

THE AHUWHENUA TROPHY TE KAWERONGO

MARCH 2021

»» Celebrating success at Parliament

There were big celebrations recently at Parliament as this year's finalists for the Ahuwhenua Trophy for Dairy were announced. They are:

Pouarua Farms

The farm is located near the township of Ngātea on the Hauraki Plains, close to Thames. The 2,200ha platform comprises ten farms – nine dairy units and one drystock unit and is the largest single dairy platform in the Hauraki region. A total of 4,600 cows are milked across 1,775ha and produce approximately 1.65M kgMS.

Tataiwhetu Trust

This property is located in the Rūātoki Valley south of Whakatāne. They run 432 kiwi cross cows and carry 188 replacement stock on their two support blocks. Tataiwhetu is an organic dairy farm milking once a day and their herd produces 129,140 kgMS.

Tunapahore B2A Incorporation

The farm consists of 376ha located at Hāwai and Tōrere on the famous State Highway 35 on the East Coast of the North Island. The nearest main town is Ōpōtiki. The milking platform is 132ha, with 385 cows producing 125,940 kgMS.

Representatives of the three finalists attended the lunchtime function held in the historic Grand Hill at Parliament buildings. Guests also included politicians, Māori dignitaries, agribusiness leaders, government officials, past winners and sponsor representatives.

There was a strong political presence at the function including the Trustees of the Trophy, Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture and Hon Willie Jackson, Minister for Māori Development, as well as Ministers Hon Meka Whaitiri, Associate Minister of Agriculture and Hon Kiri Allan, Minister of Conservation. The finalists were announced by Minister O'Connor who presented each of the finalists with a special medal recognising their achievement in making it to the finals in this prestigious competition. Kapa haka roopu from both the Ministry for Primary Industries and Te Puni Kōkiri performed

waiata and contributed greatly to the atmosphere of the celebrations.

Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee, Chairman Kingi Smiler, says "once again there are three outstanding finalists in the competition." He says this is despite the fact that the country and the world is living in challenging and uncertain times. He says farmers and Māori in particular have come through adversity in the past and will do so again.



"I am full of praise and proud of our Māori farmers for entering the competition this year and showing the determination to showcase their very successful enterprises. This is in the true spirit and legacy of Sir Apirana Ngata and Lord Bledisloe," he says.

Kingi says the good news is that despite the pandemic, farm gate returns for dairy farmers remain solid and consumers world-wide are looking for the high quality, sustainably products that our farmers and processing companies produce.

»» PLATINUM SPONSORS



»» GOLD SPONSORS



»» SILVER SPONSORS



»» BRONZE SPONSORS



»» SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED BY TOHU WINES. The Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee supports SAFER FARMS.

Praise from Minister of Agriculture

Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture told the finalists they were shining examples of the long-standing commitment of Māori farmers to sustainably develop their whenua and te taiao – the land and the environment – for future generations. He says they are at the top of their game, providing the inspiration to others to get out and do even better to grow the country.

“Being here today is no mean feat and you and your whānau should be very proud. You are leaders in the entire primary sector and people will look to you in the future. Our industry does depend on leadership to be successful internationally and when we look for leaders we will look to the finalists in the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition,” he says.

Minister O'Connor says a number of people in te ao Māori have lifted Māori agribusiness into vertical integration and producing high value products and there needs to be more of that. He says that the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has schemes to help do this and Māori farmers and enterprises should take advantage of that to help further the dreams of their people.

Damien O'Connor says, all the sectors represented in the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition are really important to the New Zealand economy.

“But to me the Māori business sector is underappreciated and its potential is only now just starting to be known to many people across the country. The official statistics underline the potential of Māori participation in the agribusiness sector. In the Covid environment it should be noted that the agribusiness sector has been able to absorb thousands of workers who have



been displaced. The fact we have been able to milk cows, process meat and pick fruit is a huge credit to all the sector,” he says.

Minister Jackson congratulates finalists

Meanwhile Māori Development Minister, Willie Jackson who is also an Ahuwhenua Trustee says the rise of Māori agribusiness is impressive, especially given its unstinting commitment to all aspects of sustainability. He says people are seeing great developments in all productive sectors and a trend of Māori playing an increasingly significant role in producing higher value food and fibre products.

Minister Jackson says last year's horticultural awards dinner was the first such occasion he attended. He says what he saw encapsulated the spirit of the event and celebrated the success that Māori are achieving.

“Māori are diversifying into new areas including kiwifruit and the focus this year is dairy and for Māori dairy is big business. Māori dairy farmers own an estimated 100 million shares in Fonterra with some of the major players in the sector being large incorporations. Despite the challenges from Covid, Māori owned farms are strong because we have got kaitiakitanga and this is more relevant than ever. As the Minister for Māori Development, my role is to ensure that Māori landowners fulfil their aspirations for their whenua and to improve the sustainability of their land,” he says.

Hon Meka Whaitiri the Associate Minister for Agriculture, congratulated all of the finalists saying the Government is committed to working with Māori farmers to ensure a valuable future for Aotearoa.



DON'T MISS THE FIELD DAYS AND AWARDS DINNER

A key part of the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition are the field days held on the farms of each of the finalists. These provide an excellent opportunity for the owners of the properties to tell their story and to show people around their farms. The field days are open to the public and all those involved in the agri sector should come along and invite their friends and associates to spend a day seeing just how progressive, innovative, and sustainable Māori farms are and how they are becoming role models for all farmers in Aotearoa. A day in the country is day well spent.

FIELD DAYS

Thursday 25th March: Pouarua Farms

9.30am–2pm, 180 Central Road South, Ngatea 3576

Thursday 1st April: Tataiwhetu Trust

9.30am–2pm, Tauarau Marae 325 Ruatoki Valley Rd, Ruatoki 3191

Thursday 8th April: Tunapahore B2A Incorporation

9.30am–2pm, Torere Marae, 2222 State Highway 35, Torere 3197

You will be notified if there are any changes to these dates due to Covid-19 developments. More details are at www.ahuwhenuatrophy.maori.nz.

AWARDS DINNER

Friday 14 May 2021: New Plymouth

Tickets for this event are always at a premium so look on the Ahuwhenua website for details on how to purchase tickets.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED BY TOHU WINES. The Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee supports SAFER FARMS.

FARM PROFILES

Pouarua Farms

Ngā Puke ki Hauraki ka tarehu
E mihi ana ki te whenua
E tangi ana ki te tangata
Ko Te Aroha kei roto
Ko Moehau kei waho
Ko Tikapa te moana
Ko Hauraki te whenua

Pouarua Farms are located on the Hauraki Plains, 35km south east of the Bombay Hills. The 2,200ha platform comprises ten farms: nine dairy units and one drystock unit. This is the largest single dairy platform in the Hauraki region. 4,600 cows are milked across 1,775ha and produce approximately 1.65M kgMS.

Pouarua Farms are jointly owned by Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Tara Tokanui and Te Patukirikiri.

The farms lie within the Māori land blocks known as Ngarua, Waitakaruru and Puhangateuru.

The Waitangi Tribunal confirmed that the iwi of Hauraki suffered raupatu by the Crown and were marginalised in their own rohe being among the most landless of iwi in the nation. Pouarua Farms were returned to the five iwi in 2013 in the largest on-account Treaty settlement ever made by the Crown.

The farms were initially in a 50:50 sharemilking agreement with Landcorp from 2013 – 2019.

Pouarua Farms are now fully operated by the iwi owners under a limited partnership arrangement. The board is independently chaired by the Honourable John Luxton along with iwi representative directors Paul Majurey, John McEnteer, and Rick Braddock, who have all served from the outset of the return of Pouarua Farms to the iwi.

Since taking on full operational care in May 2019, significant productive and financial gains have been achieved by careful execution of management led by Chief Executive Jenna Smith.

The dairy farms are run as system 2 and as all the farms sit on quite raw peat of varying maturity, production and input are therefore equally as variable.

Farm A was established in 2017 after a reconfiguration of four of the farms with the intention to increase on-farm efficiencies.

Milking 600 cows on 217 effective hectares through a well-equipped modern 54 bail rotary shed, the farm is the vision of its owners, with practical technologies and careful consideration for the environment.

Farm A recorded an 18% increase in per cow milk production to 390 kgMS in the 19/20 season and a 20% increase in per hectare production to 1,034 kgMS despite a significant drought. This was achieved with careful utilisation of on-farm grown feeds and adjusting the stocking rate down, as well as utilising 3-in-2 milking to conserve energy during the hotter months.



Nitrogen use is capped to 150 units/ha across all farms and Farm Environment Plans were adopted as soon as full operational care was undertaken.

A forever planting plan sees approximately 7,500 plants (Harakeke and other native species) planted annually across the entire platform. With riparian planting of the drains the main priority. Specific species are planted in cultural gardens to utilise in weaving, medicines, food (honey), bird habitat, water quality, soil conservation and landscape improvement.

Staff are supported with multiple on and off farm training opportunities, and the community is engaged through the local schools as well as a spend local policy which brings prosperity to the communities our people live in.

Contact: Jenna Smith, 027 599 0802
jennas@pouaruafarms.co.nz

PLATINUM SPONSORS



Te Puni Kōkiri
MINISTRY OF MĀORI DEVELOPMENT



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

GOLD SPONSORS



bnz
Be good with money



TE TUMU PAEROA
Office of the Māori Trustee



DairyNZ



Fonterra
Dairy for life



NZ MĀORI TOURISM
HE TOA TAKITINI
YOUR STRENGTH IS OUR UNITY

SILVER SPONSORS



Ballance



PGG Wrightson



agresearch
āta mātai, mātai whētū



Allflex
Livestock Intelligence

BRONZE SPONSORS



BDO



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND
FMG
Advice & Insurance



AFCCO



ECOLAB



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
MŀORI MANAWHAKA

SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED BY TOHU WINES.
The Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee supports SAFER FARMS.

Tataiwhetu Trust

Ko Tairahia te Maunga
 Ko Te Taumata te Pa o Tūhoe-Pōtiki
 Ko Ōhinemataroa te Awa
 Ko Tauarau te Pa
 Ko Rongokarae te Tipuna Whare
 Ko Ngatirongo te Hapu
 Ko Ngāi Tūhoe te Iwi
 Ko Mataatua te Waka

In 1921 Sir Apirana Ngata held a Land Consolidation meeting on Tauarau Marae for over one month, with the view of sub-dividing the land into productive units to sustain the living requirements of Tūhoe families. Nine years later Lord Bledisloe, the then Governor General of New Zealand, visited Ruatoki to monitor the progress of this Consolidation Scheme.

In the mid-1950s it was recognised that the land blocks owned by the families were too small, plus locals were starting off with cull cows from European farmers and couldn't meet production expectations. Tūhoe families walked off the land to seek more constructive employment and income from the Tasman Mill in Kawerau.

Between 1960 and 1980 the land was left desolate and our ancestors and parents strived to find the answer to fully utilise the land again. Finally in 1986 six Ngatirongo families agreed to combine their lands to form the Ngatirongo Trust Farm.

Nine blocks were aggregated A40B, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48C, 50, 74 giving a total start up area of 97.689ha with a usable dairy platform of 80ha. Successive adjoining land blocks were then leased to give a total dairy platform of 184ha.

Between 1986 and 2009 the initial development of the Ngatirongo Trust Farm was led by our kaumātua Frank Vercoe, with the assistance of a Farm Advisor and Sharemilker. The Sharemilker was milking up to 600 cows twice a day, supplying Fonterra 12 months of the year.

When our kaumātua resigned as Trust Chair in 2009, Paki Nikora was appointed into that position by the beneficiaries. He says after scrutinising the financial accounts over successive years, it was apparent that under the Sharemilker arrangement it wasn't returning revenue expectations, plus the increase to 3.2 stock units per hectare wasn't beneficial

for our lands and environment, so they decided to become stand-alone operation.

The Trust then purchased 400 in-calf Kiwi cross heifers, milking once a day, and transitioned back to seasonal milking. The husband and wife staff employed by the previous Sharemilker were then employed by us to be our Farm Managers, and they excelled through Primary ITO Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4 through the next ten years of development.

Key facts:

- Stock: 432 Kiwi cross cows, 100 R1yrs at our 50ha support block, 88 R2yrs at our 50ha support block
- System: seasonal milking and once a day since 2009
- Current stocking rate: 2.5/ha
- Production: 129,140 kgMS
- Per cow production: 273 kgMS
- Production per ha: 694 kgMS
- Imported supplementary feed per cow: 0.8t/cow
- Purchased Nitrogen Surplus: 12 kgN/ha
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 7,736 kgCO₂e/ha

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. A year later in collaboration with Tūhoe Pūtaiao the Trust received the Green Ribbon Award for protecting biodiversity.

Because our name was Ngatirongo Trust Farm, there was a perception that all of Ngatirongo hapu were beneficiaries in our lands, but they were not. So in 2014 the name was changed to Tataiwhetu Trust, which means that the original six families are the only descendants of our ancestral lands. In the same year, the Trust was presented with the Fonterra Gold Grade Free Certificate in recognition of excellence for consistent supply of the highest quality milk.

In 2015 the Tataiwhetu Trust transitioned from convention milking to organic and is now fully certified by AssureQuality. In 2019 it received the Fonterra Organic certificate.

Contact: Paki Nikora, 07 312 9165, 027 289 2688
 plnikora@gmail.com

» PLATINUM SPONSORS



» GOLD SPONSORS



» SILVER SPONSORS



» BRONZE SPONSORS



» SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED BY TOHU WINES. The Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee supports SAFER FARMS.

Tunapahore B2A Incorporation

Ko Kapuarangi te maunga
 Ko Wainui te awa
 Ko Torere-nui-a-rua te tupuna
 Ko Manaakiao te wharekai
 Ko Tainui te waka
 Ko Hoturoa te tangata
 Ko Ngai Tai te iwi

Tunapahore was originally one whole land mass located between the two coastal points of Hāwai. In 1953 the Māori Land Court met and decided to split the land, hence there are now two land blocks known as Tunapahore B2A, and Tunapahore B2B.

During the 1930s–1950s Tunapahore (TB2A) was a dairy and dry stock unit, managed by Duncan Kerr, who was married to Hera Mio of Ngai Tai. When the milker died in a car accident, the management decided to sell the dairy herd, and later when Duncan Kerr died, they sold the dry stock. The land was leased to surrounding pakeha land owners.

Tunapahore B2A Incorporation was incorporated on 6th July 1959 before Ivor Prichard, Māori Land Court Judge.

The TB2A farm consists of 376ha located at Hāwai and Tōrere on the famous State Highway 35 on the East Coast of the North Island. There is a run-off area called Section 8 comprising 10.93 effective hectares and two other leased areas, one is part of the milking platform (16.5ha) the other is leased for maize silage production (10.1ha). The milking platform is 132ha, with 385 cows producing 125,940 kgMS.

The farm was leased for a number of years for around \$2,000 pa. In the early 1980s the Committee of Management (COM), along with their Farm Advisor Alistair Hall, obtained bank funding (using Hall's own land as security) to bring the farm back under management of the Committee. It was operated as a dairy farm, originally with a Farm Manager and later for many years with 50:50 Sharemilkers. A lease of the adjacent Tawaputa Block was used to increase the milking platform. A twenty by twenty aside Herring Bone shed was built, and Mike O'Carroll from Taranaki was the first 50:50 Sharemilker, with Colin Mihaere, nephew of the current Chair as his milker.

In April 2019, the Sharemilkers decided they no longer wanted to continue farming so in a matter of weeks

the COM set about purchasing a dairy herd, plant and equipment and hiring staff. This was a huge undertaking, and it shows the progressiveness of the Committee and their ability and willingness to roll up their sleeves and assist wherever necessary to get things moving.

The current Farm Manager Janet Poihipi, who has worked for a number of years on the farm under previous Sharemilkers, is regarded as an absolute asset to the Incorporation.

The success on the farm has enabled further investment opportunities:

In 1985, portions of the hill country were leased to be planted in pine forest with the coastal block harvested in 2014. Six hectares

of this block was returned to the dairy platform, the remaining block left to return to native bush. Within the forest are a number of registered archaeological sites.

One area in particular boasts the remnants of a pā site which will have held up to 300 people.

In 2010, a partnership was entered into with Ngā Whenua Rāhui to regenerate native forest.

A 5.54ha kiwifruit orchard was purchased in July 2006. The orchard originally comprised of 1.06ha of Hort 16A and 4.48ha of Hayward all grown on Bruno Rootstock. 2009/2010 saw the introduction and spread of PSA and the Committee were able to replace their Hort 16A block with G3 under the GOFO provision. There has since been a further cutover of .55ha of Hayward to G3. The orchard consistently produces great fruit and is within the top producers for both EastPack and Zespri.

Shares have been purchased in Whakatohea Mussels (Opotiki) Limited, and the Incorporation also owns Shares in Fonterra, Zespri, Ballance, Farmlands and EastPack Limited.

Contact: Jack Mihaere, 027 413 7654
 mizwacky@hotmail.com



» PLATINUM SPONSORS



» GOLD SPONSORS



» SILVER SPONSORS



» BRONZE SPONSORS



» SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED BY TOHU WINES. The Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee supports SAFER FARMS.

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORS

Programmes unlock whenua potential

Farmer-led, farmer-to-farmer extension groups are supporting Māori to unlock the potential of their whenua, according to Andrew McConnell, Māori Agribusiness Director, MPI. He says extension programmes have long been a part of our food and fibre sectors in Aotearoa – and by working together, we can tackle challenges and learn from the success of others.

“MPI offers two programmes with a specific focus on working in partnership with Māori across the agriculture, horticulture, and forestry sectors. The Māori Agribusiness Pathway to Increased Productivity Programme, MAPIP, helps realise tangible on-the-ground projects identified by a Māori land trust or agribusiness, while the Māori Agribusiness Extension programme, MABx, provides group learning opportunities, exploring options for sustainable system changes,” he says.

McConnell says the extension programmes aim to help Māori achieve their economic, environmental, social, and cultural aspirations for their whānau through the sustainable development of their whenua.

“We’re committed to ensuring Māori landowners and agribusinesses have the tools, support systems and information to use their land in a way that works for them, and within the context of their aspirations – and these MPI programmes provide exactly that,” he says.

MPI is currently partnering with DairyNZ to deliver a MABx programme to an Eastern Bay of Plenty cluster – six Māori dairy farms located between Tōrere and Whangaparāoa, including Tunapahore B2A Incorporation of Ōpōtiki, who are finalists in this year’s Ahuwhenua Trophy. Andrew McConnell says these farms are quite a distance from many services, which has implications for their farming activities. Together, this group is looking to make system changes to future-proof their farming operations.

“The purpose of these partnerships is to explore the development of whenua in the primary sector; to ensure retention of the whenua for whānau, hapū and iwi and their future generations; clarify the long-term direction of trusts and incorporations; and formulate action plans. MPI support includes funding for independent expertise to complete strategic planning and best land-use assessment,” he says.

Andrew McConnell says enabling Māori landowners and agribusiness to realise their aspirations contributes directly to the development of Aotearoa New Zealand’s regional economies, and our nation as a whole.

To find out more about MAPIP or MABx, visit mpi.govt.nz and head to funding and programmes then Māori agribusiness.

About MPI’s Māori Agribusiness team

MPI has a network of Māori Agribusiness staff located regionally who act as first points of contact for MABx and MAPIP programmes. They will spend time getting to know you and developing a picture together of what you need and how they can help. To get in touch: Māoriagribusiness@mpi.govt.nz.



Study opportunity turns life around for young wahine

Samantha Dhand has had a hard upbringing and never thought she could be successful at anything until she was introduced to a pathway of opportunity through studying horticulture at the Primary ITO.



her goals to work in human resources and administration in the horticulture industry.

By the age of 21 Samantha, of Ngāti Porou descent, had seven years’ experience in the industry working in orchards, vineyards, and pack-houses, but did not know there was opportunity for her to succeed further in the industry. Now 23, she is on the path to achieve

Samantha is ever thankful for the day in 2019 when a Primary ITO trainer came to the orchard where she was working and shared that she could study for a qualification in the industry.

A further boost was attending the Ahuwhenua Trophy Excellence in Māori Horticulture Awards 2020 dinner, the first time the event centred on horticulture.

“I couldn’t believe there were so many people coming to celebrate Māori. To see the encouragement that we have in the community makes such a big difference.”

“For people to acknowledge our tipuna and our whenua and bring that different perspective. They make us want to teach others where we come from.”

Two years after being introduced to an opportunity, Samantha is on a path to achieve her level three qualification in Fruit Production and having a bright future in horticulture for herself and her whānau.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED BY TOHU WINES. The Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee supports SAFER FARMS.

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORS

Fonterra details how farmers will be paid for sustainable, high value milk

Fonterra has released the details of how it will pay farmers for producing sustainable, high quality milk as part of The Co-operative Difference framework.

From 1 June 2021, up to 10 cents of each farm's milk payment will be determined by the farm's sustainability credentials and milk quality.

"Fonterra farmers are already among the world's best in these areas and we're really proud of that. The Co-operative Difference payment is another way we can recognise farmers, while also supporting our strategy to grow the value of our New Zealand milk by responding to increasing demand around the world for sustainably produced dairy," says Richard Allen, Group Director, Farm Source.

"The new payment recognises farmers who are already going above and beyond because they've innovated or invested early, and it also offers farmers more encouragement for taking the steps required to meet the changing expectations of customers and communities, both today and into the future."

"We want to reward the on-farm efforts that demonstrate our Co-op's care for the environment, animals, people and communities. It's these actions which help ensure we're the dairy company of choice for customers around the world and for New Zealand dairy farmers, for generations to come," says Richard.

The 10 cent Co-operative Difference payment is made up of:

- 7 cents per kgMS for achievement under the Environment, Co-op & Prosperity, Animals, and People & Community focus areas.

Once these have been achieved;

- 3 cents per kgMS for milk that meets the 'Excellence' standard under the Milk Quality framework.

While The Co-operative Difference framework was introduced in 2019, the milk payment is new to farmers.

Full details on the Co-operative Difference payment are available at Fonterra.com/makethedifference

Exciting role for up-and-coming dairy farmer

A 50:50 Sharemilker at an award-winning Māori farming enterprise has been selected as one of two associate directors at DairyNZ for the coming year.

Carlos Delos Santo works for the Onuku Māori Lands Trust which runs a number of dairy farms near Rotorua as well as a sheep milking operations and other businesses. Onuku won the Ahuwhenua Trophy, Excellence in Māori Farming Award in 2018 for its Boundary Road dairy farm.

The Associate Director scheme was established in 2013 by DairyNZ and is designed to assist up and coming young dairy farmers to gain skills that will help them achieve leadership roles in the sector. The Associate Directors can participate in Board discussions but do not have voting rights.

Jim van der Poel, DairyNZ Chair says "the Associate Director roles have been providing the DairyNZ board with valuable input and contributions since the roles were established." He says every year the Associate Directors bring their unique knowledge



and opinions which help shape board discussions and decision-making.

"It is exciting to have Carlos joining us this year," he says.

Carlos came to NZ twenty years ago from the Philippines and has always been in the dairy industry working on farms in the Waikato and Central Plateau, including another Māori Trust, Wairarapa Moana. During his career he has won several awards in the dairy industry including sharefarmer of the year for the central plateau in 2007 and was eventually runner up in the national competition.

In 2019, he and wife Bernice moved to take up their present position as 50:50 Sharemilkers at Onuku and is based at their property at Rerewhakaaitu.

Carlos Delos Santo says he is really excited to be selected for this role, as it allows him the chance to gain knowledge on what occurs at DairyNZ board meetings and contribute to important sector discussions.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED BY TOHU WINES. The Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee supports SAFER FARMS.