

Sheep shorn in 18 seconds

If you think shearing a sheep in 20 seconds is fast – David Fagan can do it in 18.

The Te Kuiti shearing icon took out the top place at the 14th annual Farmlands Te Puna Speed Shear on January 18 by successfully shearing a crutched and bellied lamb in the night-time event's best time of 18.7 seconds.

It became the 52-year-old's second victory of the weekend, following a win in the Tauranga A and P Show's Open Final earlier the same day.

The A&P victory is his 624th open-class win in 32 years in the shearing game. He blazed through 15 lambs

in 11 minutes and 31.2 seconds.

It was almost one minute quicker than defending champion and contemporary Digger Balme, who was second to finish, while Welsh champion Gareth Daniel came in third.

Co-organiser John Dalziel says David beat out a record number of competitors from New Zealand, and a few from the Welsh Shearing Team.

As far as speed shearing goes, John says David's time is "really good".

He says organisers are all rapt with how the event went and estimates hundreds of spectators came along.

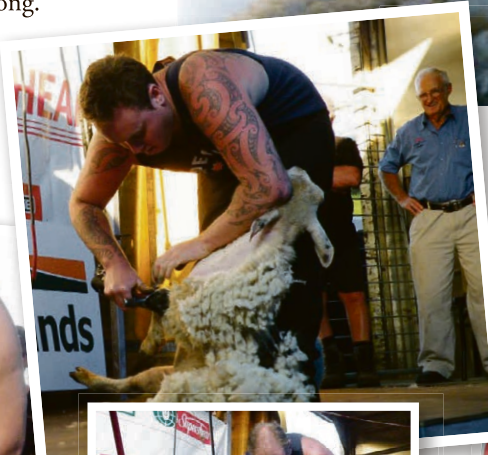
"They were coming and going all the time, but I reckon we peeked at about 300."

The action began from 5pm, with shear-

ers competing on an improvised stage – the deck of a curtain-side truck, outside the Top Shot Bar at Te Puna, where a marquee was set up for the audience.

About 70 to 80 sheep were on hand to be shorn in speed races against the clock and other competitors.

David, who received \$2000 for his win, flew to the United States the next day, to take part in a short stint of promotion work for Elder's Primary Wool's *Wool Shave & Wash* in Phoenix, Arizona. *By Corrie Taylor*



Check out www.facebook.com/tepunahuntfishclub

Open results:

1st David Fagan 18.84
2nd Digger Balme 19.78
3rd Gareth Daniel 22.32

4th Adam Brausch 22.82
5th Matene Mason 23.78
6th Richard Jones 24.26
7th Russell Brown 28.36
8th Paerata Abraham 20.54
9th Harvey Marshall 22.42

Senior results:

1st Mel Tuhakaraine 25.74
2nd Keanu Sutton 26.66
3rd Casey Bailey 26.86
4th Haua Tuhakaraine 27.80
5th David Gordon 31.98
6th Tui Pene 27.24
7th Craig Morton 27.38
8th Gary Soby 33.66

Vets

1st Andrew MacDonald 35.42
2nd Edwin Perry 39.96
3rd Jim McDonald 42.44

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