

MEDIA RELEASE

From Doug Laing, media officer, Shearing Sports New Zealand,
September 23, 2018.

caption (A)

The Shearing Sports New Zealand team in Perth for today's transtasman test matches. From left machine shearers Rowland Smith and John Kirkpatrick, blade shearer Tony Dobbs, machine shearer Nathan Stratford, blade shearer Allen Gemmell, woolhandler Joel Henare, woolhandling judge Linda Tarrant, woolhandler Sheree Alabaster, and manager and shearing judge Peter McCabe. PHOTO/SUPPLIED

caption (B)

The New Zealand Merino Shears team of Nathan Stratford (centre) and Troy Pyper (right) after their win over West Australian team Luke Harding (left) and Damien Boyle. PHOTO/SUPPLIED).

Big day for the Kiwis shearing sports in Perth

New Zealand shearers and woolhandlers have got off to a good start at the Royal Perth Show with three big wins on Saturday on the eve of three transtasman tests.

A New Zealand Merino Championhips team of Southland shearers Nathan Stratford and Troy Pyper won the first leg of a home-and-away merino series by beating the West Australia team of Damien Boyle and Luke Harding by just 0.68pts, World champion Joel Henare, from Gisborne but now living in Motueka, won the Royal Perth Open woolhandling final, and Tony Dobbs, of Fairlie, and Allen Gemmell, of Rangiora, were first and second in the blade shearing final.

The merino match was a particular triumph for Stratford ahead of today's transtasman tests between New Zealand and Australia and the return match at the New Zealand Merino Championships which open the New Zealand season next Friday and Saturday.

Stratford finished the contest of 12 sheep each 1min 22sec after merino shearing guru Boyle but had by far the better quality points and led the way to the narrow and surprise win.

Boyle yesterday won his 22nd Open title at the Royal Perth Open title, in a final in which Pyper was fifth. Boyle will travel to Central Otago during the week to attempt to win the New Zealand Merino Championships Open title for an 8th time in nine years.

Henare, the 27-year-old 2012 and 2017 World champion, was in charge all day, heading the 24 competitors in the woolhandling heats and being top qualifier for the final in which the runner-up was Australia-based New Zealander Aroha Garvin, who won the World title in South Africa in 2000, and Henare's New Zealand teammate and 2008 World champion Sheree Alabaster, was third.

Stratford and Hawke's Bay shearers Rowland Smith and John Kirkpatrick today shear the transtasman shearing test, Henare and Alabaster contest a transtasman woolhandling test, and Dobbs and Gemmell the blade shearing test.

Results from the Royal Perth Show shearing and woolhandling championships on Saturday, September 22:

Shearing:

Transtasman Merino Shearing (12 sheep): NZ Merino Champs 111.72pts (Nathan Stratford 19min 31sec, 48.783pts; Troy Pyper 18min 38sec, 62.933pts) beat West Australia 112.4pts (Damien Boyle 18min 9sec, 53.967pts; Luke Harding 21min 13sec, 58.433pts) by 0.68pts.

Royal Perth Open final (10 sheep): Damien Boyle (Tambellup, West Australia) 18min 31sec, 74.85pts, 1; Callum O'Brien 17min 11sec, 77.15pts, 2; Nathan Meaney (Kapunda, South

Australia) 17min, 78.4pts, 3; Shannon Warnest (Willalooka, South Australia) 19min 39sec, 79.15pts, 4; Troy Pyper (Invercargill, NZ) 19min 33sec, 85.85pts, 5; Josh Bone (Nhill, Vic) 19min 2sec, 89pts, 6.

Royal Perth Blades final (3 sheep): Tony Dobbs (Fairlie, NZ) 12min 30sec, 71.633pts, 1; Allen Gemmell (Rangiora, NZ) 12min 3sec, 73.15pts, 2; Ken French (Glen Isla, Vic) 14min 25sec, 80.25pts, 3; Johnathon Dalla (Warooka, South Australia) 17min 43sec, 99.817pts, 4; Mal Griffiths (-) 19min 12sec, 100.933pts, 5; Andrew Murray (Wellington, NSW) 19min 56sec, 102.8pts, 6.

Woolhandling:

Royal Perth Open final: Joel Henare (NZ) 33.03pts, 1; Aroha Garvin (Aus) 49.8pts, 2; Sheree Alabaster (NZ) 51.8pts, 3; Kelly Moir (Aus)



