

In the meantime have a safe and productive festive season and I hope the sun shines when you want it to and it rains when it should ... and don't forget to take some time out with family and friends to recharge those batteries.

**Pete Gimblett - Senior Constable Eastern District HQ, Napier,**  
**Phone: 06 831 0961, Email: peter.gimblett@police.govt.nz**

### LEADERSHIP COURSES 2009

If you are interested in attending one of Federated Farmers of New Zealand's Leadership Courses please contact Tania Kerr on 06 834 9604.

Getting your feet wet - 17-18 June 2009  
Advanced - 24-25 June 2009

### PROVINCIAL MEETINGS FOR 2009

All members and non-members welcome.

#### Next meeting - 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 6pm

Pizza and a cuppa provided  
Fruitgrowers Association Offices  
behind PGG/Wrightsons at Stortford Lodge

#### AGM - 5<sup>th</sup> May -1pm

Park Estate, Napier end of Pakowhai Road

#### Winter meeting - 11<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at 6pm

Pizza and a cuppa provided  
Fruitgrowers Association Offices  
behind Wrightsons PGG at Stortford Lodge

#### Christmas meeting - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 6pm

Pizza and a cuppa provided  
Fruitgrowers Association Offices  
behind Wrightsons PGG at Stortford Lodge

Our meetings are short and a great way to stay in touch with Federated Farmers issues.



*Cheers and Merry Christmas from left to right  
Alec Olsen, Bruce Wills, Kev Mitchell, Andrew Russell*

## HAWKE'S BAY & GISBORNE/WAIROA



### INTER-PROVINCIAL TEAM BUILDING WEEKEND

Members, families and farm staff are warmly welcome to attend the inter-provincial team building weekend.

**13-15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**

### LAKE WAIKAREMOANA MOTOR CAMP



'Intrigue, secret deals, hedged bets, blackmail, treachery, meat exports and murder' all have a role to play at the **'Mystery Dinner Party'** at the Saturday night banquet of the inter-provincial Federated Farmers Gisborne/Wairoa and Hawke's Bay team-building weekend.

Have fun, no scripts to read, determine your own fate.

Become part of this great weekend by marking the date in your diary today.

Good accommodation, shared food, heaps of fun, time for kayaking, fishing and political debates.

We've blocked booked the camping ground, but you can choose your style of accommodation by emailing Colin and Gladys Adams at the motor camp, [mistry@lake.co.nz](mailto:mistry@lake.co.nz) or by ringing them on **06 837 3826** and saying that you are part of the Federated Farmers team. You can visit their website at [www.lake.co.nz](http://www.lake.co.nz) to see what they have to offer in the way of accommodation.

Interested, but have questions, please phone Ali Undorf-Lay, Federated Farmers, 0800 327 646.

## CHRISTMAS 2008 NEWSLETTER



HAWKE'S BAY



*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year*

## END OF YEAR ROUND UP

I hope this newsletter finds you in a happy frame of mind following the election and recent rain. While the rain hasn't fallen yet, as I write this an easterly is forecast in a couple of days. Bring it on I say!

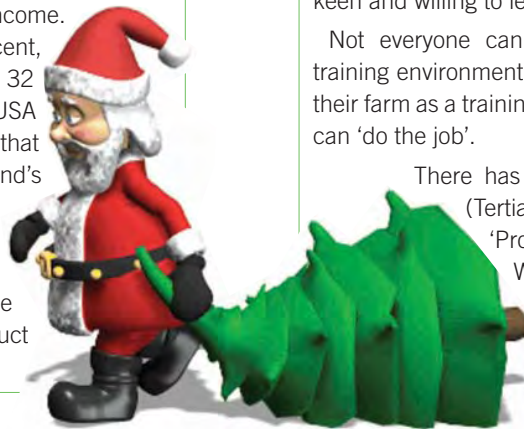
Although there has been turmoil in the financial and equity markets lately, the resulting fall in the New Zealand dollar will have a positive impact on product prices. All we need now is for "Huey" to deliver a reasonably normal climate this season and NIWA is predicting just that.

Farming families have been through a really tough two years. By their very nature farmers are a resilient bunch and having been through tough times in the eighties and nineties, I'm sure we will emerge stronger and wiser.

Federated Farmers has a new president in Don Nicholson from Southland and a new CEO in Conor English, also originally from the deep south. The commitment displayed by these two guys and their team to improving the fortunes of farming families is impressive. The sheer volume and variety of issues that Federated Farmers advocates on both at national and provincial level is huge. I'll mention a few; adverse events, ACC, Health and Safety, animal identification and traceability, biosecurity, climate change and emissions trading, economic policy, education and skills, electricity, employment, genetic modification, high country issues, immigration and labour, local government, rates, pest management, compliance costs, research, RMA, property rights, rural security, telecommunications, trade, transport, walking access, and water (phew!!).

New Zealand farmers are the most self sufficient in the world. Government support for New Zealand farms now represents just one percent of farming income.

By comparison in Australia it's six percent, Canada 23 percent, European Union 32 percent, Japan 55 percent, and the USA 11 percent. We are proud of the fact that we produce 65 percent of New Zealand's exports and contribute 15 percent of this countries' GDP. A recent study shows New Zealand farmers are already operating at the worlds best practice for the level of carbon emissions per unit of product produced.



As rural people become a smaller percentage of New Zealand's population the work Federated Farmers does on our behalf becomes even more important. Who else is going to advocate for a fairer deal for New Zealand farmers?

So as you enjoy the festive season, please remember that Federated Farmers of New Zealand is always looking after your welfare. We also need your help to give us feedback on current issues and to spread the Federation's message.

In March 2009 we are planning a social weekend at Lake Waikaremoana. We have invited our Gisborne neighbours to join us in a relaxing couple of days, so get organised and join us. Families and friends are most welcome.

On behalf of our Hawke's Bay Federated Farmers team have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**Kevin Mitchell - Hawke's Bay President**

## CREATING SKILLED WORKERS

I recently attended the Executive meeting of Hawke's Bay Federated Farmers. It started off with "Where's your next farm worker going to come from and what formal training or qualifications can you expect?"

There have been various reports done informing us all of the shortages of appropriately skilled workers. Farmers' children can't be necessarily expected to take over the family farm as they have so many different choices for careers.

What about the townies who want to go farming? A lot do, but for some the image portrayed of the industry is not a great attractant (negative TV images don't help). Many of the 'Generation Y' group don't mind hard work and they are keen and willing to learn.

Not everyone can be accepted into a Smedley-type training environment. Not all farmers are happy to provide their farm as a training venue. They just want someone who can 'do the job'.

There has been a recent report done by TEC (Tertiary Education Commission) on the 'Provision of Land Based Training'. With low numbers of students wanting careers in agriculture and horticulture; and many students leaving school who aren't sure what

they really want to do – now is a chance to embrace the change and support your local provider.

The Eastern Institute of Technology has a small farm and offers certificate and diploma studies and a part-time (evening) option for the Level 5 National Diploma in Agribusiness Management. We also have Equine, Animal Care and Veterinary Nursing programmes available.

We are working hard with schools to provide students with early introductions to practical (and fun) things that can be done on a farm.

We need your help to provide examples of the good things that can happen out there – some 'packages' and opportunities to re-acquaint townies with the countryside. Perhaps a 'day-a-week' as a work experience opportunity will put them in a real-life situation where they can get a taste of what it's all about?

If you have any ideas, want to help, or have a farm worker who might benefit from some off-farm training, please give us a call.

**Peter Mackie, Head of School, Rural & Food Science  
Eastern Institute of Technology**

**Phone: 06 974 8000 ext 5814 Email: pmackie@eit.ac.nz**

## NEW POLICING ROLE

Seasons greetings. I write this while the ink dries on the paperwork appointing me to the newly created position of Community Engagement for the Eastern Policing District (East Cape to southern Hawke's Bay).

The role involves working with groups throughout the region to reduce crime, problem solve and enhance relationships with Police.

I come from a rural background and have always seen huge opportunity to work with folk who are generally more isolated from regular contact with Police to reduce criminal activity. I see Federated Farmers as an important vehicle to achieve these closer ties.

Rural communities by their very makeup are resilient and don't want for common sense, positive traits that make for great partnership building.

I aim to be accessible and accountable and would encourage you to contact me with your views (positive or negative!) and suggestions.