

New study options available through Taratahi

Three ground-breaking partnerships with leading tertiary education providers mean that Taratahi's 2010 study options will be more varied, flexible and advanced than ever before. New relationships with Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT), Lincoln University and the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand have resulted in two new courses, and boosted a third programme.

Taratahi and EIT have teamed up to deliver a Certificate in Agriculture at EIT's campus in Taradale in the Hawke's Bay. This new, nationally-recognised Level 3 qualification will equip graduates with the knowledge base and extensive skill set that farmers recognise as Taratahi's trademark.

In 2010 Taratahi will also be offering the Lincoln University Diploma in Agriculture. The Level 5 Regional Diploma will be available through Taratahi in the Wairarapa and Taranaki. This means that Taratahi will deliver quality agricultural education at the sub-degree level which has, up until now, not been available regionally as a part-time



Loading up the feed wagon

study option.

The Open Polytechnic has also partnered with Taratahi with regard to its renowned leadership programme, Generate. Participants on the Generate program leave with an invaluable skill set for a successful career in the rural sector, as well as the Taratahi Certificate in Rural Leadership.

"These are such exciting developments," says Donovan Wearing, Taratahi's CEO. "Here at Taratahi we believe that such partnerships are crucial for the future of the rural training sector. Farmers' demand for well trained, highly qualified staff has never been greater and Taratahi is developing impressive, intelligent solutions to meet that need."

Full details on all of these courses can be found on our website.



Students on a shearing course in August

Key Dates

Check our website for more information about these and other events

2009

Taratahi Information Evening, Stratford	13 Oct
EIT Information Days	15 Oct, 12 Nov, 3 Dec
Outstanding in the Field, Taranaki	20 Oct
Outstanding in the Field, Manawatu	27 Oct
Young Guns Grand Final, Masterton	2 Nov
Career Advisors Day Out, Masterton	18 Nov
Lincoln Launch, Masterton	27 Nov
Fencing Competition – Beginning of Dec	(Date TBA)
Graduation, Masterton – 1.30pm	11 Dec
4th Taster Course	14-17 Dec

2010

Masterton full time students start	26 Jan
Graduation, Stratford	29 Jan

What's new at Taratahi

There has been a lot happening at Taratahi recently. New accommodation is being built, several speakers have been to visit and students had a fantastic win at Hoof and Hook!

A major four year development plan at Taratahi is well and truly underway. The first of nine accommodation pods is now finished – and it looks great! Three pods will be completed by the end of the year. The pods consist of eight single rooms with private study space, ablutions and a communal kitchenette and living area.

Taratahi's new technical workshop is also complete. The workshop, which includes eight welding bays, will give students a fully equipped space in which to work on projects such as building dog trailers and fixing motorbikes. A ten week course in engineering skills will begin in October.

Taratahi students have recently had the opportunity to meet with some inspirational speakers. In August Chris Lay visited, a former dairy farm manager who, in 2007, had a car accident that left him a tetraplegic. Chris has recently been named in the Wheelblacks squad: it goes without saying that his visit made an enormous impression. In September Taratahi hosted Shaun Bicknell, a technical sales representative from Ballance. A Taratahi graduate himself, Shaun has carved out an extremely successful career in the agricultural sector. He encouraged many of our current students to do the same.

Finally, Taratahi students met with stunning success at this year's Hoof and Hook Steer Competition, at the Beef Expo in Feilding in

May. Local Wairarapa farmer, Peter McWilliams, kindly allowed our 12 students to train 6 of his steers at his property in Gladstone.



Peter McWilliams with the Team

Results:

The **Taratahi Team** won 1st Overall for the Tertiary Providers' award "Excellence for Teamwork".

Brad Cranston: 4th place in the judging (theory work) and Highly Commended, also 3rd in heavy weight leading (practical).

Jasmine Kitchen: 2nd place in the judging

Amanda Clark: 4th place in judging, and 4th in the seniors leading (practical).

Jesse Clifton: 4th in heavy weight leading.

Fabulous results, and utterly well-deserved! Congratulations.

News in Brief

2010 Taster Dates

The dates for Taratahi's legendary taster courses have now been confirmed for 2010. These 4-day courses give potential students an intensive insight into farming, and what life on campus is like at Taratahi.

The cost is \$80 which includes the course, meals and accommodation. Students must be 16 or over, and still enrolled at school.

2010 courses:

6 - 9 April

12 - 15 April

5 - 8 July

27 - 30 September

4 - 7 October

13 - 16 December

Remaining courses for 2009:

14 - 17 December

Scholarships available for 2010

Don't forget that there are a number of scholarships available for study at Taratahi.

Go to www.taratahi.ac.nz to find out which scholarships you are eligible for.

Make sure you get onto it right away though – if you miss a deadline, you might miss out!



Three of the accommodation pods in various stages of completion



Taster students checking out the new workshop with engineering tutor, Tony McCosh

Dairy unit exceeds winter pasture targets

Taratahi's Dairy Unit enjoyed a successful winter milk period – thanks to impressive pasture cover results. Taratahi's Dairy Manager, David Tanner, brings us this update.

Our winter milk period brought a really pleasing result. Pasture cover was ahead of target throughout June and July: the diet for milkers was 4kgDM maize silage, and the rest grass. This was a real improvement, as in the past we have relied on far more supplement for winter milk.

Our spring pasture cover is also on target at 2100kgDM/ha. Growth rates remained reasonable throughout August, with an average of 28kgDM/ha/day for the month.



This means that we have been able to feed cows on grass only: this is a pleasing advance on last year, when we needed to use supplement.

We have decided to cease winter milking and get back to spring calving only. This is a permanent move that, from an educational viewpoint, will streamline the farming operation and allow students to focus on the winter management of dry cows. As a result, the calving date will be brought forward to 25th July, and the cows that calved in the autumn will be mated for spring calving.

Cultivation for our summer crops is well underway. We will grow 8-10ha of turnips, and 6-8.5ha of chicory. The crops will also provide an element of protection from the effect that restrictions to irrigation over the last few summers have had on our growth rates. There will also be 6ha of maize grown for silage.

Record numbers of lambs to go on sale

Taratahi expects to have between 18 and 20 thousand lambs ready for market this year – the highest number ever.

"It's our best ever by a long shot," says Paul Crick, Taratahi's Sheep and Beef Manager. "Having such a fantastic spring really helped. We've had to plan for it, though – 80 hectares of summer feed forage crops have been put in for them."

This stunning success is the culmination of a busy few months for Taratahi's sheep and beef unit – which works across three properties: Mangarata Farm, Glenburn Station and Glenside. June's scanning went well, with results of 172% for Mangarata, 184% for Glenside and 190% for Glenburn. "Given the fact that the Mangarata ewes came from a number of different sources," says Paul, "it was quite pleasing that they did so well the first year."

July's main job was the scanning of hoggets, which gave a result of 123%; an 8% improvement on last year. Paul is thrilled with the condition of the hoggets, and claims that they are some of the best hoggets that Taratahi has ever produced!

Taratahi's two year old heifers began calving in late August, and, so far, so good! To date there have been no assisted calvings; this is a big improvement on recent years. Although this means that the students get to assist far fewer calvings, Paul believes that this is outweighed by wide reaching positive effects. "A good, proficient, farmer is continually working to reduce these issues," he says. "Our students are learning how to do exactly that."

Focus on Young Farmers

Taratahi is becoming a real hub of activity for Young Farmers in the Wairarapa. Here are just some of the latest developments ...



Taratahi's new Young Farmers' Club is going from strength to strength. The Young Farmers meet every week, go small-bore rifle shooting every fortnight and are currently fundraising for a paintballing trip! As most members are sixteen to eighteen years of age, Taratahi's Young Farmers' Club is based on the secondary school model. "Our students are learning how to organise themselves, and run a club," says Caren Oliver, Taratahi's Course Co-ordinator. "By sharing out the roles such as chairperson, secretary and treasurer, they're developing the self-confidence to step up when required."



Graduate update – Scott’s success

Scott Gordon graduated from Taratahi in 2006 – less than three years later he is a Graduate Agribusiness Partner for BNZ, Taranaki.

“I am originally from New Plymouth, but I have always had an interest in farming. Taratahi was the perfect place for me to get a grasp on all the basic tenets of farming; I gained great practical skills as well as a solid theoretical knowledge. I did the Taratahi Certificate in Agriculture, Dairy, then went on to do my Level 4 Advanced Certificate. After leaving Taratahi, I was employed for ten months as a farm assistant on a 400 cow high input dairy farm in Kaponga. I then began studying at Massey University. At Massey I completed a Bachelor of Business Studies (Agribusiness) degree before landing my current job as a Graduate Agribusiness Partner for BNZ, Taranaki.

Taratahi was hugely influential in getting me to where I am today. To be honest, I didn’t really see the point of education until I went to Taratahi, where I began learning things I

had an interest and passion for. Throughout my time at Massey I was able to use the practical skills acquired at Taratahi, and tie it into the theoretical aspects that Massey required. When I applied for the banking graduate job, I was able to show that as well as my farm financial management skills I had sound practical knowledge – I was more than just an ‘academic’!

Taratahi’s role didn’t stop at the job interview, though – I use the knowledge I gained there every single day. When I am dealing with clients I can directly relate to them: I understand the issues they are experiencing and can help solve the problems that they encounter. However, the job goes way beyond trouble shooting – I get to meet farmers, understand their businesses and help them plan for the future.



I’m also working towards my future - I really want to own a small farm by the time I am 30 while still maintaining my career at BNZ as an Agribusiness Partner. I hope to achieve this through continually rearing stock and investing in residential property, and I’ve made a start already! Before work I am milking around 30 cows to rear bull calves off over the winter and spring period, and am currently building my first house in New Plymouth to use as an investment. That’s one other thing I learned at Taratahi – aim high, then get on with it!”



Smiles all round at Taratahi’s 90th Reunion

Old friends shared stories, laughed at each others’ jokes and sang off-tune songs together during a fabulous weekend than began on June 20th – at Taratahi’s 90th Reunion! Over 140 graduates, some from as far afield as Texas, USA, met once again in the Wairarapa to share memories, pore over old photos and show ribbons, and have a good look around at Taratahi of today.

The highlight of the weekend had to be the Taratahi Young Farmers Agri-sports competition. Graduates from years gone by competed wholeheartedly alongside Taratahi’s current students – it was great fun! What a wonderful weekend – a huge thank you to everyone who was involved.

Top sheepdog trainer teaches Taratahi students

Sheep and beef students at Taratahi were recently tutored by one of New Zealand’s best sheepdog trainers and trialists.

In September Lloyd Smith spent a day at Taratahi working with the students, and their dogs! Students were pleasantly surprised to discover that the premise of Lloyd Smith’s training program is “keep it simple.”

There is no doubt that Lloyd Smith is one of the best: he has 39 national placings at dog trials, is a regular judge at national trials and he has also managed the New Zealand dog trials team competing in Australia. None of this was lost on the Taratahi shepherds, who listened intently to every word of advice that Mr. Smith imparted!

“It’s been a great day,” said Paul Crick, Taratahi’s Sheep and Beef Manager. “The students have made the most of having Lloyd here with us – they’ve worked really hard!”



Student Joseph Wyatt learning a few tricks