

HE PANUI

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Tēnā koutou e te whanau

- Maniapoto Maori Trust Board Hui a Tau, Sunday 24 March at Te Kotahitanga Marae, Otewa Road, 10.00am.
- Websites for Education Grants:

<https://www.maniapoto.iwi.nz/>

<https://teurangab2.co.nz/about/grants/>

The Ups and Downs of Dairy Markets

One of the real challenges that comes with producing any product on a farm is knowing that we are at the mercy of the markets. This makes it very challenging producing a product and not knowing how much you are going to get paid for it when you go to sell it. This is one of the real dilemmas with the dairy industry and while it is frustrating at times, we just must get on and farm! At present though we are seeing some big fluctuations in the market place and the planning for the current year started in May 2018 when the companies first announced their forecast for the year ahead. For Miraka this was a forecast of \$6.60 / kg MS (plus some premium). By the time we got to spring this had reduced to \$6.45 / kg MS and in December 2018 this dropped to \$5.75 / kg MS! So from the time of starting the year, the Incorporations budget has seen \$130,000 wiped off the profit!

The positive news here is that we have recently seen an uplift in the demand over the last two months so we might be seeing some recovery soon given the prices in the latest Global Dairy Trade (GDT) auction. This is the “platform” that dairy products are sold on from New Zealand and these are held every two weeks and it remains a major influencer of dairy prices, even for product not traded through this site. The period from May to November 2018 saw every auction being negative (the price was going down!) and since December 2018 we have seen the last seven

auctions all positive (the price is going back up!). This latest increase is on the back of increases in world demand, mainly from China as they are “restocking the cupboard” again. This is being helped by the current drought conditions affecting the supply of milk. The signals get out to the market that there will be less milk for sale in New Zealand and of course the demand goes up. The other layer to this is the exchange rate and for farmers we love it when this “goes down”. Doesn’t help the price of buying a TV but certainly helps when selling milk overseas.

In the meantime, while this is all going on, we just continue trying to turn grass into milk and hope it is worth a dollar or two when the tanker picks it up.

Darren McNae, Agribusiness Advisor

Farming and Nature - Te Uranga B2

The Farming & Nature Conservation team have been hard at work on Upoko over the summer, doing bird and vegetation surveys.

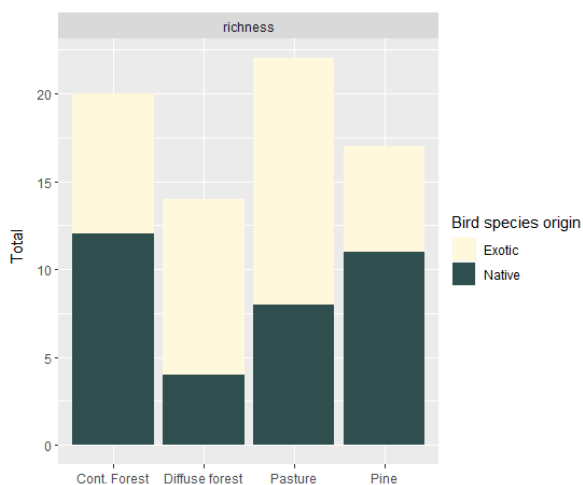
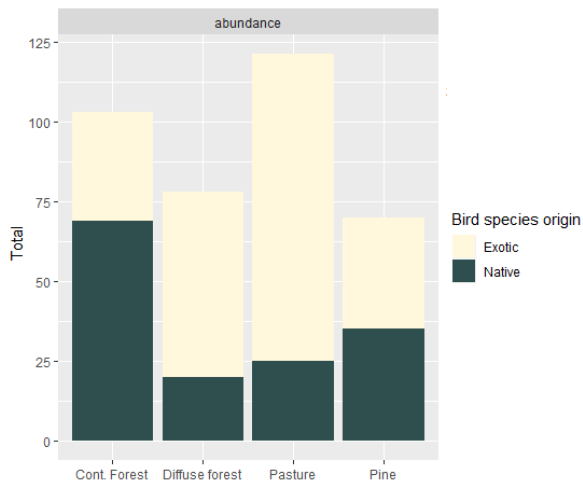
The bird surveys were conducted in each habitat type (forest, diffuse tōtara, pasture and pines) to see which bird species use which habitat.

Our initial analysis of this data looks at species richness (the number of different bird species) and abundance (total number of individual birds).

While the highest numbers of both measures were found in pasture habitat, most of these species were exotic passerines – song birds like goldfinches.

Not surprisingly, the greatest richness and abundance of native birds was found in continuous forest – the Ngā Whenua Rāhui blocks. These species included Toutouwai/North Island robin, Ngirungiru/tomtit and even Pōpokatea/whitehead. Pōpokatea are badly

affected by forest fragmentation but are making a comeback on farms with native bush patches. We suspect these birds might be from Pureora forest, either down for a visit or looking for a new place to call home.



For the vegetation plots we used mapping software to cover the farm in a grid of points 50m apart. Every time one of these points fell on any type of woody vegetation, researchers from Canterbury and Auckland universities recorded every species present in a 10x10m plot. After the first two weeks they were still finding new species in the native bush and pine blocks! At each vegetation plot the researchers also took soil samples to measure the amount of carbon stored in each habitat type (pine v forest etc).

Both the carbon and vegetation samples are currently being processed and the analysis is expected to be complete in a couple of months.
Stacey Bryan, Te Kura Ngahere | School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, Christchurch

Te Uranga B2 sends its milk to Miraka in Mokai and to help young Job-Seekers find work, it's offering this course.

INVITATION

'KIA TAKATU MAHI'

'Getting Ready for Work' Programme

Miraka is facilitating a FREE workshop for Year 12 & 13 tamariki of Shareholders, Staff and Suppliers. The workshop will provide assistance with CV and cover letter development and Interview tips

DATE

During May 2019 (Dates to be confirmed)

TIME

5.30pm – 8.00pm

VENUE

TBC

Refreshments and Nibbles on arrival
 Opening Karakia & Mihi whakataua

INTRODUCTIONS

PROGRAMME

CV & Cover Letter writing
 Tips for Interview Preparation
 Interviewing Practice
 Questions & Answers

Closing Karakia

To register interest, please email:

aleesha.price@miraka.co.nz

Registrations of interest close on 24 March 2019

Comments welcome – send to Derek Wooster, email: derekwooster@outlook.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TeUrangaB2>



TE URANGA **B2** Inc.

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Food supplied the blood of man; his welfare depends on the land*

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