

## Disappointing season

This season has been one of the poorest we can remember for the production of higher value honey e.g. manuka.

Cold wet weather in November and December reduced the bees' ability to actively forage and the manuka trees themselves never really came into full flower.



The result was poor samples of manuka honey with low pollen counts. This translates into prices about 50 percent down on last year.

For those beekeepers in more pastoral areas, the failure of the manuka was partially offset by a heavy light honey (clover/borage) flow and some good crops were gathered. Unfortunately, it is about four times the work/expense for the same return. But better something than nothing.



Varroa is making its presence felt and is now widespread in Marlborough with only the very south and isolated parts of the region yet to feel its effects. Autumn treatments should now be in place, if not, watch out.

Finally, just a quick request for farmers and contractors to please avoid (where you practically can) spraying gorse and broom when it is in flower and the bees are actively flying. The wetting agent is a problem as it suffocates the bees.

Here's to a better summer next year.

**Will Trollope - Marlborough Bees Chair**

## Hard start to season

Marlborough dairy farmers have experienced a pretty disappointing season to date.

A cold, wet start to the season meant production levels suffered from the outset and most have been unable to catch up subsequently.



The only real positive has been rainfall levels since mid February, which have been regular enough to limit irrigation requirements and therefore a huge saving in electricity has been possible.

Autumn growth has also been good and most farmers will be able to go into winter with adequate farm cover and supplements

available. Far more serious is the payout picture for the season.

Fonterra suppliers started the season with a \$7kg/ms forecast, which has since dropped to \$5.10. This is the first time the company has dropped its payment during the season, which has caught many unawares, having committed to development and plant replacement. Adding to the pain, Fonterra is not paying the usual retrospective or value added payout components until July and August. This is putting severe pressure on overdraft levels for many suppliers. With the threat of retention of some of the final payout and a bleak outlook for next season's payout, the short term financial prospects will be very challenging.

We can only remain optimistic that the situation will improve, given the expanding world populations requirement for food, of which dairy is a basic.

**Bruce Richmond - Marlborough Dairy Chair**



Marlborough's inaugural Federated Farmers FarmDay was hosted by Paul and Muff Newton on Sunday 1st March.

A great day was had by all and we thank all those who made it such an eventful day.



# LOCAL VOICE

## PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



MARLBOROUGH

APRIL 2009

## Kill the Speed – Not the Child

Marlborough Rural Women New Zealand members are supporting the national Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) school bus safety campaign 'Kill the Speed – Not the Child'.



Between 1993 and 2002, 12 children were killed, 20 seriously injured and 77 received minor injuries as a result of school bus incidents. In 2007/08 four children were killed after getting off school buses.

RWNZ is calling for '20km/h when lights flashing' signs to be displayed on all school buses and flashing lights to be installed on all buses operating on school bus routes.

The organisation is in discussions with the New Zealand Transport Agency and those involved in reviewing school bus safety, as well as other community groups and safety organisations.

Many drivers seem unaware of the 20km/h speed limit or do not observe this rule. The current law requires that school buses must display an approved 'school' sign or an active sign incorporating flashing lights. The currently approved signs do not include the 20km/h speed limit.

Marlborough members have also promoted the RWNZ Enterprising Rural Women Award, a national small-business award recognising and celebrating the success of rural women with their own businesses. Two entries out of 46 nationally, were received from Marlborough women.

Rural Women New Zealand representatives: Jocelyn Cresswell, Pam Macdonald and Liz Evans.

**Liz Evans - Marlborough Rural Women New Zealand**

## Marlborough happenings

This newsletter is to keep you all up to date with recent and future happenings in the Marlborough area.

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Marlborough Room at the Scenic Circle Hotel on Friday, 1st May at 1pm.

Guest speaker John Walley of the Canterbury Manufacturers Association will outline his prescription for New Zealand's productivity problems. A regular media commentator on business and production issues, John is urging farmers and manufacturers to work together to add value to our products and increase our influence by speaking with one voice.

Members attending the AGM will also get the chance to meet Conor English, chief executive of Federated Farmers of New Zealand.

Thank you to all of those who have paid their 2009 subscriptions. Without your continued support, Federated Farmers could not fight for your rights at local and central government level.

Be sure to make the most of your commitment to increasing the profitability and viability of farming by attending many of the local meetings in your area. Any issues you would like to put on the agenda can be included.

For any members who wishes to further the development and growth of agriculture in New Zealand, Federated Farmers also offers a number of training programmes. These are available through your province.

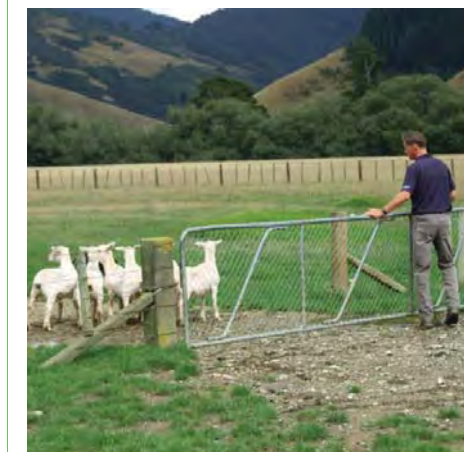
It has certainly been a busy time for Marlborough Federated Farmers in recent months.

There was an excellent turn-out at the inaugural national Farm Day. Paul and Muff Newton were excellent representatives for Marlborough farmers and organised a superb day out for visitors with shearing and dog trial demonstrations.

Federated Farmers executive members have attended a number of meetings including the Outcomes for Places consultations run by the Department of Conservation (DoC) and the Marlborough District Council.

Meanwhile, Federated Farmers has been

in talks with Marlborough District Council over dog registrations. Working dogs pay 10 percent of the council budget and have 7.5 percent of complaints. The complaints were all unregistered dogs found during on-farm inspections.



Among other issues on the agenda in recent weeks has been a by-law set to affect transport costs in the Marlborough Sounds, and a Marlborough District Council Plan change impacting on aquaculture. This is examined by our policy analyst Sonia Voldseth on page two.

It is now time to choose your representatives for Marlborough Federated Farmers for the next year. If you would like to lead the way for farmers in the Marlborough area, please forward your nominations or call a member of the executive.

**Geoff Evans - Marlborough President**



### Marlborough Federated Farmers ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1pm, 1 May 2009

(see page 3 for more information)

ALL WELCOME

## TBfree - aiming for a Tb free Marlborough

The Marlborough committee was updated on vector operations throughout the area at its bimonthly meeting in March.

Ground possum operations have almost been completed, with generally good results. Ferret survey work is progressing well.

The consent for the Castle Hodder North (Upcot) aerial operation has been held and the Commissioner's report is expected by the end of March. We urge landowners who have aerial operations on or near their properties to put in a submission of support to these consent hearings.

The consent for the Ure Medway aerial is also being processed and we are waiting to hear if a hearing is needed.



Following the concern of bird deaths at the time of the Upper Wairau operation in the winter, some of the dead birds have been tested for traces of poison. The result is that there are no detectable traces of 1080.

Marlborough continues to have only two infected herds, with one of those already having had one clear test. The second test is due this month.

Early planning has started for another roll-back of the Movement Control Area, which will end the pre-movement testing requirements for herds that are included. This is as a result of the very effective control work that has been done over the last few years.

**Chris Bowron - TBfree Committee Chairman**

## Policy update

### NAVIGATION BYLAWS 2009



The Marlborough District Council has extended the time period to submit on the Navigation Bylaw 2009 to 27th April 2009. The Navigation Bylaw was proposed as a result of a review by the council under the Local Government Act 2002.

The Council is of the view that the current bylaw is unable to be effectively implemented due to inconsistencies with the Maritime Transport Act. Further, the council feels that a large majority of the Marlborough Sounds users do not contribute towards navigation safety, particularly in the recreational boating sector and that a levy fee structure is now appropriate.

Commercial barge operators that service D'Urville Island have expressed concern that the additional requirements proposed in the bylaw will increase costs significantly, which will then need to be passed on to farmers (and others) on the island who use the service. These include a requirement for an additional pilot onboard any vessel of 100 gross tonnes or more when transiting French Pass or Stephens Passage, Allen Strait, around Cape Jackson into the Queen Charlotte and the Tory Channel (unless an expensive and time-consuming exemption process is undergone) and payment of an annual levy to the Marlborough District Council of over \$8100.

Please contact either Geoff Evans on 03 572 4809 or [sttronvar1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sttronvar1@xtra.co.nz) or Sonia Voldseth on 03 357 9452 or [svoldseth@fedfarm.org.nz](mailto:svoldseth@fedfarm.org.nz) if you have any concerns about this bylaw. More information can be found at [http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/content/docs/harbour/ProposedNavigationBylaw2009%20SummaryInfo\\_StatementProposal.pdf](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/content/docs/harbour/ProposedNavigationBylaw2009%20SummaryInfo_StatementProposal.pdf).

### CHANGES TO AQUACULTURE PERMITS

In 2005, legislation was introduced which substantively changed the way in which aquaculture is managed in New Zealand. All new marine farms are now required to be located in specifically created aquaculture management areas (AMA) or zones, with the right to apply for resource consent to undertake marine farming (authorisation) within the AMA allocated by various means set out in the Resource Management Act 1991. On the 12th March 2009, the council publicly notified two plan changes to address the allocation of authorisations for marine farming.

Plan Change 16 (to the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan) is a private plan change lodged by New Zealand King Salmon Limited and Plan Change 53 (to the Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan) is a near identical plan change proposed by the Marlborough District Council. The revisions are the first of number of plan changes proposed to amend the aquaculture provisions, in accordance with the new legislation.

The council is currently calling for submissions on the two plan changes, with the submission period ending at 4pm on Wednesday 15th April 2009. Please contact either Geoff Evans on 03 572 4809 or [sttronvar1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sttronvar1@xtra.co.nz) or Sonia Voldseth on 03 357 9452 or [svoldseth@fedfarm.org.nz](mailto:svoldseth@fedfarm.org.nz) if you have any concerns about these plan

changes. More information can be found at <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/welcome.cfm>



### REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT (RPS) REVIEW

The council is currently undertaking a review of its Regional Policy Statement (RPS). Federated Farmers has been briefed on the landscape portion of that document, which is being reviewed by the council in consultation with Boffa Miskell. It is proposed that a separate chapter will be included in the document for landscapes based on the previous Boffa Miskell study. The council is also consulting with the Department of Conservation, Forest and Bird and Fish and Game. After initial consultation has taken place, focus groups will be formed to discuss how current landscapes that are identified as outstanding should be incorporated into the plan. Federated Farmers will continue to be actively involved in this process.

### RESTRICTED FIRE SEASON

As from 8am on Monday 2nd March 2009, the council has declared a Restricted Fire Season in the Marlborough District Council area south of the Wairau River, including the area south of the Diversion until further notice. For more information on the fire ban please see <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/welcome.cfm>.

**Sonia Voldseth - Federated Farmers of NZ  
Senior Policy Advisor**

# Marlborough Federated Farmers ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



MARLBOROUGH

1pm, 1 May 2009

**Marlborough Room, Scenic Circle Hotel  
cnr Alfred & Henry Streets, Blenheim**

## GUEST SPEAKERS:

**John Walley**

Canterbury Manufacturers' Association

*'New Zealand's Productivity Problem -  
Why we have one and what we might do to fix it.'*

**Frank Brenmuhl**

Vice-president, Federated Farmers of New Zealand

**Conor English**

Chief Executive, Federated Farmers of New Zealand

**RVSP by Monday 27 April 2009 to Liz Evans:**

Phone: 03 572 4809 | Email: [sttronvar1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sttronvar1@xtra.co.nz)

