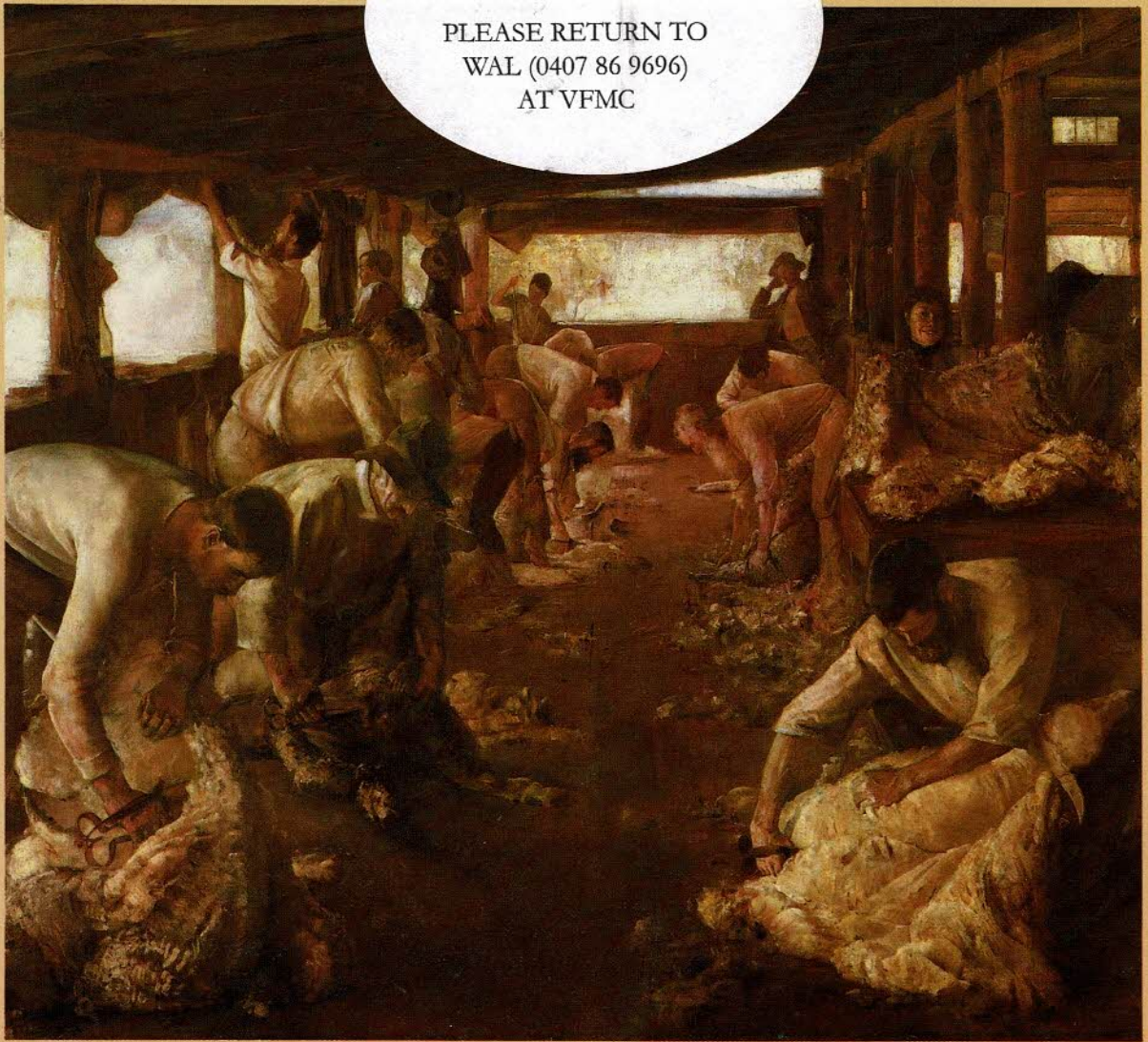


The Shearers

Patsy Adam-Smith



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FOR 150 years Australia rode on the sheep's back. . .

THE SHEARERS is the first history of that independent army of men who tramped the great shearing routes of the outback. Patsy Adam-Smith talked to shearers, musterers, teamsters, drovers, rouseabouts, classers, cooks, contractors and property owners about what life was like when wool was king.

Patsy visited sheds in every state, from Western Australia to Queensland, across that broad, dry heartland of Australian lore and legend. She tells of the strikes of the 1890s, when unionism came to the bushman as a religion and fostered that mateship long admired as the greatest of Australian traits.

Shearers talk of bike rides across the desert, of legendary shearers, unbelievable characters, the Depression and everyday life in the shed.

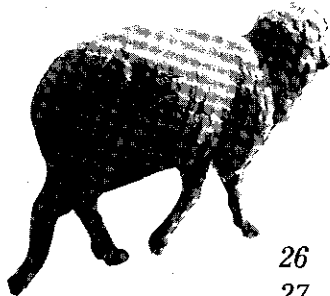
Australian and New Zealand shearers are the best in the world. Shearing is a fast-growing, competitive sport. But shearers no longer hump their blueys from shed to shed. Teams now drive, or fly to distant stations. **THE SHEARERS** records for all time the skills, pride, hardships and boyish pleasures of the Australian shearer and his essential place in our history.



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