

We met the councillors

"Meet the WBOPDC Councillors" meeting was held 3 February 2009.

26 people attended this meeting, where general discussion was held and issues were raised including dog fees, stock droving bylaw, funding policy, District Plan, ecological sights and the consultation process. Mayoral candidates, Ross Paterson and Norm Brunning, gave a five minute speech on their history and what they hoped to achieve as mayor.

Other councillors including Margaret Murray-Benge, Maureen Burgess, Paul Thomas and Sam Dunlop joined in the question and answer dialogue and it was agreed that more interaction with councillors and Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers was needed. We are working on this.



NEW STOCK CONTROL BYLAW IN FORCE Farmers' Advised to Apply for Permits before 1st July 2009

Farmers in Whakatane District have until 1st July 2009 to apply free of charge for permits to move stock on and alongside Council controlled roads in the District. After July, application fees for the cost of processing applications will apply.

Part 16 – Stock Control of the Whakatane District Council Consolidated Bylaw 2007 came into force in July 2008. The bylaw aims to control the movement of stock on and alongside public roads under the Council's control within the District to ensure public safety and to protect road surfaces.

The Council's permission is required to move stock on council controlled roads, except in some limited circumstances that are set out in the bylaw (such as in an emergency or when droving stock, provided the conditions set out in the bylaw are met).

A copy of Part 16 – Stock Control of the Whakatane District Council Consolidated Bylaw 2007 can be obtained from the Whakatane District Council, from the Council's website www.whakatane.govt.nz/whakatanebylaws or contact the Council's Call Centre on 07 305 0600, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

If you are unsure about whether you are required to apply for a permit under the Bylaw, it is important to contact Whakatane District Council's Animal Control Unit to determine whether the bylaw applies to you.

LEADERSHIP COURSES

All members are welcome to enrol. The number of applicants accepted for each course has been increased due to demand.

The next "Getting Your Feet Wet" course with available places is being held on Wednesday and Thursday 12-13 August, and again on 18-19 November.

The second course "Advanced Skills" will be held on Wednesday and Thursday 24-25 June then again on 25-26 November.

Travel, accommodation and course fees are FREE – these are covered by both Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers and Federated Farmers of New Zealand. These courses give you a great opportunity to advance your skills and are thoroughly enjoyable as well as interesting.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers Members

To Bruce and Tessa Calder, of Pikowai Farms, winners of the Ballance Nutrient Management Award, Silver Fern Farms Livestock Farm Award and the Gallagher Innovation Award.

Also congratulations to the Burt brothers, Paul & John and their wives Louise & Linda, who won the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust Habitat Improvement Award. John & Andrew Winmill, sharemilkers for the Ahu Moana Development Paengaroa North B10 Trust, were awarded the LIC Dairy Farm Merit Award. Paul & Joanna McCarthy won the PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award, LIC Dairy Farm Award and Fish & Game New Zealand Eastern Region Water Management/Conservation Award. Aaron & Cathy Hynds, of Papamoa, won an LIC Dairy Farm Merit Award. Godfrey & Margaret Mackersey, of Tauranga, won an Environment Bay of Plenty Environmental Award.

WELCOME TO NEW BAY OF PLENTY FEDERATED FARMERS MEMBERS

Robert Simpson (Whakatane),
Wendy Wilson (Whakatane),
Suzanne Hughes (Whakatane),
Dave and Petra Parkinson (Opotiki),
Scott and Charlotte Jones (Te Puke)

LOCAL VOICE

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



APRIL/MAY 2009

BAY OF PLENTY

Farming environment volatile

We are indeed farming in a challenging environment. Global commodity prices and the global financial crisis are impacting on us all. The Fonterra payout review on 28 January took the season's predicted payout down 25 percent. This will put a severe strain on cash flows. A lot of farmers are annoyed at Fonterra's lack of better information regarding payouts. In spite of lower fuel prices, lower official cash rates from the Reserve Bank and lower interest on overdraft rates the new Government is not insulating the New Zealand economy from the global downturn.

Farmers will need to be cautious and review cash flow budgets, tax liabilities and monitor costs to preserve their cash positions. Some maize growers have no contracts signed for grain, and many crops are suffering severe heat stress, which is necessitating an early harvest of green feed for dairy herds. There have also been concerning reports of dairy farmers walking away from contracts for maize silage.

The Bay of Plenty is suffering a worrying deficit of rain and low water tables. Some herds in areas, like Galatea, are milking at 16 hour intervals. However, supplementary

feed stocks are adequate and farmers have started feeding out one month later than last year. Palm kernel is being very heavily used. Most farmers are coping, but we need to monitor the situation closely. Many pastures



in the region are now burning off, farmers are culling cows and some cows are being dried off within herds. Good heavy rain will solve many problems.

Regarding the Federated Farmers survey on trading banks. High overdraft interest rates highlight that those banks are increasing their own margins at the expense of their farmer client. In fact, the Governor of the Reserve Bank mentioned it in his latest review commentary.

Submissions that Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers have worked on include: Variation 8 – ground water bores, Matahina Hydro Dam – consents renewal, Bay of Plenty Regional Council – Regional Policy Statement and Norske Skog meeting on their consent renewal.

A summary of meetings attended and activities from Mid February:

February – Norske Skog consultation, Federated Farmers Dairy Council meeting, FFNZ FARMDAY organisation meeting.

March – FFNZ FARMDAY, Chamber of Commerce, GRINZ meeting in Wellington, National Federated Farmers conference call, Dairy Industry Awards, Horizon Energy meeting, Priority One meeting, BOP Rural Support Trust meeting, working lunch and FFNZ FARMDAY debrief, Fonterra's meeting at Galatea, FFNZ Whakatane employment seminar, Awakeri Sharemilker's farm, Te Puke Branch AGM.

Alan Law - Bay of Plenty President



FFNZ FARMDAY a great success

Federated Farmer's inaugural FARMDAY was held throughout the country on 1 March at 26 different locations throughout New Zealand. Bay of Plenty's FARMDAY was held at David and Nicky Hurst's property, 77 Tara Road, Papamoa and a great day was had by all those who attended.

Over 400 people attended this free day and it is anticipated it will become an annual event. People came from near and far and there were many different nationalities with occupations ranging from accountants to bakers. FARMDAY included a variety of displays including shearing and drafting sheep, milking cows, plus invaluable information on farming courses, fertiliser and nutrition. Animals on show included angora goats, a dexter cow and calf, sheep and horses. Machinery on show included a digger, tractors, motorbikes, trucks and a milk tanker. Demonstrations were given by the digger and the fertiliser truck, which was

a highlight, especially for the children. A loose haystack became a welcome playground in the search for lollies.

Local organiser and Federated Farmers member, Steve Bailey, was pleased with the turnout and was happy to have over 40 volunteer helpers on the day, including members of the Te Puke Young Farmers Club.

Men's, ladies and junior gumboot throwing competitions were held where the winners received a Farmland's voucher. Steve commented that the aim of the day, "Was to bring rural and urban people together to build understanding about the farming industry". He feels that this was achieved, and now visitors appeared keen to check out the associated websites when they returned home.

Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers would like to thank the following for all their help. Dave and Nicky Hurst, Ian and Sandra

Wallis, Gerard Oud, Bill Webb Contractors, Active Earthworks and Demolition, Wealleans Groundspread, Te Puke Farm and Trail, Te Puke Farmlands, Terry Harding (Ballance Agri Nutrients), Bill Adam (Dairy NZ), Farmsafe, Pongakawa School, RD1, Te Puke Young Farmers Club, volunteer Federated Farmers members that helped on the day, Geoff Neilson (Fonterra), George Schular (AgITO), R&R Tractors, Ian and Dawn Parini, Paul and Louise Burt, Colin Reed.



Awakeri Young Farmers Club
Ready to erupt!!!

NZ YOUNG FARMERS

- got the edge

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Studying agriculture -Farming/shepherding/Beef -Sharemilking -In Agri-business -Rep/Worker for a rural service company -Interested in the rural sector -In Animal Health -Lifestyle Block Owner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Learning new skills -Stimulating activities -A great social life -Career growth opportunities -Personal growth -Network opportunities -Free Entry into The National Bank Young Farmer Contest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meet new people -Scholarships -Travel -Pure Kiwi Fun

Awakeri Young Farmers Club - A great way to network and have some fun!!!

For further information phone Raymond 027 202 0356

Meet the candidates meeting

On the 19 February a meeting was held in Te Puke to meet the candidates for the election of Meat and Wool New Zealand's director for the northern North Island. Around 25 people attended the meeting at the Te Puke Club. There were three nominations for the position and each was given 10 minutes to address the audience.

The incumbent, Tom Mandeno, spoke of the work he had done in the role since 2003. He felt that the relationships he had formed and the knowledge gained over this period stood him in good stead to help lead in the future, given the issues Meat and Wool New Zealand face over the coming months.

Ex-employee of Meat and Wool New Zealand, James Reeves, felt that he was in a good position to effect the change he felt was needed in the organisation for it to serve farmers more effectively. James has studied the meat industry at length and described his vision of how he felt it should look in the future.

Having just completed a Nuffield scholarship, James Parsons talked of the knowledge gained from this experience and how this would help him serve farmers and effect change in the organisation. His particular focus is on the supply chain of agricultural products and how it is failing farmers at present.

The three speakers were then questioned from the floor with each taking turns to answer. The main issues addressed during question time included the state of the wool industry; where each candidate stood on the NAIT, and how to get more farmers involved in effecting change in the industry. The three candidates all showed tremendous passion and knowledge of the industry and any one of them would very ably serve farmers of the region. James Parsons later won the election.



Changes to Employment Law from 1 April 2009 that may require your action

Rest Breaks and Meal Intervals - Background

As of 1 April 2009, the Employment Relations Act 2000 introduced a new statutory entitlements to rest breaks and meal intervals. All employees are entitled to the breaks as a minimum. The entitlements in the Act are outlined below. Newly printed Employment Agreements, which reflect this law change, are available from Federated Farmers of NZ phone: 0800 327 646.

Rest breaks and meal intervals are to be observed during an employee's work period at times agreed to by the employee and their employer. But in the absence of such an agreement, the legislation specifies that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the rest breaks and meal intervals must be provided in the middle of the applicable work period. This will not be convenient for farmers however. Farmers can change the times by negotiation and through their employment agreements (see below).

If you have any questions about this law change or about how to implement the change, or would like to order new Employment Agreements please call Federated Farmers

on 0800 327 646.

The Entitlements under the Act

If an employee's work period is two hours or more, but not more than four hours, the employee is entitled to one 10 minute rest break.

If an employee's work period is more than four hours, but not more than six hours, the employee is entitled to:

1. One 10 minute paid rest break; and
2. One 30 minute unpaid meal interval.

If an employee's work period is more than six hours, but not more than eight hours, the employee is entitled to:

1. Two 10 minute rest breaks; and
2. One 30 minute unpaid meal interval.

If an employee's work period is more than eight hours, the employee is entitled to additional breaks as if the employee's work period started at the end of the eighth hour. i.e. their next 10 minute rest break would be after their tenth hour.

The Act does not prevent an employer providing an employee with enhanced or additional entitlements to rest breaks and meal breaks (whether specified in an employment agreement or otherwise) on a basis agreed with the employee. Employees who have greater entitlements for breaks in place now do not lose them as a result of the new law. The 10 minute breaks and the 30 minute breaks can be taken together (40 minutes) if the employment agreement says this, but the breaks must be provided and provided within the working day under the new law.

**Tim Mackintosh -
Bay of Plenty,
Meat & Fibre Chair**



Bay of Plenty Dairy Industry Awards

The Bay of Plenty Dairy Industry Awards were held on Thursday 12 March.

A big thank you to Richard and Louise Hamilton for all their work in organising these awards. Seven couples were competing for the Sharemilker of the Year title, and we had 12 entrants for the Farm Manager of the Year award and 14 Dairy Trainee of the Year entrants.

Congratulations to top sharemilkers, Kim and John Wakefield, of Awakeri, who won the Honda ATV Safety Award, the Meridian Energy Farm Environment Award, the Ravensdown Pasture Performance Award and the Westpac Business Performance Award. Also to Jon and Steph Russell (Whakatane) who were

placed second in the competition and Scott and Charlotte Jones (Pongakawa) who came in third.

Farm Manager of the Year was Phil and Leonie Moeke (working on the Gow Family Trust farm in Edgumbe) who also received the DairyNZ Human Resource Management Award. Whakatane farm manager Aaron Johnston was placed second and Warren and Jo Lee, also Whakatane farm managers, placed third. Bay of Plenty Dairy Trainee of the Year, Mark Nicholas, works as an assistant farm manager in Whakatane.

As there was such a high calibre of dairy trainee entries, the judges highly commended trainees Jamie Burt, of Te Puke, and Adam

Coley, of Whakatane. All three major winners will now compete for the New Zealand titles in Wellington on 16 May.



Bay of Plenty Rural Support Trust

The Bay of Plenty Rural Support Trust was setup as an independent body to handle generous public donations made in response to the 2004 flooding. More recently the functions of the Trust have further developed to include response and recovery to adverse events where it is thought the Trust can be of assistance to individuals. The Trust's boundaries match those of the Bay's Regional Council, with a focus on rural families and businesses.

Among the Trust's aims is the development of better relationships between the rural economy and civil defence and emergency management groups in the region. We are involved with the development of civil defence group plans and exercises so that co-ordinated response and recovery can occur. The Trust is also in the process of establishing direct links with essential services such as councils, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Federated Farmers, police, Red Cross, Search and Rescue, electricity companies and strategic farmers

Maintaining wellbeing in tough times

The Trust is very aware of a lot of stress in the rural community at the present time and unfortunately this pressure will continue for many months. It is very important that this is recognised and help is available.

I would like to acknowledge Ken White, a registered nurse from Whakatane, who holds a PG Dip Psych Nsg and PG Dip HRM, for allowing us to use his notes from a presentation given recently.

Stress is the "wear and tear" our minds and bodies experience as we attempt to deal with our continually challenging environment. It occurs when the pressure is greater than the resources. Excessive, prolonged and unalleviated stress can have a harmful effect on our physical and emotional health and may cause us to behave differently and affect our work capacity.

The following are the most common symptoms:

Physical: Sleep patterns change, fatigue, digestion changes, headaches, aches and pains, indigestion, dizziness, fainting, sweating and trembling, tingling hands and feet, breathlessness and missed heartbeats.

Mental: lack of concentration, memory lapses, difficulty in making decisions, confusion, disorientation and panic attacks.

Emotional Symptoms: impatience, fits of rage, tearfulness, bouts of depression, deterioration of personal hygiene and appearance.

Behavioural Symptoms: increased smoking, fidgeting, nail biting, restlessness, hypochondria, appetite changes (too much or too little).

Work Symptoms: absenteeism, behavioural changes, performance variations, interpersonal issues/conflict.

Warning signs of serious trouble

Be aware of real trouble signs, however, any one of these alone and lasting only a short time can be quite natural. But if you know a friend with several of these problems lasting more than a couple of weeks, they may be nearing a crisis. They need help.



The warning signs can include avoiding friends, activities, social events, totally unable to think of anything but the problem, unexpected outbursts of anger or crying, unable to sleep, always feeling exhausted and irritated, loss of appetite, unable to eat, or eating and vomiting, escaping by sleeping or preoccupied all the time, severe behaviour change, quiet person becoming wild or loud, person becoming withdrawn, despondent, feels powerless, helpless and hopeless, loss of personal appearance, excessive use of drugs or alcohol.

Suicide danger signals

Threatens or talks about killing themselves, preparing for death by giving away prized possessions, making a will, writing farewell letters, gathering pills, or saying good-bye, talking like there is no hope even in the future, acting or talking like not a single person cares, completely giving up on themselves and others

Support you can offer to friends

Take the problem seriously, even if the problem doesn't seem really important to you, it may be important to them.

Don't minimise or dismiss - it doesn't help to say, "things will be better tomorrow" or "keep your chin up!" as their problem is real to them.

Encourage them to talk to you and other professional people (bank manager, accountant, lawyer, health etc.) and offer to go along with them to talk with other people they trust and respect.

Offer to join the person in some activity they normally enjoy; they need a chance to have some respite and get their mind cleared.

Let them know you care, even if they may try to put you off. Stay in touch. Invite them

to do things with you. Don't force them to be cheerful and stick with them.

As a guide, remember CLUES or the five action steps to help a troubled person:

Connect. Make contact. Reach out and talk to them. Notice their pain

Listen. Take the time and really pay attention. You don't have to have all the answers. Just listen.

Understand. Nod, pay attention, let them know you are somewhat aware of what they are going through

Express Concern. Say that you care about them, you are worried for them, and you want to help them.

Seek Help. Tell them you will go with them to talk to a third person, preferably with the experience and the ability to help. Don't agree to be secretive. Enlarge the circle of support.

We must also remember that in these stressful times, animal welfare is also very important and must not be neglected. The last thing we want to see are animals suffering any illness and lack of suitable treatment which would eventually lead to bad publicity and outside authorities becoming involved.

If you require further information on how the Trust can offer assistance, please contact me on **07 5333764**

**Derek Spratt - Bay of Plenty
Rural Support Trust Chair**



Scholarship interview report and awards

Derek Spratt (Convenor), Kaye Graham, Dennis McFetridge and Tim MacKintosh were on the Interview panel.

On 24 December 2008 and 8 January 2009, we interviewed everyone except Nick Law because he was not available due to work commitments.

This year's interviewees would have to be the most outstanding ones that have come forward since Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers started the scholarship programme. In making the final decision, we definitely had a difficult job. In the end, the panel unanimously agreed that all interviewees plus Nick receive a grant.

Scholarship Awards went to Laura Pattie (\$2000), Kim Tootell (\$1500), Sarah van Rossum (\$1500), Danielle Thompson (\$1000), Joel Hughes (\$750), Peter Klaassen (\$750) and Nick Law (\$500).

Derek Spratt - Scholarship Convenor