

HE PANUI

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Chairman's Message

*Tena ra tatou e te whanau whanui,
Nei ra aku mihi ki a koutou ra i runga i nga
ahuatanga o te wa nei.*

This panui marks the beginning of the change in seasons and the end of another long hot summer which has brought the usual pressures on our land, our stock and our people.

Our Farm Manager Jack Valois (Upoko) and shepherd Casey Chadwick have been working around the clock to keep our stock well watered and sheltered from the heat as the creeks dry up. Our Sharemilkers Shannon and Luke Pepper (Koromiko) and Lucy and Dean Marshall (Paatara) hopes of an extended season are being tempered by the summer dry and the need to manage the water supply across the dairy and dry stock units. A new water management system is being installed which will ensure year round supply to Upoko, Koromiko and Paatara - a welcome relief for our farm management team and our stock. The change in seasons means we are focused on preparing our pastures and stock for winter which means all hands on deck - there's never a moments rest when you're managing a successful farming enterprise like Te Uranga B2 Incorporation.

Finally, a quick 'get well' wish to our shepherd general Omeka Phillips, who has been off work with a hand injury - we wish him a quick recovery. *Heoi ano ra, Traci Houpapa, Chairman*

More supplements on farm ...

With autumn now upon us hopefully we are another day closer to rain!! , Late spring and early summer had the farm in an excellent position in regards to farm pasture cover and with production well ahead was shaping up for a cracker season, sadly the recent dry spell of weather will put the brakes on production targets.

Taumarunui has had its second driest February since records began in 1913; the farm only received 12% of its average monthly rainfall.

We have more supplements on farm than last year in the form of grass / maize silage and with the use of palm kernel will endeavour to milk on through the dry spell in hope we can bridge a gap until sufficient rain turns up.

With the dry weather our water springs that supply the dairy shed and cows have again let us down and a more secure source from neighbouring Paatara is currently being plumbed in.

Work on farm over the next month will focus on a 3ha land development and re-grassing turnip and maize areas back into pasture in anticipation of Autumn rain!!

Luke and Shannon Pepper, Koromiko Dairy

Outlook still positive

With the current season providing a few more climatic challenges than we would like, it is good to know that the financials are still shaping up well.

The record dairy payout that is forecast for this season of \$8.75 / kg MS is well above last season's \$5.80 / kg MS. As has been noted the reduced pasture growth on farm may mean the final production in the vat will be less than budget although it won't be too far off given the way the farms were set up this year. Overall this will still mean that the income from the dairy units this year will be well above the budgets set by the Committee at the start of the season. Given the current forecasts in production this would mean the total value of the milk produced for the season would be nearly \$2.7 million (or nearly \$2,800 of milk by every cow!). Obviously Te Uranga gets half of this cheque but only pays half of the bills given the arrangement with the Marshalls and Peppers.

Also helping this is the strong lamb price for the year which has meant that Upoko has been selling lambs at over \$100 each this year. Again the current weather conditions are meaning the need to sell some lambs earlier and at lower value than planned but importantly the values will be above the budget set for the year. The beef market is also holding up well with steers being sold in excess of \$1,300 / head which is pleasing. The Committee has recently been through a reforecasting exercise which is focused on ensuring a return to a strong farm surplus being achieved for the year. Farming is a continual balancing act, especially when the land is still developing and there is a real need to ensure money is spent in the right areas. Pity there isn't a sale on rainclouds happening!

Darren McNae, AgFirst Consultant

Did you know ...

The lowest land feature at 200 metres above sea level (ASL) on the Incorporation are the Taringamotu River flats while to the north the ridge between the Ngarotata and Ue Pango blocks is the highest feature rising to 545m ASL. Mt Hikurangi to the west is 771m ASL.

Wetlands are wide and varied - they can be saltwater or freshwater, swamps, bogs, braided rivers (*Waimakariri in the South Island*), coastal lagoons, dune lakes, drainage ditches, marshes, lake backwaters, and even man-made lakes like Lake Whakamaru - are all vital to the well-being of the environment acting as huge ecological sponges soaking up pollutants, filtering ground water and hillside runoff before they enter into streams, rivers and aquifers (*underground river systems, springs*) before eventually flowing into the ocean.

90% of New Zealand's wetlands have disappeared through drainage, infilling, and land reclamation. Wetlands provide a safe habitat for our secretive birds while other birds visit them regularly to feed or nest.

Vonda Houpapa, Committee of Management

Another 5% of held monies paid out

Tena koutou katoa nga kai whenua o Te Uranga.

The Share Register Update Project continues to make great in-roads. For the year January 2013 - January 2014 a 27.7% reduction in the total unpaid monies held by the Incorporation was achieved, an excellent result!

Owners and whanau continue to:

- Provide us with their current address and current bank account details.
- Look into the Maori land interests that are involved in.

Provided you can prove your entitlement through succession in the Maori Land Court and have a current bank account Patricia at Balance Chartered Accountants, Taumarunui, can make the payments out to those entitled.

Both Patricia and I are available to assist with succession and shareholder inquiries.

Naku noa, Alan Cockle, Committee of Management - Mobile 02108115229

Waitangi Tribunal Hearings

The Te Rohe Potae Inquiry will be held at **Wharauoa Marae, Taumarunui** and will commence on the 30th of March to the 4th of April. The first day will begin with visits to sites of significance with **Te Uranga B2 Incorporation** being part of the route.

For further information and seat bookings for the site visits, please contact Grace Legros at glegros@xtra.co.nz



Send photos and comments by email and text for Facebook or the next panui to:

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Facebook: Te Uranga B2: www.teurangab2.co.nz



TE URANGA B2^{INC.}

*Te toto o te tangata, he kai, Te oranga o te tangata he whenua
Food supplied the blood of man; his welfare depends on the land*

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