

AHUWHENUA TROPHY TE KAWERONGO

JUNE 2021

»» Tūhoe farm tops Ahuwhenua awards

Paki Nikora, Chairman of Tataiwhetu Trust, who won this year's Ahuwhenua Trophy for the top Māori dairy farm says he is elated at the news.

Tataiwhetu Trust run an organic dairy farm in the Ruatoki Valley, south of Whakatane. Paki Nikora says he never thought they would reach such heights in the agricultural sector. He says Māori tend to not back themselves at times, but when push came to shove the Trust decided to give it a go and enter the competition.

The Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor announced their success at the Ahuwhenua Trophy awards dinner in New Plymouth attended by 800 people including the Hon Willie Jackson, Hon Meka Whaitiri, Kiingi Tuheitia, Tā Tumū te Heuheu, other dignitaries, politicians, agribusiness leaders and whānau from all the finalists.

As the Minister presented Paki Nikora with the trophy there were scenes of great jubilation as whānau came on stage to join in the celebrations which included waiata and a haka.

Tataiwhetu runs 432 kiwi cross cows and carries 188 replacement stock on their two support blocks. They milk once a day, and their herd produces 129,140 kgMS.

The other finalists were Pouarua Farms, which runs 4,600 cows run on nine separate farms located near the township of Ngatea on the Hauraki Plains and Tunapahore B2A Incorporation, a 385-cow operation located at Torere on State Highway 35 on the East Coast of the North Island.

Paki Nikora says the biggest drive now for the Trust is diversification, and they are starting to look and see what that might be in the future.

"As far as Tūhoe is concerned, we are trying to lift the whole image of our iwi into another space and winning this award is a launching pad for this initiative. All the assistance that is coming through from government has helped elevate us to new levels so we can achieve those sorts of things. I think it's going



to be huge moving into the future generally for Māori right across the board," he says.

While Paki Nikora was born on a dairy farm, most of his working life was spent in business away from the farm. But he expects his fellow Trustees to not only make decisions as Trustees, but also to get

their hands dirty and work on the farm. He has been Chairman since 2009 and in that time has initiated many changes leading to improvements to the farm.

In 2010 the Trust received the Ballance Farm Environment Award for the creation of special places on the farm including the protection and enhancement of wetlands, landscape features and historical places.

In this speech, Paki Nikora praised Hon Damien O'Connor for his support of Māori agribusiness and said he would like to bestow on the Minister the title of honorary Māori. Minister O'Connor later said it was one of the nicest things anyone has said to him in a long time and noted that while he was not part of the people from the mist (a reference to Tūhoe) he was from the people of the rain – the West Coast.

Kingi Smiler, Chairman of the Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee congratulated Tataiwhetu and all of the finalists, saying the standard of competition this year was particularly high and the judges had their work cut out to come up with a winner. He says the field days run by all the finalists were extremely good and showed the quality and depth of Māori dairy farming enterprises. He says each finalist excelled and all are great role models for farmers.

"But in the end Tataiwhetu Trust were determined the winners and they and their staff are to be congratulated for this. Their farm is very special and is yet another example of our people working innovatively and hard and focusing on key strategic objectives. They join an illustrious alumni of past winners" he says.

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Praise from the Ministers

Agriculture Minister, Hon Damien O'Connor says he'd like to bottle up the celebrations and all that goes behind it and deliver it to the Ministers and officials he will meet in his forthcoming trip to Britain and the European Union. Minister O'Connor's mission to the Northern Hemisphere is to try and kick start important free trade talks with UK and Europe, and he says the Ahuwhenua Trophy is a great example of what NZ is about.

He says if the people on the other side of the world could see what's happening here it would give them an understanding of the passion we have for the land and what we are trying to do in terms of development.

"At the awards dinner, the Ambassador for Japan spoke to me and said it was a wonderful night because it gave him an insight into some of the history of Māori culture and the land which he compared to what happens in some places in Japan" he says.

Damien O'Connor says Aotearoa has the opportunity to be unique in the world. He says values such as manaakitanga – respect, humility, kindness, and honesty; kaitiakitanga meaning guardianship and protection; and te taiao, the environment that contains and surrounds us are special values. He says if NZ can capture and implement this well, the world is our oyster, and we will be the premium producers for the world.

He says right across the world people are recognising the importance of health and food and he says that puts NZ in a good position as a food producing nation. He says NZ has to do the right thing itself which is about the protecting our land, water, cultural and social values and so contribute to making the world and our country a better place.

"But it's not just about moving from volume to value, but from volume to values and connecting with the values of our consumers," he says.

In his speech at the awards function, Damien O'Connor praised the winners Tataiwhetu Trust saying he had the privilege of attending the field day on their farm and saw for himself the work they have put into upgrading the property. He says he was also aware that the properties of the other two finalists were also great examples of excellence in Māori farming.



Hon Damien O'Connor

Damien O'Connor also praised the contribution that Hon John Luxton has made to the dairy industry. John Luxton is the Independent Director of Pouarua Farms – one of this year's finalists in the competition. O'Connor described him as a stalwart and champion of the dairy industry, and it was great to see him at the event.



Hon Willie Jackson

Māori Development Minister, Hon Willie Jackson says it was wonderful to see all the different groups coming together at the awards dinner. He says they are so proud to be honoured and celebrated.

"Most people don't win but they just love being a part of it," he says.

Jackson says Māori don't get the credit for many of the good things they do, and people don't understand this. He says when Māori do business there is always a cultural element to it which is different from mainstream New Zealand.

Jackson also praised Paki Nikora for bestowing on Damien O'Connor the title of honorary Māori. "It's fabulous – we love Damien. He's an Irishman, and the Irish are like Māori," he says.

Fonterra Chairman's praise for Māori farming

Peter McBride, who attended the awards dinner says Māori farming and leadership is really valuable and that it is important that the awards recognise this. He says he was really impressed with all the contestants including those in the Young Māori Farmer competition.

"Māori think intergenerationally and that is really important for an intergenerational cooperative. So, the questions are how we bring that into Fonterra and that's what we have to be focused on: Māori values in Fonterra" he says. McBride says that's why Fonterra is proud to be a sponsor of the awards.



Peter McBride

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Farewell Kingi

The man who has led the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition for the past fifteen years is bowing out.

Kingi Smiler has been the Chairman of the Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee since the awards were revived. He also Chairman of Miraka, the Māori owned dairy company based in Taupo and is Chairman of Wairarapa Moana Incorporation which owns several dairy farms in the Central North Island.

He is handing over the reins over to Nukuhia Hadfield who along with husband Bart won the Ahuwhenua Trophy in 2015.

Kingi says it's time for him to retire and says he's enjoyed every moment in the job. He says every year is special because you see the pride and the passion of the whānau supporting the achievements of the finalists and winners. He says that provides the motivation and inspiration for the next generation to come.

"The competition has grown from strength to strength and it's moving in the right direction as it continues to grow. Māori have certainly built the skill and capability and the leadership has come to the fore. They are also connecting their farming enterprise with schools and the community," he says.

Kingi Smiler says it's been a privilege to support the legacy of Sir Apirana Ngata and Lord Bledisloe who inaugurated the competition eighty-eight years ago.

Pathways into Primary Industries - PiPI

PiPI is a pathway into the primary industries that will mobilise skills, knowledge, and expertise as part of a coordinated approach by sector and region, to develop and deliver a national pan-sector pre-employment strategy. This project is supported by funding from the TEC and managed by Primary ITO.

Have your say by completing the survey, or register your interest in attending one of their nationwide workshops.

31 June Blenheim,
5 July Christchurch, 12 July Hawera,
13 July Feilding, 14 July Masterton,
27 July Auckland, 28 July Hamilton,
TBC Hawkes Bay

To register to attend a workshop near you, or for more information, contact the PiPI team on Pipi@primaryito.ac.nz or visit their facebook page.

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Fast rise to fame for young Māori farmer

He has only been in the dairy industry for just over a year but that didn't stop 26-year-old Quinn Morgan from taking out the Ahuwhenua Young Māori Dairy Farmer award.

Quinn is in his first season of farming working as a Farm Assistant for Sam and Kate Moore on their 155ha farm in Otakiri near Whakatane where they milk 570 cross breed cows.

The announcement was made by the Māori Trustee and Chief Executive of Te Tumu Paeroa, Dr Charlotte Severne at the Ahuwhenua Trophy awards dinner in New Plymouth.

The other two finalist were Anahera Hale, 26, who is currently working as the 2IC farm assistant on Rod and Jackie McPherson's dairy farm near Whakatane and Ben Purua, who is the 2IC for a contract milker at Trinity Lands farm, near Tokoroa in the South Waikato.

Quinn Morgan says he felt great and humbled at winning the award. He says not everyone gets such a good start as he did especially getting such good employers. He says it's been a big day and week for him and his wife Samantha and he's grateful for the opportunities.

Morgan was born in Taumarunui, lived in Tongariro National Park, and then moved to Whanganui where he went to primary and intermediate schools. In 2007 he moved with his mother, stepfather, and sister to Australia where the family sought out a new life. While in Australia he was involved in the fitness industry, working full time with at a gym in Perth. It was there he and his wife Samantha had their three children.

His farming career began when some of his relations offered him some work experience and that's when he fell in love with the dairy sector and that led to him being employed full time as a farm assistant with the Moore's. He says he always wanted a career that would involve his wife and family and dairying has done just that.

"The dairy lifestyle suits me especially being home for breakfast and seeing the kids head off to school. I like the early morning starts and the hard work. Working in the dairy industry is a real treat and as a young father it has given me stability and helped me and my wife develop great aspirations as a collective," he says.

Since then, he's completed day courses such as, Calving Smart with DairyNZ, First Aid For Cattle with Bayvets, Lameness Course with Dairy Hoofcare Institute. Quinn is currently wrapping up his level 3 with Primary ITO and Starting his Level 4. He's a member of the Farm4Life Education Hub, and has registered his interest for the Fed Farmers Leadership Course. Wife Samantha is studying for a Diploma in Agribusiness.

His progression within the dairy industry has been rapid

because next season he's been offered a Sole-Charge Management Position with the same employers. The couple will head to Galatea on a 95ha farm with 280 cows later this month.

Winning the Ahuwhenua Award says Quinn Morgan will bring many new benefits and contacts but also responsibility.

"I feel now that I have the responsibility to uphold the mana of the Ahuwhenua competition and to shine that light on the young farmers coming through. Now that I have made it and those who have gone before me have pulled me through and I am going to reach back and pull the next group of young farmers through as well," he says.



Supportive Samantha

Quinn's wife Samantha says it was awesome to see her husband shine in the dairy industry. Like other supporters of the finalists, she was in New Plymouth for the final part of the judging of the competition. This saw the finalists take part in a study tour and meet agribusiness and Māori leaders.

Samantha Morgan says they have done a lot of work in the past week, and she says she was in tears for much of the time.

"No words can describe how happy I am to see him up on stage and announced the winner," she says.

Samantha Morgan was born in Porirua near Wellington and she and her whānau went to Queensland when she was five. She stayed in Brisbane for about 15 years before moving to Perth where the couple had their three children. Quinn came back before Covid, but she and children were caught in Perth for six months before they could get back to NZ and join him.

"For us, the move to Galatea with Quinn in the sole charge will be a big one and it will be my first season calving," she says.

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Launch of the Food and Fibre Youth Network - He Tātai Rangahua

A network aiming to add young voices to shaping the future of the food and fibres sector was recently launched in Whakatane.

The Food and Fibre Youth Network – He Tātai Rangahua – was launched with nine young people from across the sector gathering to be formally welcomed as part of the inaugural council at Te Mānuka Tūtahi marae.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) contracted New Zealand Young Farmers to establish and implement the food and fibre youth network and council last year. Steering committee member and MPI policy analyst Hiraina Tangiora, says over 61 applications were received from across the sector.

“Initially we aimed to select just seven members, but the quality of applications saw us selecting an extra two,” says Ms Tangiora.

She says the additional selections speaks volumes to the calibre of the rangatahi in the food and fibres sector. One the nine young people selected for the founding council is Anthony Taueki, a kaiako in the horticulture sector in Hawkes Bay.

Mr Taueki says he is pleased and proud to be part of the pan



MPI Food Fibre Youth Network founding council members.
Missing is Lincoln Roper

sector council. He is passionate about upskilling young people to ensure his industry is offering sustainable careers and employment for the future. “Being part of He Tātai Rangahua is a natural extension of that.”

He says his sector is perceived as a low skilled industry. “People think horticulture is about a picking bucket and a ladder. But we are an integrated fruit supplier for the world that offers multiple pathways to sustainable employment.”

The full list of the founding council members is Sarah Crofoot, Amy Moore, Lincoln Roper, Emma Subtil, Anthony Taueki, Alex Tomkins, Cheyenne Wilson, Callum Woodhouse and Memphis Wright.

More information can be found on the Food and Fibre Youth Network website: www.ffyouthnetwork.co.nz.



New programme part of \$1.15m effort to boost farmers' financial and risk management skills

New investment by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will help enhance farmers' financial risk management skills and prevent business failure.

MPI is funding the development of an innovative new programme, which will be piloted in eight locations starting next month.

The Agri-Women's Development Trust (AWDT) has been allocated \$331,000 to research, design, and deliver the financial risk management training course.

“The primary sector is the backbone of our economy and it's vital we ensure farmers and growers are equipped to withstand challenges facing the sector,” says MPI's director of Rural Communities and Farming Support Nick Story.

“This course will give them the skills, tools, and confidence to help make their agribusinesses more financially resilient. Farmers

and growers can't control the weather, commodity prices, or shifts in consumers' shopping habits, but they can plan and prepare for change.”

Up to 130 people are expected to take part in the training course.

Funding for the programme is part of a \$1.15 million commitment in the 2020-21 financial year to reduce the risk of primary producers getting into financial strife.

MPI has earmarked \$500,000 a year for three years to help enhance financial literacy and risk management skills, and a further \$100,000 has also been allocated to the Farm Business Advice Support Fund to provide farmers with independent advice to help tackle farm debt.

The Farm Debt Mediation Scheme was launched in July 2020 and has an annual budget of \$550,000 to help farmers and growers work through debt issues with their lenders.

Farmers and growers can request mediation at any time and hardship funding is available through the MPI.

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Te ao Māori site at the Primary ITO teaomaoriprimaryito.ac.nz

He aha te mea nui o te ao, he tangata, he tangata, he tangata

We recently launched a website dedicated to showcasing the ongoing relationships and commitment to Te Ao Māori underpinned by the values of manaakitanga (service), whanaungatanga (quality relationships) and mana motuhake (responsiveness). Te Ao Māori is a platform to celebrate, inform, inspire, and acknowledge the many unsung heroes in our communities we work with to support and complement their workplace capability needs. There are case studies from some of our learners and employers of which we are expanding on to celebrate the many Māori achievements across the Primary Industry including our involvement with Kura Kaupapa, Wharekura and more recently a successful remote Māori community research pilot called Tū Te Ngana Hau, translated as The Breath of Endeavour. The pilot highlights the effectiveness of working alongside a remote community, aligning to their needs, and developing their own capability capacity to keep learning.

E tipu e rea mō ngā rā o tō ao - Grow and branch forth for the days destined to you.

A key part of the work we do is in sponsoring the Young Māori Farmer/Grower as part of the Ahuwhenua kaupapa which is also part of this new platform. We encourage you to take a look around the site.

Matiu Julian, Māori Engagement Manager and judge for the Young Māori Farmer/Grower award says our Māori story is unique, confronting, emotional and one of resilience. What binds us together is whakapapa to the whenua and the moana.

“It is a legacy we must honour and protect and our contribution to the Ahuwhenua Award is a privilege,” he says.

SIDE

– the South Island’s largest dairy event – is taking place from 22-23 June in Ashburton.

Run by farmers for farmers, SIDE lines up industry experts to deliver keynote addresses, networking sessions and practical workshops.

See side.org.nz for more information.

Let’s Make a Difference – Tangaroa Walker shares his wintering tips

Southland farmer Tangaroa Walker is one of the four dairy and sheep and beef farmers leading the way by sharing their wintering good practice advice with farmers nationwide.

Tangaroa is part of DairyNZ’s Let’s Make a Difference this Winter campaign which is encouraging farmers to achieve good management practice on-farm this winter.

To keep up with Tangaroa’s top tips over winter follow ‘DairyNZ’ on Facebook or check out the June edition of Inside Dairy (online at dairynz.co.nz/insidedairy).

He Waka Eke Noa

MPI is part of the He Waka Eke Noa – Primary Sector Climate Action Partnership between the farming industry and government, aimed at building a framework to reduce agricultural emissions.

It includes 11 primary sector organisations – including DairyNZ, Beef+Lamb NZ, Federated Farmers, and the Dairy Companies Association (DCANZ).

Many farmers want to take action to reduce their emissions but need more information about what steps they can take. He Waka Eke Noa will support farmers and growers to protect, restore and sustain our environment and to enhance our wellbeing for future generations.

Waka Eke Noa sets a clear objective for 100 percent of farms to have written plans to measure and manage emissions by December 2024.

Government and sector have committed to working towards all farmers and growers including mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change in their farm business and environment plans by 2025. There’s also a commitment to all farmers and growers calculating their net greenhouse gas emissions and being incentivised to take actions on climate change through the development of an appropriate pricing mechanism for emissions by 2025.

The first milestone is complete. Two information sources have now been developed to help industry bodies and farmers understand their agricultural greenhouse gas emissions: Greenhouse Gases: Farm Planning Guidance, and The Greenhouse Gases Model Assessment Report.

MPI is co-funding multiple projects to significantly reduce the food and fibre sector’s environmental footprint, while boosting economic growth and sustainability.

Through its Sustainable Food and Fibre (SFF) Futures fund, MPI is contributing \$10 million to trial and develop 12 farm nutrient technologies over a five-year period, that will help meet national environmental targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, agricultural chemical use, and nutrient loss to waterways.

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