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Press Release

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Another successful term at Taratahi

The year kicked off with the purchase of Mangarata, a sheep and beef property 8 km north of Masterton. This was an incredibly important acquisition for Taratahi who have always owned a dairy unit but never a sheep and beef property. Mangarata will give students a fantastic opportunity to develop and hone their technical and theoretical skills. There is a sense of pride and ownership from the students when a fence line is going up knowing that it will still be there in 50 years time.

There is so much interest from young people about pursuing a career in agriculture that student numbers in January increased by a huge 39%! They are realising that there is such a vast array of opportunities and recognise that Taratahi is the place to come to get a solid foundation of skills and knowledge that are essential for success.

Within the next few weeks the first of a number of new accommodation blocks will start being built on campus. Construction is also progressing with new technical workshops and a new dairy storage shed. This is all part of a development plan at Taratahi to ensure that resources and accommodation for the students are first rate.

Students have had the opportunity to perfect their interview techniques after-hours with a workshop to help them with job and scholarship situations. These skills came in handy after a number of organisations awarded over \$16000 worth of study scholarships to students in the past few weeks.

The first of four 'Taster' courses is underway this week. These 4 day short courses allow students from all over New Zealand to come and experience what life would be like if they choose to study here full time. Students from as far north as Warkworth and as far south as Christchurch are staying on campus and getting a chance to learn practical, technical and theoretical skills.

Staff are busy with student applications for the July intake which is filling up fast. Students are due back next week for another exciting, dynamic term ahead of them with the added bonus of having 14 students from Walford Agricultural College in Shropshire, England on a 3 week exchange learning about farming the New Zealand way. Taratahi's Year 2 students are gearing up for their trip to Walford leaving at the end of May.

Farm-wise, the rams are out and autumn calving is in full swing. Maize stacks are being done and fawns are due to be weaned fairly soon. Taratahi is a busy place all year around and we are looking forward to another action-packed term ahead.

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