

THE AHUWHENUA TROPHY ROUND UP

AUGUST 2015

BNZ
MĀORI
EXCELLENCE
IN FARMING AWARD 2015
SHEEP AND BEEF



»» Oh what a night

The Whanganui Memorial War Hall was packed to capacity for the announcement of the winner of 2015 Ahuwhenua Trophy BNZ Māori Excellence in Farming Award for sheep and beef.

It was great night with the venue decorated beautifully and a crowd of 650 people buzzing with excitement waiting for the announcement of the winner. The guests at the dinner included the Māori King Tuheitia, and other dignitaries, politicians and leading agribusiness people from throughout New Zealand.

Throughout the night each of the finalists Mangaroa Station, Paua Station and Maranga Station were presented with their finalists medals. A video on the field days held at each of the properties was also shown, which again drew much praise from the audience.



The announcement and presentation of the winner, Bart and Nukuhia Hadfield of Mangaroa Station, was made by the Minister for Primary Industries, Hon Nathan Guy and the Minister for Māori Development, Hon Te Ururoa Flavell. The Ahuwhenua Trophy was presented to them by Minister Flavell. The couple were also presented with a special medal by Shelley Ruha representing the Bank of New Zealand, the competitions major sponsor.

Bart and Nukuhia's farm is situated in the Ruakituri Valley, about an hour's drive north west of Wairoa, and is typical hill



country with virtually no flat land. The farm consists of 1,506 ha (1,250 effective) on which the Hadfield's run 6,200 Romney Perendale ewes, 2,000 replacement ewe lambs and 70 rams. They also run 500 Angus breeding cows and 400 heifers.

The presentation of the Ahuwhenua Trophy came at the end of more than four months of assessing the applications, selecting and announcing the three finalists at a function at parliament and each of them holding a field day on their respective properties. The field days were open to the public but were also part of the judging process.



*The Minister for
Māori Development
Hon Te Ururoa
Flavell*

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The winners received various prizes to the value of \$40,000 while they and the other finalists received prizes to the value of \$20,000.

John Janssen, Head of Agribusiness for the Bank of New Zealand says the standard of this year's finalists was outstanding. He says this shows that Māori agribusiness has come of age and that some Māori farmers feature among the best farmers in the country.

He says what we have seen with our long term involvement with the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition is a raising of the bar in terms of the performance of the farms from the trusts, incorporations and individuals entering this event. John says they are answering the call of Sir Apirana Ngata and Lord

Bledisloe to lift their game for the benefit of themselves and Aotearoa Inc. He says the BNZ are proud to support this prestigious competition and value the special relationship it has helped us develop with Māori.

Nukuhia Hadfield says she and Bart will continue to reflect on their win and says as a result of this can't afford to be a bit slack now. She says it's going to help motivate them even more and it has opened up opportunities. She says they have met so many more people and will be looking at future opportunities and maybe doing things even better on their farm than they have in the past. Nukuhia says it has certainly broadened their horizons. Bart Hadfield says entering the competition often meant late nights doing bookwork and other chores to meet deadlines. But he says it was well worth it and their business will grow as a result of entering the competition.



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WORTHY WINNERS SAYS CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee Kingi Smiler says Mangaroa Station is a worthy winner of this year's competition. He says

Bart and Nukuhia Hadfield were role models for other owner operators to follow because they showed vision, determination, discipline and commitment to building up their operation to what it is today.

Kingi says on the way to achieving this, their wider whānau worked together in a spirit of cooperation that is unique and which saw all members owning their own farms.

He says Bart and Nukuhia have built Mangaroa Station into a farm which ranks among the top farms on the hard hill country of the East Coast of the North Island. Kingi says you only need to look at the numbers they have achieved in terms of production, profit and on top of that commitment to the environment and their local community. He says Sir Apirana Ngata and Lord Bledisloe will be looking down with pride on these outstanding farmers.

Kingi Smiler says this year's competition saw three great finalists compete for the honour of the Ahuwhenua Trophy. The other two finalists were also great role models for Māori and other farmers and both showed great vision and determination to operate to their potential.

He says the objective of the Ahuwhenua Trophy is to encourage Māori farmers to not just look over the fence and see what their peers are doing, but to see the big picture and look at the horizon and to set high aspirational goals. He says Māori are in agribusiness for the long haul and now the real game is to encourage and assist more farming enterprises to become highly profitable enterprises and still hold true to Māori values.

Kingi Smiler says the 2015 competition has been conducted in a great spirit of cooperation and friendship and has set the tone for future events.

Meanwhile the Minister for Māori Development Hon Te Ururoa Flavell congratulated Kingi Smiler and his team for organising the competition. He says the Ahuwhenua Trophy is essential to ensure that Māori realise their potential and progress even further in the primary sector. He says the primary sector is one of the most important contributors to NZ's economy and added that in 2013 the Māori economy asset base was estimated at \$42.6 billion dollars and 16% of that was contributed by the primary sector.

Ahuwhenua Young Māori Farmer winner

Also announced at the event in Whanganui was the winner of the Young Māori Sheep and Beef Farmer of the Year, 22 year old Hannah Wallace from Wairoa who is the first female to ever win the Ahuwhenua Young Māori Farmer competition. Te Tumu Paeroa Chief Executive Jamie Tuuta presented the award and he, along with Minister Nathan Guy, acknowledged the strong female presence in this year's competition signalling a new direction in leadership.



Taane Hubbard, Hannah Wallace, Hemoata Kopa

Jamie Tuuta CE & Māori Trustee Te Tumu Paeroa, Mark Jeffries CE Primary ITO, Michelle Hippolite CE Te Puni Kōkiri, Hannah Wallace winner, Shane McManaway CE of Allflex Australiasia

The other finalists were Taane Hubbard, also from Wairoa, and Hemoata Kopa from Matawaia in the Bay of Islands.

Hannah Wallace works as a Shepherd General and splits her time between two sheep and beef properties. On a typical week she works three days on the family property which is owned and managed by her parents Richard and Harmony Wallace. It runs 5600 stock units across 1500 hectares. The rest of her time is spent managing Rotanui Station with her partner Jeremy.

She told the audience that it was an amazing honour and privilege to receive the award. She says the competition is a great way to get young Māori interested in seeing and aspiring to be the best they can in the farming industry. She says farming is not just hard work and in fact offers a great lifestyle and has enormous opportunities. Hannah says she hopes the competition will inspire others, especially females to get into the farming industry.

Hannah was also one of the guest speakers at the AgResearch dinner at National Fieldays. There she spoke to an audience of about 200 people about the amazing journey that has followed winning the award. She says she'd never met so many people or been such a 'wanted' person since winning the award. Hannah Wallace says words cannot express just how honoured she is to win the award.



Hannah Wallace at the AgResearch dinner at Fieldays with Traci Houppa, Chairperson of FOMA and Landcorp Farming

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MĀORI AGRIBUSINESS UPDATE

Guess who's Fonterra's top dairy farmer?

The secret is out – Māori farmers Len and Pearl Crewther from the Far North settlement of Ngataki are Fonterra's top farmers – at least in terms of distance to the top of the North Island. The couple have Fonterra shareholder 10021 on their gate and theirs is the furthest north farm that Fonterra collects milk from. Len and Pearl have been farming at Ngataki for 40 years on their 160 hectare block on which they have 260 cows. When Len and Pearl came to the farm 40 years ago they had just 80 cows but have built up the herd and vastly improved the infrastructure. They also have a connection with the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition because one of Len's relatives, Claude Edwards of Opotiki won the prestigious Ahuwhenua Trophy for the top Māori dairy farm back in 1975.

Responding to Māori

The Chief Executive of DairyNZ, Dr Tim Mackle says it's fair to say that over the last 10 years DairyNZ were a little bit slow out of the blocks in getting its heads around the needs of Māori dairy farmers. But he says in recent times they have been working with the Federation of Māori Authorities and other partners and have made some much better progress. Dr Mackle says a lot of work has been done on doing whole farm assessments.

WMI Opens its doors



Some of the 10,000 cows at Wairarapa Moana Incorporation

More than 100 people braved the rain and wind to attend a field day at Wairarapa Moana Incorporation's dairy farming operation near the central North Island township of Mangakino. The Incorporation runs 10,500 cows, 4,030 replacements, 400 bulls on its 3,900ha's platform which is divided into 12 dairy farms and three support blocks. About a quarter of the farming platform is irrigated and there has been a major programme to upgrade infrastructure on all the farms. WMI produce just on 4 million kgs/ms and supply the Miraka Dairy Company of which they are a 27% shareholder.

WMI General Manager, Nick Hume says managing the WMI farms is a challenge in volatile times but he says the key to doing this is having good staff communication and a strategy which everyone understands and what role they have to play. He says they have designed a system which they think is resilient and can respond well to both high and low dairy pay-outs.

The field day which was organised in conjunction with FOMA and DairyNZ, involved a series of presentations from WMI staff, Worksafe, DairyNZ and FOMA and was followed by a bus tour in the afternoon to look at two of the farms.

TIME TO THINK AHEAD



Dion Maaka, Chairman of Te Rua o Te Moko speaking at the Wairarapa Moana Incorporation field day

The Chairman of the Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee, Kingi Smiler says it's already time for Māori Dairy Farmers, Trusts and Incorporations to start thinking about next years competition. In 2016 the Ahuwhenua Trophy BNZ Māori Excellence in Farming Award will be for dairy.

At the recent WMI dairy field day the Chairman of Te Rua o Te Moko Ltd, Dion Maaka extolled the benefits of entering the competition. Te Rua o Te Moko Ltd won the Trophy in 2014 and he says he helped his team learn more about their business and about each others roles and responsibilities. Dion Maaka says it helped the owners to understand the farm and to re-engage with the farm. He says they all got involved in the field days and the people still talk about the Ahuwhenua Trophy process as being something very special. He says there is no other competition in which the whole operation from governance to financial and environmental performance are scrutinised and benchmarked, not just against other Māori farms but against all farms.

Watch the Ahuwhenua web site for more details about the competition.

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