

Taratahi Celebrates Student Achievement

What a magnificent year for Taratahi and our graduates! Student achievement, passion and dedication were celebrated at four campuses around New Zealand this December. First and second year students were joined by supporters, farmers, Taratahi staff and industry representatives at graduation ceremonies in Wairarapa, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay and Rodney.

Alongside certificates acknowledging the individual achievements of those studying in Agriculture, Farming Skills and General Farm Skills students were awarded a host of cups, prizes and scholarships.

In Wairarapa the graduation ceremony took place at the Masterton Town Hall, where families and supporters applauded the 2011 cohort and enjoyed presentations and an address by national agri-business achiever, Mavis Mullins, Director of Paewai Mullins Shearing Ltd. Ashley des Landes won the Taratahi Cup for Best Overall Wairarapa Student and also took the National Bank Cup for Top Dairy Student, Federated Farmers and (Wairarapa) Management Prize and the Wrightson Cup for Best Wire Work.

In Taranaki, DairyNZ and AgITO board representative Barbara Kuriger gave an inspirational address to students and families at the Tikorangi Supershed. Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki's Chief Executive, Richard Handley was on hand to present the student awards. Michael Stratton received the Top Student award along with the Taranaki Tutor Trophy.

His willingness to go the extra mile was apparent in all aspects of his work on farm and in the classroom.

In Hawke's Bay the National Certificate's in Farming Skills Level 3 and National Certificate in Agriculture Level 4 were awarded at the Eastern Institute of Applied Science graduation ceremony on campus at Taradale. Meg Horrocks who completed her Level 3 qualification was awarded Top Agricultural Student of 2011.

Meg completed her work placement at Wagyu Breeders at Te Hauke, an internationally recognised stud. She proved to be an incredible ambassador for the Taratahi training programme, which is delivered in partnership with Eastern Institute of Technology in the region. Meg will work towards completing her 'Level 4' qualification in 2012.

The Taratahi Rodney graduation at the campus woolshed was a real community celebration. Dr the Right Honourable Lockwood Smith was delighted to share the day and award students their General Farm Skills and National Certificate's in Fencing. Rodney Taratahi Cup for the Top Student went to Marley Manase who had shown an outstanding level of commitment throughout the year.

Well done Class of 2011! Taratahi wishes you all the best with your future endeavours.



Ashley des Landes
Taratahi Cup for Best Overall
Wairarapa Student



Marley Manase
Rodney Taratahi Cup for the
Best Student



Michael Stratton
Taratahi Taranaki Top Student



Meg Horrocks
Hawke's Bay Top Student

First Primary Industry Trades Academy Graduates

This year sees the very first students graduate from Taratahi's Primary Industry Trades Academy (PITA). More than fifty secondary school students from around the lower North Island enrolled with PITA this year and ten graduated much earlier than expected, receiving their National Certificate in Agriculture (Introductory Skills) alongside full-time Taratahi students at the Masterton Town Hall graduation ceremony in early December.

"I am thrilled to see our first PITA students graduate— they are passionate about agriculture and have completed the first level of the National Certificate in Agriculture much earlier than anticipated. It's been a very successful inaugural year for PITA," says Becky Grooby, Taratahi's Agriculture in Schools Manager.

"Students have been excited to learn real-life skills in a real farming environment and teachers have seen a positive impact on students' motivation to learn across all subject areas.

PITA's structured programme sees students spend one day each week of term on a supervised farm work-experience placement or learning farming skills within a small group of students led by an agricultural tutor. They also attend residential training at Taratahi's Wairarapa Campus. PITA has offered agricultural training to secondary school students in Wairarapa, Whanganui, Wellington, Hutt City, Palmerston North, Horowhenua and via the Te Kura Correspondence School in 2011 and will welcome students from the Taranaki and Dannevirke regions for 2012.



Bayden Dehar (PITA Top Practical Student, Wanganui City College, Wanganui), **Bemish Tataurangi**, **Geoffrey Simcox**, **Kelly Poehls** (PITA Top Theory Student, Onslow College, Johnsonville, Wellington), **Floyd Staples**, **Nicole Wright**, **Kire-J Renata**.

Key Dates

Check our website for more information about these and other events

Taranaki mid-termers return .. .	January 9
Wairarapa 2nd Years return .. .	January 11
Taranaki 2nd Years return .. .	January 16
Taranaki and Northland 1st Years begin.. .	January 23
Wairarapa 1st Years begin.. .	January 24
Hawke's Bay 1st Years begin .. .	January 30
Generate courses start across NZ. . . .	January/February
Hawke's Bay 2nd Years begin.. .	February 3
Rodney Fencing Students begin .. .	February 7
PITA launch evenings around NZ. . . .	February 7-14
Generate, Masterton course begins .. .	February 10
Lincoln Students Semester 1 begins.. .	February 27
Golden Shears World Championships .. .	Feb 29 – March 3
Northland Field Days .. .	March 1-4
Central District Field Days .. .	March 15-17
Agricultural Taster 1, Wairarapa Campus .. .	April 16-19
Taratahi Wairarapa Open Day .. .	July 4
Primary Schools Day Out .. .	September 26

Dairy Diary

Home Farm – Production through the spring has been very good this year, averaging at 2kgMS/cow/day for about 8 weeks from late August. Heifers were milked once a day (OAD) for 8 weeks to support both mating and condition. They responded well and have just returned to twice a day milking. Monthly monitoring will see light cows return to OAD.

Our new milking plant is working well and has reduced the milking time significantly, making things more enjoyable for both staff and students.

Riverslea - We are milking 640 cows at the moment. Cow condition is good at CS4.1 average, there should be some gain in condition over the summer. Mating has presented challenges, with a reasonable amount of

intervention but the non-return rate looks encouraging. Grass silage has been made and there will be some second cut silage to come as well, along with hay. Maize has been planted. Pasture cover is lower than anticipated at this point.

The first year milking at Backvale Dairy in Taranaki has got off to a good start with production currently ahead of the previous year - with fewer cows being milked, 257 down from 300. It is expected that numbers will settle at about 280 next season.

It has been a busy year on the dairy farms. Well done class of 2011! All staff are looking forward to a break over Christmas and are welcoming the January 2012 intake.

Northland Partnership Ready to Roll

Taratahi and NorthTec officially launched their new agricultural training partnership at the end of November and have already accepted their first full-time student to begin working towards both the Level 3 'National Certificate in Farming Skills (Work Ready)' and 'General Farm Skills Certificate' courses in January 2012.

"Our partnership with NorthTec will bring Taratahi's well-established agricultural training programmes to students in the Northland region. Our educational delivery model is built on ensuring students gain real experience on real farms under the tutelage of experienced staff," Mr Wearing said.

"Accepting our first enrolment is very exciting, we are busy assessing applications from students across Northland, who want a career in agriculture. We have had a really positive response from regional farmers and the agricultural industry – skilled graduates with the right aptitude and attitude are vital to the maintenance and growth of agriculture in the region," says Ceres Sharp, Taratahi Regional Manager.

The full-time programme, delivered around Whangarei for 2012, allows students to focus on sheep, cattle or dairy farming. Students will gain the all-round skills needed to be ready for their first job once they graduate. The General Farm Skills Certificate will provide those without any previous farm experience, or those seeking formal qualifications, an extensive range of options, including: health and safety, agri-chemicals, quad bike use, fencing, feed budgeting, relief milking, calf rearing, animal health, soils and fertilisers, tractors and chainsaw use.

The courses will be held on a number of different farms and venues throughout Northland.



Work Experience an Eye-opener

Having a student join the team 'is the best thing I have ever done' says John Linton of Tuatane Station, Herbertville. And for Elly Price, winner of the 2011 Landcorp Farming Top Level 4 Beef and Sheep Student (Wairarapa) award, the second year work placement has definitely given her the opportunity to put training into practice.

John and Sharon Linton's 10,000 acre sheep and beef operation runs 30,000 stock units, a team of six usually manage the workload. "Elly is off a farm and with the training and knowledge from Taratahi she was basically able to get straight in. The size of the place was an eye-opener, I was very impressed with how she managed."

One of the most important aspects of hosting a work experience student is encouraging them to continue their training, believes John. It's important to encourage the student to keep up their bookwork and put them alongside someone with experience."

Elly has soaked up the opportunity to learn. "I had all the right skills – but here I get a lot more practice at everything. Being on a placement means there's not a huge pressure on you, everyone knows you're still learning. One of the most interesting things has been learning the etiquette – I get treated like a little sister which is nice!"

Elly has accepted a permanent job with the Lintons and will be studying an Agricultural degree at Massey extra-murally. John is keen to take on another student in 2012.



New On-Farm Technology Operational at Mangarata

Taratahi's Mangarata Farm, Wairarapa, is one of only six farms in New Zealand to be selected to join the industry-led FARM^{IQ} programme launched a year ago. Late November saw local agri-business professionals, farm consultants and farmers convene on-farm to understand how the FARM^{IQ} technology will be introduced at Mangarata. These agri-specialists have joined a steering committee that will consider initiatives to drive production increases within Mangarata's farming system and the region.

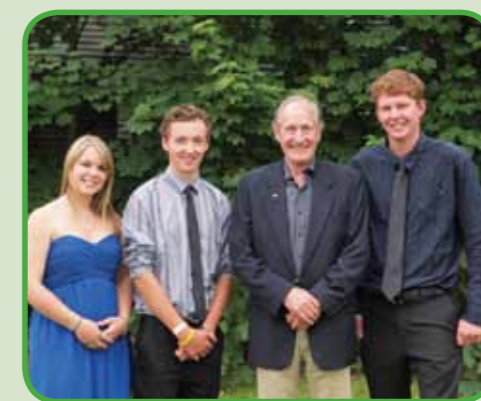
The key objective of FARM^{IQ} at Mangarata will be to understand how the data will enhance the farm's stock management programme. Data analysis will ultimately help refine the forage and livestock management.

Farm^{IQ} combines funds from Silver Fern Farms, Tru Test, Landcorp Farming and the Government (MAF). The FARM^{IQ} initiative aims to establish a demand-driven value chain for New Zealand red meat - whilst this model is not new, it is new for the red meat industry. It aims to link the requirements of the end consumer – what they want and will pay more for – then work back along the value chain to ensure those expectations are met on farm.

Paul Crick, Sheep and Beef Manager is already looking forward to applying the results of data collected through the programme to the farm's management plan. "Work to implement EID (electronic identification) began on Mangarata, in conjunction with Massey University, before it joined the Farm^{IQ} programme. We're now in our second year of EID and will tag all ewes on the property now that we're part of Farm^{IQ}. I'm looking forward to using this dynamic management tool to assist with increasing production and managing the stock at an individual level. These are exciting times," Paul said.

Ian Evans, Mangarata Stock Manager, is looking forward to seeing the flow-through of the programme as well as using the brand new five way drafter auto with students next year. "During October, our Taratahi students helped EID tag all our new season lambs. As part of their learning, students will develop an understanding of the importance of

new technologies through the regular weighing and drafting work they undertake. They will learn how to tag stock and use scanning equipment during the year. Being part of Farm^{IQ} will give our students exposure to new systems and a better understanding of how technology is vital to the development of the agricultural industry."



John Mills presented the Richard Mills Trust Scholarship to: Brigitte Engel, Robert Crawshaw and Cameron Dallas

Taratahi thanks the following organisations for their generous support of our students at Graduation:

Platinum

Stihl Chainsaw and Mowers in conjunction with Hire Shop
Farmlands Trading Society Ltd
James Trucks and Machinery
Greenwood Roche Chisnall
RD1 Ltd & Bertolini
TradeZone Industrial
Wairarapa Federated Farmers
Beef and Lamb New Zealand

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Ballance Agri-chemicals
Bank of New Zealand
Candy Contracts
Carters
Carterton District Council
Carterton Meat Processors

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Dave Ryan Spraying
Ewen Glass
Fagan Motors
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Sargent Motorcycles
South Wairarapa Vets
Technology Solutions
TFM Tractors
TRC Toyota

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Ballance

Beef and Lamb New Zealand
Carterton District Council
DairyNZ
Doris Elizabeth Swadling Trust
Edmond Sanderson Jeff Farm Scholarships - Salvation Army
Elsie and Laura Lehmann Trust
Federated Farmers (Wairarapa)
FMG/Taratahi

Harwood Farm Trust

Janine Young Memorial Award
JE Prestidge Trust
John Daniell Memorial Trust
LA Alexander Trust
Landcorp Farming Limited
Longview
Maori Education Foundation
Margaret Bashford

Meridian Energy

Parinihi Ki Waitotara Trust
Peter Laing Memorial Trust
PGG Wrightson
Putaruru Veterinary Club Education Trust
Richard Mills Trust
Robert Gibson Methodist Trust Board
Rotary Club of South Wairarapa

Royce Nicholls Trust

Rural Women New Zealand
Stihl Shop
The Ann Sinclair Trust
Wairarapa Rural Women NZ
Westpac
Williams ADB Charitable Trust



Investing In Futures

Taratahi hosted two hundred and fifty Wairarapa Primary School students for a day out at the farm in early October. They experienced the sights, sounds and smells of the woolshed and dairy farm, saw lambs, calves, motorbikes, tractors, wool spinning and a display of dog handling.

The children came from a combination of Solway, Masterton, Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Wairarapa and Akitio schools. "We had a fabulous day – the tour was well organised by Taratahi, the children were excited by everything they saw and the opportunity fitted our term's study theme of 'New Zealand Life' really well," said Solway School Principal, Viv Booth.

"Our tutors are used to working with much older students, but they thoroughly enjoyed the curiosity and energy of the primary age children. We really enjoyed this opportunity to connect with our community and maybe some of our young farmers of the future!" said Natalie Bowie, Marketing Manager. "Feedback from parents and teachers told us that the level of information, variety and hands-on nature of the experience was just right."

Wairarapa primary schools will be invited to attend another primary schools day out on Wednesday 26 September 2012.

Hawke's Bay

Taratahi Hawke's Bay has recently signed a three year lease on an 80 hectare property ten minutes from the Taradale campus. This property adds another dimension to the educational delivery in the Hawke's Bay and complements the other farming properties that are managed or leased in the region. The new lease block will be used for cropping and cattle finishing and will give students a real sense of ownership.

We are also in the final stages of confirming an access arrangement at a local dairy farm forty-five minutes west of Napier. This will enable dairy students to have a more hands-on experience towards successful completion of their qualification. Dairy students and a tutor will stay on-site Monday through Friday to ensure they receive the 'real training on real farms' opportunity.

The team in Hawke's Bay would like to thank all of their supporters who have contributed to 2011 being such a successful year!

Equine Students Champing at the Bit

Some of Taratahi's first equine Taster Course students have made the jump to become the programme's first full-time students in the new academic year. The National Certificate in Equine (Stable Procedures)* is an NZQA Level 3 qualification that will prepare graduates to be work ready for a range of careers in an industry desperate for well-qualified, passionate young people.

"I am really excited that the National Certificate in Equine will begin in just a few weeks. The four-day Taster Courses that ran in October and December identified some excellent candidates. These students are already passionate equestrians but are also focussed on entering the industry with a head start in terms of skills and knowledge," says Clarissa Notley, Programme Head of Equine at Taratahi.

Sally Clark, NZ Olympian, is a member of the Taratahi Equine Programme Advisory Group. She is also looking forward to the first students enrolling in 2012. "Passion and preparation are two key elements of success in the equestrian world - whether in the ring or in the yard. The

new programme offering will help prepare students for a career in a highly competitive industry that values dedication, hard work, skills and knowledge." she said.

Equine students will combine practical components such as lungeing, clipping, and stable care skills with theoretical components such as physiology, nutrition and tack fitting. In addition students will benefit from practical tutoring in some relevant farm skills: fencing, pasture management and agrichemical application.

**subject to NZQA approval*



Developing Rural Leaders for NZ

The Generate Certificate in Rural Leadership is about self-development and growth - both professional and personal. In recent months these principles have been applied to Generate's course content and delivery to ensure the programme remains relevant.

Taratahi has delivered Generate to farm workers, those employed in the rural servicing sector or corporate world, for just over five years. A recent student and industry survey gave a clear message that the opportunity and tools to focus on developing attitude, character,

personal principles and people skills are still extremely valuable to those already established in their careers.

The new programme will see a stronger relationship between the course content and assessment process. Graduates will still work towards a nationally recognised Certificate of Rural Leadership and the course will still be offered free of charge.

Recruitment for 2012 is well underway across New Zealand with up to 200 students expected to begin Generate courses in January and February.

International Visitors Welcomed

Taratahi has hosted a significant number of visitors from New Zealand and further afield throughout 2011. Governor General the Right Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand, ministers, students, school children, farmers, teachers and industry representatives from New Zealand as well as Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, Russia, Japan and Thailand have experienced Taratahi's farming and educational operations first hand.

A long-term training arrangement with the Guizhou Animal Husbandry School (GAHS) in the province of Guiyang, south-west China, saw tutor Li Renjun complete nine weeks of full-time agricultural training at Taratahi in late October.

Taratahi Education Support Manager Stephen Hannam arranged Renjun's programme. "Li has been a pleasure to host. He has embraced every opportunity to learn about farming practice and to understand how we teach such a practical subject. In China students undertake mainly text-based study - how we teach shearing, milking, fencing and engineering has been extremely interesting to him. We have all taken something from the experience - having Li here has widened the horizons of both staff and students."

