

MEDIA RELEASE

From Doug Laing, media officer, Shearing Sports New Zealand
January 15, 2018

Caption

King Country shearer Kerri-Jo Te Huia watched closely by brother and fellow record holder in the early stages of her ewe shearing record east of Eketahuna today. PHOTO/Jills Angus Burney

Record breaker sets the standard for other female shearers

World record breaking King Country shearer Kerri-Jo Te Huia has “thrown down the gauntlet” to others in a growing of number top female shearers, her brother said after another tally was put into the record books today.

Fellow record holder Stacey Te Huia was at his sister’s side throughout the day in which she established a woman’s nine-hour strongwool ewes record of 452, despite the heat and mugginess of the Otapawa Station woolshed where the record took place in the Tiraumea district east of Eketahuna in northern Wairarapa.

Kerri-Jo also holds an eight-hour lambs record of 507 set in a King Country shed in January 2012 and became the first woman to hold two records simultaneously in 34 years.

Stacey Te Huia, who also holds two records, said it was up to other woman to challenge the record which had no previous claimant under the current rules of the World Sheep Shearing Records Society.

A tally of 522 was set by Maureen Hyatt near Mossburn in the South Island in 1982, but it’s been hidden in a closed register after the restructuring of records rules a year later.

Te Huia actually shored 457 today, but five were rejected by judges Arwyn Jones, of Wales, North Island officials Ian Buchanan and Bart Hadfield, and South Island judge Robert McLaren.

Their decisions highlighted the tough rules which have to be met in ensuring the quality of the shearing and protection of the sheep, which were estimated to weigh 65-70kg each and which were fleecing an

average of about 3.7kg each of wool.

Starting at 5am, and with no one else shearing on the 10-stand board, Te Huia was credited with 101 in the two hours to breakfast, and successive 1hr 45min run totals of 90, 87, 86 and 88 to the finish at 5pm. The judges had rejected one in each of the first three runs, and two in the run after lunch. None were rejected in the run to the end, although Te Huia had a quality warning in the last hour.

Former multiple record-holder John Fagan said it was a good effort, Te Huia seeming to enjoy the tough conditions, with temperatures of about 28deg and cloudy to overcast conditions outside throughout the day.

Former women's lambshearing record holder Jills Angus Burney said Te Huia was shearing as quick as 45 seconds on the good sheep, but stretching to about 90 seconds on the more "cotty" ewes in the mob. Shearing for the day averaged just under 70.9 seconds a sheep caught, shorn and dispatched.

It was the first of two record attempts expected this summer, with Southland shearer Leon Samuels set for a January 29 challenge to the men's eight-hour ewes record of 644 set by former World and current Golden Shears and New Zealand champion Rowland Smith in England last July.

Doug Laing
Media Officer
Shearing Sports New Zealand
Ph 0274-690644
media@shearingsports.co.nz

Website: www.shearingsports.co.nz

