



Telford
Rural Polytechnic
Te Whare Wanaka O Puerua

THE MUSTER

December 2010

*All the Staff from
Telford Rural Polytechnic
wish you and your family a
Merry Christmas
and a safe and prosperous
2011*



TELFORD RURAL POLYTECHNIC

In the heart of South Otago

www.telford.ac.nz or 0800 835 367



A FANTASTIC YEAR FOR TELFORD

2010 has been a good year for Telford, with a great group of students, a high student achievement rate across the country and we have maintained a strong healthy financial position. There have been a number of highlights of which some are:

The Beekeeping programme moved to Kaitaia where we had the largest cohort ever with a very satisfying completion rate in the year long course.

We have negotiated our contribution for 2011 with two Trade Academies. These are Tai Tokerau Trade Training in Northland and NZ Virtual School out of the Catlins Area School.

We are aware of a number of ex students who have achieved a number of goals this year

- **Hamish Newman** (1990) farming in Motu has won the Federated Farmers Gisborne-Wairoa Farmer of the Year Award
- **Ronald (1969) and David (1999) Alderton** won the 2010 Supreme Award in the 2010 Otago Balance Farm Environment Award.
- **Angus Brown (1999)** was a finalist in the Young Farmer of the Year
- **George Whitelock:** Captaining Canterbury RF
- **Josh Monks** – 2nd placing in the Otago Dairy Trainee of the Year

Our students have had success on the sporting field with

- **Hayden Tapp, Jeff Meredith, Caleb Wall and Brendon Campbell** made the Otago Country Colts Team
- **Lyndon Buchanan, Adam Bishell and Reihana Allen** were selected in the U18 TOPP Challenge playing for southern region
- **Adam Bishell** made the Otago Country U18 Rugby Team



Jonathan Walmisley
CEO

We have secured the future of Telford, however not as an independent training provider but as part of Lincoln University retaining our brand and our delivery networks.

I wish you all the very best for 2010. Please keep in touch and give us your news.

OUT ON TELFORD FARMS



The Telford Farms had an exceptional winter and early spring, the dairy was tracking 16% ahead in production for the year to date in September and the sheep unit was also in great heart. This was followed by a swift kick in the rear from Mother Nature. The weather played havoc with our lambing, our target was 150% but the ewes only achieved 124%, the hoggets missed the weather bomb and achieved 78% a much improved result from previous years. The dairy unit also suffered. Our cows were forced into once a day milking as a result of the weather which has significantly lowered production.

The Telford Farms are continually striving to improve and we frequently research and training needs. Farm staff and relevant tutors have all been involved in reviewing facilities and capability and we hope to see some exciting new developments on Telford Farms in the near future.

Skilled tutors like Ken Payne, Ali Maw and Owen Marshall have greatly improved the link between the classroom and the farm. All parties are better off for the closer working relationship and improvements to our facilities would lift this to another level.

I have been fortunate this year to study and travel around the world with the Nuffield and Kellogg scholarships. It has been a challenging year but also helped to boost the profile of Telford and since I have been back, there has been a range of reports and meetings. I am also involved in a range of off-farm activities including vice chair of the Southern South Island Beef and Lamb farmer council, Pastoral 21, and a range of Dairy research projects which has been very time demanding but reflects the value and commitment that Telford adds to our primary industries.

The Farm staff all enjoy each group of students that come through the Telford Farms, in particular watching you all grow and develop, watching you represent Telford at sports and competitions all brings us together as a Telford community. This year the Farms have valued the assistance from Michael Henwood and Toby Robson our Diploma students, thank you guys for the time and effort you have put into Telford Farms. Also to the other students such as Caleb Wall who have ably helped out during the year.

I also take this opportunity, from all the farm staff, to wish the whole class of 2010 all the best and we look forward to seeing you all progress onwards and upwards in your chosen careers. I hope you have developed some great memories in your time at Telford and assist us where you can in the future to ensure it carries on training future farmers.

A happy and safe festive season to all
Ian Knowles
 Farm Director



PROGRAMMES – ON AND OFF CAMPUS

This year has once again been an exceptionally productive year academically for Telford Rural Polytechnic. Throughout the year we have not only run our usual Diploma in Rural Business - but we have also added a new qualification to the on-campus delivery - Telford Certificate in Practical Agriculture (Level 3). We have also been approved to run a practical certificate at level two and we are very excited about the opportunity to diversify our offering for those that want an entry level qualification with a practical focus. In addition we have spent time re-developing our equine programme, in particular, to provide more diversity at level four in order to encourage and support different career pathways.

Our Stock and Station level four qualification has also undergone a major re-work. We haven't yet received the official stamp of approval to deliver these but we are very optimistic that they will be available in 2011. Two new qualifications have also been submitted for adding to our suite of livestock programmes, one with a focus on working dogs. Both will provide opportunities for up-skilling in particular areas of interest and need. We encourage you to investigate our correspondence learning options.

Off campus programmes have diversified a little further than previously. Not only have we continued to see growth and consolidation in our Organics programme at the BHU in Lincoln, but this year we have moved our apiculture beekeeping programme from Balclutha to Kaitaia. The apiculture programme grew from Kaitaia. The programme has gone exceedingly well, thanks to the tutor, Milton McKenzie. The Kaitaia base means that Telford is reaching from the far south to the far north - a network of delivery that is potentially very beneficial to the rural community.

Regional programmes delivered through Telford's sub-contracted providers have again enabled a wide reach of activity - many courses in many locations, across a diverse range of agricultural, horticultural and equine topics. Telford, as a brand for rural sector training, continues to consolidate.

2011 will see Telford merged with Lincoln University. This is moving into uncharted territory, but there is a clear intention to retain the Telford brand for the Division with a focus and responsibility for vocational training at levels one through six. The synergy that is potentially available by integrating Telford into Lincoln will be mutually beneficial - providing pathways for student learning, and for technology and research transfer through to the rural sector. At a time when the economy is struggling, rationalisation of the tertiary sector is inevitable, and combining Telford and Lincoln - both of whom have a focus on rural sector training - will hopefully achieve not only teaching and learning advantages, but also fiscal advantages. In times of national change and international economic uncertainty it is important that Telford continues to face forward and to meet the needs of its stakeholders, as part of a stronger merged educational entity - Telford, a Division of Lincoln.

Lynne Johnston
Academic Director



THE “GO BUTTON”

Sunday night 6.00pm, a Telford van full of sleepy students, bags packed and away we go! Ahead of them lie some of the most important challenges of life – discovered during work experience. For some students, the challenge of working on a foreign property with unfamiliar people can be a true test of their ‘stick ability’.

One farmer, coupled with an unmotivated student, was determined to find what inspired him. After much deliberation and experimentation, the farmer discovered the student had a passion for tennis, so off to the courts they went. The student proved to be an excellent tennis player and won the match – he had shown extremely high levels of motivation and enthusiasm while playing, which interested the farmer. He pondered why the student could not channel the motivation and passion he had gained from his tennis into farming and learning? How could he encourage him into using the same level of passion in his day to day life? The farmer discussed this with the student, expressing it as having found his “go button” or what made him ‘tick’. They discussed strategies and actions around how the student could channel the motivation and energy he gave tennis into his work and ultimately his whole life! The student was impressed by the farmer’s support and valued his advice. He has now found his “go button”.

This year students have grown and developed new skills both academically and practically. They have been challenged physically, mentally and emotionally – always thrown out of their comfort zones. The skills learnt from the challenges will be lifelong lessons and contribute greatly to who they have become within themselves today.

Our students have seen firsthand the impact the New Zealand environment can have on farmers and their businesses’. 2010 has seen farmers confronted with extreme climatic conditions, resulting in great stock losses and financial burdens. Our thoughts go out to all those farmers affected and thank you greatly for your ongoing support with hosting students during these tough times.

As a result, relationships between our farmers and Telford have grown significantly - they can’t wait to meet our next intake of students for 2011! A huge thank you goes out to all who have contributed to the success of our 2010 work experience program. Together we have enabled students, our aspiring young farmers, to grow and develop into the keen, practical and capable people they are today. Thank you and we look forward to sharing another successful year with you.

Merry Christmas to all!

Owen Marshall

Work Experience Co-ordinator



MERGER OF LINCOLN UNIVERSITY AND TELFORD RURAL POLYTECHNIC

On 1st January 2011 Telford Rural Polytechnic after 46 years as an independent training provider in agriculture will merge into Lincoln University. Whilst most in the rural sector see this as a natural move others see this as a machiavellian move which will see a massive reduction of sub-degree training and the eventual closure of Telford: nothing could be further from the truth and outcomes expected from the merger will show this.

Lincoln University and Telford Rural Polytechnic have shared a history of providing education to support agriculture and other land-based industries. Given the current and future contribution of agriculture and other land-based industries to New Zealand's economic well being and economic development, it is necessary to address explicitly strategic national priorities for education and research at all organisational levels, specifically capability building, and capability maintenance, within land-based industries, and education and research providers: this merger will help address this.

Both Telford Rural Polytechnic and Lincoln University Councils support a solution in the best long-term interests of the needs of the land-based industries and the nation. This includes promoting the retention and growth of teaching, research, science and scholarship in the land-based sector, across the entire value chain. The key driver of the merger between Lincoln University and Telford Rural Polytechnic is to protect and develop national capability in the land-based sectors for the benefit of New Zealand. The core reasons for the merger are:

- Both institutions have strengths in and a strong focus on land-based learning;
- Both institutions deliver land-based learning at different levels with little duplication. The merged institution will provide a coherent portfolio of land-based education from lower levels to Level 10;
- A merger will provide clear, cost and time-effective stair-casing and pathway opportunities in agriculture and related areas from school to doctoral study with effective curriculum alignment and transparency of appropriate study pathways.

There is greater opportunity for technology transfer of research to support on-farm practice change in a single tertiary institution. This will extend Lincoln University's current successful model of technology transfer through level 5 and 6 qualifications to level 4 and possibly level 2 – 3. Telford Rural Polytechnic's existing network of provision could be used to improve national reach of delivery;

There is the opportunity to achieve improved financial viability for the merged institution.

The Merged Institution

The merged institution will reflect a focus on national needs and ensuring that essential capability is retained to support the land-based industries and agriculture at all organisational levels, promoting the retention and growth of research, science and scholarship in the land-based sector, across the entire value chain, for the benefit of New Zealand. Priorities of the proposed merger include:

- Increased national reach of land-based education;
- Positive contribution to national benefit from land-based industries;
- Maintenance of a focus on land-based teaching and research;
- Enhancement of student learning experiences and opportunities in land-based disciplines;
- Strengthening of staff career achievement and opportunities;
- Maintenance of the Lincoln University and Telford Rural Polytechnic's reputations and brands;
- Under the merger Telford Rural Polytechnic will become a division of an enlarged Lincoln University.

Telford Rural Polytechnic will retain its brand, the Telford campus (which is leased from TFTI) and the majority of their current programmes. Telford Rural Polytechnic and Lincoln University courses will be rationalised and better integrated to improve stair-casing opportunities and meet industry requirements with the expectation that Telford will take the lead role for sub-degree agriculture programme delivery.

Telford Rural Polytechnic will retain most of its existing management structure and will be represented on the Lincoln University Council. A major success factor is the retention of Telford campus as a vibrant, attractive facility, and a significant employer in the South Otago region.

The merged institution through retaining the strengths of the two existing organisations and taking a firm grasp of the opportunities that a larger one-stop education and training provider makes possible will ensure that the rural sector is better served than it is now by two separate institutions.

The larger institution provides benefits to staff and students, especially students whilst ensuring that government funding is retained for agriculture training at all levels. The retention of Telford as a vibrant campus and the delivery vocational training are assured.

WHERE HAS TELFORD BEEN IN 2010

The graduation is over for another year and New Zealand has some confident well trained, highly skilled employees ready to start on the next phase of life – earning some serious money! Congratulations to all those who put in the hard yards and will now reap the benefits from the Telford experience.

Travelling around New Zealand is a real privilege for me and I have met some wonderful people, mainly students, teachers and parents keen to know what Telford has to offer them. I hope I have been able to encourage many others to take on the Telford experience in future years and look forward to hearing from them soon.

We hosted three taster weeks this year at Telford during school holidays. The students who experience our taster weeks always leave for home with very sound knowledge of what they can expect from full time study here at Telford.

Telford has been promoted at fielddays, careers expos, school visits and careers evenings, conferences, the Outstanding in the Field days sponsored by Beef+Lamb NZ, shearing competitions, community service groups, pony clubs, dog trials and A & P Shows throughout New Zealand. We have used media advertising (radio, magazine and newspapers), our website, and others as well, but the best way to positively promote Telford is through word of mouth. Please do tell others of your positive experiences here at Telford and encourage young people to join New Zealand's primary industry.

Thank you to everyone who came and talked with us at our stands all around the country. I love to hear from our graduates and what you are all doing now. You can help us ensure we are training students to be effective in today's agricultural industry by answering our surveys and giving us feedback.

Have a safe and happy Christmas with your families

Marilyn Sayers

Marketing/School Liaison Manager



With the stone house as a backdrop the equine students line up for their annual photo shoot. Always a spectacular sight of well groomed horses and riders.



The Telford 2010 shearing competition held in October was a great challenge for all the students and staff. Cory Smith took out first place with top points for presentation.



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TELFORD GRADUATES WIN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Ronald and David Alderton of Waitahuna, South Otago along with their wives Carol and Paula were winners of the 2010 Otago Balance Farm Environment Supreme Award as well as the NZFEA Livestock Award. Their properties are a total of 580ha including 40ha of forestry and they wintered 5,630 sheep in 2009/10. Ronald attended Telford in 1969 and David in 1999.

They have achieved good production and very sound profits with a simple all-sheep system. The Aldertons have never run at a cash loss since beginning in 1979 with 38% equity. "We've never run at a loss" says Ronald, "I'll do whatever it takes. I can look back and say some of the happiest times have been when we've been busy as hell and had our backs to the wall."



The Aldertons are staunch supporters of the family farm concept and community involvement. The family shares the workload of planting and pruning their woodlots, working in the shearing shed, fencing and livestock handling. "I can't see the point in having a family farm and having everybody else do the work on it. If prices have been down we've always just seen it as a challenge. We have never failed to top-dress and do a bit of fencing each year and help in the community, and we are proud of it," says Ronald.



Continuous planning of tree planting each year means the steep gullies will not only provide shelter for stock but future income for the family. Plantings are mainly pine, some Douglas Fir and next year macrocarpa will be added to the commercial woodlot areas. Eucalypts have been planted for firewood, aesthetics and quick shelter. Ronald points out the benefits go beyond the value of the woodlot trees at harvest. "Apart from the shelter, tidying up the farm and making it easier to muster, by the time we come to harvest we should have back the money we would have spent on weed control on the areas we have planted."



Ronald and Carol are very happy that the harvesting of many of the trees will benefit their sons more than themselves. "The trees are part of the succession plan but most of all they were planted because that is the best use for the ground they are on."

Check out are website
www.telford.ac.nz
for all our
correspondence course
information
There might be
something there that will
challenge your mind in
2010.

You Choose the Start
Date!!

The Alderton family hosted a field day on the 5th November which attracted over 100 people to view their properties. Thanks very much for your fantastic hospitality.





Telford
Rural Polytechnic
To Whare Wanaka O Puerua

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Enquiries and
feedback to

marketing@telford.ac.nz



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.telford.ac.nz

COMING UP IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2011



We will be out and about again in 2011! So come and say "Hello!"

February

Gore, North Otago A & P Shows
Southern Field Days at Waimumu

March

Northland Field Days
Ellerslie Garden Show
Central Districts Field Days

April

HATA Conference – on campus 17-21 April

May

Clutha, Christchurch and Dunedin Careers Expos

June

National Field Days, Mystery Creek, Hamilton

**2 Taster
Weeks in
2011!**

**During the July and
October school
holidays**

**More details on our
website.**

www.telford.ac.nz

FEEDBACK - We Want To Hear From You

Telford are always striving to offer courses that meet the needs of industry and people who wish to have a career in the land based industries or improve their knowledge and skills. If you have any feedback or comments, ideas or recommendations please contact us on 0800 835 367 or email marketing@telford.ac.nz.

If you have a new address or wish to receive The Muster by email please contact us to update your details. If no longer wish to receive the Telford Newsletter "the Muster" anymore, please contact us. We love talking to you.

Telford Rural Polytechnic memorabilia for sale. Please phone the office 03 419 0300 for all enquiries. Glasses, monogrammed clothing etc. A chance to purchase Telford Rural Polytechnic souvenirs.

Graduation parade in the main street of Balclutha 26th November 2010

**Come and visit Telford
campus and farm
anytime you are in the
area!**

Phone 0800TELFORD



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Telford Campus 2010

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Diploma in Rural Business Certificates in Agriculture/Horticulture/ Equine/Apiculture/Forestry

- Full time training; campus and accommodation on our 880ha commercial farm.
- Campus/farm tours – Taster weeks 2011 in July and October School Holidays.
- Over 30 correspondence courses available. YOU CHOOSE YOUR START DATE.
- Courses include: Equine, Farrler, Small Farming, Beekeeping, Camellid, Agriculture Dairying, Horticulture, Forestry, Organics.

ENROL NOW FOR 2011

call **0800 835 367**
visit **www.telford.ac.nz**

Watch out for us and our new advertising look for 2011

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