



NEWS UPDATE

MARCH 2008



Waipaoa's new cadet intake includes from left Gordon Mead, Russell Haste, Matthew Maclaurin, Todd Harris, Alex Reekers.

This year's training programme

On February 1, 2008 the theory programme started with the seniors on pasture management and the juniors on legislation and safety with ATV's.

We have an academic planner which has been synchronized with Waipaoa's annual farm programme. Every Wednesday afternoon is put aside for assignment time with lectures fortnightly. Throughout the year various industry experts will visit and deliver some topics backed up by field trips and seminar visits.

On completion of the two-year programme the cadets will have achieved:

- Levels two and three of the National Certificate in Agriculture
- Level three in fencing
- A certificate in rural safety.

Our new cadets

The new cadet intake have been rostered on with staff on a daily basis working on specific skills training in conventional fencing, tractor work, water system maintenance, and slaughtering. More specifically the training has focused on ATV safety and operation, tractor safety and operation, tying fence wire and slaughtering.

They have also been helping out in the woolshed with dagging which will be followed up by a shearing course in March.

The concept of teaching the cadets to rear and break in their own heading dog pup has worked well so the junior cadets will each, in March, get a pup which will be their responsibility for the duration of the course.

Throughout this year the juniors will consolidate their general skills by work experience as well as skills training sessions, full involvement in animal health operations and theory work.

The old hands!!

The senior cadets have come back to Waipaoa with a broken in huntaway and have been working with Rob Telfer on horseback, mustering and weaning lambs and shifting stock as required.

These guys have had many early starts and long days in the yards and woolshed – just like farm life - while at the same time teaching the juniors the ropes.

Relations between the two groups have been excellent which is good to see.

The year will see the seniors playing a full role in Waipaoa's farm programme as well as keeping their hand in on general work during off periods. Most weekends see one or more of the seniors following up on the offer of work and recently three attended the local Whatatutu dog trials.

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Shearing a success

The cadets have just completed a Tectra run shearing course held at Waipaoa's Moonlight woolshed with the wool coming off 600 second shear 2ths. Eight cadets worked on their level two qualifications with the focus on shearing techniques and health and safety, and two cadets worked toward their level one introductory qualification which saw them learn the fundamentals of crutching, shearing, setting up and operating a handpiece. The standard of shearing was excellent with all involved leaving the course able to shear competently and looking forward to generating a little pocket money in the weekends.

The new year off to a flying start

It is great to have a full compliment of cadets on site – this will be the true test for the training model. Credit must be given to Rob and Jenny Telfer, the staff and community people, and my wife and family for helping the cadets to feel at home.

On the work front staff and cadets alike have had to contend with new work systems and operating within the parameters of training protocols, which is a big ask but they have coped well.

Objectives for 2008 revolve around consolidation of the systems trialled in 2007 and more public networking so New Zealand can see the valuable work we are doing.

This year the cadets will be involved with Waipaoa's horse sports and dog trials, annual school fund raisers like the 4WD and motor cross rallies. Many of the cadets will also be active in entering A and P Show events like the shearing, dog trials, and of course the shepherd's challenge.

IN BRIEF

Mentoring roles

Each junior is teamed up with a senior cadet for the year in a mentoring roll and rostered on weekly to carry out hostel duties including cleaning the hostel, repairs and maintenance in outlying areas, milking the cow (by hand), feeding the pig, tending to horses, and attending cooking training in the afternoons with cook Leigh McIlroy.

Industry experts...

During February the cadets had visits from industry experts speaking and providing practical tuition in primary wool production, ram selection and genetics and reproduction, anatomy and diseases in sheep. We are also looking forward to visits later in the year which will give cadets a grounding in genetics and husbandry in cattle, computing and using banking services, soil identification and fertilizer use.

Waipaoa horse sports

There was a strong cadet representation when the horses hit the field at the Waipaoa horse sports last weekend and although gravity took its toll on more than one occasion, Rupert and Aaron were on the prize list at the end of the day. The junior cadets did themselves proud helping organizers for the day and more than earned their right to ride in next year's event.



CADET PROFILES



Gordon Mead

I am 18-years old and I live up the Waimata Valley Road. I attended Gisborne Boys High before deciding to further my tertiary and practical farming skills at Waipaoa. My interests are farming, art, drama, dog trialing, hunting, rugby and clay bird shooting. Short and long term goals include graduating from Waipaoa and going shepherding, working my way up to a stock manager's position, then a managerial role and, in time, farm ownership.



Alex Reekers

My family owns a 546 ha dry stock farm in the Central Waikato wintering 6500 stock units. I attended Piopio College and achieved NCEA levels one and two. Waipaoa will enable me to gain the necessary skills and qualifications to complete my Diploma in Agriculture after my course. I aim to work my way to a managerial position on a dry stock farm and, in time, farm ownership. Interests: hunting, eeling, hockey, and horse riding.

BOARD MEMBER

Profile on George Williams

I was born and bred on the East Coast and grew up in a number of areas in the district. My family and friends have all been involved in the farming industry.

I have worked within the stock and station agency since 1987 with many of those years spent working within the wool industry on the East Coast and five years in Otago. I have worked in various roles within the industry up to East Coast Wool Manager.

I am currently the local District Manager of Williams & Kettle, PGG Wrightson Ltd and am actively involved within the local farming community. I have a keen interest in seeing young people develop and achieve their goals.

I spent my rugby years playing for Ngatapa Rugby Club and I am a keen sports fisherman and hunter.

I also own the local Hunting and Fishing outlet.

I am involved with Waipaoa as a board member and my interest is to see that we have a great place for students to develop and start their journey in Agriculture.



Business plan

At Last! The trustees have been focused on getting Waipaoa "up and running". We have now signed off our business plan and financials. Copies of this document are available from our secretary by request. viti@grahamdobson.co.nz

Work experience

Our senior cadets are programmed to gain work experience on other properties in the Eastland area for periods of at least a week or more each over the next months. On top of this we plan courses like feed budgeting, Concepts Cash Manager and visits to local wool and meat processing operations and the saleyards to further cadets exposure to farming beyond the farm gate. Computer Concepts and Farmax have both donated us multiple working copies for the cadets to use.

Contact details

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