



# NEWS UPDATE

DECEMBER 2008

**Waipaoa on Country Calendar in the New Year!**

## Senior field trip

Taihape's Otupae Station was the first stop on the recent senior field trip chaperoned by Rob and Dave. The seniors spent time on this large scale breeding unit looking at the effects of the drought on this high altitude property.

The next stop was Yohan Bremner's intensive fattening operation at Halcombe. This gave the cadets a look at a well developed fattening operation and an insight on how Yohan has achieved the position he is in today.

It was a very worthwhile experience for all involved, and we would like to thank Gary Mead and Yohan Bremner for allowing the seniors to observe the various operations.



Cadet group shot with tutor, Laurence Burkin.

## End of a journey

The Moonlight woolshed played host to more than 150 people for the first Waipaoa Station Farm Cadet Training Trust graduation on December 13, 2008.

Chairman, Peter McCarthy, opened proceedings with a welcoming speech, followed by special guest and inspirational sportsman, Mountain Warrior Shane Cameron. Rob Telfer and Laurence Burkin detailed their experiences with the cadets over the past year and acknowledged the continued support from their families and sponsors. BNZ representative, Campbell Chambers and parent representative, Lindsay Philips congratulated the cadets and their hard work, and acknowledged the trust and its nationally recognised training model in their respective closing speeches.

Each day brought new challenges, and with steely determination and great teamwork, the "Waipaoa training model" has evolved to ensure our cadets are not only provided with the best possible learning opportunities, but valuable life experience as well.

A big thank you to these five young men for their input and they can take pride in knowing that they have added a great chapter to Waipaoa's long standing history. Next year will see them embark on the next chapter of their lives:

Rupert Barton is our only university bound cadet, off to Lincoln to study for a Diploma in Agriculture (Dip. Ag).

Sam Philips is heading to Okare Station, forty minutes inland from Wairoa.

Ryan Sayer will be a bit closer to us, taking up a position at St. Ledger, Tiniroto. He is also studying extramurally through Massey University for a Dip. Ag.

Andy McLachlan is off to Otupae, Taihape, where in September, he got a taste of things to come during our senior field trip.

Aaron Bell is still considering options.

I would like to send a special thank you to the many industry representatives who have given their time and resources in support of the development of Waipaoa's theory programme. All of our cadets have passed their National Certificate Qualifications for 2008 and all academic development goals have been met. The Waipaoa training programme is now nationally recognised and able to deliver a level two, three, and four curriculum.

We look to 2009 with anticipation and wish our new senior cadets all the best as they take on the responsibility of mentoring five new cadets. This is a big challenge, but one that will reap great reward and we wish them all the best.



Mike Beedie delivering a lecture on soil finds to junior and senior cadets.

## Country calendar

A film crew from New Zealand's longest running television show - Country Calendar, spent a week living with the cadets, filming the different aspects of the Waipaoa training model, showcasing life on the Station. The feature is due to screen early in the New Year, so keep your screens tuned to TV One on Saturdays in January.

## In the classroom

The completion of the last two assignments saw the end of a very busy academic year. The senior cadets finished off the year studying feed budgeting and soil science, while the juniors completed assignments on calving and calf rearing. All cadets have had a very heavy workload this year, but have consistently produced work on time and of a high standard. Well done.

# Busy end to the working year

It has been a very busy time on the farm for our cadets. They have been busy docking, fencing, controlling thistles, calving heifers behind a wire, calf rearing and shearing.

The time spent in the woolshed, has been extremely valuable not only for the cadets, but also for the backs of some of the more experienced shearing campaigners. It was a great opportunity for all the cadets to get together and have "all hands on deck for the last time. They crutched and shored all the hoggets, honing their shearing skills and testing their fitness. There was a real sense of achievement buzzing around the shed as the last mob were making their way down the shoot. The clean-cut sheep were testament to the sessions with Tectra shearing instructors and Heiniger's sharpening and maintenance guru, Paul Kelly.

During the second part of the working year, the staff at Waipaoa have given more responsibility to the cadets in order to help develop those skills needed at managerial level.

The cadets on their own merits have carried out the work mentioned above with minimal supervision. This practical application of theory work is proving to be a successful formula.

Although this has been a very busy time on the farm, the cadets have still found the time to chomp down a few tails.



Jenny Telfer and Sam Philips getting into their work during docking.

## 2008 Gisborne A and P show

A number of our cadets have been active in establishing the Gisborne Young Farmers Club. It is proving to be a very popular initiative for the district and it has our full support, good on ya guys. The popularity was evident at the 2008 Gisborne A and P Show.

The Waipaoa cadets entered two teams in the "Agri Challenge" competition. Events included:

- cooking pikelets
- stacking bags of fertiliser
- fencing
- pasture analysis
- wool classing
- modelling
- ram selection and genetics

Congratulations to the mixed team of Rupert, Sam and Alex who won the event and took home a winners prize package worth \$1000 – a GPS, tool kits, binoculars, various vouchers and a wok.

The other team included Matt and Russell and performed well, especially in the modelling section. Let's just say that Russell showed why he feels a little out of place in winter clothing.

Eight local station teams took part in the Shepherds Challenge – events included:

- horse racing
- polo
- whip cracking
- bull riding

Our cadets entered a team that consisted of Aaron, Andy and Rupert who took out the bull riding section. Unfortunately, a last minute hiccup in re-saddling their horse saw them fall short of the overall title.

Aaron and Andy also took part in the junior shearing and joined two other seniors in the Tux dog trials. Both cadets and their heading dogs gave a fantastic performance on the "tough" Tux dog trial course.

Congratulations to Ryan and 'Pat' who came second in the novice section.

Prior to this event, the seniors competed in a show ring event held at the Jolly Stockman. Sam and 'Jill' finished first and Aaron and 'Sid' came third in the novice section.



Alex Reeker, Sam Philips and Rupert Barton during the genetics section of their competition.

# Prizegiving

## Practical Award

Junior: Commitment to good work ethics and a high level of accomplishment in all general farm work.

Recipient: Russell Haste (Sponsor: John Larsen)  
Senior: Applying an all-round commitment to good stockmanship.

Recipient: Sam Philips (Sponsor: East's Outdoor and Leisure)

## Academic Award

The cadet who has set the best possible example in assignments and research, keeping a farm diary and extending personal learning boundaries.

Junior: Gordon Mead (Sponsor: PGG Wrightson)  
Senior: Rupert Barton (Sponsor: PGG Wrightson)

## Wool and Shearing Award

The cadet that has consistently set a high standard in all woolshed operations.

Recipient: Ryan Sayer (Sponsor: Elders Wool)

## Top Dog

All-round dedication to the care and training of working dogs.

Junior: Alex Reekers (Sponsor: Tux)  
Senior: Sam Philips (Sponsor: Tux)

## Hostel Award

For demonstrating good management practice and commitment to hostel duties.

Junior: Alex Reekers (Sponsor: John Radburn)  
Senior: Sam Philips (Sponsor: John Radburn)

## Most Improved Award

The cadet voted by staff as having the biggest transition in stature and character with a genuine commitment to self improvement.

Recipient: Andy McLachlan (Sponsor: Mark Quinney)

## Top Cadet Award

The cadet who has displayed general all round excellence and commitment to learning.

Junior: Todd Harris (Sponsor: Heiniger NZ)  
Senior: Rupert Barton (Sponsor: A very nice young lady)

## Group Awards

A token of thanks to all cadets.

To all juniors: A stainless whistle and pocket knife (Sponsor: A friendly young man)

To all seniors: a trust tie (Sponsor: Waipaoa Station Farm Cadet Trust)

All received vouchers from Farmlands.

*Cadets were presented with a confirmation letter for course completion of the theory component.*

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## Contact details

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