



Telford
Rural Polytechnic
Te Whare Wanaka O Puerua

THE MUSTER

December 2009

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New building projects



As 2009 draws to a close there are a number of activities and signalled changes in Tertiary Education Policy to keep Telford on its toes.

The Academic year started with the largest cohort of students on Telford campus. The most popular programme is the Certificate of Agriculture followed by our Diploma in Rural Business. Students achieved the results they deserved and I am particularly pleased with the great results achieved by our Diploma students.

The face of farm training is changing with more women at Telford, this year the best student at both Certificate and Diploma level were women.

Our rugby team had a good year with 2 students going on to age-grade representation for Otago Country. Graduation and the associated dinner were a great success. We were fortunate to have Jamie Mackay from the Farming show to speak at the dinner and the Speaker The Hon. Dr Lockwood Smith at Graduation.

Immediately after Graduation we went into our Academic Audit. This audit is for Academic Quality Assured Status. The outcome was better than expected but not as good as I had hoped – isn't that always the case! The recommendations from the audit will be addressed with most being done by early next year.

The Tertiary Education Strategy and signalled policy changes in support of the strategy means a change in direction. At present nearly 50% of our delivery is in short 1-3 day programmes and these need to be refocused on programmes of longer length. The challenge is to ensure we have programmes which are wanted and which attendees will complete. We will get there.

We are in good heart and looking forward to a short break before we start another academic year. I wish you every success and good health for 2010.

Merry Christmas
Jonathan Walmisley
Chief Executive Officer

Staff Member Named a Nuffield Farming Scholar for 2010



Ian Knowles, Director of Farms at Telford Rural Polytechnic, South Otago has been named a Nuffield Farming Scholar for 2010. Ian manages the commercial dairy, sheep, beef and deer units while liaising with academic staff to ensure

the best learning opportunities for students. Ian proposes to study training requirements within the agricultural sector, with a focus on integrating hands-on learning with academic environments.

The three 2010 scholars will attend a Contemporary Scholars Conference in Washington DC in early March 2010. They will then travel on a

six week global focus program where they will be introduced to a wide range of industries on the international stage, designed to broaden their thinking about agriculture in the international economy before embarking on 4 months of their travel

The New Zealand Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust offers the \$35,000 grants to people from the agriculture sector who want to take on rural leadership opportunities.

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www.telford.ac.nz or 0800 835 367

Where are they now?

Simon Cochrane

1998-99

Farming dairy cows now and married with a family. Simon worked for an agriculture contractor for many years and says he just loved his second year here at Telford. Skills learnt were excellent – awesome tutors and made special mention of our Trev! “Meals were fantastic but not so good if you came in late!”

Warwick Bishell

1977

Living and farming bull beef and cropping in Ashburton, is married to Sheryl has three children and their son Adam will be training at Telford in 2010.

George Whitelock - 2005

Hasn't this Telford graduate done well! George left a position on Barewood Station in Middlemarch to become a professional rugby player in 2006. He captained the Canterbury Air New Zealand Cup team and made his All Black test debut against Italy in 2009. He is also studying for his Diploma in Agriculture through Lincoln University and will return to his land based career when his rugby career comes to an end.



Telford Farms

2008/09 has been a year of consolidation for the Telford Farms, after significant changes in personnel, roles and strategy in 2007/08, this year required the Telford Farm staff to build as a team and walk the talk. Across all units we have seen major improvements and I am very proud of what we have achieved.

We have spent considerable money getting the resources and facilities up to standard which has created another expensive year for farm development and capital items, impacting on our net financial results. But finally in singing the mantra of best practice and quality training for some time, we can now do so with our hand on our hearts! Good examples of this are the complete overhaul of the dairy effluent system, new cattle handling facilities behind the gym and closure of non regulation silage pits on both sheep and dairy units.

Over the last year the farm units have performed very well with some exceptional results, the dairy unit run by Zac, Josh and Kirsten cranked up the stocking rate and broke the all-time record for Milk Solids production, they are on track to do the same again this season. The sheep unit run by Mike, Pete and Charles also lifted the stocking rate higher than ever before and at the same time managed stock well enough to achieve the highest pregnancy scanning. We still have a lot of fine tuning to do but it's great to see with the integration of the units, a major shift in attitudes.

There is a new appreciation that we need to push the boundaries and try new ideas, demonstrating to the students that we are all learning as we go, and knowing that we have the resources and support of the other Telford farm units to back us up.

The Farm staff have developed into a positive, friendly, and enthusiastic team and the shift in culture has greatly benefited our capability and enthusiasm to carry out monitoring and research, in doing this we have increased our credibility in the local community and rural industries. Most importantly, all of these improvements have helped strengthen our support and delivery of student training, with more demand being placed on our teaching services than in the past.

I feel that we have pushed all units to their stocking rate limits now and the aim going forward is to optimize production, with a better understanding now of where our limiting factors are. Financially we will be reducing both development and R & M to modest levels and start working on paying off some of the debt which starts maturing in the next year.

As we have come to expect, the grounds staff keep lifting the standard of appearance, despite the impacts of increasingly higher student numbers and numerous campus development projects. We have a great skill base now with Sylvia overseeing the landscaping and planting

and Mike Munro ably carrying out the maintenance and development work. The casual staff of Lynda Cunningham and Murray Lord have also made a big impact in being able to get the work done on time and to a high standard. The arboretum and zoo paddock both began existence last year and have grown rapidly and will be a real asset to Telford and the local area in future.

Once again it has been a pleasure working with the Farm Board and the Farm Staff, special mention of course to Sheila Paterson who keeps all the wheels turning, I thank everyone very much for their contributions to making Telford a great place to work and study.

As normal a small group of students put their hand up to assist the farm staff in their own time, and we thank those who have contributed to running the farms, in particular Michael Henwood, Jennifer Markman, Kate Russell and Rochelle Cummings who have all put considerable work into Telford after class finishes.

I also take this opportunity, from all the farm staff, to wish the whole class of 2009 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

Where Has Telford Been in 2009

The graduation is over for another year and New Zealand has some confident well trained, highly skilled employees ready to start on the next pathway 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 and parents keen to know what Telford has to offer them. Well 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 two taster weeks this year at Telford during school holidays. Always good fun and students go home knowing a lot more about pursuing a career in farming, equine, apiculture, forestry and the industry as a whole.

Telford has been promoted at fieldays, careers expos, school visits and careers evenings, conferences, the outstanding in the field days sponsored by Meat and Wool 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 promote Telford is word of mouth. If every person on our alumni could tell two people about the unique learning environment and strengths of Telford we would have told approximately 10,460 people about Telford in just one moment. That would be fantastic marketing!

Thank you to everyone who came and talked with us at our stands around the country. I love to hear about our ex 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, answering surveys and giving us feedback.

Have a safe and happy Christmas with your families.

Marilyn Sayers
Marketing/School Liaison Manager



Viktoria, a taster week, and now current student, learning the safe way to operate the tractor from mechanical tutor, Stewart Henderson



Equine students had a very good year after a rough start when five students were involved in a car crash. Three students, Teagan, Arnya and Shannon passed the Telford Certificate in Advanced Equine (Level4) with distinction. Well done girls and good luck for the future from us all.

The Likely "to succeed" Lads



Johan, Sam and Hamish - 2009 Diploma students

The Diploma in Rural Business students of 2009 had a great year and just look at the smiles on these guys faces. The South Island Dairy Event in Christchurch was a great experience for both students and tutors and from the stories (the ones that stay on tour!) they certainly learnt a lot and had some fun! Thanks to all the students who helped at the Clutha Careers Expo day, we really appreciated it.

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

Phone 0800TELFORD



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Kelloggs Leadership Scholarships

Each year up to 24 worthy individuals are selected to complete the Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme and it is a measure of an individual's excellence that they are selected. For 2010 two Telford Staff have been selected, Ian Knowles, our farm director and Anton van Schalkwyk, our Head of School. The programme helps develop leadership skills and build networks of people while each programme member works on their individual topics. At the end of the year they present their topic findings to New Zealand's leaders in industry, politics and social development. Good luck with this project guys and let us know the results!

We Love to Improve Our Facilities

Over the past three years Telford has undertaken a major upgrade of its campus facilities.



On the Hostel and Accommodation side there have been three new 10 bedroom units built along with the purchase of 5 two bedroom units in Balclutha to accommodate the increasing number of students returning to complete the Diploma in Rural Business.



On the academic side of the campus there has been a new staff room and meeting room complex and the old staff room converted back to a classroom, there has also been a new building constructed during 2009 that has two new classrooms and 5 offices for the academic staff.

We are presently constructing an indoor riding arena on campus to improve the Equine facilities. This will allow the Equine tutor to plan lessons and events and not have to factor in the weather. The indoor Equine arena is due to be completed for the start of the 2010 academic year.

Stewart MacDonell
Director Finance and Administration

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES POPULAR IN 2009

Another busy end to the year! Well done to all those students that have completed their course of study this year. We are now enrolling students on our new Introductory to Farriery Knowledge course which is great. We have over 30 correspondence courses, so please do not hesitate to contact

us if you require more information on the courses we offer.

We have had over 200 enrolments this year in our very popular correspondence courses and we are delighted that we can deliver specialist courses to lots more people in New Zealand and around the world.

The correspondence team wishes you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to hearing from you in 2010.



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!!

They're A Fine Bunch



3 Taster Weeks in 2010!

During the school holidays – details on our website.

www.telford.ac.nz



Some Telford Tutors - Ivan, Ken, Trev, Murray, Lee, Rebecca and Courtney

Telford tutoring staff have worked very hard in 2009 to support students in their learning to gain skills to not only become effective employees in the agriculture, forestry, equine and apiculture industries but use during their entire lifetime of practical experience.

The cogs would fall off the wheels if our administration team were not 100% on the ball. They work tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of Telford and offer friendly advice and local knowledge to all queries and visitors to the campus.

Some staff reached personal milestones of working at Telford from one year to five to ten, but one staff member in particular, Jill Rodgers made it to 25 years during this year. A very respected and knowledgeable administration manager, Jill is the one who answers all the questions! She diligently answers parental, student and staff queries, liaises with Ministry of Education, StudyLink and auditors, ensures we all get paid (her most important role) and she offers sound advice and recommendations for improvement and resolution of issues no matter what Telford committee meeting she is attending. A fine effort for 25 years of dedication to Telford and a big thanks and well deserved pat on the back from everyone.



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Telford

Rural Polytechnic
Te Whare Wāhanga Ō Pūtorangi

498 Owaka Balclutha
Highway

PO Box 6,
Balclutha 9240

03 419 03000
0800 835 367

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 2010

We will be out and about again in 2010! So come and say "hello!"

February

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

March

Southland A & P show
Ellerslie Garden Show
Central Districts Field Days

April

11-14th - Taster Week for Y12 and 13 students \$90 plus travel costs

May

Clutha, Christchurch and Dunedin Careers Expos

June

National Field Days, Mystery Creek, Hamilton

TELFORD In Secondary Schools

Did you know Telford deliver resources into secondary school all around NZ by either mailing papers or through video conferencing.

2009 has seen an increase in STAR students doing STAR by

mail and STAR by eLearning. This year we have processed approximately 740 enrolments from throughout New Zealand. 500 enrolments for STAR by Mail and 240 enrolments for STAR by eLearning. Agriculture and related fields have

still proven to be the most popular subject for both male and female students with Equine coming in second and Horticulture climbing slowly but steadily to third.



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. 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 all!

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