

MEDIA RELEASE

SHEARING HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

November 27 2016

Two new inductees have joined the Kangaroo Island Shearing Hall of Fame and were announced at the 12th annual induction ceremony recently.

They are Lester K Bald (1924 to 1992) and Trevor Patrick Johnson (TJ)– born in 1947.

Mr Bald was nominated by his nephew Michael, and the award was accepted by Lester's daughter Margie Starling along with his niece, Dianna Hoffmann.

Lester Bald was well known on KI, having lived with his parents at Pioneer Bend, before moving to Cygnet River. Lester cut brush from the Narrow Leaf Eucalyptus trees for oil distillation and learnt to blade shear from his brother Reg. He used blades to shear for his father's butcher shop and in 1947, he worked for Villis and Bishop on a station near Birchmore, and started machine shearing with the Christophers. In 1957, he was shearing with Frank Chapman, Brian Willson and Don Lee, and Lester used narrow gear throughout his career. He worked for many soldier/settlers on KI, and his peers said he was a first class shearer, and very clean. He always turned up early and was excellent company. Over the years he worked for Dave Morris, Jack Pengilly, Bill Kelly and Ron Willson.

Mr Johnson (TJ) was nominated by his daughter Cherie Kuchel.

TJ started crutching sheep at 15 years of age and he first sheared at Calana at 17. He earned eight pound, sixpence per 100 sheep, and in 1966, he did his first 200 sheep.

His best tally was at Melton Station out of Yunta, 270 in lambs with narrow combs and 240 ewes.

Trevor's best run was 70, and on Kangaroo Island his best run was 59.

Trevor has worked across Australia and has shorn at many shows including Royal Perth, and at the Parndana and Kingscote Shows too. He has worked for Larcombe's for the past 20 years, and for Bernie May, Aphid Heinrich, Paul Clifford, Trevor Willmott, Robbie Matthews and Ted Oldfield.



Caption: Guests of honour – from left: Trevor Johnson (TJ), Margie Starling (Lester’s daughter), Sean Gaskin (President, Kangaroo Island Shearing Hall of Fame), Dianne Hoffmann (Lester’s niece), and guest speaker Lance Deganheart, an Australian legend of the shearing industry.

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