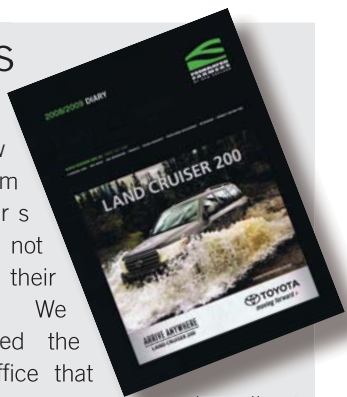


## Diaries

We have had a few calls from members who have not received their diaries. We have advised the Hamilton office that most dairy farmers pay by direct debit through Fonterra and they do not notice that in order to receive a diary they must stipulate this request on the separate account that is sent out. This stipulation will now be highlighted on the actual account so that, hopefully, members do not miss this information.

However, if you require a diary and have not received one, please contact Kim at the Tauranga office.



**Rural Women ENTERPRISING RURAL WOMAN AWARD 2009**  
CELEBRATING RURAL WOMEN IN BUSINESS  
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY Better Off Bank of New Zealand Rural Women

Rural Women NZ has recently launched the RWNZ Enterprising Rural Woman Award 2009. The goal is to support and promote women running their own small businesses based in rural areas. Three Award finalists will be presented with prizes at the Grand Hall of Parliament on 15/5/09.

For entry forms ph 0800 256 467 or email: [enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz)

## Employment Seminars Mark your diary now!!

21 October 2008, 9:30am  
Western Bay REAP, 21 Pyne Street,  
Whakatane

21 October 2008, 2:00pm  
RSA, 10 Oxford Street, Te Puke

22 October 2008, 10:00am  
RSA, 1072 Haupapa Street, Rotorua

22 October 2008, 2:30pm  
RSA, Horomatangi Street, Taupo

For more information or to register phone:  
0800 327 646

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS...

Chichester Farm Ltd - Roberts (Te Puke),  
Deltraj Farm Ltd - A Overdeest (Whakatane),  
DJ & DJ Cram Partnership (Edgecumbe),  
Bay Milking - Bedingham (Whakatane),  
Underwood & Wilkins Motorcycles Ltd  
(Whakatane), Tow Can - Boonen (Whakatane),  
Nikau Dairies - Wilson (Te Puke), GA & CG Lotz  
(Te Puke), Full Tit Ltd - Doherty (Whakatane),  
W & C Rutledge (Te Puke), Pikowai Couriers  
Ltd - Jefferies (Matata), Jacks Machinery  
- Fergusson (Whakatane), A&C Hynds Ltd  
(Te Puke), Braden De La Rue (Edgecumbe),  
Oakridge Trust - Cameron (Tauranga),  
BA & DC Looney (Whakatane), PC & AM  
Cruse (Rotorua - Farm Owner/Lessor)

**Congratulations to Pongakawa Dairy  
Farmers - Kathleen & John Morrow for  
appearing on Page 14 of the 2008/09  
Pioneer Brand Forages Magazine!!**

# LOCAL VOICE

## PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



BAY OF PLENTY

JULY 2008

## Alan Law your new President

**Alan has been a dairy farmer all his life, but now he is taking up building bridges between urban dwellers and farmers.**

I was elected President at the region's annual conference in May 2008 and one of my major focuses will be "building a better understanding of the rural world". I believe rural people are losing their representation in local, regional and central government and farmers have got to communicate more with urban people. It is my job, as President, to make sure farmers' views are heard at all levels of government. I want to get more people involved, not just leaving it up to a few elected representatives. Major issues farmers are currently grappling with include climate change and the Kyoto Protocol. Other issues include the meat and wool industry restructuring, investments in scientific research and development and pollution from all sources.

I grew up and still live in Thornton, near Whakatane. After leaving school in 1972 I joined the Awakeri Young Farmers Club and soon became Club Chairman. I then went on

to be Eastern Bay of Plenty District Chairman. In 1979 I went on a BNZ sponsored exchange to farms in Tasmania for three months, which was a great chance to learn about the Australian state's economy and its farming industry.

I learned my strong work ethic on the Law family's two dairy farms and in their contracting business. In 1980 I took on my own property, which my wife Wendy and I have developed considerably. Seeing farmers needed information and good advice during the six to eight tough years with high debt and Rogernomics in the 80's, I organised a forum on team work with an accountant and the Whakatane Branch of Federated Farmers. I was Vice Chairman of BOP Federated Farmers dairy section in the late 1980s and Whakatane Branch Chairman in 1990/91.

Around the same time, I led a study team to Victoria, Australia with the dairy section. I have also been BOPFF Vice President for three years. In 1995 Wendy and I were awarded the Royal Agricultural Society's AC Cameron Memorial Award for excellence in

farming and community involvement. 2001 saw me take part in the Kelloggs Rural Leadership Programme at Lincoln University.

Today Wendy and I own two dairy farms at Thornton, milking 500 cows on 149 hectares. We also have a 53 hectare runoff, including some leased land. Wendy is a protein technologist for Fonterra Edgecumbe. We have two sons aged 13 and 16. It is only three years ago that I stepped back from milking full time.

I now have two farm managers, but I'm still very much hands on. I am involved as a networker farmer for the Fonterra shareholders councillor. I am also a member of the Whakatane Rotary Club.



Alan Law - Bay of Plenty President

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at call rate

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**FEDERATED FARMERS OF NEW ZEALAND**

To find out more call our Agribusiness team on 0800 177 155.

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Making the most of life

This special interest rate is only available on Business Interest Accounts opened by Federated Farmers' members. Terms and conditions apply. Interest is calculated daily, and paid on the last business day of each month (less resident withholding tax). Transactions and service fees apply. The interest rate shown is current at 28 February 2008 and is subject to change at Westpac's discretion. You can get a copy of Westpac's general terms and conditions, a copy of the current disclosure statement for Westpac New Zealand Limited and a copy of the investment statement for any securities for which an investment statement is required from any Westpac branch in New Zealand free of charge. Westpac New Zealand Limited.

**Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers of NZ  
publishes regular newsletters to keep our members informed**

### Management Committee:

Provincial President: Alan Law, 07 304 9536  
Treasurer: Kaye Graham, 07 308 4915  
FF Dairy Chair: John Scrimgeour, 07 533 3681  
Dennis McFertridge, 07 543 1072  
John Howard, 07 308 5084  
Paul Burt, 07 322 2329

### Branch Chairmen:

Katikati/Tauranga: Barry Roberts, 07 543 1025  
Manawahe: Paul Furniss, 07 322 2391  
Opotiki: Bob Redpath, 07 315 7761

Sharemilkers Chair: Jon Russell, 07 308 2521  
Sharemilkers Employers: Alan Law, 07 304 9536

Office Manager: Kim Cawte, Phone: 07 578 5039 Email: [kcawte@fedfarm.org.nz](mailto:kcawte@fedfarm.org.nz)

For comments on this newsletter or if you wish to join Federated Farmers please contact

Vice President: John Scrimgeour, 07 533 3681  
FF Meat & Fibre Chair: Tim Mackintosh, 07 322 1039  
FF Grain & Seed Chair: Colin MacKinnon, 07 308 0616  
Gerard Van Beek, 07 308 6474  
Corrie Smit, 07 304 9921  
Derek Spratt, 07 533 3764

Te Puke: John Scrimgeour, 07 533 3681  
Whakatane/Galatea: Gerard Van Beek, 07 308 6474

## Cleaner Streams in the Bay of Plenty

Federated Farmers has played a leadership role in improving the quality of Bay of Plenty waterways in farming areas. The Federation recently signed up to the Clean Streams Accord (CSA) along with Environment Bay of Plenty and Fonterra.

The CSA regional action plan was signed at the McFetridge Farm near the Kaimai Ranges, where Environment Bay of Plenty recently helped develop a riparian planting plan. The Regional Action Plan sets out the commitment from each partner to meet national dairying CSA targets in the Bay of Plenty region. It also outlines the role each organisation will play in working with farmers to achieve these targets.

Environment Bay of Plenty and Fonterra will advise farmers and provide resources and advice to ensure:

- 90 percent of Bay of Plenty dairy cattle are excluded from rivers and lakes by 2012;
- 90 percent of regular crossing points will

have bridges or culverts by 2012;

- All local farmers comply with resources consents and regional plans around dairy effluent discharge;
- Nutrient inputs and outputs are managed by all farmers.



Ongoing results will be measured through the annual farm dairy assessment programme.

At the signing ceremony Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers President, Alan Law,

said farmers had just as much interest in protecting the region's waterways as the local community. "Farmers, like everyone else, use and value local waterways for recreational purposes. It's also part of their natural capital - something which must be protected for the next generation of farmers," said Mr Law.

"Before Fonterra came up with the 'clean streams' concept we had developed our own relationship with Environment BOP and have worked with councillors and staff to set some environmental targets.

The Fonterra approach gave added impetus to our initiatives and it's great to see all three parties here today celebrating in this official signing of the accord, said Mr Law.

Mr Law said the signing of the accord sends a clear message to the rest of the community that the farming sector is committed and united in its approach to developing positive environmental outcomes.

**Peter Burke - Federated Farmers  
Communications Manager**

# A very busy five years

In 2002, when I was asked to be Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers Vice President, I was reluctant to accept, but with some pushing I finally agreed. My first responsibility was working on Environment Bay of Plenty's Land and Water Management Plan. In July 2002 there were two volumes of summary of decisions requested, of which Federated Farmers through David Charteris, Grant Kettle and others had made a total of 123 submissions and as a consequence, in May 2004, Version 8 was produced. This was the start of the serious negotiations with all parties who made submissions.

Two years later when I became your President I continued working on the Plan, while also getting involved with District Council plans. Needless to say a lot of work has gone into submissions with the help of members and Federated Farmers staff.



Most of you will remember July 2004, (two months after I became your president) when the floods came with vengeance in the eastern Bay of Plenty. Bruce Woods became team leader and Catherine Bull the spokesperson for news articles and keeping the public up to date on developing issues. In the meantime I was taking calls from Radio and TV and this continued whilst I was reluctantly in Christchurch at the Federated Farmers National Conference and AGM. I also kept in contact with Bruce and Catherine, at times leaving the conference to take calls and report back. The organisational skills of all involved from the flood committee, which included LIC to truck firms were exceptional and thankfully not many animals were lost.

If that wasn't enough, on Wednesday 18th May 2005, I looked out the bedroom window and noticed reflections on the paddocks and thought, not again. It was the day of the provincial AGM and it was the quickest in the history of the Province. I have never seen Western Bay of Plenty members leave so quickly to get back over the Rotoma's in case it was closed off completely. Members who stayed behind for a few refreshments ended up helping set-up the hall as an evacuation

centre for Matata residents and also took food to the local fire station for the volunteers. What a day!

I would like to touch on a few issues currently facing the rural sector. I have very strong concerns with the way "Global warming/climate change" is being promoted in New Zealand. At our recent AGM you would have heard all about the Government's Emission Trading Scheme. The cost of this to the country is astronomical and will hit the rural sector very hard. The question has been asked; Are any other countries including agriculture in their domestic climate change policies? I quote from MAF, "New Zealand is currently the only country that has included agriculture in a domestic emissions trading scheme. This is not surprising. The contribution of agriculture to New Zealand's emissions profile is unique internationally. Agriculture makes up almost 50 percent of New Zealand's total emissions, whereas it makes about 12 percent of most developed countries' emissions. New Zealand has no choice but to promptly tackle emissions from this sector." It doesn't make sense to me that farmers have to pay emission funding (tax) when the rest of the world is not.

Another big issue is that of water. Currently talks are going on in regards to water allocation, purity of water and ways to improve the quality. Did you know that it soon will be a requirement to have meters on your outlet pipe from the water pump? Do you want tradable water rights? These are just a couple of questions that you will have to think about.

There has been comment that dairy farmers are not doing everything possible to improve river water quality. I strongly refute this broad brush approach. An extremely high proportion of farmers, in reality, are making a strong commitment to dispose of the dairy effluent as required by regional councils and changing fertiliser practices to enhance soil structures.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your President for the last four years and I wish Alan all the best for his term.

*(Extract from speech presented at the Bay of Plenty AGM 6 May 2008)*

**Derek Spratt - Bay of Plenty Immediate Past President**



## THE ACORN FOUNDATION "The Gift That Keeps On Giving"

The Acorn Foundation is a Charitable Trust established in Tauranga in 2003, based on a model that has been going in New York for the past 80 years. We encourage people to consider leaving a gift in their will to benefit the local community forever. With the new tax rebates effective from April 1, 2008, people may wish to contribute to their fund during their lifetime and benefit from the available tax rebates.

With the Acorn Foundation, people specify in their will that they would like to leave money to be invested, with some of the investment income being distributed each year to charities in the Bay of Plenty. People can specify a charity they are passionate about or leave it to the trustees' discretion.

Our Trustees (voluntary positions) are:  
Bill Holland (Chairman)  
Cheryl Adams      Dean Wearne  
Gary Gempton      John Gooch  
Sally Morrison      Tony Mills  
Tracy Rea      Vern Pain

Acorn now has 56 funds established (people who have specified they will leave some money to Acorn), \$2million invested and pledged funds of \$36million. Distributions to the local community have been:

- 31 July 2007: \$ 63,000
- 31 July 2008: \$115,000 (projected)
- 31 July 2009: A minimum of \$150,000 (projected)

Acorn is suitable for anyone who wants to see long term benefits for the Bay of Plenty community. If you are interested in knowing more about the Acorn Foundation, please telephone Nicky Wilkins (Executive Officer) on 579 9839.

## SCHOLARSHIP

Don't forget the Bay Farmers Education Scholarship. This will be advertised in September and October. Applications will close 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

# Demand for Mohair excellent

The Federated Farmers Goats industry group conference was held recently in Rotorua. The guest speaker was Dr Bruce McGregor from Australia. He has been researching Angora goats for over 20 years and is really keen to see them being included in the livestock mix on more farms. He has proved some of our



theories, and disproved others. He has so much to teach us that we are hoping to have him as guest speaker again next year, maybe even in Melbourne!

John Woodward gave an update on the commercial future of Mohair after his recent trip to South Africa to meet with the people who buy our fibre. Mohair production is still falling there but the demand is excellent.

We all thank Federated Farmers New Zealand for the work they do for New Zealand farmers in general, and goat farmers in particular. Without their assistance I doubt if any of us would now be allowed to farm our delightful animals. I hope the Winter treats you kindly.

**Marie Firth - Bay of Plenty Goats Chairperson**

# Shortage of skilled workers

Priority One, in partnership with Immigration New Zealand and the Department of Labour, are hosting a workshop for employers from 7:30-10:30am on Thursday 17 July 2008 at Hotel Armitage, Tauranga. The purpose is to provide knowledge and tools required for employers to successfully recruit and retain skilled migrants.

## Why should you attend?

Looking at the sub-region's population trends and future employment levels, a fundamental problem is evident - there will not be enough workers in the region to meet expected employment growth. This poses a significant future barrier to increasing the



region's wealth base. For local employers, these skill shortages are already being felt in sectors such as professional services, ICT, health and specialised trades.

## BAY OF PLENTY GOAT FARMERS ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11am, Saturday 26 July 2008

Forta Leza Country Inn Restaurant  
State Highway 2, Katikati

Lunch at 12:30pm

**RSVP by Wednesday 23 July to:**  
Jane Burger, phone: 07 522 0852

Easing the shortage of skilled workers in the region is a long term issue that Priority One has been addressing in partnership with other agencies and local employers for the last five years. Over 300 skilled migrants have been matched with employers through Priority One's skilled migrant placement programme.

This workshop will be invaluable to employers that would benefit from employing skilled migrants. Come and find out how to successfully recruit and retain them.

For further information and to register, email [gail@priorityone.co.nz](mailto:gail@priorityone.co.nz)

## FOR ALL YOUR MOTORING NEEDS VISIT MASTER LOTZ

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Te Puke or  
Phone Christina on 07 533 1645**



### Blonde Joke from the Office Manager

A blonde called Air New Zealand and asked "Could you tell me how long it'll take to fly from Auckland to Wellington?" The agent replied, "Just a minute." "Thank you," the blonde said and hung up...

# Leadership course great value

I was given the opportunity to attend the 'Getting Your Feet Wet' Federated Farmers of New Zealand leadership course, held in Wellington 21-22 May. This course was facilitated by Federated Farmers General Manager Member Services, Simon Calvert, and Senior Policy Advisor, Nigel Billings. The course gave an introductory insight to the workings and structure of our organisation, and how members can best access the Federation's expertise.

There were 13 attendees from across the country with varying Federation involvement, from general members to section chairs. Three members from BOP (Richard Weld, Jon Russell and myself) attended.

It was an opportunity to meet fellow members and understand some of the regional issues facing all of us. We were given presentations from MAF, Ministry of the Environment, ACC, a number of Federated Farmers policy advisors and Rodney Hyde, Leader of the

Act Party. We were taken on a tour of Parliament and were given the opportunity to experience the submissions process when we sat in on a submission hearing.

The course concluded by putting into mock practice some of what we had learnt over the two day course. We participated in a role play exercise having to deal with a local issue. I came away from the course with an understanding that Federated Farmers is a powerful lobby group whose strength is in its membership and whose employees are skilled and committed individuals trained to support members and the wider rural community.

Thank you to the Province and Agmardt for sponsoring my attendance.



*Nigel Billings*

**Steve Bailey**