

Taratahi celebrates the new generation of farmers

It was a true celebration for Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre on Friday 10th December as a record number of students graduated after completing their agricultural training for 2010.

79 students successfully achieved their Taratahi Certificate in Agriculture, National Certificate in Farming Skills (Work Ready) Level 3, or their National Certificate in Agriculture Level 4 qualifications.

Taratahi's gymnasium was packed to overflowing with friends, family and whanau gathering to celebrate the student's hard work and dedication put in over the last 12 months.

Guest of honour, Agriculture ITO Chief Executive Kevin Bryant congratulated the students on their success and reported that research has indicated that individuals who undertake training advance through their careers 30% faster than those who have not undertaken training.

Bryant encouraged the new graduates to keep learning whether it be through Taratahi, Massey or Lincoln University, the ITO or other avenues. "Not everything you learn you will use in today's job, but some of it will help you to get the next job", said Bryant.

Taratahi CEO Donovan Wearing addressed the audience and advised them that Taratahi has an aspirational goal. "The resistance to change and improvement is endemic in agriculture both on an individual and sector basis. With a concerted and coordinated effort we can make a difference. Our industry needs action now, before another generation of school leavers miss out" said Wearing.

"After more than 90 years in the industry, Taratahi knows what is needed. Robust, sustainable training that staircases into levels 4,5, 6 and degrees. Producing the next generation which can improve productivity and profitability, which does care about animal welfare and which does have empathy for the environment – this is what Taratahi is aiming to do", said Wearing.

"Taratahi, with help and support from like-minded people and organisations, is committed to work collaboratively in being innovative in making every effort to step up to the challenge of ensuring the best people work in the best industry for the best national economy – we are just doing the right thing and the country needs more of it" says Wearing.

As well as receiving their qualifications, all students were in the running for some top awards and scholarships.

The top four awards were presented as follows:

Perry Cup – Ideal Trainee

Sam Williams

Bank of New Zealand Cup – Sheep (Best Overall)

Cologne McKinstry

National Bank Cup – Dairy (Best Overall)

Harvey Verwaayen

Taratahi Cup – Best Overall Student

Cologne McKinstry

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