

formal submission process. Members are welcome to attend these meetings to keep in touch.

The meetings give councillors and their staff the opportunity to ask questions of members more openly and to highlight upcoming reviews and/or changes to statutory plans and bylaws. It can also ease some of the tensions around issues that arise each year during the annual planning process. If you'd like to be involved in our next meeting with one of the councils please contact me.

The Otago Executive and myself invite you to attend our end of year function on Wednesday 17 December at the Dunedin Club.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Richard Burdon - Otago President
Phone: 0303 443 1554
Email: burdonrg@xtra.co.nz



DIRECTIONS TO THE DUNEDIN CLUB



CHRISTMAS CHEER 2008



OTAGO

3pm, Wednesday 17 December 2008

**The Dunedin Club
33 Melville Street, Dunedin**

Update from Otago Federated Farmers.

Managing the proceeds from
the sale of Harvest Court.

Drinks and light food
from 5.00pm-8.00pm

Come and join us for some Christmas cheer

ALL WELCOME

RSVP by Monday 15 December to

Bronwyn Wilson
Phone: 0800 327 646 | Email: bwilson@fedfarm.org.nz

CHRISTMAS 2008 NEWSLETTER



OTAGO



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

HAPPY CHRISTMAS 2008

If you get the chance over the Christmas period to invite some city folk down to the farm for a couple of days please do so.

In my experience, our non-farming friends always have a great time when they are at our place and it provides an excellent opportunity for me to try out a bit of soft persuasion. Having a chance to go on a farm can be the highlight of the year for city children and I am confident that you will also find the experience very rewarding.

We need to keep the relationship strong with our urban cousins and all it takes is for each of us to do our bit. I sometimes worry that many of today's young children from urban centres have no understanding of farming and farm life.

The National Board and staff of Federated Farmers have just released the 2008 General Election Manifesto. I think it is a great document and definitely worth a read. You can download it from the Federated Farmers' website (sorry broadband is a must). The Manifesto clearly states to the political parties what

Federated Farmers is trying to achieve and the role farming plays in New Zealand. If you wish to review the Manifesto go to www.fedfarm.org.nz - Our Work - Campaigns - Manifesto-Election 2008.

On the high country front many of our members are facing some pretty critical issues at the moment and are currently sitting on tender hooks awaiting the outcome of two more court challenges. The Soldiers decision was a significant win, so we're hoping that Mt Ida (next door) will also

come our way as it is a similar lease. I can only hope that the new ministers of Lands and Conservation will be more realistic towards the Crown's high country expectations.

High country meetings are being held to review a number of issues including:

1. Update on Minaret LVT.
2. The Fish & Game case.
3. Future of the High Country Accord going forward.
4. LINZ relationship with high country lessees.



5. Marginal strips.
7. Discretionary consents.
8. Recreational permits.

At a short debriefing, after the finish of the LVT case, Nick Davidson QC said that there was still a lot of work to be done. Both QC's still have to give their closing submissions to the Tribunal. This will be done in Court on 9th December, lessees are encouraged to come and listen to the legal basis for the Crown increasing rents. This court case is being heard in Dunedin.

Nick Davidson QC for the Minaret case indicated that the judgment for the LVT case could be out before Christmas. It would be very pleasing to us all if that happens, as we can then get on with the next stage, early in the New Year.

Federated Farmers National Council meeting has been held in Wellington on the 18th-19th November. I followed up on a number of issues including the remit on the school bus runs. I also spent time finding out more about the Emission Trading Scheme and what plans the new National government has in store for New Zealand farmers.

I am always keen to hear from farmers who want issues taken to the National Board of Federated Farmers of New Zealand or to Government, so don't hesitate to give me a call.

STADIUM FUNDING – HOUSE OF PAIN?

Federated Farmers has been involved in the saga of a new "House of Pain" for Dunedin. We haven't actively supported or opposed the stadium, but have been one of the few organisations or submitters who have focussed on what rating tools will be used to fund it.



FOREBEARS SECURE FUTURE OF PROVINCE – MOVING FORWARD

Otago Federated Farmers' interests on the Board of Farm Enterprises have investigated the options available to us to set up a Trust, what form it would take how the money will be invested etc.

It seems likely that a two Trust system will be established to administer the investment with an aim to ensure that the capital remains intact for future generations. We want to generate an income that can be annually invested back into the province.



There are a number of benefits to a two Trust system. One would be a Charitable Trust, the other a Non-charitable Trust which would primarily be responsible for funding the ongoing running of the province as well as specific advocacy and assistance to members with regulatory or legislative matters.

The Charitable Trust could be used for purposes such as funding participation in national leadership courses, supporting members and rural communities during and following an adverse event, and funding applications from groups of members that have benefit to the wider Otago farming community.

There would be trustees appointed common to both Trusts, likely a mix of members of the executive and an independent person with expertise in a particular area. The trustees would make decisions on investment policy, allocation of funds and deal with statutory matters relating to the Trusts. A key objective of both of the Trusts would be to ensure that the capital investment is preserved over time so that its value in 10 or 20 years is comparable with its value today.

Federated Farmers Otago is planning on holding a special general meeting to discuss how the province should invest in its future on 17th December. This meeting will provide information on a Trust structure and details of the investment capital as well as options for the future management of the Trust. It is important that all members have an opportunity to have a say on the future of the province's funds.

MEETINGS WITH COUNCILS

We have four district councils and one regional council in the region that we try and get around every year.

There are informal meetings held with councillors and council staff with the aim of discussing these issues affecting our members outside of the

