



Nomination of  
**Nick Liewing**

from

**New Zealand Fencing Competitions (NZFC)**

For the  
**2017**  
*Federated Farmers  
Contribution to  
New Zealand  
Rural Sports Industry  
Award*



## Nick Liefting

To the Norwood New Zealand Rural Sports Awards Judging Panel,

Thank you for the opportunity for us to put forward this nomination of Nick Liefting from **New Zealand Fencing Competitions- NZFC**, for the **Federated Farmers Contribution to New Zealand Rural Sport Industry Award**.

Ask anybody who has watched a fencing competition in recent years “ who is Nick Liefting?” and guarantee the answer will be “ that fast old guy over there!”

Nick’s endearing personality has been a big part of fencing competitions for the last 40 years and has given the sport great publicity.

He is well respected and around the world for his string of impressive titles including one World Fencing championship title, 2 Golden Pliers wins, 4 Silver Spades titles, 29 first off the line titles, 37 Golden Pliers finals, as well as multiple titles for the fastest times in the heats and finals at National Championship level.

Nick has had a valued involvement in NZFC from its early conception days, and has been a vital committee member with a depth of knowledge and skills to offer to the organization and fencing competitions in general. He has also single handedly taken on the role of curator of our Hall of Fame.

Following his retirement from competitive fencing in 2016, Nick’s passion for the sport saw him publish a book named “The Golden Pliers” , a history of New Zealand’s Premier farm fencing competition. With no previous experience in creating a book, Nick set out with a clear vision and proceeded to physically interview all of the past winners to obtain their story, compiled the material, employed a photographer, requested endorsements and sourced a publisher.

With the backing of prominent rural figures like Sir William Gallagher and Peter Nations, as well as other industry bodies, the book is not only a keepsake, but also a vivid insight into the lives, families and communities of every Golden Pliers winner there has ever been.

It is a much admired account of the last 45 years of fencing competitions in our country.



# Nick Liewting

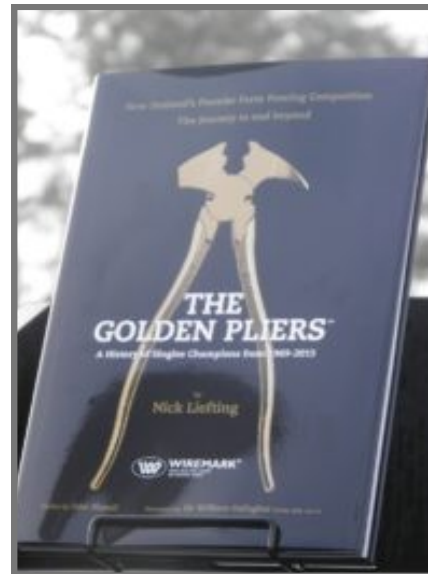
Founding member of NZFC

NZFC committee member  
& volunteer

Curator of NZFC Hall of Fame

Regular volunteer judge

Author of “The Golden Pliers”  
a showcase of New Zealand’s  
National Singles Fencing  
Championships



*Proudly nominated by* New Zealand Fencing Competitions (NZFC)  
*for the* Federated Farmers Contribution to the New Zealand Rural Sports Industry Award



## Extracts from Nick's book "THE GOLDEN PLIERS"

**"There 's no doubt that New Zealand leads the world in fencing and no question that the Golden Pliers competition is the best thing that has ever happened to the industry in this country".**

*Felix Davy, Golden Pliers finalist*

**"We were the first to use solid steel handles in our spades instead of timber".**

*John Fagan,  
Golden Pliers winner*

**"Three years prior i'd come second to Paul Van Beers.**

**I just couldn't crack him, but i knew i was close".**

*Shane Bouskill, Golden Pliers winner*

**" The WIREMARK Golden Pliers is the pinnacle of the fencing competition world.**

**The World's greatest fencers are pitted head to head in the ultimate test of speed and precision. We hope this book will inspire the next generation of Golden Pliers competitors".**

*Robin Davies, GM Pacific Steel NZ*

**Finals day would dawn after a wakeful night.**

**" If you did sleep you were dreaming about your fence".**

*Owen Peterson,  
Golden Pliers winner*

**"Great to see someone putting the history of the Golden Pliers into one book for all to enjoy. What a better person to do it than Nick, who has competed in more finals than anyone has or will do in the future".**

*Simon Fuller, President Fencing Contractors Association NZ*

**"Its always a buzz, meeting up with the guys, i have some nice memories.**

**They're all really down-to-earth people, not a snob amongst them".**

*Dennis Brightwell,  
Golden Pliers winner*



**"Gee i don't know what those fellas had for breakfast, must've been bloody rocket fuel because they scared the living daylight out of me".**

*Wayne Newdick, Golden Pliers winner*

**" that was the year Princess Anne visited New Zealand. She wanted to speak to my friend (competitor) Bill Dawson and he said to her, very politely of course, "I'm too busy Ma'am, there is too much at stake".**

*Bill Schuler,  
Golden Pliers winner*

**"It felt like i was doing a week's work in the four or five hours. So much to think about, so many tools to keep track of. It was tough on body and mind. My biggest problem was cramp, trying to pry my fingers off the hammer..."**

*Ernie Schicker,  
Golden Pliers winner*

**"You watch from the side lines and think you can do it. But the first time you have a go is daunting. It took many years before i could eat twelve hours before a competition".**

*Paul Van Beers, Golden Pliers winner*

**'I got a huge buzz out of that (win). You know you've left your pound of flesh and blood out there. No one has given it to you. You earn that win and the respect of your peers. Hearing my Dad say he was proud of me is a treasured memory".**

*Trevor Woolston,  
Golden Pliers winner*

**"This book is a great resource for showcasing the raw energy, skill and commitment these industry athletes put forward. It is a thrilling history- congratulations to Nick for capturing it so well".**

*Peter Nations, CEO NZ National Fieldays Society Inc*