

emissions unless we reduce our output. With 65 percent of our overseas export coming from farming and the world heading into a recession do New Zealanders really want us to slow down production?

### RETURNING THE INVITATION

Earlier this year Hauraki-Coromandel Federated Farmers invited us to come down and go fishing with them for a weekend. After all the storms our province had been experiencing it was great to get away and have some fun. Local farmers hosted us and we drove down together from Whangarei



one Friday night. We went fishing, had a barbeque and also went to some hot pools for a bit of a wallow. It would be nice to return this invitation.



If anyone has any ideas about what kind of weekend we could offer Hauraki-Coromandel farmers and their families please give me a ring. I welcome your suggestions.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Denis Anderson -  
Far North, Whangarei and Kaipara Districts,  
President**



## BIG FARM DAY OUT SUNDAY, 1 MARCH 2009



At Federated Farmers of New Zealand's National Council, meeting held in Wellington 18-19 November, all presidents unanimously endorsed a remit put forward by Wairarapa Province to simultaneously host a farm open day in all 24 provinces across New Zealand. This initiative was seen as a great way to encourage non-farming people to reconnect with their country friends. The 'Big Farm Day Out' will be held on the 1 March 2009; I would appreciate your support in helping to organise our event up here.

We will need to find a host farm and put together a small organising committee to help organise the event.

If you would be willing to host this event on your farm please let me know. I have been encouraged to ask someone else to host so that I can be free to help with the organising.

It would be great if all members can help out a bit. It should be a fun day out for everyone, town and country folk alike.

If you want to be involved in planning this event, please ring either Ali Undorf-lay, provincial support co-ordinator on 0800 327 646 or myself.

**Denis Anderson**  
**Far North, Whangarei and Kaipara Districts**  
**Provincial President**  
**Phone: 09 434 6551**



## CHRISTMAS 2008 NEWSLETTER



FAR NORTH, WHANGAREI  
& KAIPARA DISTRICTS



*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year*

## END OF YEAR ROUND-UP

2008 has certainly been a year of contrasts for Northland with a perfect summer and autumn leading into a winter described by some as a "winter from hell". Hundreds of tonnes of hay and silage was trucked south to help out our southern neighbours, but this led to a tight feed situation for ourselves



during winter months. It is very fortunate that the huge increase in costs for dairy farmers has been matched by high product prices. Sheep and beef farmers have not fared so well, although recent increases in beef prices are easing the pain slightly.

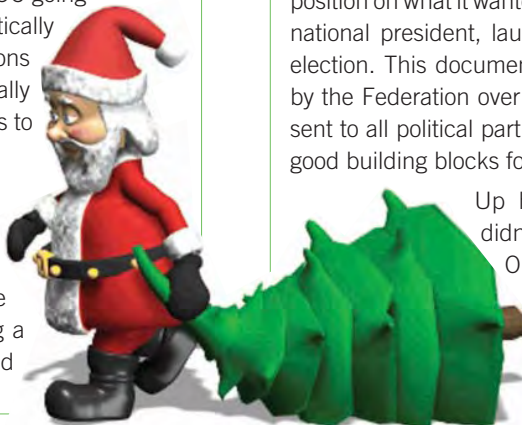
Federated Farmers policy advisors continue to work on behalf of Northland farmers striving to ensure that rates are fair and reasonable. Our eyes are firmly fixed on developments of regional plans in other regions that may well be taken as benchmarks by all Councils. Horizon's One Plan must become a document the rest of New Zealand's farmers can live with.

The cost of the Kyoto Agreement continues to hover like a dark cloud in the distance. Work must continue to ensure the livestock industry is not paying large amounts for spurious reasons while competing on the world markets with others who are not shackled with the extra cost of Kyoto.

Farmers must continue to have strong advocacy in all planning decisions. This is a job that is sometimes satisfying with the odd success, always time-consuming and sometimes damn frustrating. Notwithstanding situations like DOC going to the Environment Court to overturn democratically arrived decisions (as happens in most regions from time to time), Federated Farmers generally do a sterling job of keeping Local Governments to account.

### ISSUES SIMMERING AWAY

**Northland Regional Council** is reviewing their animal effluent discharges and we are expecting the rules to tighten, so are keeping a close watch on them. If you want to be involved please ring me, or Richard Gardner.



**Whangarei District's** never-ending dispute with landscape controls is still going on. We are involved and are keeping an eye on progress.

**Kaipara District** is reviewing its district plan and again we are keeping an eye on this. We will let farmers know if there are any issues of concern.

**Far North District** is thinking of becoming a unity authority. As yet the province is undecided on what position it should be taking on this issue. If you have a strong opinion about it please let me know.

Regulation of the aquaculture industry is ongoing and we have been involved in it.

Burning throughout the Northland Regional Council area has been an issue for while. Some of you will know that we were involved in an Environment Court appeal to protect farmers existing 'burning' practices. I am pleased to report that this was settled prior to mediation and everyone is reasonably happy.

And, leaving the most exciting to last, the Far North District is having a rate review and thinking of going to capital value. This has the potential to get many of us really excited, including Nigel Billings and Richard Gardner of Federated Farmers of New Zealand, if you want to be involved please talk to us.



### FED'S MANIFESTO

This year the Federation went into the election with a very clear position on what it wanted from a new government. Don Nicolson, national president, launched our Manifesto a week before the election. This document sets out all the policy changes sought by the Federation over the next three years. The Manifesto was sent to all political parties and I think it forms the basis of some good building blocks for change.

Up here in Northland the recent elections didn't result in changes on the ground. Our Members of Parliament have stayed the same and Federated Farmers will continue to work with all political parties to lobby for positive changes for agriculture. Personally I want to see

both the Resource Management Act (RMA) and the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) go under the knife.

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT



Anyone who has had a brush with the RMA will know it needs to change. It's bureaucratic, costly for all concerned and over the years has wasted a lot of ratepayer's money. Councils have grappled to try and write their district and regional plans based on the RMA and these have become bogged down in submission 'wants' from fringe groups.

Federated Farmers has long lobbied for changes to the Act and for the last two years we have been very specific; bring in compensation, refine DOC's advocacy role, use transferable development rights, allow landscapes to evolve over time and mandate consultation with affected landowners.

None of the Federation's RMA wish list is too difficult and together these six changes could go a long way towards fixing some of the serious problems with the Act.

### ETS – OUT THERE IN FRONT

The Climate Change Response, emissions trading law, was pushed through as a last minute Labour government decision. The Act now looks set to be amended by the new Key government in its first 100 days.

Already fraught with difficulty, Labour was negotiating hard with both the Greens and New Zealand First for months in the lead up to the Act's final reading, the subsequent law has surprised not only New Zealanders but the rest of the world.

ETS is a shifty way to switch the government's cost of complying with Kyoto from taxpayers (in effect the government) onto business.

New Zealand farmers are annoyed. While agricultural emissions contribute to our total emissions this is only because we are a farming based economy; we can't reduce our

