

REGIONAL MEETING



BAY OF PLENTY

This year's Regional Meeting will be held on

9.30AM WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2009

TE PUKE CLUB
50 JELICOE STREET, TE PUKE

(in the Lounge area downstairs)

GUEST SPEAKERS:



Hon Bill English

National Party Deputy Leader
MP for Clutha/Southland
Finance Spokesman



Simon Bridges

MP for Tauranga

**Don't miss this opportunity to
hear these key speakers.**

Lunch and refreshments provided.

RSVP by Wednesday 28 October 2009 to Kim Cawte:

07 578 5039 or email: bayofplenty@fedfarm.org.nz

(All reports will be circulated at the meeting)

2009 REGIONAL MEETING AGENDA

9.30am Welcome

9.35am **Guest Speakers:**
The Hon Bill English
Simon Bridges MP

10.30am **Morning Tea**

10.45am **Regional Business**

- Apologies
- Matters Not Notified
- Minutes of the Previous Regional Meeting
- Correspondence & Matters Arising
- President's Report (Alan Law)
- Financial Report (In Committee)
- Office Manager's Report to Members & Membership Report
- Farming House Report (Derek Spratt)
- Branch Reports
 - Katikati/Tauranga (Chairman, Barry Roberts)
 - Te Puke (Chairman, Steve Bailey)
 - Manawahe (Chairman - Paul Furniss)
 - Whakatane/Galatea (Chairman, Gerard Van Beek)
 - Opotiki (Chairman, Bob Redpath)
- Section Reports
 - Dairy (Chairman, John Scrimgeour)
 - Meat & Fibre (Chairman, Tim Mackintosh)
 - Sharemilker Employers' Section (Chairman - Scottie McLeod)
 - Sharemilkers' Section (Chairman – Jon Russell)
 - RAHAC (Chairman – Earle Wells)
 - Grain & Seed (Chairman, Colin MacKinnon)

Followed by

LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS

2008 Regional Meeting

*(A full set of the 2008 minutes
will be available at the meeting.)*



Provincial update

Bay of Plenty President's Report from 9 September 2009 Management Meeting.

We have been very busy following our last Management Meeting on 7th July.

22nd July - Hilary Walker (Federated Farmers Policy Advisor) and I met with Whakatane District Council planners for preliminary discussions on their Natural Heritage Chapter of the District Plan that had been struck down by the courts six years ago. 160 have been identified. They appear to be listening to our views. Main points raised:

- Council must consult with all affected parties.
- Council needs to gather basic information together prior to contacting farmers who will be affected.
- Council needs to cultivate and establish partnerships to progress this chapter.
- Council must recognise current stewardship of land and resources.

The next step is formulating a 'Working Group'. It was a surprise that Council did not know the status or trends with Natural Heritage in our District and had not talked to Environment Bay of Plenty (EBOP) either.

28th July - I addressed Whakatane's Economic Development Group on the state of the dairy industry in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. This was well received and they were a little surprised at the actual economic position of farmers. They are keen to work together in the future.

4th August - I attended the Ag. Advisory Meeting. We had the usual good exchange of information from other sectors in the Bay of Plenty.

6th August - I had a meeting with Bill Bayfield, CEO EBOP, and three of his managers. Federated Farmers representatives included Derek Spratt, John Scrimgeour, Gerard van Beek and myself. The meeting was informal and there was a good exchange of views including:

- Rivers and drainage.
- Land management.
- 10 year plan (subsidy changes). Bay of Plenty Federated

- Farmers suggested rates relief to help.
- Biosecurity.
- Pest Management Plan (out next week for submissions).

10th August - I attended a carbon farming seminar at the Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC). There were presentations from MAF, EBOP and Hadford & Associates. Topics covered were:-

- Forest sink initiatives.
- A forestation grants scheme.
- Supporting land management programs.

This was an interesting day, however, I still feel that the information was sketchy on the real affects on pastoral farmers.

28th August - I had a meeting with the Federated Farmers team on WBOPDC LTCCP submission. All those involved have done a great job and have covered extensive issues. Congratulations especially to Derek Spratt, who has spent a lot of time working on this.

2nd September - Derek Spratt, Hilary Walker and myself met with EBOP representatives from Fonterra and Horticulture NZ. There was discussion on our appeal in regard to the proposed plan change Rule 8 (ground water bores and flooding conditions). Federated Farmers are opposing the restricted discretionary status proposed in favour of seeking permitted activity status.

In the media:

The Province has had numerous interviews and comments on local radio and several newspaper articles.

General:

With the current economic conditions in farming we are losing some members. We need to promote Federated Farmers and assist our Recruitment Officer, Eileen Hart, to identify potential members. Please help keep Federated Farmers effective and to retain a strong voice. Once again, thank you all for your support, as a team we are all making a difference.

Alan Law - Bay of Plenty President





Introducing Barry Low

Principal Rural Fire Officer

Barry Low is the new Principal Rural Fire Officer for Western Bay of Plenty. He comes to us equipped with plenty of experience, having worked with Civil Defence and more recently with Rural Fire in Tauranga.

Last year there were 3,500 permits issued in Western Bay of Plenty; many of these were for rural fires. Remember that vegetation fires started in rural areas are not automatically covered by your insurance and the fire service levy. It definitely pays to check with your insurance company to see if you are covered under the Forest and Rural Fires Act, otherwise fire suppression can be an expensive exercise.

Across New Zealand many rural vegetation wild fires are started by accident, such as a spark from the header or a backfiring motor bike. When conditions get dry a tiny spark can quickly become a job for a team of helicopters.

Barry can be contacted on 07 579 6783.

WINZ

Job Ops information for employers

Job Ops provides a subsidy to assist employers who may be struggling to employ staff in entry level positions. Job Ops is designed to help employers take on an employee they otherwise may not be able to. It's a chance to give valuable work experience to young people who find themselves out of work. Job Ops opportunities must be for at least six months and are targeted so as to help prepare young people for further opportunities in the workforce.

What is a Job Ops opportunity?

Full time positions of at least 30 hours per week. At least





six months in duration. For 16 to 17 year olds, or 18 to 24 year olds who are receiving the Unemployment Benefit. Not intended to replace current roles or roles lost due to redundancy. Job Ops provides you with two lump sum subsidy payments for each young person employed for at least six months in an entry-level position. An initial subsidy payment of \$3,000 will be made at the commencement of the employment period, followed by a further \$2,000 subsidy payment after the employee has worked for six months. To register, contact the Work and Income Employer Line on 0800 778 008. When you call we'll check that your job opportunity meets the Job Ops criteria.

New Members

(from July to October 2009)

GEM Farms Ltd (Te Puke), Katie Rutherford & Mark Carter (Galatea), Denise & Kevin Young (Edgecumbe), Wayne Crawford (Te Puke), Evan Crawford (Opotiki), Carl Willians (Katikati), Tony Bruining (Katikati).

BAY OF PLENTY FARMERS EDUCATION TRUST 2009 SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited from any student from the Bay of Plenty Region who has been in an agricultural and/or veterinary course for at least one year, either full or part time. No age limit or specific qualifications required. This scholarship is to assist in the payment of tutorial fees in the enrolled course. Applications close:

30th November 2009.

Please send in your CV to:-

BOPFET Scholarship, PO Box 13531, Tauranga 3141