



GOLDEN BAY

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2011 PAPERS

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PROVINCIAL AGM

PROGRAMME

- 9.30am Regular monthly meeting of Golden Bay Province Federated Farmers
- 10.30am Morning Tea
- 11.00am AGM Golden Bay Province Federated Farmers
- AGM business
- **Guest speakers:**
Anna MacKenzie - Regional Policy Advisor, Federated Farmers of New Zealand
Lachlan MacKenzie - Board Member and Dairy Chairperson
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
Donald Aubrey - Vice-president, Federated Farmers of New Zealand
Philip York - Board Member, Federated Farmers of New Zealand
- 12.30pm Lunch, sponsored by NZ Landcare Trust
- 1.15pm **Helen Smale** - Executive Officer, Marlborough Shellfish Quality Programme (MSQP)
"The Future of Marine Farming and the Importance of Water Quality"
- 1.30pm MSQP Environment Award presentation to the Aorere Catchment Project and NZ Landcare Trust and MSQP
presentation to Golden Bay Streamcare
- 1.40pm **Guest Speaker:**
Bruce McNab - Director NZ Landcare Trust and Ex Federated Farmers of
New Zealand Environmental Spokesperson
- 2.30pm Afternoon Tea

PROVINCIAL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Federated Farmers Golden Bay
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
4th May 2010 10am
Held at The Mussel Inn Café 11.00am**

PRESENT: G Ball, M George, N Harwood, M & B Riley, S Garrett, G Milne, J Lewis, G Wilson, R & L Swafford, D Riley, K Brooks, A MacKenzie, Tim King, T Reilly, N Riley, L & J McLean, S Borlaise, G Robilliard, M Pomeroy, Dave Egan

Graham opened the meeting and introduced our guests - David Rose, Tim King, Dave Egan, Stuart Borlaise and Averill Turnbull.

APOLOGIES: J & B McHardy, J & C McLellan, J Bell, M Burnside, C Sowman, R Kempthorne, C Auchinvole, J Etheridge, S Brown, J Nalder, S & A Curnow, J Ward, N Sixtus, G & J Petterson, K Pomeroy, L Gamby

That apologies be accepted: Nigel/Michele

Moved that the Minutes of the last AGM be taken as read.

Moved a true and correct record. Michelle/Robin Swafford

Notification of any General Business

Graham asked for notification of General Business - None

Presentation of Reports:

Graham, Michelle and Nigel presented their reports (attached)

Moved that the reports be adopted. Tony Reilly/Stuart Borlaise

Correspondence

Michele accepted a letter from Celia Sowman resigning from the board as Secretary.

Financial Report

Moved that the Financial Report be taken as read. Nigel/ Jan McLean

Gary Robilliard asked how the shortfall of \$3158 was found.

Tim King, Deputy Mayor of Tasman

Spoke briefly on the working relationship between Federated Farmers and Council, that they work collaboratively on important issues.

Spoke also on his recent trip to farms in the United Kingdom and the single farm payment system. He mentioned that the image of NZ over there, in particular our clean green is not necessarily backed up and that NZ dairy farmers should be aware - Google Earth/exposure. He talked about sheep and beef stock prices and supermarket comparisons.

Anna MacKenzie, Policy Advisor Federated Farmers

Spoke on RMA, Cultural Heritage Sites, Beds & Rivers, Annual Plan and Membership

Anna's report is attached

Graham Wilson asked about the RMA.

Tim King responded on time frames from Council perspective

David Rose responded regarding the Environmental Assessment Agency and that the Federation was watching closely.

Break for Lunch 12.15pm

Election of Board

Michelle nominated Sue Brown to the Board.

Accepted Michelle/Nigel

Graham asked if there was anyone else that would like to be part of the board - none. Moved that the Board positions stay the same. Stuart/Robin

Stuart Borlaise, Councilor TDC

Graham invited Stuart to speak about TB and Animal Health. Stuart informed us that locally we were looking very good with only 2 infected herds at present. That we are now aligned with the West Coast which was regarded with some trepidation however we are down from 130 herds to 42. Annual meetings are held and dialogue kept up. Nationally there are 98 infected herds (91 cattle/7 deer) this is down from 1700 herds 5yrs ago. 1080 primarily responsible. Infected herds costs incurred. New strategies to keep infected herds at least 98. 15yrs to complete localized eradication areas. Budget \$2.8m TDC contributes \$220,000. Stuart also mentioned that with regard to resource consents thru TDC 95% done within time. Graham Wilson asked why money not spent towards promoting TB in people not only farmers.

Graham Ball mentioned that people need to be aware of how much bird life has returned as a result of 1080. Native bush recovery costs should move more towards Central Govt.

David Rose, National Board Federated Farmers

David spoke of his responsibilities - Rural Women, Education and Health, Water spokesman, Adverse Events, Employment and Assistant Local Government spokesman.

Borrowing \$240m = \$413/second

Return to Field Officers

Membership

Feds budget back in the black

NAIT - Feds didn't go with it but it is going ahead anyway.

Land and Water Forum - Feds involved report due 31/1

Employment - bi monthly bulletin out instead of in Friday

Flash

Personal Grievance - concentrate on the process not the issues

- 400 calls a month on employment issues.

Agriculture profits shouldn't be a "dirty word".

Feedback on communication.

David thanked the board for their work.

Nigel asked about the Transpower Debate. David said that it wasn't his dept but Feds were trying to get compensation and the current situation unfair.

Graham Ball asked about the ETS - Feds against it some discrediting happening.

Averill Turnbull queried why we are not fighting against acceptance of global warming.

Tony Reilly asked about Rural Broadband - Feds want full broad band not just unchoking.

Graham Wilson promoted the Friday Flash.

Averill Turnbull, Guest Speaker

Averill gave an entertaining speech on her goat's cheese business and her recent marathon running in Africa.

Graham thanked our speakers.

Dave Eagan, RSC

Spoke on behalf of Rural Service Centre who has sponsored the AGM this year. Dave thanked the speakers for an interesting afternoon. They are only a phone call away and want to continue building up relationships with GB farmers.

Graham then thanked the Nigel, Michelle and Celia for their help over the year. He also thanked Michele for stepping in as acting Secretary.

Declared Meeting closed at 3.15pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

GRAHAM BALL

Our AGM comes at the end of the farming season. Then in June, all provinces get together for the Annual National Conference. The June conference moves around the provinces and this year it is in Rotorua.

For most farms without irrigation this has been a trying season - extra supplements have increased the cost of production. The unusually long dry in November impacted on grass growth affecting not only production but making for a difficult dairy mating period. Then in February the lack of rain forced many dairy farmers to reduce twice daily milkings to conserve feed and keep weight on animals.

The biggest impact on the season for some was the devastating 169 year flood in the Aorere Valley and to a lesser degree in the Takaka Valley. The cost to the worst affected farms is in the tens of thousands of dollars and in some cases far in excess of this. The flooding brought to a head land owners concerns over the in bed management of our rivers. After consultation with landowners, council and staff we put in a submission to the Beds of Rivers & Lakes Chapter. Thank you also to everyone who came along to the flood meetings and helped form our submission on river management.

You will see in Anna's Regional Policy Annual Report that we have submitted on Cultural Heritage Sites, Amalgamation, The Annual Plan and we are at present in consultation with Tasman District Council and other parties on Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who got involved in the cleanup of the 28 December floods. This clean up for affected land owners and home owners has been a mammoth task. Help came from businesses offering labour and food, Rural Support Trust, Rural Women, Contractors, Neighbours and many more.

A special thanks must go to Michelle Riley and Sue Brown who worked tirelessly throughout co-ordinating meetings and keeping everyone informed. This was a huge task for them as both were affected by the floods themselves.

I would also like to thank the Mayor Richard Kempthorne for his role in chairing these meetings and for his support.

Looking towards next season, product prices look good, financial markets still look uncertain and the debt we owe as a country will keep the brakes on for a while yet.

I hope you all have a good winter break.

Graham Ball
President
Federated Farmers Golden Bay

MEAT & FIBRE REPORT

GAVIN O'DONNELL

Dear Meat & Fibre members

The 2010/11 year has been a year of over promise and under delivery. While we are all rejoicing in near record prices little has changed structurally. The fact is failure to achieve meaningful change structurally continues to force large numbers to dairy and this has caused a shortening in supply of both wool and meat resulting in an improvement in product prices. I'm not sure that it is worthwhile crowing about our success when it came on the back of collective failure.

Unfortunately, even with the product prices we are experiencing, a dairy farm is still producing double the returns of sheep on a per kg dry matter consumed basis. The dairy march continues and we have seen over 900,000ha covert to dairy since 2001. I have been lucky in this role to experience both the dairy and meat and fibre sections. I marvel at dairy's ability to work together and achieve outstanding results collectively, while meat and wool producers act decisively to change nothing.

After 8 years in the role, the issues have changed little (this is not surprising because they haven't really changed since my father held this position in the 80's). We still have over capacity, too many companies exporting, procurement culture etc. etc. I can't see much will change until the shareholders of the companies demand change. It is an extreme optimist that believes the looming world food shortage will save us, the current situation is that dry stock farmers have become little more than holding companies waiting for dairy farmers to buy them out.

Likewise we have seen an initiative for wool fail this year with comments like 'it was the same old faces' etc. I would point out that the same old faces formed the dairy industry, they put the right structures in place and apart from some squabbling around DIRA and how much should be paid by competitors for raw milk, they have created an enormously successful company. This company is adding considerable wealth to its shareholders.

This is my last report as Meat and Fibre representative, I have enjoyed the role but it is now time to move onto greener (dairy) pastures.

Kind Regards

Nigel Harwood
Chairperson
Golden Bay Meat & Fibre

DAIRY REPORT

SUE BROWN

My year as dairy chair has flown by. I am enjoying the challenges and seek re-election. There seems to be a constant plethora of consultation and although it's hard at times I think Golden Bay province has managed to get at least one of us along to every meeting that farmers need to be represented at.

Thanks to our other halves, Michelle George, Brent Riley, Fiona Harwood and John Nalder for supporting us in flitting about. And this year a special thank you to the members who took up Anna's challenge to attend the Part 4 Lakes & Rivers hearings. Having 17 landowners in the TDC Council Chambers was amazing.

However, we need more members to attend our monthly meetings. Secretary Stuart Borlase has got us organised for a meeting on the first Tuesday of every month, 9.30am at the Takaka Library. We'll review the time of day after AGM to see what suits members for next year but we are getting back into an efficient routine!

I personally really appreciate the feedback from members ... it keeps me from going too far out on a limb but also reflects there is still considerable diversity within so please contact me anytime.

Biodiversity NPS: The others have mentioned much of what we have dealt with except I think the National Policy Statement on Biodiversity has been overlooked ... as I write this I am finalising feedback on this via Federated Farmers and via my position on the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board. In a nutshell I very much like the concept of protection of biodiversity but don't like the current MfE proposal which reeks of becoming a regulatory dogma with potential to dump on private landowners. We can do way better than this as a country. New Zealand can have its biodiversity cake and eat it too ... if the Minister will consider

a fresh approach to the NPS!

Clean Streams Accord: Recently I was quoted by local media saying that Tasman's dairy farmers "won't let themselves down" with regard to the Clean Streams Accord next reporting period. Except the scary thing is that referred to the 2009/10 season and we are about to end the 2010/11 season! TDC are on track to meet their target of checking 100% of farms and very soon we'll be stuck with whatever the result is. Coming up on May 16th is a joint meeting with TDC, Federated Farmers Nelson Dairy Chairperson, Fonterra, DairyNZ and Landcare Trust where we expect to hear informal results.

As Dairy chair I'm looking forward to the "Clean Streams Accord Version 2" which is being worked on. Compliance within industry is the only sensible way ahead.

AWDT Escalator Course: While an aside to my Federation role I would like to take the opportunity to recommend this to other rural women. It is teaching me heaps ... if you're interested please talk to me or check out the website www.awdt.org.nz. It's even helped me get over my hangups over photographs!

Aorere Catchment Group & MSQP Environmental Awards: Happening here today after the AGM – wow, who'd have ever thought we'd have ended up here!

So I sign of this year very much looking forward ... and very open to the possibility of experiencing a climatically gentle and good for growing grass year!

Sue Brown
Chairperson
Golden Bay Dairy

REGIONAL POLICY REPORT

ANNA MACKENZIE

RATES

The rating system in New Zealand is by no means perfect and has been likened to simply a tax on land. This is quite probably a fair assessment in some districts with Councils imposing a high level of their rates on the land or capital value of a property. As we all know the result of this is a rather large rates bill for farmers, high enough to turn some of our urban friends pale with shock.

Some of the key features of the annual plan this year include:

- An increase in the total amount of rates taken by the council of 9% from last year.
- Low use of uniform charges and a reluctance to increase, them despite legislation allowing for it and a greater benefit to larger landowners.
- Increased rates to provide for the disaster relief fund and the replacement of the James Road Bridge.
- Increased rates to provide for a larger budget to partly fund river works outside the areas classified and directly managed by council.

BEDS OF RIVERS AND LAKES

Early last year council released a new chapter of the district plan relating to the management of beds of rivers and lakes across the district. We made submissions about our concerns with a number of features from the plan, and we were also involved with pre-hearing meetings to discuss the various issues with other submitters prior to the hearing. Our key concerns with the chapter included:

- The very limited gravel extraction rules (1 cubic metre in a 24hr period).
- The very limited ability for adjoining landowners to undertake meaningful river control works.
- The inclusion of a schedule of river values to be used when determining resource consents which was weighted against economic interests.
- The inclusion of water quality rules that no farmers can be certain they comply with.

Decisions on this are due to be released shortly, however given how complicated some of the issues were, we are hoping the council has made careful consideration of the provisions.

CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

Council proposed some changes to the way cultural heritage sites were managed, and proposed to include a large number of sites within the plan (close to 1000 sites). We made a submission seeking that clearer terms were used to avoid confusion, greater consultation with individual affected landowners was made and that there was not duplication between the process of the council and the existing processes of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. The hearing for

this was held at the same time as the hearing for the Beds of Rivers and Lakes, and so a decision is expected shortly.

LANDSCAPE PROVISIONS

Council has begun consultation with landowners in Golden Bay over the identification of areas of Outstanding Natural Landscape and potential regulations to protect those landscapes from inappropriate subdivision development and use. This is being fuelled by an agreement council has with Friends of Nelson Haven to develop landscape protection rules, which fell out of an environment court appeal a number of years ago. Council has commissioned a landscape report which identifies a number of potential areas to be considered outstanding. Landowners are concerned that they may have some rights taken away from them because of being considered outstanding, with the most drastic option being all of Golden Bay considered as Outstanding Natural Landscape.

This is going to be a major issue facing Golden Bay farmers over the next 12 months, and there is already much discontent among other business groups as well, particularly around the way that consultation has been undertaken by council and over the unknown potential effect to landowners. We will be fully involved in this process to ensure that the rights and needs of farmers are upheld through the plan development and area identification processes.

AMALGAMATION

There was a proposal to combine Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council put to the government by the now Mayor of Nelson City Council. We made a submission opposing such amalgamation mainly because of concerns that with a larger urban population there would be reduced representation of rural councillors on any new council and that the needs of the rural community would be lost against the more vocal urban needs.

We proposed instead that the council's work more closely together and perhaps go as far as sharing some IT and administration services to reduce the costs of operating the two different councils. We also expressed concern with any potential rating system given that farmers tend to pay a higher portion of the general rates, any combined council rating system could potentially see farmers paying for urban activities such as local roads in Nelson City, or large community facilities which primarily serve Nelson City residents due to proximity.

The Local Government Commission which is responsible for deciding if amalgamation is to occur is currently seeking further information, after which they will decide if they will proceed with the application, at which time a draft plan of how the amalgamation could work will be put out to the public to submit on, before separate Tasman District and

Nelson City polls are made. Only if there is a majority in each of the districts would any proposed amalgamation go ahead. It is a long road ahead before any final decisions will be made.

WATER METERING

A reminder that governments new water metering regulations will mean that any water takes over 20 l/s will be required to have an approved water meter installed before November 2012. This is a good opportunity to ensure your water meters are installed and functioning in 2011 before the last minute rush in 2012.

FINAL WORD

Finally, it should be noted that as your policy advisor I work for you. I make submissions and lobby to local government on your behalf in conjunction with the Golden Bay Province Executive. Any thoughts or comments on the activities of your District Council, or on the work the province is undertaking on your behalf would be welcome.

Anna MacKenzie
Regional Policy Advisor
Federated Farmers of New Zealand