of his mind, Maurice founded the Northern Ireland Sheep Shearers' Association in 1998. NISSA has since become a valuable platform for shearing and wool handling in Northern Ireland. It has also donated in the region of £100,000 to charity in the fourteen years of successful fundraising events and competitions.

In 2003 Maurice was presented with a Tyrone Crystal Globe from the members of NISSA in recognition of what he had achieved for sheep shearing in Northern Ireland and world wide. In 2008 he received the BISCA / BWMB award for Outstanding Service to the Shearing Industry which was presented at the Balmoral show.

Maurice was manager of the Northern Ireland team to three world championships – Gorey 1998, Bloemfontein 2000 and Edinburgh 2003. He was also a delegate to world council meetings for those years.

And like many "larger-than-life" characters, the stories



Edwin Adams (left) and Maurice Megahey, Northern Ireland's stalwart of shearer training pictured in 2004.

about Maurice abound but many simply lose their impact on the printed page. But there was the occasion, in South Africa, when Maurice was travelling with Wesley Wilton in a car (Mercedes!) supplied by the South African Wool Board. Wesley couldn't get the car into gear so Maurice said, "Let me try!" He proceeded to pull the gear stick out of its socket. "Now what?" Wesley enquired.

Maurice pushed the gear stick back into the hole from whence it came and it worked!

There was a time when Maurice and (the late) Roger Best (British Wool Marketing Board senior shearing instructor) were sent to eastern Europe to train local shearers. Not only did Maurice turn all the locals into left handed drinkers with the power of his handshake, but some gave serious thought to becoming left handed shearers as well!

(Thanks to Edwin Adams and Robert Harkness for their contributions to this obituary of Maurice.)

Utiku Shearing 2007 Ltd Taihape



Our aim is quality in all areas of shearing
and wool preparation

Positions available for experienced
and reliable staff
Shearers/Woolhandlers/Pressers
Top rates, accomm, meals, transport

Phone Rei 06 388 1009 or 0272 309 855

Illness spoiled perfect record for Bruce

By Des Williams

Only an ill-timed duodenal ulcer in 1962 prevents Bruce Arcus of Masterton from being able to claim a perfect record of attendance at Golden Shears. For most of the other 50-plus occasions the retired farmer had a front row view of proceedings in his role as a (one of six) manual time-keeper. In this onerous but essential task he was ably assisted by his wife Joy, as well as David and Mrs Bowie, Gerry Laing and others.

In more recent years, and with the advent of the electronic age, Bruce and his associate stop-watch holders moved from "essential" parts of the process to "support" roles, keeping individual times in case of power failure or other mishap that can cause computers and other whizz-gadgets to drop their bundle.

Other aspects of the task also became easier over the years, Bruce recalls. "In the days when all the judges wore white coats up on the board it was often quite difficult to see past the woolhandlers in the front and the judges to see exactly when the shearer pushed the button, so you learned to look at the top of the shearing machine for the cord to jump up and down and you took the time from that."

Bruce has a few memories from down the years that stand above the rest – 1973 when little Eddie Reidy won the Open being one. He also recalls Joe Ferguson having a preference for stand number three. "He used to like a couple in front of him and serious rivals behind him so he could try and unsettle them. Joe was a very good shearer and perhaps unlucky not to win the Golden Shears."

Bruce spent his farming career on a property near Martinborough – a farm that his father was settled on after returning wounded from World War I. "He served at Gallipoli and was hit three times before being invalided home. He was given some work in a machinery factory but he couldn't stand the noise and so in 1916 he was settled on a 707-acre farm. There was no house, no fences and no shade.

"Dad had to guarantee to stock it and pay a half-year's rent before he was able to take possession. He'd

never shorn a sheep in his life, never worked with dogs and never ridden a horse."

Bruce eventually took over the property himself and farmed until 1977, when a sustained period of rain (48 days) caused much of the topsoil over papa-rock country to slip away. The 28 paddocks on the farm prior to the rains coming were reduced to just two and the farm became an uneconomic proposition.

Bruce says he never shored a sheep at Golden Shears but he did do most of his own shearing on the farm. "Generally I would do the shearing with help from my father-in-law.



Long-time Golden Shears time-keeper and Wairarapa farmer Bruce Arcus.

"Probably 280 would have been a good tally in those days and each year I would start to think that I was getting used to this shearing business and then it would be all over for the year and I wouldn't do any more until the following season."

Golden Shears past-president Greg Herrick says the importance of the role Bruce and his associates played over the years cannot be under-estimated.

"Just think of the concentration they had to display and the importance of their job in the years prior to electronic timing. Every competitor depended on the person keeping time on their stand to get it right because just fractions of seconds could mean the difference between qualifying and missing out."

Apart from his voluntary role at Golden Shears, Greg Herrick noted that Bruce had served his community with distinction over many years, including the Masterton A&P Association and in fund-raising ventures.

Health Warning

When you drink vodka over ice, it can give you kidney failure. When you drink rum over ice, it can give you liver failure.

When you drink whiskey over ice, it can give you heart problems. When you drink gin over ice, it can give you brain problems.

Apparently, ice is really bad for you. Warn all your friends.



ALL ABOUT WOOL

We service a wide range of clients who provide great, clean and tidy sheds and stock to match.

If you care about the people who grow wool and the people that present it, WoolQual has the service.

WOOLQUAL provides

- High level of accommodation and meals
- H&S scheme available to all staff
- Very tidy well maintained vans
- Training and encouragement. Shows included
- Friendly environment.

**ALL OUR WORK
IS QUALITY
CONTROLLED AND
GUARANTEED**

CALL: office 06 876 4176,
Kerry 0295 433 726 or
0292 493 578; email info@woolqualshearing.co.nz
www.woolqualshearing.co.nz

**Major Sponsor North Island
Shearing & Woolhandling Circuit**

Morrell close, but still Masterton waits...

By Des Williams

There's a line in a song by Bob Seger (the most under-rated rock singer in music history) that captures the inexorable passing of time - "seems like yesterday, but it was long ago..."

That's precisely the feeling this writer gets when he reflects back to 1990, the year he first went to Golden Shears. That year was special in one respect because it was the 30th anniversary of "Goldies", as this annual shearing extravaganza has become affectionately known. But it was just another year in Masterton's wait to see a home town hero crowned Golden Shears Open Champion. Dare I remind readers that a further 23 years have passed in the meantime and Masterton still waits...

In the decade prior to 1990, local shearers Rick Pivac and Greg Herrick had both appeared in Open finals (Pivac six of them) without being able to secure the purple ribbon. Come 1990 and two blokes who then called Masterton home shore side by side in heat five of the Open championship, as *Last Side to Glory* would subsequently record: "Morrell and Channings were the two lads looking to pick up the mantle of 'local hope' which had been carried so ably in the past by Pivac and Herrick. One felt reasonably confident that 1990 would not be their year, but three or four years from now, perhaps Wairarapa would have that home town hero."

Alas, the optimism of the writer would prove unfounded – but only just. While David Channings was unable to make it into an Open final during his career, Dion Morrell would eventually do so, in 1995. And what a final that was! The crowd noise had the Stadium roof hovering about three feet above the rafters for 16 minutes as Morrell led David Fagan, Alan MacDonald, Colin King, Paul Avery and Keith Wilson on a merry dance through 18 sheep.

But Fagan, then equal with Snow Quinn's six victories and looking to go one better, somehow found the resolve to make up a deficit of seven seconds on sheep 19 before dropping number 20 down the chute six shots ahead. When the judges had completed their quality assessments, the invincible Fagan had won number seven by just over one point and Dion had to settle for second.

The laurels in the Morrell trophy cabinet are substantial. He won Australia's national championship in 1996 as well as New Zealand's Fine Wool championship at Alexandra in 1996, 1997 and 2002. He was South Island Shearer of the Year and DB National (now PGG Wrightson) champion in 1997. He shore world record tallies on adult crossbred ewes (716 in nine hours at Wairaki Station in 1995) and 507 merino ewes in nine hours at Tarras in 1997. He was elevated to the ranks of New Zealand's Master Shearers by Shearing Sports New Zealand in 2003.

In the meantime however, Masterton's long wait to see a home-town hero crowned open shearing champion continues. The brothers Goodger, Carl Cocks, Lachie Nixon and others have won their purple ribbons in woolpressing, and the young Gordons, Tutuvahas, Nooroas, Rimenes and their like have triumphed in lower grade shearing and in top class woolhandling.

But as the late Ivan Bowen was fond of saying, it's



David Gordon of Masterton (and Australia), Golden Shears novice champion 2010 and intermediate champion 2013. Can he go on and become Masterton's first home-grown open champion? No pressure, David!

the international Golden Shears open championship that means the most in the world of shearing. Ear muffs will be compulsory when the next Pivac, Herrick or Morrell is able to bring that wait to an end.

Perhaps the one to end the waiting is closer than we think. Perhaps his name is David Gordon.

DAVIS SHEARING CONTRACTING

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

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

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

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

Ring Jason - tel 03 418 0824.

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

Enduring friendship forged in sweat

By Des Williams

Many years ago, as a smart-arsed 18-year-old, I had the pleasure of working in a shearing gang at Otautau, run by an Aussie bloke named John Schultz. Among the shearers in John's crew was a rough, gruff, tough little bugger named Ross Webster. When I say little – probably 5 foot eight and he wouldn't be out of place in the front row of your average club rugby team. He was a keen follower of rugby too, as I would later find out, but I'll come back to that.

On my first day in the gang with Ross I was assigned to the task of picking up the full wool fleeces. Such was the ability of the four shearers – ranging from 160 to 220-a-day men – that one fleece-o on the board was generally enough to keep it clear. Later, if one got in trouble a lovely little Maori lady named Lucy Wilson would leave her post at the skirting table and come to your rescue.

But on this first morning I was a bit late getting to Ross and his first fleece so he walked over the top of both me and the fleece as he crossed the board to drag out his next sheep. I left the fleece where it was and Ross shored his next sheep surrounded by the wool of his previous victim.

As Ross crossed the board for his third sheep I swept both fleeces aside, and would soon manage to separate and deliver them to the skirting table. But before doing so I cleared the next belly and crutch wool while (politely, I am sure) asking Mr bad-tempered shearer what his thoughts were on “who needs who around here?”

Strangely, I can't remember his exact response but it surely included a few adjectives that even this home-for-the-holidays student teacher had never heard before from his English major lecturers up there in Hamilton.

Somehow we got through that first day without any further confrontations but I don't think many words passed between the two of us at smoko, lunch or in the back of the van on the 20-mile journey back to the quarters.

The tension gradually eased though one could never be quite certain that it wasn't going to reappear. Ross soon took advantage of the fact that I was a “know-all student” and would test my



Ross Webster - tough quizmaster

mathematical and general knowledge on those rides back to Otautau after a day in the sheds. He'd come up with a question like (actual example!) “If we are travelling at 50 miles an hour and we are 50 miles from home, how many power poles do we pass along the way?”

He subsequently learned that I knew (or thought I knew) a thing or two about rugby and many an argument we enjoyed about who should or should not be in the All Blacks, or which was the best province (Southland of course) or what the score was when New Zealand played the Springboks at Christchurch in 1956.

At the end of that long summer holiday I left the gang and returned to my studies. Before leaving, I “selected” my all-time best All Black team and wrote the names on a piece of paper that I then left on Ross's bunk at the quarters.

The years rolled by and from time to time I heard news of Ross from Jack Dowd, for Ross was married to Jack's sister, Margaret. I knew that in more recent times the couple had bought a little block at Eastern Bush and Ross had delved into a variety of pursuits including flower growing and landscaping.

Not so long ago, I happened to be in the vicinity of the Webster property and, on impulse I called, unannounced, to find Margaret at home. After a

quick explanation on the purpose of my visit, Margaret told me Ross was over in the shed, making a gate, and she was sure he would be glad to see me again. (I wasn't so sure!)

I walked across to the shed and found Ross working in the wide doorway, cutting a piece of timber. He looked up and saw me standing there. I said, “Hello Ross, it's...” Before I could finish he looked me in the eye, went to shake my hand and said, “I know who you are, you little (so-and-so).” At least his vocabulary had not diminished with the passing years!

A coffee at the kitchen table and an hour or so of yarning brought us both up to date on what the other had been doing, amidst realisation that a mutual respect had existed between the two of us as a result of working together for eight weeks all those years ago.

Sadly, I learned at Golden Shears just last month, through a mutual friend, Brian Cocks, that Ross Webster had died (aged 71) about Labour Weekend last year, after some serious illness.

Maurice Green of Tuatapere, who had been Ross's neighbour at Eastern Bush, was able to confirm that the battler had endured a rough patch in his last months, having hurt himself in a fall, broken some ribs and about the same time had been told he had tumors growing on his brain.

“We gave Ross a bloody good send-off,” Maurice said. “His scruffy little dog Joe was at the service, and his coffin was taken from the church on the back of his white Toyota Landcruiser. The pall-bearers were also on the back as it was driven down the main street and brought to a halt outside the Otautau Hotel.

“After a few farewell toasts the vehicle resumed its inevitable journey and the rest of us felt it only right and proper to continue recalling the yarns and stories and memories of Ross for the next few hours.”

So, *Vale* Ross Webster, you tough old bugger, it really was nice knowing you. And I even heard, somewhere along the line, you'd agreed the All Black team I selected all those years ago wasn't a bad sort of a line-up!

Ross is survived by his wife, Margaret, and three grown children, Carron, Marjorie and Richard.

WHERE IS THE COWBOY

The slip-rails are down and the horses are gone,
The seasons roll over and the years wander on
And the yard where he broke in the wild and the shy
Green grows the grass where the dust used to fly.

But where is the cowboy, for this was his dream
The cabin, the girl, and the banks of the stream.
Where he sang in the twilight and played his guitar,
The songs of The Round-Up and The Honky-Tonk Bar.

But the girl became restless for the pickings were slim
And sometimes she wondered why he risked life and limb,
As he threw them and rode them, the buckskin, the bay.
But there's more pride than cash in a horse breaker's pay.

And often her thoughts shifted back to the town,
To the people, the pleasures and the parties she'd known
As she studied the 'ads' with an envious eye
In the gloss catalogues that the mailman dropped by.

Where she saw with a pang what the city girls wore
The dresses, the gowns and the fashions galore,
So strong was their call, she knew what she must do –
A note on the table, and the girl had shot through.

Still the breaker was busy, though his mind was up tight –
A big palomino was wanting to fight
A wild kicking horse, and reaction too late –
His fingers were crushed with the slam of the gate.

Now where is the cowboy who learned how to play
His right hand guitar in a left handed way
Who shut up the cabin, one morning, one day
With a heart that was broken he vanished away.

Into life's whirl-pool without a farewell
God only knows where, but God doesn't tell.
Into the mix where the failures are tossed
The drink and the drugs and the lonely and lost.

Where is he now, does anyone care?
The stars have their secrets but they never share
The magic, the myths, and folklore play their role
But I know the answer, and it settles my soul.

For at night when the old gully starts into dream
I swear I can hear from the banks of the stream
A left hand guitar and those old Round-Up songs
And I know the cowboy is back where he belongs.

© "Blue Jeans" 2012



Readers may remember back to the April 2011 edition of *Shearing* magazine when we published a photo of Shane Rawlinson and Josef Martin Schindler at Golden Shears. On the seat behind those two was a young man that we couldn't identify at the time, but we were informed by whanau in time for the next edition that the youngster was Te Awarangi Radyn Puketapu-Pene, of Taradale. Te Awarangi is the son of Tui Pene and Atareta Puketapu, and he listed David Fagan, Cam Ferguson and (of course) his Dad, Tui, among his favourite shearers.

Te Awarangi is now two years older and still the keenest of shearing fans, as we noted in our family photo (above) taken at Raglan's Western Shears in January 2013. We suggested in August 2011 that readers watch this space in 20 years time for further news of Te Awarangi. Make that about 13 years! Pictured below: Tui Pene on his way to fourth place in the Western Shears senior final.



**Have you checked the pressure in
your car or van tyres this week?**

Donkeys to the rescue

By Bernie Walker

Desperate Queensland sheep owners have turned to a serious feral pest in other areas of Australia to help them in their battle against wild dogs and dingoes. Bruce Lines, Landmark wool manager for Queensland, hit on the idea of using donkeys to protect the sheep, in addition to the maramba dogs and llamas already in use in some areas.

Donkeys are shot by the hundreds as pests in Central Australia, the Northern Territory and the Kimberley, but Queensland graziers now hope they can help them in their fight against the dogs. Sheep numbers in Queensland have dropped from 16 million a few years ago to about 6.8 million at present, largely as a result of dog activity.

The wild dogs are now such a problem that many stations in a broad sweep from Hughenden in the north, down through Blackall and Roma, as far as Milmerran in the south, no longer run sheep. As an indication of how severely the dogs are decimating Queensland sheep numbers, Longreach shearing contractors Tolly and Rae Bowden say a station they have shorn at for many years which used to take five weeks to complete, last year took only 2½ days.

Down in the south west in the Quilpie-Adavale area, dog and pig numbers have exploded since the drought broke. A trapper working over 14 stations caught 179 dogs in 11 weeks. Quilpie Shire has now appointed a full time dog control officer to co-ordinate a baiting and trapping programme. According to 'Cowley' station manager, Ian Feather, in a *Queensland Country Life* newspaper report, the station of 160,000 hectares runs 16,000 merinos plus 1000 head of cattle. Feather said the 2011 lamb marking percentage was 43% – in 2012 it was 20%. In addition, they were 1600 ewes short at shearing and were hoping they turn up. Little wonder he then said, "We just can't sustain these ... losses."

In an effort to help his clients maintain and increase their sheep numbers Bruce Lines has been working with the indigenous owners of 'Kenmore Park' station on the Northern Territory-South Australian border, where donkeys are a serious pest. The donkeys are trapped on water to get a mob together, a slow process, Bruce told *Queensland Country Life*. "You could use choppers and bikes, but there is a cost to all that."

According to Lines there are three main types of donkey – the Jerusalem donkey is grey with a cross on its back; the Mammoth donkey is the larger brown/black animal, and the Spanish is the white donkey with no cross. The first consignment of 128 donkeys was spread from Hughenden to Milmerran. Initially they need to be bonded with the sheep, a process which can take up to six weeks.

On the down side, not all donkeys are suitable for guard work and some can be aggressive toward lambs and calves. However, it was reported that a Longreach stock agent was distributing 190 donkeys during January, and another report indicated there could be a new order for up to 300 in mid-March. The donkeys Bruce sourced were distributed for about \$400 each and he says he has also had enquiries about mules, which do not breed, but would be difficult to source in any numbers. Some concern had been expressed

that the donkeys could become a pest if allowed to breed, but Bruce says the chances of that are pretty slim, as it is recommended only jennies and geldings are used.

Longreach shearing contractor Dave Grant said he has heard reports the donkeys have chased all the wild pigs out of the paddock, which is quite a bonus. Dave also said that where a specific killer dog can be identified, helicopters have been used to find and follow the dog before it is shot from the air. Expensive but very effective.

Bruce Lines says the initial shipment has raised an awareness of the possibility of using donkeys as part of a dog management system and created many enquiries. He told *Queensland Country Life*: "I think what we need to do is see how this shipment works out on the ground and give it time before we undertake anything further."

If successful, the project could be a win win win situation with 'Kenmore Park' selling a pest, Queensland graziers rebuilding their sheep numbers, resulting in more wool for them and for Bruce and for Landmark. The next move is up to the donkeys.



Bruce Lines (above) takes delivery of the donkeys at Kenmore Park and then (inset) gives them all a close inspection upon arrival at Longreach.

paewaimullins
SHEARING LIMITED

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

Phone: 06 374 4062 / Fax 06 374 4153
Punga: 022 374 4062 / Aria 022 374 4063
PO Box 129, Dannevirke 4942.
Email: office@shearingnz.co.nz
Website: shearingnz.co.nz

Results 29th NZ Shearing Championships, Te Kuiti, 4/5/6 April 2013

Shearing:

Can-Am/Lister/BNZ NZ Open (20 sheep): Rowland Smith (Hastings) 63.987 1; Nathan Stratford (Invercargill) 66.46 2; David Buick (Pongaroa) 66.624 3; Dion King (Hastings) 70.556 4; Mark Grainger (Te Kuiti) 70.872 5; David Fagan (Te Kuiti) 73.946 6.

Harvey World Travel/Supershear NZ Shears Circuit final: Tony Coster (Rakaia) 88.319 1; Nathan Stratford 90.561 2; John Kirkpatrick (Napier) 91.765 3; Gavin Mutch (Whangamomona and Scotland) 95.682 4; Dig Balme (Te Kuiti) 98.023 5; David Fagan 99.209 6.

Tectra North Island Shearer of the Year (10 ewes, 10 lambs): Rowland Smith 63.48 1; John Kirkpatrick 63.647 2; David Fagan 67.173 3; Dig Balme 70.407 4; Gavin Mutch 72.148 5; Dion King 72.378 6.

Ballance/Super Air Senior (12 sheep): Bryce Guy (Kaeo) 54.169 1; Brett Roberts (Mataura) 54.6 2; Lachie Baynes (Wairoa) 56.285 3; Hemi Braddick (Eketahuna) 57.327 4; Jack Fagan (Te Kuiti) 58.512 5; Steven Hanson (Eketahuna) 59.995 6.

Coopers Intermediate (8 sheep): David Gordon (Masterton) 46.217 1; Phoenix Hawkins (Martinborough) 47.53 2; Dylan McGruddy (Masterton) 47.53 3; Ethan Pankhurst (Masterton) 50.248 4; Charlie Guy (Kaeo) 50.341 5; Cory Green (Rakaia) 53.414 6.

Lister Junior (5 sheep): Marshall Guy (Kaeo) 36.72 1; Corey Smith (Rakaia) 38.00 2; Kahn Culshaw (Mataura) 39.36 3; Ramone Smith (Gisborne) 40.23 4; Pagan Rimene (Masterton) 44.6555; Josh Balme (Te Kuiti) 56.26 6.

Novice (2 sheep): Matt MacRae (Masterton) 36.248 1; Laura Bradley (Woodville) 37.419 2; Ricci Stevens (Gisborne) 38.883 3; Blake Clinch (Eketahuna) 45.021 4; Shaun Turton (Dannevirke) 46.989 5; James Alford (Gisborne) 50.626 6.

Woolhandling:

Elders Pastoral Open: Hanatia Tipene (Te Kuiti) 71.974 1; Ronnie Goss (Kimbolton) 86.0 2; Keryn Herbert (Te Awamutu) 88.47 3; Ngaio Braddick (Eketahuna) 90.56 4; Lisa Fagan (Te Kuiti) 127.65 5.

Muster Sports Bar Senior: Samantha Gordon (Masterton) 83.29 1; Peggy-Sue Tohengaroa (Aria) 91.5 2; Logan Kamura

(Marton) 96.25 3; Pania Piwari (Masterton) 106.66 4; Victoria Kumeroa (Whanganui) 133.53 5.

Junior: Tiffany Kumeroa (Whanganui) 81.38 1; Annette Hohepa (Hawke's Bay) 91.66 2; Joanne Shuttleworth (England) 95.78 3; David Gordon (Masterton) 104.41 4; Tara Chapman (Matiere) 106.03 5.

Teams Events:

Affco trans-Tasman shearing (4 merinos, 4 second shear): Warrnambool Aust. (Wayne Hosie, Roger Mifsud, Nick Hearn) 266.858, beat Te Kuiti NZ (Dion King, Rowland Smith, Lachie Baynes) 276.093.

PGG Wrightson Shearing Province of Origin: East Coast (John Kirkpatrick, Ian Kirkpatrick) 33.596 1; Hawke's Bay (Paerata Abraham, Adam Brausch) 34.51 2; Hawke's Bay (Dion King, Phil Wedd) 34.619 3; King Country (Peter Jackson, Dean Ball) 35.171 4; Wairarapa (Nuki Gordon, David Buick) 36.969 5; Northland (Neville Osborne, Rowland Smith) 39.565 6.

Lister/Supershear Inter-Island Challenge: North Island (David Fagan, John Kirkpatrick, Rowland Smith, Sheree Alabaster, Cushla Abraham, Keryn Herbert) 263.9pts beat South Island (Nathan Stratford, Andy Mainland, Tony Coster, Pagan Rimene, Tina Rimene, Joel Henare) 294.1.



All square between Dion King and Roland Smith at this stage of the NZ Open final but Dion was done and dusted 1min 25secs ahead. A pen of only 19 sheep made most of the difference! Had he known, judge Neil Sidwell might have had his right hand on right shoulder - the cricket signal for "one short".

SHEARING CONTRACTORS

- Running your own gang?
- Struggling to balance work and process accounts?
- Need an easier way to pay your staff and charge the farmer?

Payroll Plus Ltd has the product for you:

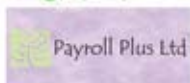
Shear Simplicity is a simple-to-use software package that has been custom written for the Shearing and Contracting Industry. Improve your business processes and streamline your payroll management with Shear Simplicity software.

Features:

- Produce payslips for your workers including associated allowances
- Generate invoices for your clients and track payments against accounts
- Produce PAYE, employee earnings reports and GST on receipts reports
- Integrate with IMS Payroll Partner and Accounting applications

So give Liz a call and let us show you how we can help.

Phone 021 749 963 or 07 838 1961
Email: liz@payrollplusltd.co.nz



COMBINED SHEARING Middlemarch and Ranfurly

Otago

Tel/Fax Doug Deseymour

03 464 3023 or 027 227 2307



Permanent positions for quality
shearers and shedhands

Member of the NZ Shearing
Contractors' Association



Action from the 2013 NZ Champs. Top left, resident woolhandler Katarina Ngahoro awaits the start of the NZ Shears multi-breeds circuit final, in which she looked after fourth place-getter, Gavin Mutch. Bottom left, the ultimate winner, Tony Coster. Above: Dean Herlihy of Taranaki competing in the popular Contractors' Relay, under the gaze of judge Barry Taylor.

Mistooks

There were a couple of instances of mistaken identity in our November 2012 edition: cricket fans will have noted that Mr Cook was on the right in our cover photo, while Tony Hodge was on the left. And on page 7, bottom group photo, the bloke we called Kelvin Walker was actually Sam Welch. Not sure where that name came from from Sam, so our apologies.

There but for fortune ...

Just look at the concentration on the faces of those shearers – if they'd concentrated that hard when they were at school they wouldn't be shearers now – they would be rocket scientists! (Commentator Steve Whyte at Agrodome Shears, 27 Jan 2013.)



After four months of working with Lister Shearing in England and five-time world champion shearer David Fagan from Te Kuiti New Zealand, we are very proud and honoured to have the rights to create a handpiece in the soap form.

First in the World!

We have 5 Soap Handpieces to give away. Text name and address to 027 279 9446. Results will be published on Facebook www.facebook.com/catlinsoap.

www.thecatlinsoapco.co.nz



It's just like riding a bike – you never forget how to do it! Hanatia Tipene of Te Kuiti emerged from “no-where” after several years away from competitions to win the New Zealand Open woolhandling title. Busy with the blend (above) she then surrendered her lines to the judges who found her fleece preparation clearly superior.

Shearing Services Ltd Mossburn

Professional staff required.
Well above award wages paid to quality staff.
Classy accommodation provided.

Ring Mana or Vanessa

03 248 6122 or 0274 770 448

The MAF sheep yard bulletin

By Dr Clive Dalton

For many years the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) had the sole job of helping farmers produce more farm exports to ensure the nation prospered. And it certainly did!

Producing publications of all kinds was a major MAF role, produced by the Information Section, headed by Geoff Moss, a former Taranaki Farm Adviser. They were generally free, and this service was the envy of the world. A few special publications were called 'Bulletins' with a number, and they were charged for, as was *The New Zealand Journal of Agriculture*.

Then in the 1990s, State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) were spawned and MAF's long-serving Information Section was scrapped, along with its many publications. There was one publication I remember well, and I just happened to find a copy when called in to help cull the Agriculture books at the Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTER) Library, as their Ag courses were killed off some years ago.

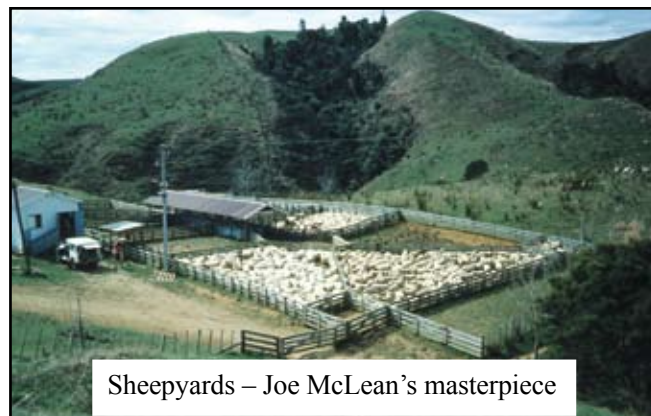
Finding a copy of Bulletin No 353 by JE Duncan on *Design and Construction of Sheep-Drafting Yards* (1951, reprinted 1956 and 1962), price one shilling and six pence was such a thrill, as it brought back great memories of our team at the Whatawhata Hill Country Research Station when I joined in 1968. Under our Director, Dr Doug Lang, we were working flat out to get more production from the Raglan hills, and develop the station at the same time, so even more work could be done.

Joe McLean, our amazing Maori farm manager, who had been there from the first days of the station in 1950 (joining his father as a fencer), was constantly being pestered by us scientists and technicians, to fence more paddocks and build more bridges and sheep yards.

We would rush into the station yard hollering 'Where's Joe?' – Where the hell's Joe? Has anybody seen Joe?

If the answer was that he'd gone in to Ruakura with Doug, we all shut up quickly, as we knew they'd be in there, 'fixing' something that the office wallahs had found out about! When Joe appeared, and you started pleading your case for a new set of yards in back range, a roof over the top yards, a new footbath, an extra set of drafting gates so we could get eight groups off in one run, a narrow race for one person to check teeth, a raised race to inspect feet, a new loading race, and much more – Joe would go into his office with you, slump into his rail-backed government chair, and quietly roll another smoke.

Duncan's book sat permanently on Joe's rimu government desk, next to a brown government bakelite ashtray full of fag ends. He'd pull out his well polished tobacco tin and lay it on the desk for the next fag, while you described your particular wants, which Joe would quietly convert into your needs. He never made notes



while you raved – it all went into his gifted database under his well-weathered hat.

But Joe didn't just design the yards and everything else we needed, he built the blardy things too! And they were all masterpieces – and always far beyond our expectations. He never needed to go back to modify things – Joe was a 'right-first-time' bloke.

I reckon Bulletin 353 is still as useful today as it was when written all those years ago, so I've put it on my blog to make it available through the Internet.

Here's how to find it:

1. Google my blog <woolshed1.blogspot.com> and my front page will come up with my mugshot and profile. Don't let that put you off!

2. Then below the profile, on the right hand side, find the little Google box which is to help find a subject in the blog.

3. Put in 'Sheep Yards' and Google will find the Duncan book. And you don't need to send MAF 1/6d!

So if you keep sheep and need handling facilities, or need to repair and modify yards that have fallen apart – the book could be useful to you. I'm sure JE Duncan would be thrilled, and it would certainly justify Joe rolling another smoke. We all thought the world of the late Joe McLean.

Mike Bool Shearing

22 Pringle Street, Timaru

Blade shearers and shedhands
wanted for the next pre-lamb
season. Top wages for
experienced shedhands

Phone Mike 03 688 6538
(home); 0274 374 369 mob.

or

Steve Bool 0272 047 067.

GRANT MURDOCH SHEARING Kurow

Positions available for reliable,
experienced finewool shearers
and shedhands for pre-lamb.
Mid-July to end of October

Great working environment
accommodation available
top pay rates, meals and
transport provided.

All enquiries call Grant
cell 0274307678 office 03 4360436
Member of NZSCA



"If we were desperate for dry sheep Ngawai would always find some that were 'Bowen dry'. According to Godfrey, if the top wire on the fence was dry the sheep would be near enough!" (Robin Kidd)

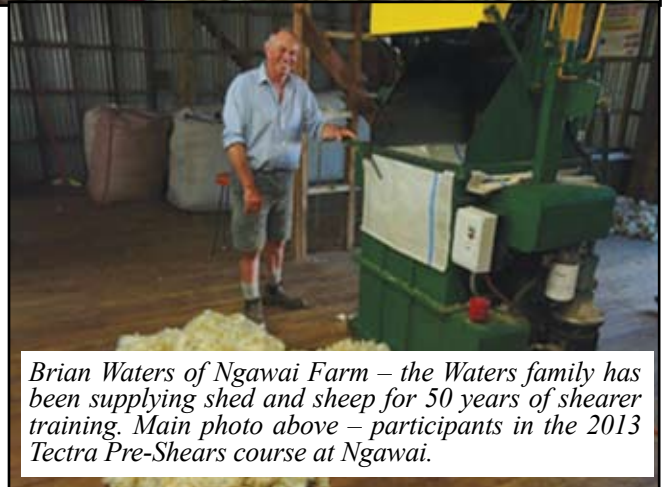
Fifty Years at Ngawai

At a recent gathering at Massey University's "Wharerata" the Tectra staff hosted a function to recognise the contributions of the Waters family of Ngawai, who have provided their sheep and shed for 50 years of shearer instruction. While this partnership is the most longstanding, spanning three generations, many other very special farmers have, and continue to, provide this vital component of the training which was initiated by the New Zealand Wool Board 60 years ago. The contribution of these host farmers to the international wool industry has been enormous and without their efforts wool harvesting would have long ago, been totally uneconomic.

While today's returns are inadequate except for some specialist wools which have been well promoted and marketed, New Zealand still needs a significant number of sheep to utilise and control our unique pastoral environment and to maintain a healthy clean green image.

Our wool harvesters are extremely efficient and the product is still a superb natural fibre with properties which are unique. The original training scheme lives on as "Tectra" under private and highly skilled management, and while it's principals are engaged in a constant battle to find funding, it continues to be the global template and continues to attract international trainees. Judging by the shearers at the last "Pre Shears" course in the Waters' shed the scheme has an even higher reputation overseas than here in New Zealand. Former world champion Shannon Warnest brought a large contingent of Australian boys to sharpen up their skills prior to competing at Golden Shears later in the week. Gavin Rowland, Tectra's manager, spoke of the excellent cooperation between Australia and New Zealand and the continuing interest shown by other shearers throughout the world. One of Gavin's key instructors is Tom Wilson, formerly of Scotland and another former world champion..

Today's shearing workforce is probably the most cosmopolitan labour force in the world which is the only reason that woolgrowers internationally are still able to access a skilled labour force. (Robin Kidd)



Brian Waters of Ngawai Farm – the Waters family has been supplying shed and sheep for 50 years of shearer training. Main photo above – participants in the 2013 Tectra Pre-Shears course at Ngawai.

Heiniger

MESSAGE FROM HEINIGER NZ

To whom it may concern

It has been brought to our attention that there are business cards in the marketplace from RJ Wilson, Shearing Services 2010 Ltd showing TPW and Heiniger logos. This gives the impression he is an accredited service agent for Heiniger woolpresses/equipment. Heiniger NZ wish to point out that RJ Wilson is not, and never has been, an accredited service agent for our equipment.

If you require servicing of TPW's or other Heiniger equipment please contact our Head Office (Tel 03 349 8282) and our staff will advise who is accredited to provide expert Heiniger service in your area.

Regards, Heiniger NZ



Raglan's Western Shears on 5 January 2013 had a definite family affair look about it, with shearing fathers and sons in abundance. Top left, Jimmy Edmonds in the pen watches young Turi go through his paces in the junior heats.

Top right: senior shearer Jack Fagan has a familiar countenance partly visible over his shoulder: Bottom right: Dig Balme follows the progress of son Josh, while centre left, Dino Smith holds the next sheep ready for Ramone in the junior event. (Another son, Duran, also competed in the junior grade.) But it seems our photographer missed getting a photo of Paul (judge) and Mark Grainger

(shearer) together! Also present in good numbers that day was a contingent of overseas shearers, most of whom had given up a couple of days work with Hawke's Bay contractor Kerry Brannigan to make the trip. Among them was Irishman Jonno Lally, bottom left, with blue singlet, ciggy and glasses.

For the record Mark Grainger finished fourth in the open final, which also featured Fagan and Balme: Jack Fagan was second in the senior, while Ramone Smith, Duran Smith and Josh Balme finished third, fourth and fifth respectively in the junior final.

Heiniger

XPERT

Shearing Handpiece



Shearing like an Xpert is easy.

- ✓ Super powerful 240volt / 200watt permanent magnet motor
- ✓ Ideal for crutching, dagging/wigging and shearing small flocks of sheep, goats and camelids
- ✓ Low vibration
- ✓ Lightweight 1180 grams
- ✓ Durable fiberglass case with "soft feel" finish
- ✓ Ergonomic slim grip handle
- ✓ Cutting speed 2500dbs / minute
- ✓ Low noise emission at 79dB
- ✓ Fitted with Ovina Comb and Xtreme Cutter

HEINIGER NZ LTD

1B CHINOOK PLACE
HORNBY, CHRISTCHURCH

(PH) 03 3498282
www.heiniger.co.nz





Ace

Shearing Gear

for quality you can trust



Boost your tally!

Get results this season with

Ace cover combs & Ace storm cutters.

Proven to be superior,

dependable & value for money.

Phone now 0800844377

or order on line

www.aceshearing.co.nz

Available from your

Local Shearing Contractors or Agents

Distributed in New Zealand by

Pan-Friend New Zealand Limited

Callfree 0800 844 377

