

# Shearing Training Learning Resources Upgrade Project



## Project Backstory

AS part of the *Support the Growth and Safety of Victoria's Agriculture Industry Initiative* announced under the Victorian State Budget in May 2019, the Government through the Department of Education and Training (Victoria) provided funding investment to the shearing industry to support various activities to meet the industry's identified need for more skilled shearers in Victoria.

To support the Government's election commitment to increase the number of qualified shearers in Victoria and the growth of Victoria's wool industry, South West TAFE managed all aspects of the *Shearing Training Learning Upgrade Resources Project* relevant to the accredited shearing qualification units relating to: Course in Introductory Shearing, Certificate II in Shearing and Certificate III in Shearing, in close consultation with key shearing industry stakeholders.

South West TAFE in collaboration with Shearing Contractors Association Australia (SCAA), Rural Industry Skills Training (RIST) and Start Beyond, upgraded and converted paper learning resources and 2D video content into digitalised e-learning resources.

Start Beyond led the creative development of a VR and mobile app to enhance learner interactivity and provide an engaging educational resource for the shearing industry training providers in Victoria.

The training content is now housed in a specialist Shearing VR app. The Shearing app delivers course content through 180°/360° video content with a Q&A for each shearing and grinding training modules.

## What are the Project Products?

- 14 instructional 180/360° videos including 10 sheep shearing videos and four grinding videos.
- Three e-learning resource books specific to accredited shearing training: (i) Shearer Woolhandling Training, (ii) Managing Shed Safety and (iii) Shearer Health.
- Shearing Training VR compatible to Oculus Quest and Go Headsets housing 14 videos for shearing and grinding with key knowledge review feature and Q&A.
- Mobile app housing 14 videos to support accredited training in shearing and grinding with key knowledge review feature and Q&A.

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# Lead shearing industry representatives



## Shannon Warnest

**/ Order of Australia Medal recipient  
/ 2 times World Shearing Champion  
/ 12 times Australian National Shearing Champion**

Shannon Warnest has shorn sheep in 18 different countries and won over 250 open shearing titles worldwide. He is one of the few people to have won two world championships in sheep shearing and represented Australia five times making World Championship finals four times. He was awarded the OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) and a life sized statue of Shannon at the Adelaide Airport recognises this achievement.

Shannon delivers shearing courses within Victoria and has been working as a shearer trainer for more than 20 years.

*"The Shearing Training VR and Mobile app helps our current and future shearers to understand best positioning, sheep handling and grinding techniques to minimise physical load to their body and help make them a more efficient shearer."*



## Nathan Fidler

**/ Victorian State Shearing Champion  
/ National Australian Shearing Finalist**

Nathan Fidler has been shearing for 21 years and has held a Victorian Shearing Title and represented Victoria at the National Shearing Titles. He has worked as a shearer all over Australia and recognises the industry opens the door to travel across our states to meet shearing industry demands.

Nathan currently lives in Casterton, Victoria and works part-time as a Shearer Trainer for Shearing Contractors Association Australia (SCAA). He has worked as a shearer trainer for the past 7 years and continues to work as a shearer when not delivering shearer training courses.

*"It is important that our future shearers focus on quality not quantity for the best interest of livestock welfare and farmer's interest. Learning the right shearing and grinding techniques improves the longevity of shearer physical health and equipment. If you learn how to conduct yourself well within the industry you will have better opportunities starting your career and ensuring career success."*

**More about the project:**

**South West TAFE Shearing Learning Resources Upgrade Project**  
[www.swtafe.edu.au/about-us/projects/](http://www.swtafe.edu.au/about-us/projects/)

**More about industry partners:**

**Shearing Contractors Association of Australia:** [www.scaa.org.au](http://www.scaa.org.au)  
**Rural Industries Skill Training:** [www.rist.edu.au](http://www.rist.edu.au)

**More about Start Beyond:**

[www.startbeyond.co](http://www.startbeyond.co)

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