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# Press Release

Masterton, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

## Sam Craig named as Young Guns Champion

Sam Craig has been named as Taratahi's 2009 Young Guns Winner after a fantastic final at Taratahi's Wairarapa campus on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Sam Craig and Kieran Mc Creedy, both from Masterton's Chanel College, provided spectators with a nail biting climax to the contest. School students from across the Lower North Island have been involved - regional competitions were held in the Wairarapa and Stratford last month.



Left to Right: Donovan Wearing TATC CEO, Sam Craig, Kieran Mc Creedy and Nigel Udy TATC Education delivery Manager.



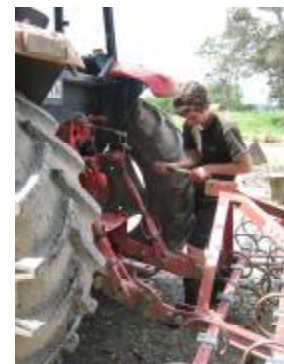
Sam: Chainsaw task

The final saw the pair complete a grueling day at Taratahi, which included no less than eight different events. The competitors had to saddle and bridle a horse, drive a tractor and attach an implement, and identify different cattle breeds and use the cattle crush. There was also a general knowledge quiz, a comprehensive chainsaw challenge and a five minute impromptu speech.

"Both finalists were simply outstanding," says Caren Oliver, Taratahi's Year 1 Course Co-ordinator. "Both Sam and Kieran put their all into every stage of the competition. What impressed me the most was the way they handled the tractor-driving task: the track was tricky, and they both displayed some impressive skills backing up!"

The prizes on offer were worth competing for – Sam has won his full course fees should he decide to study agriculture at Taratahi, and Kieran has won 50% of his course fees. Both Sam and Kieran were also awarded PGG Wrightsons vouchers, and Sam took home the much coveted Young Guns Cup. "We're so proud of them both," says Ms Oliver. "Throughout the year they've shown not only commitment and determination, but a real passion for farming, no matter how tough the task in hand!"

Ends



Sam: Tractor task

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