

Taratahi partners in Taranaki



Gavin Faull, Donovan Wearing and Richard Handley with the Honourable David Carter, Minister of Agriculture, at the Tikorangi Supershed.

Agricultural training in Taranaki undertook a huge change on Tuesday 31 August when WITT (Western Institute of Technology in Taranaki) partnered with Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre for the delivery of agricultural courses and qualifications in the Taranaki region from 2011.

The launch took place at the Tikorangi Supershed, a state of the art dairy farm owned by Faull Farms, and was hosted by Gavin and Carol Faull. The famous dairy farm will be the location for Taratahi's second Taranaki campus next year.

The Hon David Carter, Minister of Agriculture was in Taranaki for the official signing ceremony.

In his address the Minister said, "It is crucial we develop young people with the right skills, the right experience, and most importantly the right attitude to make the most of this fantastic opportunity. The opportunities for school leavers in the agricultural industry have never been greater."

This partnership aims to increase the attraction, training and retention of skilled farm workers for the region.



Taranaki students chainsaw training.

Key Dates

Check our website for more information about these and other events

Fencing Competition at Masterton	25 November
Edmund Sanderson Jeff Scholarship Interviews	1 December
Pre-Graduation Dinner with students	9 December
Wairarapa Graduation – 1.30pm	10 December
Taster Week at Masterton	13-16 December
Hawke's Bay Graduation	14 December
Rodney Graduation – 1.30pm	15 December
Wairarapa 1st and 2nd year students arrive on campus	23-24 January
Wellington Anniversary Day	24 January
Wairarapa 1st and 2nd year students start	25 January
Taranaki Graduation	27 January
Taranaki 1st year students start	31 January
Hawke's Bay 2011 students start	31 January

Focus on Farms

The next few editions of the Taratahi Times will each highlight one of the properties Taratahi either owns, manages or leases. This edition showcases Backvale in central Taranaki.

Taratahi has secured the management of Backvale, a 600 hectare drystock farm situated approximately 25 minutes East of Stratford at Tututawa. The farm comprises of two blocks situated approx 2km apart at the end of a gravel road. The topography is varied ranging from highly fertile flats to easy rolling and steep hills. The farm is used to graze replacement heifers, dry cows over winter, finish heifers and steers as well as running approximately 1700 ewes. Lambs are finished and traded as required. The farm is extensively developed with Pine plantations, and fencing of gullies.



The finer points of fencing, Taranaki campus.

The agricultural sector will reap the benefits of the new Primary Industries Trades Academy (PITA) who are accepting applications now for 2011.

After a year of establishment activity, Education Minister Anne Tolley confirmed Taratahi's selection as the Primary Industries Trades Academy specialising in pastoral agriculture in its first year of operation.

The Primary Industries Trades Academy will be offering year 11-13 students individualised programmes designed to provide careers guidance, mentoring and a smooth transition from secondary school to tertiary institutions or the workforce. 100 places have been made available for students with a passion for a career in agriculture.

"It is a real compliment for Taratahi that the government has recognised our unique educational delivery by appointing us to the status of Primary Industries Trades Academy" said Donovan Wearing, Chief Executive of Taratahi.

A change in legislation will allow students to be enrolled at school and with PITA. PITA students will spend one day of their school

week with the programme. Students will be able to complete a National Certificate that can be credited to their NCEA qualifications as well as gain a valuable understanding of the primary sector. Approximately half their time with PITA will involve work experience on a local farm, or with a related agricultural business. "The Primary Industries Trades Academy is a great opportunity not only for the individuals undertaking this programme, but also for the agricultural sector, as the demand for well trained, qualified employees has never been greater.

PITA will give secondary students access to a structured programme that will familiarise them with the agricultural industry, as well as assist them to develop a training plan that meets their future goals.

In addition to PITA, Taratahi will also continue to facilitate and provide resources to enable schools to offer agriculture as part of their STAR programme.



Ewe News



Following on from a good late summer/autumn period where general stock condition was excellent, we have experienced a difficult winter and early spring period. The ewes scanned exceptionally well with Glenside scanning 192% and Mangarata 200% over the MA and 2th ewes.

Docking was kick started with the two groups of Taratahi Tasters participating in the September holidays, and has been carried on by our full time students heading into the fourth term. Survival rates are looking respectable at this stage, which is pleasing following on from a tough few months.

A lot of rain and few sunlight hours have hindered feed growth keeping grass covers low as we head towards the drier months. We are currently in the stages of spraying paddocks for the summer crop programme.



Taranaki Student Adds A String To His Bow

Eltham resident Craig Macken who has recently completed his National Certificate in Farming Skills (Work Ready) Level 3 course at our Stratford campus has been successful in his passion for bowhunting, winning the title of New Zealand Junior Bowhunter of the Year.

The 17 year old has been bowhunting since he was 11 with his first successful kill being a goat. Craig has always loved the outdoors and been passionate about hunting and with the guidance of his stepfather, Craig has obviously mastered the skill of bowhunting.

Craig is one of the only bowhunters of his age in the Taranaki area and when he's not working at his current dairy farm job in Eltham, he tries to get out as much as possible within the Taranaki and Whanganui regions hunting. While Craig likes target shooting, he prefers hunting in the hills shooting a range of game from rabbits to deer.

"The sport of bowhunting isn't cheap, with a good bow costing up to \$2,000 and hunting arrows costing around \$10 each" says Craig. Craig is currently seeking sponsorship so he can go further with his passion for bowhunting.

Craig is considering going onto study his Level 4 National Certificate in Agriculture course, with his ultimate goals being to one day own his own sheep and beef property, as well as shoot in the New Zealand team and become the overall New Zealand Bowhunting Champion.



Dairy Diary

- The Masterton campus Dairy Unit is in full swing of its first year seasonal supply with all cows calved pre-mating. Heifers were put to the bull 10 days earlier than usual which made the start date for mating 15 October. The shed extension and new yard look great with the additional cups to arrive in winter next year. We are currently milking 572 cows in the vat producing 1.92kgMS/cow/day.
- The addition of the neighbouring 180ha run-off block is adding a new dimension to the farm management; having 100% of young stock under our direct control.
- Riverslea is going well, despite a slow calving, currently milking 530 cows in the vat producing 1.66kg/MS/cow/day. The 50 bail rotary, feed pad and mixer wagon allow a more diverse learning base for the students.



Hawke's Bay Campus Update

Just like the rest of Taratahi, our Hawke's Bay campus continues to grow.



The campus situated at (Eastern Institute of Technology) EIT in Taradale will continue providing the National Certificate in Farming Skills (Work Ready) Level 3 course next year, as well as bringing in the National Certificate in Agriculture Level 4 and the General Farm Skills Certificate.

We have had a great response from local farmers in the Hawke's Bay who have been willing to take on students from our 2010 January intake for work experience which is part of the 34 week course. It is so pleasing to see that these farmers are keen to take the time to support the next generation of New Zealand farmers and it is also humbling to see the individual students growing in confidence under the guidance of these knowledgeable farmers.

In our first year of operation in the Hawke's Bay it is pleasing to see that our initial year has been a success and we are looking forward to cheering on our January 2010 intake students at the EIT graduation to be held on Tuesday 14th December. They have all come such a long way, with the majority of these students having little or no agricultural experience prior to starting the Taratahi course.

If you would like more information on any of our courses in the Hawke's Bay, or if you are willing to take one of our students on for work experience or placement, please contact Taratahi today!



Rodney Campus Update

The full-time National Certificate in Fencing Level 3 will be offered again in 2011. This certificate is targeted at local youth aged 16-25 years within the Rodney District and runs for 37 weeks.

Students will learn a wide range of skills from fencing, building structures, tractors, ATVs, chainsaws and a variety of farm tasks. This course will cater for up to 20 students and there is no requirement for prior experience in fencing or the rural sector but students need to be keen on the outdoors and enjoy physical work.

This is a free, full-time course. Enrol now for our 2011 intake as places are limited.



The Taratahi year so far....

National dog trialist, Lloyd Smith, giving the students some tips



A second-year house being moved on to site



Students on the Tower Bridge in London, on their UK exchange



Smedley v Taratahi rugby match



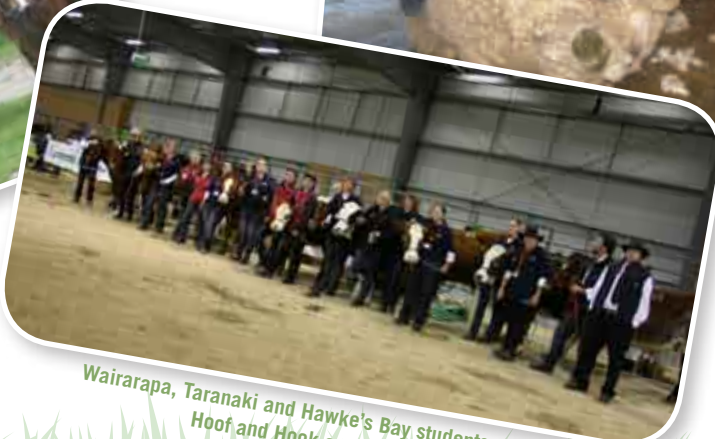
Hawke's Bay students learning to crutch



Hawke's Bay students team building



Wairarapa, Taranaki and Hawke's Bay students at the Hoof and Hook competition



Contact Us

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