

ONGOING ISSUES:

Canada Geese – Greater Wellington Regional Council is willing to do some water testing. We now need to work out areas to target and where we might want to do our own testing.



Farm Day – our remit was successful at the National Council meeting. It has been formally named Farm Day - fun, family, friendships. Planning is under way for the national event. It will take place on 1 March 2009. Taratahi is on board to host the day. We need to set up a small group to work with Taratahi to make the day a success.

Taratahi sponsorship – spoke with Stephen Carr about graduation sponsorship, they are very happy with current level. Suggested we may wish to consider a scholarship for second year students.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Anders Crofoot, Wairarapa President



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.

Taratahi is on board to host the day.

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.

Anders Crofoot
Wairarapa
Provincial President
Phone: 06 372 6465



CHRISTMAS 2008 NEWSLETTER



WAIRARAPA



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

END OF YEAR ROUND-UP

Season's greetings to everyone. I hope this finds everyone ready to take a well deserved break after a very busy spring. Several brief topics to bring to your attention.

Canada Geese are a timely topic with the moult coming up soon. We started off last year with a BBQ at Henley Lake to raise the profile of the issue. We received plenty of media attention from that effort, but only limited progress has been made. Fish & Game ran two hunt culls on Lake Wairarapa, which were a success for their members. With a pre-hunt count of 3,683 birds and less than 1,000 taken in the hunt, the population was left well in excess of the 1,500 that Fish & Game agreed to keep to. Clearly the status quo is not working, hopefully the change in government may speed up the decision to get Canada Geese removed from the game species list. It would be very helpful if we could get a good idea of where Canada Geese have spread to in the Wairarapa. Please let me or Shona Sluys know if you have any geese that have taken up residence.



A great deal of time has been spent over the past months on mediations on the Wairarapa Combined District Plan. The one issue that many people may not know about, since it wasn't in the draft document but was inserted later in response to a submission by GWRC, is an earthworks rule. As it has been proposed it will require a resource



consent for earthworks greater than 50 cubic metres, per title, per year in the foreshore protection area or in the coastal management area or within 20 metres of a significant waterbody or within five metres of a waterbody.

Cropping and drain cleaning are excluded, but the rule means that any time a bulldozer or digger is operated in these areas for more than an hour a resource consent may be required. We are fighting this hard, but if you have any comments I would be happy to hear them.

The draft for the Wairarapa Biodiversity Strategy has recently been approved by the Steering Group. A Strategy is required by Government and we have been very involved in its formulation. The groups involved have been Federated Farmers, DOC, Forest & Bird, GWRC and the District Councils. It has been an excellent process and a good model for how policy should be developed in the future. It will be covered in depth in the next newsletter.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

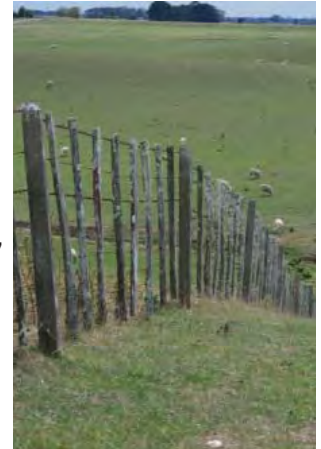
This year Council was once again held at Te Papa. It was a good conference with quite a positive feel to it; productive discussions and no negativity. Richard Gardiner, one of the senior policy advisors for the Federation spoke about the Lake Taupo decision and the big impact that this would have on farmers. Patrick Strange, Transpower CEO, spoke on the state of the national grid, which sounds like it needs a fair bit of work both in maintenance and new investment. John Key gave a brief address during lunch and Jennette Fitzsimons spoke on dispelling myths. She had a good opportunity to get her message across but didn't deliver well. Phil Goff, spoke well on trade and the advantages that a NZ/US trade deal gives the US, with a foot in the door to

Asia, where they are shut out, especially ASEAN. Chris Trotter and Matthew Hooton held a good panel discussion on politics, future of MMP, minor parties, etc. Ally McKannon and Martina Newell-McGloughlin spoke on risk assessment of genetic engineering in the US and trends in GE technology and refugia working to reduce BT resistance.

WORK AROUND THE PROVINCE

20 November –

Wairarapa Combined District Plan mediations – settled SNA so that fencing off will be a permitted activity. Dawn & Ian Pirani came along to talk about goat fencing, but didn't make any headway on proposed buffer areas.



24 November – Meeting with John Hayes about ramifications for farm

foresters of National's suspending the ETS and then a meeting with Aalbert Rebergen, new Forest & Bird representative. Aalbert has some good ideas about protection of species, saying that locking up isn't always best as some areas are currently in balance.

27 November – Wairarapa Farm Business of the Year meeting. A tentative field day for 16 April 2009 has been set with entries closing on the 27 February. We are now looking for entries.

5 December – Land Protection Forum meeting at Lake Wairarapa.

8 December – Wairarapa Combined District Plan mediation, phone conference on hazardous substances.

9 December – Dairy Effluent Day at James Smallwood's.