

## **Taranaki girls amongst keenest**

Taranaki's good keen girl wowed the crowds at Fieldays at Hamilton's Mystery Creek

Jaimee-Mairee Schimanski, of Bell Block, finished in second place in the inaugural Good Keen Girl of the Year behind Hawke's Bay shepherd Erin Reed, 28.

The 18-year-old farm and hatchery worker – and youngest competitor overall – set out at the start of the challenge to make her mark, with a second place in the "best brekkie" competition.

The next battle was in the chainsaw arena where competitors had to fit a chain and bar to a chainsaw, with Jaimee-Mairee again achieving second place.

Teaming up with Scott McGregor, her former classmate at Masterton's Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre, she scored another second place for herding three mother-and-baby alpaca pairs into separate pens in a snappy 24 seconds. Jaimee-Mairee was third in the last event – digger golf in which the contestants had to hit a golf ball with a spade attached to an excavator bucket.

"I've absolutely loved it," she said afterwards. "It was a great experience."

After more than 56,000 people visited Fieldays on the first two days, crowds thronged the venue yesterday and made the most of balmy weather.

Exhibitors again described the mood as upbeat and positive.

Roger Malcolm, at work on a site featuring several businesses operated by Hawera's Paul Schrader, said they had enjoyed a brilliant three days selling troughmobiles, car trailers and woodsplitters. "Farmers are reserved, but positive," he said.

Taking pride of place on the site was a gold troughmobile, which will be sold by the company on TradeMe at the conclusion of Fieldays to raise money for the IHC to mark the sale of 4000 of the feeders. The normally grey troughmobile, which can be towed behind a farm bike or all-terrain vehicle is made by a division of Normanby Fibreglass.