

WAIRARAPA MIDWEEK



GRADUATES and former staff celebrate Taratahi Agricultural Centre's 90th reunion.

Taratahi celebrates 90th birthday

By NATALIE BOWIE

MORE than 140 people descended on Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre on Saturday for a weekend full of 90th reunion celebrations.

Some graduates came from as far afield as Texas, USA. Some of them had not seen each other since graduating in 1953 so there were lots of hugs, laughter and many stories told.

The gymnasium was full of memorabilia, old photos and show ribbons from as far back as 1955.

There were tours leaving throughout the day to our sheep and beef properties (Glenohie and Mangarua), with tours also around campus and the dairy unit. Some of Taratahi's current students were on deck to show people around and help with a shearing dem-

onstration.

A highlight of the day was the Taratahi Young Farmers Agri-sports competition. Old and young alike had a chance to participate in a number of activities such as putting together a water trough, backing an ATV through cones, assembling a chainsaw properly and identifying different parts of the anatomy of a

The competitive streak came out in a lot of the graduates and they certainly gave out current students a run for their money!

On Saturday evening everyone got dressed up and headed out to the Lophorne Hotel in Masterton for a wonderful meal and a chance to hear David Skiffington, Young Farmer of the Year, entertain the crowd with his words.

John Hayes, MP for Wairarapa, had some great thoughts to share as well. And it was not just the three Wairarapa mayors who shared in the delight of hearing some of the 1964 graduates belt out a song over the microphone that they had made up and used to sing while at Taratahi!

Sunday saw about 40 people head out for a tour around Glenburn Station on

the coast, then a rather swift barbecue before heading back in before the weather hit the Wairarapa!

The whole weekend was a huge success and the sense of pride and enthusiasm that everyone had for their time at Taratahi was infectious. Great memories were shared and many friendships were rekindled during the week-end. — Pictures kindly supplied.



TARATAHI Agricultural Centre and boy Jeff Claghorn (1956) in a race with current student Tim Oyliva to put together a water trough.