

THE AHUWHENUA TROPHY ROUND UP

JULY 2018

» CELEBRATION FOR AHUWHENUA WINNERS

Spontaneous waiata tautoko, haka, catching up with the wider Ahuwhenua whānau and networking were all part of a great night of celebration in Christchurch for the finale of the 2018 Ahuwhenua Trophy BNZ Māori Excellence in Farming Award for dairy. Adding to the unique flavour of the evening was a rousing performance by Ngā Manu a Tāne the top kapa haka team in the regional kapa haka finals in Waitaha.



Above: Cedric Nepia, Bob Cottrell, Kingi Smiler, Their Excellencies Sir David Gascoigne & the Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, & Lyn Harrison



Right: Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Hon Meka Whaitiri & The Governor-General, The Rt Hon. Dame Patsy Reddy with winners Onuku Māori Lands Trust

More than 650 people converged on the Air Force Museum in the garden city to see Her Excellency, The Rt Hon. Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand announce that Onuku Māori Lands Trust from Rotorua was this year's winner.

The evening was the culmination of six months of hard work behind the scenes to gain entrants for the awards, select finalists, run field days and then organise a special gala function to celebrate the success of another great cohort of finalists and a winner.

An array of dignitaries attended the function including the Minister for Māori Development, Hon Nanaia Mahuta, the Associate Minister of Agriculture, Hon Meka Whaitiri, Sir Tumu and Lady te Heuheu, Sir Tipene O'Regan and Sir Mark Solomon. Also present were the Vice Chancellor of Massey University, Professor Jan Thomas, the CEO of TPK, Michele Hippolite, the

BNZ
MĀORI
EXCELLENCE
IN FARMING AWARD 2018
DAIRY



The Proprietors of Mawhera Incorporation



Jamie Rihia, BNZ

CEO of Te Tumu Paeroa, Jamie Tuuta and the Director General of MPI, Martyn Dunne. There were also representatives from sponsors, major farming and agribusiness organisations, as well as great turnout of whānau and supporters from this years and past years finalists and winners.

Her Excellency, The Rt Hon. Dame Patsy Reddy told the gathering that for the finalists their years of hard work have paid off and that they deserved to have the spotlight on their achievements. She says their expertise, leadership and innovation have earned them the accolades they were receiving at the awards.

Her Excellency spoke about Lord Bledisloe who played an important role in setting up these awards as well as establishing the trans-Tasman cup for rugby and purchasing the Waitangi Treaty grounds for the people of Aotearoa.



“Being a pig farmer himself Lord Bledisloe took enormous interest in New Zealand farming and his lecture on science, forestry, farming and New Zealand native plants were exhaustively informed by the latest research and were full of practical advice. The downside was his lectures were extremely long,” she said.

The finale of the evening was the presentation of the Ahuwhenua Trophy by the Governor-General to Moyra Bramley, Chairperson of Onuku Māori Lands Trust for their winning Boundary Road farm near Lake Rotomahana south of Rotorua. When the announcement was made a stirring haka followed and then whānau joined Moyra Bramley on the stage to receive the trophy and other prizes associated with winning this coveted award. A magnificent rendition of the Ngāi Tahu signature haka, Maraka! Maraka! by the local Ngāi Tahu Farming team in tribute to the Te Arawa winners, and the messages of congratulations from the other finalist, the Proprietors of Mawhera Incorporation from Hokitika, made for a great ending to another great competition.



Chairman congratulates winners

Kingi Smiler the Chairman of the Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee says both finalists set very high standards in terms of their farming and the governance of their operations. But he says there had to be a winner and the judges believed that on this occasion Onuku were the top performer.

“I congratulate Onuku Māori Lands Trust and commend them for their great farming operation and their commitment to the values of Sir Apirana Ngata and Lord Bledisloe. Every year we attract an amazing cohort of farmers which showcase the success of Māori achievement in the agribusiness sector – long may this continue,” he says.

Kingi Smiler says the event was fantastic and there was great feedback about the way the competition was run.

“It’s authentic and real, and people appreciate it for the fact that these are ordinary people achieving such great things, all while honouring the legacy of the past,” he says.

Kingi Smiler says a feature of the competition is the camaraderie of the finalists. He says while they both wanted to win, they were very supportive of each other and keen to celebrate whoever won.

Two great 85-year-olds

The Chairperson of the Onuku Māori Lands Trust, Moyra Bramley shares something in common with the Ahuwhenua Trophy she received on behalf of her Trust. They are both 85 years old – yes Moyra was born in the year when the cup was inaugurated.

She says winning the trophy was unbelievable and very exciting. She says it is the culmination of her 36 years of work on the Trust and a dream come true. Moyra Bramley says she’s had a lot of helpers along the way especially during the formative years.

“I am just one that has outlasted all of them,” she says.

Moyra Bramley says the highlight of her time on the Onuku Trust was when they first paid their shareholders a dividend. She says they still do this and also make grants for education and their kaumātua. She says this says a lot about the Trust given the volatile nature of the dairy industry.

While Moyra Bramley is delighted at winning the Ahuwhenua Trophy, she is also mindful of the other finalist, the Proprietors of Mawhera Incorporation from the West Coast.

“As far as I am concerned there are no winners and no losers. In my mind we are all striving to achieve the same results and Mawhera are striving just as hard as we are to maintain incomes. While we are getting all the publicity, I feel we share this trophy with Mawhera,” she says.



HISTORY OF THE WINNING FARM

ONUKU MĀORI LANDS TRUST

Boundary Road Farm comprises a 72ha block near Lake Rotomahana, about 30km south of Rotorua. The Trust milks 220 cows which produce about 90,000 kgMS.

In 1882 the land now known as the Onuku Māori Lands Trust was partitioned and handed back to Ngāti Rangitihi. The Mount Tarawera eruption occurred on the 10th June 1886, wiping out the Rangitihi Pā located at Moura on the shores of Tarawera, and the world famous Pink and White Terraces on the shores of Rotomahana. The surrounding land, including that of Onuku, was covered with Rotomahana mud and portions of Tarawera ash and gravel. These soils today make up the base of the Onuku Farms. The estate stretches from Mount Tarawera in the north to Timberlands boundary in the south across State Highway 38.

From 1963 the land was developed and managed by the Department of Lands and Survey and handed back to Ngāti Rangitihi in 1982 when the Onuku Māori Lands Trust was formed. It had been run as one big drystock farming operation, but one of the goals of the Trust was to diversify and dairy was a good choice. Today the Trust has developed to consist of four dairy farms, a drystock farm, forestry, natural reserves and a manuka plantation. Onuku has also developed outside the farm gates, starting an export honey business: Onuku Honey.

One of the strategic goals of Onuku has always been to acquire land on its boundaries and when the Rotorua District Council Northern Boundary Road dairy farm was put up for sale in 2004, Onuku felt they had to be a serious



bidder. Hence this is the farm you see today. When purchased the farm was in a rundown state and required some work to bring back up to standard. As an investment, this farm has been a good performer averaging 1,214 kgMS/ha. The farm is 90% pasture based and uses Farmax and Overseer to assist with effective management decisions.

The farm has a strong environmental focus, with Onuku being part of Project Rerewhakaaitu, a voluntary local farming initiative to help protect local waterways and lakes. Management focus on reducing nitrogen and phosphate and achieving the highest possible animal welfare standards.

The more recent strategy for Onuku is the move from sharemilking to herd ownership and the Trust now owns herds on Dairy Two and Boundary Road Farms. Boundary Road Farm has allowed the Trust to realise another of its goals by 'growing our own' in the industry and our farm. Manager, Alan Rondon is of Ngāti Rangitihi descent, and his Grand Uncle was one of the original Trustees of Onuku. Alan originally worked for our Dairy One Sharemilker as his 2IC.

The strategy is for training Onuku owners in farm management on Boundary Road and creating a pathway through to the larger dairy farms on Onuku.

The Onuku board is actively involved with the various areas of its business, particularly on farm and they visit regularly. The Trustees are Moyra Te Ariki Bramley (Chair), Barnett Vercoe, Les Stowell, Maramena Vercoe, Tina Ngatai and Ken Raureti.



Kaumatua Tawhiri Morehu

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT ON THE AWARDS

There was extensive coverage of the awards night in the media with stories being run by Radio New Zealand, Radio Waatea, Stuff, Farmers Weekly, the Farmer and Rural News. The Farmer featured a front page picture of Harepaora's haka as well as full page story – Porirua Boy Now a Top Farmer. Rural News featured a two page spread covering both the Ahuwhenua Trophy and the Young Māori Farmer competition. There was also excellent coverage in provincial newspapers. Overall the message about the strength of the Ahuwhenua Trophy is resonating with the media.



AHUWHENUA YOUNG MĀORI FARMER WINNER

The winner of this year's Ahuwhenua Young Māori Farmer Award celebrated with an impromptu, passionate haka when his name was announced at the Ahuwhenua function in Christchurch by the Māori Trustee and Chief Executive of Te Tumu Paeroa, Jamie Tuuta.

Twenty six-year-old Harepaora Ngaheu from Te Teko in the Eastern Bay of Plenty is a manager on a dairy farm near Te Teko but plans to go contract milking for the same farmer in the new season. Harepaora was a finalist in the 2016 competition. It was great to see the pride that flowed from his win in his acceptance speech and his appreciation of those people who had supported him through this journey.

The Young Māori Farmer Award was first held in 2012 and is designed to recognise talented up-and-coming young Māori farmers. It is also designed to encourage young Māori to make farming a career choice and to showcase to prospective



L-R: Martyn Dunne, Cheyenne Wilson, Harepaora Ngaheu, Hon Meka Whaitiri and Mathew Pooley

employers, the talent pool that exists within Māori.

Lead judge Peter Little says once again there was a good response for entrants for the award. He says selecting a winner is never an easy task given the pool of young Māori, who in a short space of time are making great progress in their careers in agriculture.

Peter Little says Harepaora Ngaheu exemplifies all that is good about young Māori who are making successful careers in the primary sector. He says

Harepaora has shown great commitment to his work and family as well as excellent leadership in the community.

Harepaora Ngaheu was selected from two other finalists, Mathew Pooley, 25, who is the manager on Ngāi Tahu's Maungatere dairy farm near Oxford in Canterbury and twenty five year-old Cheyenne Wilson who is an assistant manager on Lochan Mor farm near Ashburton.

ABOUT THE WINNER

Harepaora Ngaheu – Ngāti Awa, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui

Twenty six year old Harepaora Ngaheu is from the Bay of Plenty and is of Ngāti Awa and Te Whānau-ā-Apanui descent. He was a finalist in 2016, and felt that he lost out because of his inexperience, but this time around feels he has the necessary attitude and skills to be a positive role model for young Māori.

Harepaora was born in Porirua but his family soon moved north to a small rural town Te Teko near Whakatane, where he didn't make as much out of school as he would have liked.

For many years Harepaora drifted around but a key milestone in his life was his 21st birthday, which Harepaora remembers was the day he put his first cups on a dairy cow as part of a training course he was on at the time. Harepaora is also thankful for Aiesha his partner and two beautiful daughters Reve, 9; and Kesiah, 6 who have also grounded him.

He found the dairy industry and it found him. His break came when a local farmer Colin Wilson took him in hand and offered him a permanent job – a move that has proved life changing for him and his young family.

After a year working with Colin Wilson, Harepaora was then put in touch with another dairy farmer and it was there that he learned more about farm management. The following



Harepaora Ngaheu

year Harepaora obtained a manager's position and that gave him the opportunity to put all his skills and knowledge into practice. At the same time, he completed a level 3 course with tectra/ emerge and is now doing the level 5 diploma in agribusiness. He says this is learning about how to run a profitable business and develop a wider knowledge of dairy farm management. He is currently a Manager on one of Colin Wilson's farms, however in the 2018/19 season Harepaora

plans to go contract milking, and with Colin's

help, look into stock ownership while saving cash assets to open up more opportunities.

Dairy farming has been a lifesaver for Harepaora and has provided him and his family with a secure and enjoyable future. He says he wants to give back to the community by taking in young people like him that may need a new kick start in life, and help kids straight from school into the work force. He wants to teach them life skills and get them involved in saving their earnings to help pay their own way in life: do the mahi, get the treats!

Harepaora loves the outdoors and animals and also enjoys working with big machinery. He also enjoys problem solving – finding out why a piece of equipment in the milking shed or a tractor has broken down and fixing it. Now he says it's time to hang up his rugby boots and focus on his farming future and follow his girls to their sports and hopefully if it's a beautiful day to go fishing or hunting.



MĀORI AGRIBUSINESS UPDATE

Good Employer Awards

MPI has launched the MPI and AGMARDT Primary Industries Good Employer Awards at Fieldays. These new awards will celebrate the primary industries employers who are demonstrating exceptionally good employment practices. And we hope it will encourage others to strive to be the same or better.

We would like to encourage you to nominate a primary industries employer for the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and the Agricultural and Marketing Research Development Trust (AGMARDT) Primary Industries Good Employer Awards.

Having the right workforce is critical to the future of the primary industries in New Zealand. We need to attract, develop and retain the skills we need for today and tomorrow.

Being a good employer is key to this. Good employers are those that provide great working environments for their employees. Their employees will feel safe, supported and able to develop their careers.

These new awards will celebrate the primary industries employers who are demonstrating exceptionally good employment practices.

The awards will recognise good employers for innovative employment practices, employee development opportunities and safe and healthy work environments. Additionally, there will be an award that is specifically for a Māori agribusiness and a Minister's Award that will be welcoming nominations for employers who are committed to improving employment practices in their region.

Please can you help us make this a success by spreading the word to your networks and encouraging people to make a nomination. When out and about we get to hear amazing stories about businesses that have found a creative and innovative way to attract and retain new and skilled employees, or of someone who has managed to become more skilled at their job because of the opportunities provided by their employer. For more information on the awards and to nominate, please go to www.mpi.govt.nz/goodemployerawards.

Nominations close 10 August and the winners will be celebrated later this year.

MPI Forestry Scholarships - applications open now!

TĒNĀ KOUTOU

It's an exciting time in the forestry sector. Technology and science are changing the way we do things and is paving the way to provide opportunities for rewarding and lifelong careers. We need people who can work with robotics, help develop new forestry products and processes, and take them to the market.

With the One Billion Trees programme a key focus for this Government, we need to ensure that our young men and women in forestry have the right skills for today and tomorrow.

To assist, the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) is offering four scholarships for the 2019 academic year for qualifying Māori and female students enrolling in the Bachelor of Forestry Science or Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Forest Engineering at the University of Canterbury. This will increase to 18 scholarships over the next three years.



APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN NOW UNTIL 31 AUGUST 2018

The new Forestry Scholarships - Ngā Karahipi Uru Rākau - aim to grow the capability of the forestry sector and increase the number of women and Māori in the industry.

Successful winners will receive:

- \$8,000 a year for 4 years (the length of the degree) to help with tuition fees and living costs, and
- a paid internship with Te Uru Rākau (Forestry New Zealand) or another forestry employer.

For further information and to apply, please visit www.mpi.govt.nz/forestryscholarships

If you have any further questions, please email us at mpiforestryscholarships@mpi.govt.nz

