

CHATHAM ISLAND TRIP

We're working in with our Chatham Island members and are hoping to put together a week long field trip for March 2009. I am also hoping that we can return the generosity of the Chatham farmers by also hosting them.

The Chatham's trip is likely to be constrained so if you are interested in attending please let Linda in the Christchurch office know. Costs are to be confirmed, but we are trying to put together a group deal with flights etc.

AGM FIELD DAY

Our annual general meeting and field day earlier in the year was a great success and once again I want to thank Ted and Sandy Phipps, Hugh Fletcher and Dame Sian Elias for their more than generous hospitality.

The field day was such an outstanding success, with more than 250 people attending, we have decided to go outside for the annual general meeting next year as well. We are already in the planning stages for our 2009 event. The location is top-secret, but let me assure you it will be an equally good day out. We'll keep you well informed of the date, location and theme. If you are keen to help us organise this day and want in on the secret venue please give Linda a call.



HAVING FUN

Frolicking fabulously funny Linda is so keen to come to the Christmas party that she has been wearing her costume into work all week.

Please ring Linda, phone: 0800 327 646, to RSVP to the Christmas Party, the Chathams trip or to help out with the annual general meeting field day.

Linda is our great North Canterbury assistant and we really appreciate her high spirits.

Chris Sundstrum - North Canterbury President



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families.

Chris and Pam

CHRISTMAS 2008 NEWSLETTER



NORTH CANTERBURY



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

CHRISTMAS ROUND-UP

The North Canterbury province's Christmas party is next week and Pam and I are busy planning our attire. We know it has to begin with an F and we've already come up with some good ideas on what we want to wear. The challenge now is putting together our costumes.

We are hoping to see as many of you as possible at our party; these nights are always a lot of fun. Coming together in a social way is a good opportunity to catch up with people and to have a bit of light relief. I certainly feel that I need to have some fun after the extremes we've had to face this year with no rain then too much of it.

USING OUR WITS

It has been a momentous year of challenges and I know that we have all had to use our farming wits to survive. Over the year I attended a lot of meetings and initiated the media's aid in getting the volunteer 'flood clean-up' programme underway.



For a couple of weeks I was doing five or six interviews a day, this shows me that there was huge public interest and concern. People wanted to know what was happening and how they could help.

URBAN FRIENDS

A lot of the people who went out to help with the clean-up in flood stricken areas came from towns, which proves that there is goodwill in our urban communities towards farming, even though we might sometimes feel that everyone is against us.

I know some farmers are still suffering as a consequence of both the drought and the floods and my thoughts are with you.



The effects of this year's weather have left some big scars on our landscape. Many of these will take years to heal.

It has been wonderful to be able to offer help and assistance for getting farms up and running again. If anyone is still having problems with flood clean-up please do not hesitate to ring me and I will see if anything can be done.



THANK YOU

It is timely to thank Gary Jackson and his Hurunui Council for the efforts and coordination of the clean-up. They have been tremendous and we really appreciate their recovery efforts. Gary Jackson and Brendan Wiremu did a great job on behalf of their Council.

North Canterbury Rural Support Trust has also been magnificent and reinforced the role that this group has in our community. North Canterbury Federated Farmers appreciates its close working relationship with the Trust and we value their enthusiasm, can-do attitude and willingness to hit the ground running when needed. Thank you all.

SPREADING THE POSITIVE NEWS



Earlier this week, Pam and I hosted 45 Probus members from the Kit Kat Probus group based at the Russley Golf Club. I had already talked to this group at their club rooms in

August and they wanted a follow-up with a visit to the farm and see our goats.

The enthusiastic response from the Probus group has lightened my heart and reminded me that we have a lot of support. While it's not in our

nature, as farmers, to want to put up our hands and speak at these sorts of things let me assure you that it is worthwhile.

THE TEAM THAT CROSSES THE LINE

Saturday 8 November was election night. The Federation is apolitical and the province has worked hard with all political parties over the last three years to develop our relationships. We can work with anyone.

At the top of our agenda is NAIT (National Animal Identification Traceability) and ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme). Both of these issues need to be sorted before irreparable damage to our farm businesses and profitability occurs.

MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP Keeping Calm Under Media Fire.

An interactive workshop to enhance your communication skills. Guaranteed to be fun and informative.



Capped at six people; the course is to be held in February 2009. Register your interest with Linda Donnelly, phone: 0800 327 646 or email: ldonnelly@fedfarm.org.nz.

This practical course is facilitated in a friendly and casual workshop environment. No previous talent is required just good humour and a bit of courage.

We will work as a team to practice our skills. There will be plenty of opportunities to develop more confident interview techniques. Focusing on the roles of the 'clear communicator', the 'strategic thinker' and the 'calm responder' the aim of the day is for you to leave feeling more enthusiastic and confident when dealing with the media.

This course will teach you about the importance of finding the right angle, obtaining reliable information, using simple language and short sentences.

Good communication is a practiced skill. This course is interactive and hands-on. Federated Farmers aims for you to leave feeling affirmed and more confident when dealing with the media and writing articles.