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Press Release

Masterton, Monday 5th October

Taratahi to host information evening in Taranaki

Everyone is welcome at Taratahi's special information evening next Tuesday, which will provide an exciting update on 2010 study options at the Stratford campus. Members of the farming community, students and alumni will gather on 13th October at the War Memorial Hall to find out why Taratahi in Taranaki is going from strength to strength.

Next year, Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre will be offering the Lincoln University Diploma in Agriculture from its campus at Stratford. Thanks to a ground-breaking partnership with Lincoln University, Taratahi will be able to cater for students looking for sub-degree study options in agriculture.

The Level 5 Regional Diploma will be available regionally through Taratahi's Stratford campus in Taranaki, as well as its base in the Wairarapa. This will provide exciting options for further part-time study: both for students graduating from Taratahi, and for those in the workforce who wish to up skill at an advanced level. The diploma also stays true to Taratahi's trademark hands-on focus – it includes twelve weeks of practical work. The diploma also meets the need for a pathway towards a first degree in agriculture - students who complete the diploma may be awarded credits towards bachelor degree programmes at Lincoln.

From its Stratford campus, Taratahi will also be offering a new "work-ready" Certificate in Agriculture to students in the Taranaki region who want to live or study close to home. This new, nationally recognised qualification combines the quality teaching of core skills with specialized options. Graduates will be able to walk into their new jobs equipped with the knowledge base and extensive skill set that Taranaki farmers recognise as Taratahi's trademark. The course is split into three strands: theory, technical skills and farmwork, and is a fantastic option for anyone in the region who is serious about a career in agriculture.

The information evening will take place at the War Memorial Hall, at the TSB Chambers in Stratford, from 7pm. Taratahi's Chief Executive Officer, Donovan Wearing, will speak at 7.30pm, and there will be light refreshments available from 8pm. Taratahi staff will be available to speak with students and stakeholders.

Gemma McIsaac, Course Co-ordinator for Taratahi, can't wait for the new courses to get underway! "I'm really excited about Taratahi in Taranaki next year. The Lincoln University

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diploma offers a relevant, advanced qualification using a flexible and realistic approach, and our new Certificate in Agriculture will mean that every single one of our graduates will be well and truly ready for work! Taranaki farmers are already used to the high quality of our students – now we'll be exceeding their expectations!"

"The Taratahi Board is very pleased to announce this partnership with Lincoln University," says Jim Law, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. "In recent years Taratahi has implemented a number of programmes aimed at enhancing the skills of the agricultural workforce at many levels. Rather than replicate existing qualifications, it makes more sense to work in partnership, something that Taratahi is doing with a number of organisations. We are looking forward to a healthy partnership that delivers the competent, committed graduates that New Zealand needs."

This new opportunity in Taranaki is further proof that Taratahi is leading the way in shaping the future of rural training in New Zealand. Earlier this year, Taratahi brought together in senior stakeholders in the agriculture industry at a National Seminar in Wellington. The aim was to discuss the rural sector's increasing demand for a highly skilled, well-qualified workforce at every level. Delegates resolved to develop closer partnerships in response to this need: Taratahi's new relationship with Lincoln University does exactly that.

For more information on all of Taratahi's courses, go to www.taratahi.ac.nz

Taratahi in Taranaki:

Agricultural training for the next generation of Taranaki farmers.

Tuesday 13th October

War Memorial Hall
TSB Chambers
55 Miranda Street
STRATFORD

Arrivals from **7pm**

7.30pm Donovan Wearing, Taratahi's CEO

8pm Light refreshments, Taratahi staff available

9pm Event ends

RSVP by Monday 12th October to gemma.mcisaac@taratahi.ac.nz