

HE PANUI

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Tēnā koutou e te whānau mō tēnei wā Kirihimete, me te tau hou ka tū mai. Ki a rātou e pēhia nei e te mamac, e te māuiui, e te pouri, me te whare o mate nō te pāhuatanga i Te Puia o Whakaari; koinei te whakaaro i puta i te ngākau aroha ki a koutou, me te tūmanako ka tau iho mai ngā manaakitanga me te aroha ki runga i a koutou. Paimārire.

The season hangs in the balance....

It is the time of the year when so much of what happens in the next four weeks will determine the outcome for the full year. While everyone is looking forward to calm and fine weather over the summer break period, if we are honest from a farming perspective – a wet four weeks is the best Christmas present we could ask for. To load the tanks up with moisture before the summer really kicks in is worth plenty to any farming operation. For the dairy farms, this means the ability to have quality feed ahead of the cows, extend the round out (make it longer between grazings in a paddock) and reduce the need to feed out supplement which costs money. For Upoko, this means the ability to have high quality feed growing for the lambs to increase their growth rate and get them sold – the sooner they are gone, the sooner they don't need drenching, dagging, dipping... etc. At this stage the season is hanging in the balance a little as the region is in a "good position" but, a week of rain would be welcomed. Last year the rain kept falling over December and the farms went into the summer in a good position – let's hope this is the same again.

Why is this rain so valuable? Well the major point this year is that the markets are booming along. We have never had a year where all of the farming "stars" have been so aligned and all of the signals in primary production are strong. Lamb and beef are at record levels, milk price is getting stronger by the day and timber prices

have recovered from their winter dip and are above five-year averages as well. This is a fantastic time to be owning land and being able to provide the country and the world with food and fibre. Yes - it is not getting any easier to farm but if the financial result is strong then farmers have options. The old saying of "it is hard to be green when you are in the red" basically means it is hard to farm sustainably if you can't make a profit. This is so true of times like this and if profits are up, it is easier to make decisions to retire unproductive land, plant trees, reduce stocking rates, invest in technology or accept a slightly lower level of productivity in favour of a more sustainable operation. This has got to be good for all of Aotearoa if we remain focused on sustainable food production. In years gone by, the times of high prices drove people to think "how can I produce more and make more money", now the same situation needs to drive a thought process of "how can I be more efficient and sustainable". It is pleasing that the mind shift has occurred in this country at least – it is just disappointing that we are only one part of the globe, and a very small part at that. If this sustainable mind-set grows we can only hope that the naughty kids at Christmas will not get a lump of coal under the tree, but a lump of wood that has already sucked up its share of carbon dioxide.

It has been a pleasure working with the Te Uranga B2 team over the last year.
Meri Kirihimete from the team at AgFirst.

2019 Annual General Meeting at Upoko Woolshed

Shareholders began arriving to register with Evelynne Keenan and John Goldsworthy at 9am followed by tea and coffee and refreshments baked by Nakoenui Valley School parents. For an annual general meeting a quorum of 20 shareholders including proxy holders is

required to be present to proceed. The meeting scheduled to begin at 10 am couldn't start because we were 4 shareholders short of the 20 but after 35 minutes the meeting could begin. Had we'd not reached 20 shareholders by 11 am the meeting would have been postponed to a later date.

Following mihimihi, karakia and himene committee members, Goto person, accountant, farm advisor sharemilkers Dean Marshall and Luke and Shannon Pepper, drystock manager Rod Walker and shepherd general Nivea Wade introduced themselves. Shareholders Clare and Magaret Matena from Palmerston North, their first time at an AGM, also introduced themselves.

The Annual Report was efficiently delivered by Committee of Management members: Derek Wooster, Wikitoria Taane,



Alan Cockle, Donna Tuwhangai and Lee Hall, Farm Advisor: Darren McNae, and Accountant: Peter Topham, with opinions and queries from shareholders Cythia Russell, Noti Matena, Te Wharekura Paehua, Mannix Houppapa, Rangimoeka Houppapa Betty Roimata Peck, Bowler and Shane Houppapa.

Donna Tuwhangai was elected back on to the committee unopposed with other shareholders moved a number of resolutions including the approval of a Kaumatua Grant of \$250; Dividend of \$14 a whole share, both to be paid in December. About 2½ hrs later the meeting ended with the Chairman acknowledging the presence of rangatahi and tamariki before inviting Cynthia and Alan to close with karakia and himene. Everyone helped stack chairs, helped themselves to leftover kai before going to the Ngakonui Hall for lunch again prepared by NVS parents.

Following lunch Heremia Koroheke and Nivia Wade gave shareholders 2 x 500gm jars of

Tweeddale honey and a \$50 petrol voucher each.

Everyone departed for home or the opening of the ablution block at Hia Kaitupeka Marae.

Vacancy

Shepherd - 1,153ha

Te Uranga B2 Incorporation operates a 1,153ha sheep and beef enterprise 10 minutes north east of Taumarunui carrying 12,000 stock units and is a past finalist in the Ahuwhenua Trophy Maori Farmer of the Year.

With a mixed stocking policy including both sheep and beef with a focus on both quality breeding and finishing, this is a fantastic opportunity to be involved in the running of a diverse farming operation.

You will be working alongside the Farm Manager and the Shepherd General with the role being based around 80% stock work and 20% general duties. This is a great opportunity for those with a few years' experience and looking to take the next step.

You will have:

- The ability to work efficiently on your own and as part of the team
- Good pasture and stock management skills
- A strong work ethic to "get the job done"
- Excellent communication skills and an attention to detail

- A team of dogs under good command.

We offer excellent remuneration for the right skills, good quality housing and a location close to town and schooling.

For more information phone Manager, Rod Walker on 07 895 7008 or send CV and covering letter directly to:

Rod Walker

611 Ngakonui Ongarue Road.

RD 4, Taumarunui 3994

Or e-mail Upoko@teurangab2.co.nz

Applications close: Monday 23 December 2019

Contributions and comments welcome

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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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