

## HE PANUI

In this issue...	Summer Edition 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9.30 am Start ...</li> <li>• El Nino (Spanish for “Little” Boy)</li> <li>• How many kilograms is Steer 28?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGM Season!!!</li> <li>• Midday Meeting</li> <li>• Meri Kirihimete</li> </ul>

### 9.30 am 28 November 2015

The day commenced at 9.30 am at Nga Kōhatu o Te Uranga. The weather not looking too promising the 30-odd owners crossed the road to the new implement shed on Koromiko Dairy where sharemilker, Luke Pepper talked about the various laws and regulations dairy farmers need to comply with in order to supply milk factories, in our case Miraka based at Mokai.



(Luke Pepper with the captive bolt gun)

Luke mentioned that if a bobby calf is unfit to travel or is unwell, then he'll put it down (euthanized) with a captive bolt gun - designed for the safe and humane euthanasia of animals.



(L to R: Heremia Koroheke, Annie Barrett, Mere McGee, Bowler Houpapa)

Milking cows on Te Uranga B2 whenua is not new. Annie Barrett told us how she, as a child, helped milk her grandfather's (Whitiaua Houpapa) cows with her Auntie Lavinia on the Moti block in the

50s and 60s. Each day she took 2 cans of cream to the road to be picked up and taken to the Piriaka Dairy factory.

After looking at where Koromiko's new effluent storage pond is to be located we drove a couple of kms up the road to the sheep and beef unit Upoko.

### El Nino (Spanish for “Little Boy”)

As we approach yet another summer we are even more mindful that this year might be a bit worse than the last year. The key thing to remember is that el nino typically brings wetter weather in the west and drier in the east so in Taumarunui we are sitting right on the borderline – it could go either way! If the region does get hit with drier conditions what are the strategies in place across the farms?

Essentially the dairy farms will go through a staged approach but at times a combination of options from once a day milking to selling culls early to eventually drying cows off. Depending on the seriousness of the dry spell buying in feed may still be economic but not in great quantities due to the payout. Both of the farms are well set up with plenty of silage on hand.

For Upoko the strategy is around selling stock early – we usually see 90% of the lambs and cattle sold between January and May anyway so it may just mean selling a few more sooner and at a lower weight if required. The water reticulation on farm installed last year will be paying for itself this year.

The focus in a drought is always on two things – profit (not production) and containment. By containment it means limiting the effects to this season only as much as possible. Let's hope we can keep “the little boy” contained!

Darren McNae - AgFirst Consultant



### **How heavy is steer No.28?**

At Upoko we met Rod and Casey who were weighing 2 yr. old steers about to go to the works. After a demonstration on how the electronic scales worked we guessed the weight of steer No.28. With estimates between 500 and 750 kilograms Casey Chadwick announced No.28 to be an impressive 634 kgs.!



Just 2 kilos above the closest estimate of 632 kgs. The winner walked away with a chilly bin on wheels! Empty!

### **AGM Season!!!**

The end of the year is always a busy time for the Te Uranga B2 Inc. support team at Balance Chartered Accountants. Our goal is for you the Owners, to come along to the AGM and experience a well organised and informative event. The planning for your meeting has commenced some months before. In conjunction with the Committee of Management, Evelynne and I work towards producing the AGM book and the documents you receive in your envelope prior to the meeting. From the moment envelopes hit your table Evelynne starts fielding phone calls and answering queries from Owners. Following your recent Annual General Meeting, it

is timely to remind Owners about the importance of completing forms in full to ensure your proxy's are valid and nominations are accepted. The Committee and this office are guided by the Te Ture Whenua Act 1993, The Maori Incorporation Constitution Regulations 1994 and staff at the Maori Land Court.

Following the meeting there are further tasks to be completed including the payment of distributions and Kaumatua grants with a further mail out to owners of this Panui.

This office closes for the holiday period on 22 December 2015. We wish you all Meri Kirihimete. May you all have a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

*Carla Benefield and Evelynne Keenan*

### **Midday Meeting**

By midday the farm visits were over and it was bucketing down. We retreated to the Ngakonui Hall where we faced the AGM Agenda. A poll vote was held to elect two committee of management members – the nominees were: Traci Houpapa, Kaike Kereopa, Jonathon Kilgour and Andrew Martin.

The meeting progressed with some concern raised over the grants to the local Ngakonui Valley School and FoMA but otherwise all the usual resolutions were approved, including the \$12 a share dividend and \$250 Kaumatua Grant. At about 2 o'clock formalities ended with a wholesome meal - and Russian Fudge.

The Returning Officer declared Andrew Martin and Jonathon Kilgour as the two successful candidates. The members of Te Uranga B2 Inc. Committee of Management are now Richard Burgess, Vonda Houpapa, Jonathon Kilgour, Andrew Martin and Derek Wooster.

The contribution to the continuing success and growth of the Incorporation made by Traci and Kaike is widely recognized.

Finally, shareholders departed with a litre pot of honey from Tweeddale Apiarists.

### **Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hau.**

**Comments and contributions welcome**

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