



New Zealand
Farm Environment Trust®

2013

Annual Report

30th June 2013



Ballance
Farm Environment Awards®
Promoting Sustainable Profitable Farming

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Chairman's Report



To say that this year has been one of consolidation for the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust (NZFE Trust) is, I believe, far too modest as a statement. By any measure the Trust has enjoyed a very successful year with regional and national awards competitions and ceremonies continuing to be very popular, well supported and above all providing a platform for farmers to demonstrate to other farmers and the community what sustainable farming looks like.

I mention the word consolidation because we have to a large extent as a Trust built on the platform of the hard work and strategic thinking of the Trustees of earlier years under the passionate leadership of Jim Cotman. A new Chairman and three new Trustees has tested the succession planning of the organisation but with Jim working in an advisory role for six months and the 'old hands' around the table assisting it has been business as usual. It is also of course a tribute to our General Manager David Natzke and Executive Administrator Clare Rosser that the transition of a new Chair, etc has been seamless.

The founding region of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, Waikato, celebrated its 20th anniversary during the year which gave us all a chance to reflect on the humble beginnings of the organisation and the progress made. The activities of the NZFE Trust are now a large undertaking involving hundreds of volunteers, contestants and paid staff. We are very fortunate that our committed family of sponsors provide the financial support to make it all happen along with much moral and physical help as well.

To summarise the year, at high level we have come in on budget, delivered a small surplus and entry numbers were maintained. The regional and national award ceremonies were a highlight and our sponsors

have indicated that their future on-going support will continue.

The NZFE Trust is in a good position at this point in time but there is no room for complacency as many challenges lie ahead. One of the highlights for the coming year will be the addition of the Taranaki region to the competition to bring our regional areas to ten. We hope to include the remaining regions in the future and this growth highlights the need and challenge of remaining lean and efficient as our size increases.

Operating Environment

In the wider picture, the activities and the aims and objectives have never been needed more. The scrutiny from our customers and our community continues as does our ability to measure the impact farming activities have on the land. Financial pressures and market signals have led to wide scale intensification of land use with affordable irrigation leading to higher stock concentration and high yielding crops. There are many irrigation schemes in the planning stage and the potential to create long lasting wealth for all New Zealanders is immense. It would be a travesty if as a country we do not realise these opportunities and miss the opportunities that world markets offer. Recreational and environmental groups and our customers have legitimate concerns about intensive farming's footprint. It is up to agriculture and horticulture to meet the reasonable concerns of these groups and our Ballance Farm Environmental Award contestants prove this can be done. This is the NZFE Trust's vital role, practical non-theoretical farmers proving it can be done and providing an example that can be followed by others.

Because of the foresight and skill of the previous governance of the NZFE Trust over the years of existence it has evolved to be at the centre of the

discussion around sustainability and leading the charge on showcasing and promoting sustainability. The NZFE Trust's widespread coverage of New Zealand and crucially, its comprehensive and independent judging processes, places it at the forefront of the debate. It is in fact a heavy responsibility but one which we relish because the goal is so worthwhile.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

At the centre of the NZFE Trust's activities are the regional awards; they continue to be well supported and the regional award functions continue to progress in all respects. Some of our regions are attracting three hundred guests to their award evenings, the quality of the entries is always improving and the judging process is continuously being refined to make it fair and comprehensive and importantly, to give value back to the farmer entrants. In this last regard the chance to benchmark performance remains a key motivation for our entrants so consistent and expert judging is vital. We are very fortunate to have Jamie Strang, our National Judging Coordinator guiding the ship. Jamie's selfless commitment to his role provides the glue that our judging teams require to remain enthused and delivering such good results.

Each region has a Judging Coordinator, Regional Coordinator and Committee Chair and their associated committee; a lot of people, very little money, a lot of work and a great product. The composition of these hard working bodies is unique in rural New Zealand. Regional Council staff work alongside bankers and other rural professionals from our sponsor family to deliver the competition. The support of Regional Councils along with the Gisborne District Council is a vital element to the success of the awards and of course meeting our joint objectives in terms of promoting sustainability.

National Sustainability Showcase

The 2013 event was held in Hamilton, appropriately as the birth place of the awards 20 years ago. The guests included many agri-business leaders, farmers and agricultural supporters. The Hon Nathan Guy, Minister for Primary Industries gave the key note address and presented the Gordon Stephenson Trophy to our national winners. The Minister and his Ministry's on-going support is greatly appreciated.

Another key activity at Showcase time is the personal leadership development programme run over three days prior to the awards function and immediately after the final round of judging for our nine regional Supreme Winners. These regional

winners heard inspiring addresses from a number of leaders and I know none of them will forget Gordon Stephenson's address, notable for its passion, its clarity of thought and humility.

Previous Supreme Winners have said that the chance to mix and share knowledge and experience with fellow contestants is an absolute highlight of the competition for them. This is why 60 past winners also gathered together on the day of the National Sustainability Showcase to discuss the development of an Alumni of Supreme Winners. Good progress was made and this coming year should see the formalisation of the group in some form. There are many possible options as to the future role of the Alumni and its relationship with the NZFE Trust. Nothing is 'off the table' and it was very exciting to see so many leaders in farm sustainability gathering together around Showcase time. The NZFE Trust is committed to providing on-going support to an Alumni. The knowledge the leadership within that group is immense and environmentally well qualified to take the sustainability message to a very wide audience.

2013 Winners of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy




Craige and Roz Mackenzie from the Canterbury Region are this year's winners. Craige and Roz farm a 200ha cropping unit (the subject of their entry in the awards) and also have a 50 percent equity share in a neighbouring 330ha dairy unit. With their daughter Jemma they

co-own Agri Optics and they also own Mackenzie Research Group.

The wide scale use of precision technologies is a feature of the Mackenzie's operations. For example, electromagnetic soil mapping allows a clear picture of water holding and productive capacity and this, combined with variable rate irrigation on centre pivots, has enabled water savings of up to 50%.

Craige and Roz are deserved winners of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy and they will make great ambassadors for New Zealand farming. Just as the 2012 winners, Blair and Jane Smith did, Craige and Roz will travel overseas to countries of their choice and will participate in many events and seminars across the country. With help from our sponsors and



partners they will also travel throughout New Zealand with General Manager David Natzke to gain the widest possible knowledge of New Zealand agriculture whilst at the same time promoting sustainable agriculture. One of the highlights will be presenting to the Primary Production Select Committee. They will then produce a report on their findings in their chosen area of study.

Blair and Jane focussed their studies on marketing primary produce in Korea, Taiwan and China and produced an insightful and thoroughly readable report "Good Morning Asia". Their report can be found on our website at www.bfea.org.nz and has deservedly been hailed for its quality both by industry leaders and farmers in general.

Blair and Jane's trip was arranged and supported by MPI, Beef + Lamb New Zealand and Fonterra.

Building Dairy Environment Leaders Programme

The 2012 programme was held in Southland with 60 top New Zealand dairy farmers attending for a three day session. The aim was to challenge their thinking around environmental issues, the way the industry is facing up to the challenges and to encourage leadership on behalf of fellow farmers. The programme was popular and successful but will be the last in the series as DairyNZ, the funder of the programme, is making strategic changes in this area of their activities. The NZFE Trust will continue to have a role in this new programme but in a much revised format.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand Environment Leaders Programme

A successful inaugural Beef + Lamb New Zealand programme was held in Wellington for 20 beef and lamb farmers. Beef + Lamb New Zealand have indicated they wish to continue funding for next year and the NZFE Trust and Beef + Lamb New Zealand will no doubt work together to further enhance the quality of the offering to a new group of environmental leaders.

Sponsors, Partners and Strategic Partners of the NZFE Trust

The NZFE Trust is truly blessed by the quality and stature of our family of supporters. These organisations have put one hand up to signal their support for the NZFE Trust and the other deep into their pockets to ensure we are able to do our work. I encourage you to read their comments in this Annual Report; they are obviously very in tune with the aims and objectives of the NZFE Trust.

We have a full and stable line up of sponsors which we hope will continue and will of course look forward to welcoming the Taranaki Regional Council's support in 2014 as we take the awards to that powerful farming region.

Thank you all for your support be it friendship, skills and/or money. We cannot deliver without it.

Finally

The longer I am in the role of Chairman the more I appreciate the skills of my predecessor Jim Cotman, so many of the processes and initiatives that Jim set in motion are continuing on or gathering momentum. He left the organisation in fine shape and the current governance team is determined not to drop the ball.

One of Jim's most successful tactics was to allow the NZFE Trust General Manager David Natzke to get on with his job and this he certainly does. Thank you David on behalf of the NZFE Trust for the commitment, the wisdom and professionalism you bring to the role. We are extremely fortunate to have you.

Another feature of the year has been development of our executive team with Clare Rosser joining David as Executive Administrator, a role that she has relished and made a complete success.

Thanks also must go to all those in the Regions that serve on or chair the committees, work as judges or regional coordinators. You are not forgotten but never thanked enough and obviously you are the strength of the organisation.

To my fellow Trustees, thank you for your patient support as I learn the ropes and a special thank you to our Treasurer, Joanne van Polanen and Simon Saunders, our Deputy Chair for his unfailing support and astute contribution over a wide range of important issues including the National Winners judging.

It has also been very rewarding to work with our family of sponsors particularly Larry Bilodeau from Ballance Agri-Nutrients in his role as a Trustee where he pays us the highest compliment by devoting so much of his time to the NZFE Trust's activities. There are many challenges ahead for the NZFE Trust and plenty of work to do but I am positive we can make a success of what is in front of us after all, New Zealand's farmers expect nothing less.

Alistair Polson
Chairman

General Manager's Report



The year ended 30 June 2013 has delivered another very good year for the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust (NZFE Trust) and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. Interest in the work of the NZFE Trust and its flagship, the Ballance Farm Environment Awards has again been extremely satisfying and encouraging. Every year we seem to go from strength to strength and this past year has been no exception. The key objective of the NZFE Trust, “to promote sustainable farming practices to protect and enhance the environment”, certainly strikes an accord with a wide audience and long may it continue.

This year we have seen two new sponsors on board, Donaghys and Meridian and we also introduced a new joint venture programme in conjunction with Beef + Lamb New Zealand, an Environmental Leaders Forum for the sheep and beef sector. This was structured along similar lines to the programme the NZFE Trust has operated in conjunction with DairyNZ for the past six years.

The fact that the NZFE Trust is able to attract new sponsors and is able to introduce joint venture programmes speaks volumes for the independence of the NZFE Trust and the work it has undertaken over many years. It has demonstrated, year after year, that it is serious about its key objective and the NZFE Trust has stuck to its knitting so to speak. Over the years there have been new initiatives but before they have been developed and introduced, they have been evaluated as to how they can “promote sustainable farming practices to protect and enhance the environment”.

Another milestone this year was the 20th celebration of Gordon Stephenson's vision of an award programme. It was an idea, became a reality and then it became a success. Every time I hear Gordon speak of his vision, it serves as an inspiration to carry

on his work. At the National Sustainability Showcase in Hamilton in June this year, Gordon got to deliver an address to the 2013 Supreme Winners and invited guests.

One very salient point that Gordon referred to in his address was the reluctance of farmers to enter the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and the fact that the standard response is the farm is not ready. In Gordon's opinion, that is the very best time to enter the awards, when the farm is not ready because entering at this time will be an invaluable experience to plan future development.

I have had so much feedback as to how inspired everyone was to have that opportunity to hear Gordon. It was only fitting that this year's National Sustainability Showcase should be held in Hamilton in the Waikato where it all started 20 years ago. Thanks for the opportunities Gordon.

And the opportunities keep on coming, a new region for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme. Welcome to Taranaki, it is a region we have had on the radar for some time now and to have it included provides us with more opportunities to “promote sustainable farming practices to protect and enhance the environment”.

Resourcing

Last year I commented on a new initiative of introducing another position into the business of the NZFE Trust, that of an Executive Administrator position which was contracted to Clare Rosser.

This has been an excellent development as it has provided the NZFE Trust with much needed additional capabilities. Clare has been able to introduce a number of new procedures which have effectively streamlined the business operations of the NZFE Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Whilst Clare and I manage the overall business of the NZFE Trust, it must be recognised that without the immense contribution and commitment from the regions, our efforts would be in vain. We are indebted to those who front up year after year to do it again. Not only do we have a huge pool of people willing to make this commitment, they have been accepting of change and the introduction of new initiatives that help build upon the success of what has gone before them.

It has been estimated that the dollar amount for volunteer input per region is around \$50,000. This amounts to \$500,000 for the ten regions the Ballance Farm Environment Award now operate in. This amount does not feature in our annual accounts but it is something that needs to be recognised. It is something that is greatly valued.

And when you add to the mix, the input made by our stakeholders, over and above their financial commitment, the figure increases significantly.

Stakeholder Relationships

As I have referred to on many occasions, we have a great product in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and the product is supported year after year by stakeholders that have strong business links to the rural sector.

The NZFE Trust previously determined that for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme, there would be the naming right sponsor and eight additional sponsors. It was considered this was the optimum number for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme in relation to benefits for sponsors, leveraging and management. It is pleasing to note that we have a full complement of sponsors.

It does not seem that long ago we were actively canvassing potential new sponsors, that situation has changed to where the NZFE Trust has, in recent times, fielded a number of queries from potential

sponsors. That change is welcomed.

As well as the commercial sponsors of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, we have established strong linkages and relationships with Regional Councils, and the Gisborne District Council, in all the regions in which the Ballance Farm Environment Awards operate. These relationships are immensely valuable as our business is very closely aligned to their business when it comes to “promoting sustainable farming practices to protect and enhance the environment”. As key stakeholders, they too make staff available to participate in management committees and judging teams and the feedback I get from these people is they enjoy the experience of being part of what we deliver.

However, it is an area we need to monitor carefully. As you will be aware, there is a lot of talk what the shape of Local Government may look like in the future and the final shape could have an impact upon how many Regional Councils we have as stakeholders.

We are indeed fortunate to have great relationships with all the Regional Councils and the Gisborne District Council and it is pleasing to see the leveraging opportunities they are taking from their investment in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. One Regional Council recently requested that their agreement with the NZFE Trust be modified so as to include the winners of their award making themselves available to Council staff for publicity purposes, including photographs, as soon as practicable after their win; the winner of their award presenting to at least one meeting of Council’s Environment Management Committee as soon as is reasonable after their win; and the Supreme Winner for the region to present to Council’s mid-year ‘All Staff’ meeting. This is an excellent leveraging opportunity and we will be looking to include this in all future Regional Council agreements.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards National Sponsors



Ballance Farm Environment Awards Regional Partners



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust Partners



As well as sponsors and Regional Councils, the NZFE Trust has also welcomed the involvement of Strategic Partners who have an affinity to our objective of “promoting sustainable farming practices to protect and enhance the environment”. These strategic partners complement all aspects of the work of the NZFE Trust and they have a considerable amount of influence that we in turn can, and do leverage off.

Another sponsorship initiative the NZFE Trust has provided for is the introduction of Regional Sponsors. There are some businesses out there that have a specific regional business operation and because of this, they could not be considered for national sponsorship. The NZFE Trust has developed sponsorship agreements that are tailored for these particular businesses and we have been delighted to have their involvement to add value to the regional Ballance Farm Environment Awards.



We are currently looking at how to engage other regional specific businesses who have expressed a willingness to be part of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. In the main, these are small to medium size businesses that do not fit the category of a regional sponsor such as those named above. We think there may be a way to include them but of paramount consideration is that their inclusion will not impact upon any of those key stakeholders who are significant investors in the NZFE Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

There are a number of other agricultural focussed competitions that feature each year in the agriculture calendar and some of our stakeholders have sponsorship investments with them. We do not see ourselves as competing with the other competitions such as the Dairy Industry Awards, the Ahuwhenua Maori Excellence in Farming Award and the Young Farmer of the Year. This past year I have had the opportunity to attend the finals of the Dairy Industry Awards and the Ahuwhenua Maori Excellence in Farming Awards and they have been amazing showcases for agriculture. So to our stakeholders who also invest in these competitions, thank you for supporting agriculture in such a positive manner.

A very big thank you to all personnel from stakeholder businesses associated with the NZFE Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards for your commitment, not to mention your enthusiasm for what we do.

National Award

The National Award is now three years old and we have had three wonderful couples take the title and do an amazing job as Ambassadors for New Zealand agriculture, Grant and Bernie Weller in 2011, Blair and Jane Smith in 2012 and Craig and Roz Mackenzie in 2013.

It would be fair to say the introduction of the National Award has provided a new level of interest for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme, be it from farmers, stakeholders or agribusinesses. It certainly was the right thing to do at the stage the Ballance Farm Environment Awards were at back in 2011. We did not have a lot to base the concept on but what did work to our advantage was the buy-in from stakeholders who all embraced the concept and got involved. The foresight of Trustees of the NZFE Trust to introduce a National Award has paid off as it has created a whole new awareness of the activities of the NZFE Trust as well as profiling agriculture in such a positive light. Grant and Bernie and Blair and Jane have appeared on Country Calendar; this kind of exposure of their business operations makes for compelling viewing. They have been great ambassadors for New Zealand agriculture and wonderful advocates for the work of the NZFE Trust.

A feature of the National Winner programme is what has now been fondly termed the ‘Tour of Duty’ through New Zealand to meet with NZFE Trust stakeholders. What has been so great about this is the willingness of stakeholder representatives to take the opportunity to arrange for the National Winners to meet with company personnel. The North Island part of the tour is a full on week of meetings and travel but it is one that everyone takes a great deal of pride and satisfaction in.

Blair and Jane Smith undertook a comprehensive tour through Korea, Taiwan, China and Singapore and their report, “Good Morning Asia” is a great read of a producer’s view of the markets in those countries. It was a pleasure to work with Blair and Jane to put this tour together; we had some anxious moments as we dealt with uncertainties in South Korea and bird flu in China. I did enjoy their communications while they were on tour. I am indebted to personnel from Beef + Lamb New Zealand, Fonterra and MPI for assisting with the planning.

I look forward to working with Craig and Roz to maximise the rewards of being the 2013 National Winners.



Summary

As I have commented many times, each year delivers challenges and opportunities and it is a matter of how we deal with these. Having a proactive and dedicated group of Trustees means that the business is always well managed and well promoted. Core business features strongly in all planning decisions.

The year ahead will provide an exciting challenge of bringing the Taranaki region into the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme. Farmers in that region will have the opportunity, through the awards programme, to highlight the great things they are doing to a wider audience.

I have commented that there could be some changes to Regional Council structures in New Zealand in the future. That too could be a challenge for the NZFE Trust as the linkages we have to existing Regional Councils are fundamental to how we deliver many of our outcomes. However, there will also be opportunities in any changes that are proposed and subsequently introduced.

One thing that will be a constant in what we continue to do is to showcase and highlight the achievements of those farmers who enter the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. Each year we have a new lot of entrants, some of whom have entered before, and they open themselves up to scrutiny by the teams of judges that visit their farms. However, the feedback we get from the entrants is that the judging process is beneficial in relation to their farming operations and their own personal development. Please refer to the testimonials from past entrants in this Annual Report and if you have the chance, encourage farmers to enter the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. And remember, if you get a response that the farm is not ready, remind them that is the time to enter.

Underpinning the successful outcomes we deliver each year is an amazing group of people who make a huge commitment to the Ballance Farm Environment

Awards programme, most of whom are volunteers. To Committee Chairs, Judging Coordinators, Regional Coordinators, regional management teams and judges as well as the many rural professionals who support us, thank you for making it happen and thank you for your continued support.

Also special thanks for the commitment that Clare Rosser has contributed to the NZFE Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards since taking on the contract position of Executive Administrator, I have enjoyed the working relationship.

This past year saw NZFE Trust Trustee elections; the former Chairman, Jim Cotman stood down from that role. I look back with a great degree of admiration for the work that Jim undertook positioning the NZFE Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. The fact that both are highly professional and credible and command the attention of a whole host of people speaks volumes for what Jim was able to achieve.

I had the pleasure of working with Alistair Polson in our time together at Federated Farmers and it is great to re-establish that working connection through the NZFE Trust. Alistair's former role as New Zealand's Special Agricultural Trade Envoy has provided the NZFE Trust with additional "horsepower" and provided some new and valuable linkages. Many thanks to Alistair and Trustees for the support, trust and confidence they extend to Clare and me.

I know we are in for another good year and we will be working on the goal to have the Ballance Farm Environment Awards in all regions of New Zealand.

David Natzke
General Manager

Treasurer's Report



It is my pleasure to report on the financial results of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust. These accounts carry an independent audit certificate.

The NZFE Trust has enjoyed a successful year financially with increased partner support and a full complement of Ballance Farm Environment Award sponsors.

Income to administer and support the NZFE Trust activities increased in 2013 with Rabobank and DairyNZ partnering the Trust.

The NZFE Trust extended its sponsorship relationship with Beef + Lamb New Zealand to include a joint venture partnership in a Beef + Lamb Environmental Leaders Forum. This year's event, held in Wellington in April 2013, was smaller than initially projected and more cost efficient to operate. The NZFE Trust will carry forward \$30,000 of the Beef + Lamb contribution to operate the 2014 programme. The joint venture with Beef + Lamb New Zealand provides the NZFE Trust with a management fee for administering the programme.

The 2013 National Showcase was a larger event than normal and this is reflected in the event cost. A portion of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards sponsor funding contributes towards the cost of the Showcase and appears as an income in the NZFE Trust Divisional Statement and an expense in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards Statement.

Trustees approved funding in two areas to add value to the people resources that underpin the NZFE Trust activities. All Judging Coordinators, Regional Coordinators and Committee Chairs were funded to attend the National Sustainability Showcase. This provided an opportunity for the key regional personnel of the awards to have a national perspective of the very important role they play in

the regions and to celebrate their contribution and success.

The second investment was the inaugural meeting of past Supreme Winners to discuss and workshop the formation of an Alumni association. This was held in Hamilton prior to the National Sustainability Showcase. The NZFE Trust will continue to provide support as the Alumni association develops a document to support and guide the direction of their organisation.

The NZFE Trust operational expenses increased by 49% from 2012 with all areas showing an increase. The Alumnus and Beef + Lamb Environmental Leaders Forum were new expenditure items and the National Sustainability Showcase has been noted above. Clare Rosser has completed her first full year in the new role of Executive Administrator and is responsible for a number of areas of NZFE Trust administration which are recorded under Administration. Clare now manages the NZFE Trusts accounts, the website, assists with the administration of the NZFE Trust activities and is the National Administrator for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. Accounting services and website management were previously out sourced. The website has had a revamp over the last two years and is kept up to date with regular and accurate updates on the NZFE Trust and Ballance Farm Environment Awards activities.

The cost of governance has increased with an extra trustee meeting held, teleconferencing and a reimbursement to Trustees who self-drive to meetings. The Treasurer's position received a reimbursement to acknowledge the expenses this role incurs.

At the beginning of 2013 the NZFE Trust changed its bankers to Rabobank New Zealand Limited.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards have benefited from the support of a full complement of award sponsors with the addition of Donaghys and Meridian in 2013. Regional Council support remains the same as 2012. The NZFE Trust welcomed Alliance Group as regional sponsors for the Otago and Southland regions, the Waikato River Authority for the Waikato region and the continued regional sponsorship of Zespri for the Bay of Plenty region.

Regional income has been generated from ticket sales to attend the award functions in the regions. These funds are available for regions to grow the awards.

Regional expenses increased just over 9% with DVD, printing and stationery costs slightly reduced and coordination expenses increased. The 2013 budget allowed for a reimbursement for the Judging Coordinators in the seven regions the NZFE Trust directly funds. These positions are voluntary and the reimbursement is to provide some recompense for the administrative expenses that are incurred in the role.

The cost of coordination also reflects the addition of the National Regional Coordinator position filled by Clare Rosser. Clare has provided the regions with regular budget updates and worked to assist the regions in fully utilising their budgets to achieve a consistent standard of delivery for the award evenings across all the regions. Not every investment has a return that can be immediately measured in dollars and the development of the National Coordinator role is, in part, that kind of investment. This is a new era for the awards and while some regions have adjusted and tweaked their events and budgets to meet a nationally consistent standard this year, Clare is committed to supporting and assisting all regions to grow their awards.

The Combined Statement of Financial Performance shows a net surplus for the year of \$73,881. \$30,000 is being held for the Beef and Lamb NZ programme leaving \$43,881 as the true net surplus.

Trustees have set a reserve fund that will allow the NZFE Trust to keep operating and provide the same professional programmes and activities should sponsors or partners change. The fund also provides protection for the investment of the remaining sponsors and supporters and allows the NZFE Trust to develop partnerships or business opportunities that assist the development and growth of farmers' environmental leadership.

The Taranaki region will join the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme in 2014 and Trustees have approved support for the establishment of this region from the reserve fund.

I wish to thank David Natzke and Clare Rosser for their diligent and professional management of the NZFE Trust's financial business.

Thanks to NZFE Trust's accountants, Accountants on London (Hamilton NZ) and the NZFE Trust auditor, Staples Rodway (Hamilton, NZ).

The NZFE Trust is indebted to the partners, sponsors and Regional Councils who continue to support the NZFE Trust activities and the considerable volunteer support of regional chairs, management committees, judging coordinators and judges who deliver the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Joanne van Polanen
Treasurer

National Judging Coordinator's Report



The year was characterised by attention to a lot of issues which could be best described as house keeping.

Communication lines were identified as needing improvement. It is fair to say some Judging Coordinators considered they were not in the communication loop as much as they wished. As a result of this, there was discussion at a Judging Coordinators meeting in Wellington and new processes have been introduced to build upon the all important need for timely and effective communications.

All changes around judging are now signed off by the National Judging Coordinator before they are implemented and Judging Coordinators are given the chance to comment on changes and put forward suggestions for improvements.

Improved communication can come from Judging Coordinators attending other region's functions. This has been offered and will be encouraged for the next round of awards.

As each year goes by, regions develop their own "twist" on the judging process. There is nothing wrong with this and in fact it is healthy. By using the best of these developments we are able to improve the overall effectiveness of judging throughout the country. There are subtle examples of this such as adding sections for "production forestry and deer farming" to manuals and workbooks; how did we get this far without their inclusion already; through to other differences. Andrea Hanna, Judging Coordinator for the Waikato region has done a lot of work on some of these and must be thanked for that input.

How deeply the Ballance Farm Environment Awards judging process delves into financial performance and at what a stage is under consideration. A clear direction is being sought through consultation with the NZFE Trust and the regions.

In the main, all Judging Coordinators are happy with the recognition they have received from the NZFE Trust and see it as acknowledgement of the hard work they put in. It must be noted that it probably does not cover the true hours of time they invest.

The National Judging process to determine the 2013 National Winner ran smoothly. Warwick Cato and I found the farm visit stage challenging. This was due to the very high standard of entrants again this year. As a consequence of our on-farm visits, a more comprehensive assessment was given to the National Judging panel this year by Warwick and me. The National Judges are asking for more hard facts and numbers both from the National Judges that visit the farms and the regional feedback reports. This is mostly around production and financial reporting. This will be addressed before the next round of National Judging in 2014. Along with this, there is a need to think through a "succession plan" with regard to the farm visit made by members of the National Judging team judges.

In general the 2013 Regional Supreme Winners were happy with the process. Some still want more information about the process but that has a large amount to do with evaluating the information already provided. The feedback received from the 2013 Supreme Winners has been plentiful and suggested improvements will be introduced so as to build upon the overall judging process.

Clare Rosser and David Natzke have been absolutely committed to advancing and improving the complete judging package as well as the judging process and they, along with the regional Judging Coordinators must be thanked most sincerely.

Jamie Strang
National Judging Coordinator



Financial Summary

New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

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New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Directory

As at 30 June 2013

Nature of Business	Promotion and education of sustainable environmental farming practices.
Trust Formation Date	24 December 2004
Settlor	The Farm Environment Award Trust
General Manager	David Natzke PO Box 693 HAMILTON
Office Holders	Alistair Polson, Chairperson WANGANUI Simon Saunders, Deputy Chairperson, LUMSDEN Joanne van Polanen, Treasurer ASHBURTON
Trustees	Alistair Polson, Wanganui Joanne van Polanen, Ashburton David Cameron, Masterton Bruce Fraser, Tauranga Dougal McIntosh, Wanganui (resigned 23/10/12) Martin Wallace, Morrinsville Simon Saunders, Lumsden Larry Bilodeau, Tauranga John Bourke, Katikati Hew Dalrymple, Bulls Andrea Hanna, Te Kuiti James Hunter, Waipukurau Jim Cotman, Te Kauwhata (resigned 23/10/12 - Special Trustee until 31/3/13) Royce Kokich (to 23/10/12)
Accountants	Accountants on London Ltd Chartered Accountants 3 London Street HAMILTON
Auditor	Staples Rodway Chartered Accountants HAMILTON
Bankers	ANZ HAMILTON Rabobank New Zealand Ltd HAMILTON
Solicitors	Sharp Tudhope TAURANGA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of New Zealand Farm Environment Trust on pages 4 to 13, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in trust funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Trustees' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). These standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgments, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, as well as evaluating the presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, New Zealand Farm Environment Trust.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements on pages 4 to 13:

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- give a true and fair view of the financial position of New Zealand Farm Environment Trust as at 30 June 2013 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date.



STAPLES RODWAY
HAMILTON
20 September 2013

New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Divisional Statement of Financial Performance

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

Note	2013	2012
	\$	\$
NZFET		
Partnership Income		
Dairy NZ	20,000	-
Fonterra	50,000	50,000
Ministry of Primary Industry (MPI)	-	15,000
NZFET Partnership Fee	-	25,000
Rabobank	45,000	-
Total Partnership	115,000	90,000
Joint Venture Income		
Dairy NZ BDEL	84,500	70,957
Beef + Lamb New Zealand BBLL	58,000	-
BBLL Management Fee	12,000	-
Total Joint Venture Income	154,500	70,957
Operational Income		
National Award - Other	1,250	-
National Award - MPI	20,000	11,739
Showcase	20,773	6,246
Sponsor Contribution to Showcase	62,192	47,264
Total Operational	104,215	65,249
Other Income		
NZFE Trust Donations	2,520	12,241
Other Income	4,000	4,353
Interest Received	24,680	21,718
Total Other Income	31,200	38,312
Total Income	404,915	264,518
Less Expenses		
Operational Expenses		
Administration	99,977	63,117
Alumnus	2,720	-
BBLL	25,471	-
BDEL	75,084	60,609
Governance	39,108	17,842
National Award	42,145	37,555
Showcase	124,383	94,528
Total Expenses	408,888	273,651
Deficit - NZFET	(3,973)	(9,133)

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Divisional Statement of Financial Performance (continued)

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

Note	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Ballance Farm Environment Awards		
Income		
Sponsorship	507,000	427,500
Other Income	9,000	6,000
Regional Councils	143,000	143,000
Public Relations	22,275	27,189
Regional Income	14,172	8,435
Total Income	695,447	612,124
Less Expenses		
General Administration Expenses		
Administration	71,636	72,862
Public Relations	22,440	23,778
	94,076	96,640
Regional Expenses		
DVD Productions	31,275	28,945
Co-ordination	37,667	109,209
Printing & Stationery	48,433	51,439
Prizes	44,000	40,348
Promotional Design	-	4,955
Regional Awards	272,913	157,873
Regional Contributions	21,089	20,000
Website	1,193	3,040
	456,570	415,809
Showcase Expenses		
Sponsor Contribution to Showcase	62,192	47,264
Total Expenses	612,838	559,713
Surplus - BFEA	82,609	52,411

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Combined Statement of Financial Performance

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

Note	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Divisional Income		
Deficit from NZFET	(3,973)	(9,133)
Surplus from BFEA	82,609	52,411
Total Divisional Income	78,636	43,278
Less Expenses		
Non Cash Expenses		
Depreciation	4,755	2,797
Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	365
Total Expenses	4,755	3,162
Net Surplus	73,881	40,116

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Statement of Changes in Trust Funds

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Revenues and Expenses		
Net Surplus	73,881	40,116
Total Recognised Revenues and Expenses	73,881	40,116
Trust Funds at the Beginning of the Year	471,203	431,087
Trust Funds at the End of the Year	545,084	471,203

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
Current Assets			
Cash & Bank Balances	2	393,013	10,881
Other Receivables	3	21,606	7,809
GST Receivable		11,622	29,258
Current Investments	4	208,449	532,918
Total Current Assets		634,690	580,866
Non Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	5	3,492	8,247
Total Assets		638,182	589,113
Current Liabilities			
Audit Fee Accrual	6	2,000	1,700
Sundry Creditors	6	91,098	116,210
Total Liabilities		93,098	117,910
Net Assets		545,084	471,203
Trust Funds			
Trust Capital	7	545,084	471,203
Total Trust Funds		545,084	471,203


 _____ Trustee
 Alistair Polson, Chairperson

Date 20-09-2013


 _____ Trustee
 David Natzke, General Manager

Date 20-09-2013



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

Note	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash was provided from:		
Operating Revenue	1,079,519	848,921
Interest Received	24,681	21,718
	1,104,200	870,639
Cash was disbursed to:		
Administration and Operating Expenses	1,046,537	808,780
	1,046,537	808,780
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	57,663	61,859
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Cash was disbursed to:		
Purchase of Fixed Assets	-	9,005
	-	9,005
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	-	(9,005)
Net Increase in Cash Held	57,663	52,854
Cash at the Beginning of the Year	543,799	490,945
Cash at the End of the Year	601,462	543,799

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Depreciation Schedule

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	RATE & TYPE	% PVT USE	Cost on HAND	OPENING WDV	ADDITIONS WDV	DATE of ADDITION	SALE PRICE	PARTSALE PRICE	PROFIT (LOSS)	DISPOSAL DATE	Cost	CAPITAL GAIN/LOSS	DEPN	ACCUM DEPN	PRIVATE DEPN	ACCUM DEPN	CLOSING WDV	
Plant & Equipment																		
Promotional Screens	15,600		951	432		30/11/07	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	586	-	-	-	365
			951	432									67	586				365
Computer Equipment																		
Trademark's Promotional Design	60,000		10,606	611		14/05/08	-	-	-	-	-	-	366	10,361	-	-	-	245
Website Design 2012	60,000		9,006	7,204		01/03/12	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,322	6,123	-	-	-	2,882
			19,611	7,815									4,688	16,464				3,127
TOTAL			20,562	8,247									4,755	17,070				3,462

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



1 Statement of Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

New Zealand Farm Environment Trust is a Discretionary Trust.

The financial statements of New Zealand Farm Environment Trust are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared according to Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP).

The trust is involved in the business of Promotion and education of sustainable environmental farming practices.

Statement of Compliance and Basis of Preparation

The trust qualifies for differential reporting as it is not publicly accountable and is not large as defined in the Framework for Differential Reporting. The trust has taken advantage of all available differential reporting exemptions other than FRS 10 Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of the Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Financial Position on a historical cost basis are followed by the trust. The information is presented in New Zealand dollars.

Specific Accounting Policies

The following specific accounting policies which materially affect the measurement of the Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Financial Position have been applied:

(a) Revenue

Revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

(b) Trade Receivables

Trade Receivables are recognised at estimated realisable value.

(c) Property, Plant & Equipment

Property, Plant & Equipment are recognised at Cost less aggregate depreciation. Depreciation has been calculated using the maximum rates permitted by the Income Tax Act 2007. Gains and losses on disposal of fixed assets are taken into account in determining the operating result for the year.

Plant & Equipment	15.6% DV
Computer Equipment	60.0% DV

(d) Income Tax

Trust is not subject to income tax pursuant to the Income Tax Act 2007.

(e) Goods and Services Taxation (GST)

Revenues and expenses have been recognised in the financial statements exclusive of GST except that irrecoverable GST input tax has been recognised in association with the expense to which it relates. All items in the Statement of Financial Position are stated exclusive of GST except for receivables and payables which are stated inclusive of GST.

(f) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. All policies have been applied on a basis consistent with those from previous financial statements.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements (continued)

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

2 Cash & Bank Balances

Bank Account Balances

ANZ Ballance 00 Account

Rabobank All in One Account

Rabobank On Call Account

Total Cash & Bank Balances

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
	100	10,881
	84,191	-
	308,722	-
	393,013	10,881
	393,013	10,881

3 Current Receivables

Other Receivables

Sundry Debtors

Total Current Receivables

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
	21,606	7,809
	21,606	7,809

4 Current Investments

ANZ Online Call Account

Rabobank Term Deposit 091

ANZ Ballance Term Deposit- 68

Total Current Investments

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
	-	336,220
	208,449	-
	-	196,698
	208,449	532,918

5 Property, Plant & Equipment

Property, Plant & Equipment 2013

Plant & Equipment

Computer Equipment

Total Property, Plant & Equipment

	Cost	Depreciation Charged	Accumulated Depreciation	Closing Book Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	951	67	586	365
	19,611	4,688	16,484	3,127
	20,562	4,755	17,070	3,492

Property, Plant & Equipment 2012

Plant & Equipment

Computer Equipment

Total Property, Plant & Equipment

	Cost	Depreciation Charged	Accumulated Depreciation	Closing Book Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	951	80	519	432
	19,611	2,717	11,796	7,815
	20,562	2,797	12,315	8,247

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements (continued)

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
6 Payables & Accruals		
	\$	\$
Accounts Payable		
Audit Fee Accrual	2,000	1,700
Sundry Creditors	91,098	116,210
Total Payables & Accruals	93,098	117,910
7 Trust Capital		
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	471,203	431,087
Plus:		
Net Surplus	73,881	40,116
Total Trust Capital	545,084	471,203
8 Operating Surplus		
	\$	\$
Net Operating Surplus	73,881	40,116
Depreciation	4,755	2,797
Loss on Sale of Fixed Asset	-	365
(Increase)/decrease in trade and GST accounts receivable	3,839	(5,952)
(Increase)/decrease in trade and GST accounts payables	(24,812)	24,533
Total Operating Surplus	57,663	61,859
9 Fees Paid to Auditor		
	\$	\$
Audit Fee	2,000	1,700
Total Fees Paid to Auditor	2,000	1,700

10 Contingent Liabilities

The Trust has no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2013, (2012 Nil).

11 Capital Commitments

The Trust has no capital commitments as at 30 June 2013, (2012 Nil).



About the Ballance Farm Environment Awards

The New Zealand Farm Environment Trust has put in place a forward looking Strategic Plan which has the following key objective:

“To promote sustainable farming practices to protect and enhance the environment”

The objectives of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are to display to farmers that profitability need not compromise and, in the best examples, can restore and enhance environmental values.

Through feedback and profiling winners, the Awards encourage other farmers to be more proactive in their resource management by providing them with role models for sustainable land management.

The Awards look at whole farm systems and strongly promote the positive. Every entrant is given feedback from specialist judges.

The key question the Ballance Farm Environment Awards asks is:

“Can what is being done now, still be working successfully in 100 years?”

Supreme Winners

A Supreme Winner will be selected from each of the 10 regions - Supreme Winners will be chosen from the group of finalists. – **\$3000 cash**

National Award – Gordon Stephenson Trophy

The recipient of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy will be selected from the 10 regional Supreme Winners and will be announced at the 2014 Sustainability Showcase
– **Prize package TBA**

Principal National Sponsor



Ballance Agri-Nutrient's Soil Management Award

This Award focuses on the excellent management of the soil resource as well as the appropriate use of nutrients. A very good understanding of nutrient cycles will need to be demonstrated. Nutrient budgeting will be understood and well documented. The impacts of nutrients on both surface and ground water will need to be well understood and well managed. – **\$1000 cash/product**



Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Farm Award

This Award recognises the livestock farmer, inclusive of deer and other dry stock farming operations (other than dairy) who demonstrate in a practical way the choices that have been made to farm for the long term. Considerations will be made around the wise use of the land, labour and capital resource available or created. Stock will be well cared for. Stock class and type will be well suited to the land contour and soil type and managed appropriately to suit those soils. – **\$1000 cash/services**



Hill Laboratories Harvest Award

This award recognises the farmer who is predominantly involved in growing crops, (e.g. Grain, Seed, Viticulture, Horticulture) but also encompasses livestock farmers who demonstrate excellent pasture and soil management. Consideration will include the effect the farming system has on the land resource currently and in the long term. Its effect on the water resource, along with nutrient use and effect will also be considered. Some formal monitoring or measuring of effects of the growing system on these resources would be a positive. Demonstration of a good understanding of weed and pest management and treatments is also required. – **\$1000 cash/product**



LIC Dairy Farm Award

This Award recognises the dairy farmer who demonstrates in a practical way the choices that have been made to farm for the long term. Considerations will be made around the wise use of the land, labour and capital resource available or created. Increasingly the effects of dairy farming on both surface and groundwater and its impact on soil properties are factors the judges will consider. – **\$1000 cash/product**



PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award

This Award is focused more on the all-important 'people' side of the farming business. The personal beliefs of pride and passion for the land will be a key part of the considerations as well as an element of demonstrating good farm safety practices. A community spirit will be evident, along with a very good relationship with external 'advice or support' from agribusiness people. Intergenerational thinking and planning is often a feature. – **\$1000 cash/product**



Massey University Innovation Award

The Innovation Award is given in recognition of the identification and implementation of economically and environmentally sustainable farming systems. The Award recognises farmers and farming families who develop or embrace new technologies and systems and have an established record of advancing farm practices for improved outcomes. The winner, or their nominee, will receive a fees scholarship to further their professional development through a short course (subject to entry requirements), or period of private study, at Massey University. – **\$1000 cash/services**



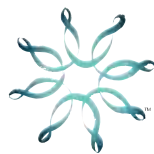
WaterForce Integrated Management Award

The WaterForce Award recognises the farmer who has developed and implemented integrated water management systems and processes for water used within their farming system. This award will take into account the design of systems and the efficiency of monitoring water usage, water saved and cost effectiveness in any land based farming system. – **\$1000 cash/product**



Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award

This Award is for the creation of special places on farm and may include protection or enhancement of wetlands, landscape features, or historic places. There is also a need to demonstrate management systems that improve productivity and sustainability. – **\$1000 cash/product**



meridian

Meridian Energy Excellence Award

The Meridian Energy Award recognises utilising on farm opportunities to generate or maximise energy efficiently. – **\$1000 cash/product**

Regional Awards

- Northland Regional Council Water Quality Enhancement Award**
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council Environmental Award**
- Waikato Regional Council Water Protection Award**
- The East Coast Farming for the Future Award**
- Horizons Regional Council Award (for the integration of trees)**
- Taranaki Regional Council Sustainability Award**
- Akura Conservation Centre Lifestyle Farm/Small Block Award**
- Environment Canterbury Regional Council Water Quality Award**
- Otago Regional Council Water Quality Award**

Regional Partners



Supreme Winners for 2013



NORTHLAND
Shayne O'Shea and
Charmaine O'Shea
sos.co.ltd, Whangarei
Dairy



BAY OF PLENTY
Dennis, Judith and
Gordon McFetridge
McFetridge Farms Ltd,
Tauranga
Dairy



WAIKATO
Grant Wills and Karen
Preston (Preston Wills
Ltd)
Tremeer, Walton
Dairy



EAST COAST
Terry and Judy Walters
Smedley Station,
Tikokino
Sheep, beef, deer and
education



SOUTHLAND
Abe and Anita de
Wolde
Woldwide Farming
Group, Heddon Bush
Dairy



OTAGO
Nick Webster, Jock
Webster and Peter
Mitchell
Mitchell Webster Group,
Oamaru
Arable



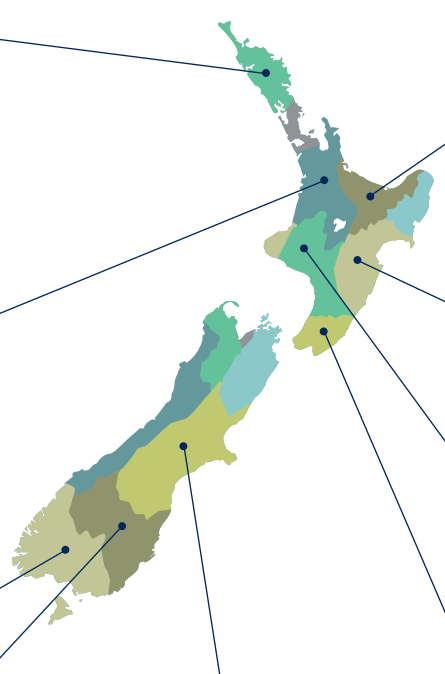
CANTERBURY
Craig and Roz
Mackenzie
Greenvale Pastures Ltd,
Methven
Arable



GREATER WELLINGTON
Michael and Karen
Williams
Ahiaruhe Farm, Carterton
Arable



HORIZONS
Curwen and Marija Hare
Tutahi Farm Partnership,
Feilding
Sheep and heifer
grazing



Exceptional Leadership Skills Impress Judges of Top Farm Environment Award



The outstanding communication and leadership skills demonstrated by Canterbury farmers Craig and Roz Mackenzie will serve them well in their new role as ambassadors for New Zealand agriculture.

The Mackenzies were declared National Winners of the 2013 Ballance Farm Environment Awards at a Sustainability Showcase hosted by the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust (NZFE Trust) in Hamilton on June 22.

They were surprised and delighted to be named winners of the Gordon Stephenson trophy, with Craig telling the audience of almost 400 people that he and Roz were “very, very honoured” to accept the award. “We look forward to being ambassadors for the coming year.”

The Mackenzies thanked the judging panel, NZFE Trust and the sponsors of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. They also acknowledged their family, business partners and their farming team. “And we want to thank the other entrants,” said Roz. “We found it inspiring and motivating to share time with them.”

The Mackenzies, who run an intensive cropping operation near Methven, were among nine regional supreme winners of the 2013 Ballance Farm Environment Awards vying for the National Winner title.

Simon Saunders, deputy chair of NZFE Trust and chair of the National Winner judging panel, said the Canterbury farmers were deserved winners of the Gordon Stephenson trophy. “Craig and Roz are a great team with outstanding communication and leadership skills.”

He said the Mackenzies demonstrated exceptional leadership ability during the judging process, providing reasoned arguments and innovative ways

to address many of the challenges facing New Zealand agriculture.

Members of the judging panel also commented on Craig and Roz’s excellent farming practices and management of resources. “They are focusing on utilising their resources as efficiently as possible through the use of new technologies and innovation. They also understand the importance of protecting and improving their farm environment through biodiversity, shelter and riparian planting.”

Simon said judges noted the impressive ‘integration synergies’ employed by the Mackenzies between their arable farm and the neighbouring dairy operation, which they own an equity share in. Judges also commented on the “passion and focus” shown by the other members of Craig and Roz’s farming team.

The judging panel, which included Jacqueline Rowarth, Warwick Catto, Chris Kelly, Paul Lamont and Jamie Strang, faced a huge challenge in picking a National Winner from the outstanding line up of Supreme winners. Simon described all nine regional winners as “pioneers and explorers”.

“These outstanding farmers set goals, long term strategic plans and have in-depth business plans. They understand the strengths and weaknesses, potential risks and opportunities of their business and physical resources. They are continually striving to set best practice and they achieve this by often being at the leading edge of innovation.

As they are usually the innovators and early adopters of new best practice, robust science and research is critical. They realise the need to reduce their environmental footprint, and efficiency is becoming a key driver. In essence they are striving to produce more from less.”

2013 Sustainability Showcase

**Saturday, 22 June 2013
at Claudelands Events
Centre, Hamilton**



Craig and Roz Mackenzie with the Hon Nathan Guy.



Craig and Roz Mackenzie with Blair and Jane Smith.



Craig and Roz Mackenzie with Larry Bilodeau of Ballance Agri-Nutrients.



Michael and Karen Williams with Roger Hill of Hill Laboratories.



Dennis, Judith and Gordon McFetridge with Mark Hill of WaterForce.



Terry and Judy Walters with BB Unka of Donaghys.



Abe and Anita de Wolde with Stephen Guerin of PGG Wrightson.



Curwen and Marija Hare with Mike Petersen of Beef + Lamb New Zealand.



Shayne and Charmaine O'Shea with David Hemara of LIC.



Grant Wills and Karen Preston with Dave Greenwood of Meridian.



Jock and Helen Webster, Nick Webster, Peter and Sandra Mitchell with Prof Mike Hedley of Massey University.





Testimonials from past entrants of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Even though they won three category awards in their first time in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, Jim and Marilyn Law know there is still plenty of work to be done on their coastal Wairarapa farm.

The Laws own Palliser Ridge, an 823ha (effective) sheep and beef operation spanning three properties near Pirinoa in southern Wairarapa.

Jim says they were initially reluctant to enter the competition because they felt the farm wasn't ready. But, encouraged by their fertiliser rep and the Greater Wellington Regional Council, they decided to "give it a whirl".

Jim says although it took some time to bring all the information together for their entry, it was a worthwhile exercise and the benefits of being involved in the competition were considerable.

"The judges made some very favourable comments about our business and they also offered constructive criticism, politely pointing out areas that we could improve on in future."

The Laws also focus heavily on the people side of the business, supporting their local community and encouraging their young staff into further education. Jim, a former corporate executive and past chairman of the Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre, believes education is crucial to the industry's future.

"I've worked in countries where young people have been denied educations and never reached their full potential. But if you give young people an education, you give them a chance."



Education is also a key driving force behind the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, and Jim says he and his team learnt much from being involved in the competition.

"I'd strongly recommend the Awards to other farmers. Most Kiwis tend to be modest and reluctant to put themselves out there, but this competition has a lot to offer those who give it a go."

Jim says while the judges had considerable expert knowledge "they certainly weren't professorial types and they were very easy to get on with".

"Overall, I'd say the competition is a very good experience and I'm glad we got involved."

Jim and Marilyn Law
Entrants
2013 Greater Wellington Ballance Farm
Environment Awards

Entering the Ballance Farm Environment Awards provided Bay of Plenty orchardists Ben and Heidi Rosewarne with the perfect opportunity to review the direction of their business.

And they were pleased they did.

In the 2013 Bay of Plenty Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA) - their first attempt at the competition – they picked up two category awards, as well as lots of free advice.

“It never hurts to take a good hard look at your business,” says Ben.

“For us, being involved in the competition helped us to confirm we were on the right track with what we were doing.”

The Rosewarne's run Blueberry Corner, a berry growing and retail business based just north of Whakatane. After recently expanding their operation they now grow about 6ha of blueberries, 1ha of strawberries and .5ha of raspberries.

Ben and Heidi were pleased to win the Hills Laboratories Harvest award because it provides a good endorsement of their growing system. They also picked up the PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award – a reflection of their people management

ethos and community involvement.

Ben says entering the competition was relatively easy and it proved to be a rewarding process.

“Doing the paperwork was a really good exercise for us because it made us sit down and take a look at what we were doing and where we were going.”

He admits to being a little nervous as he and Heidi awaited the arrival of the judges. But they were quickly put at ease.

“The judging process was pretty relaxed and the judges made some very good points. I think we got a lot out of it and we'd certainly be keen to have another crack in future.”

Ben says he and Heidi would recommend the competition to other farmers or growers.

“It's definitely worth going along for the ride.”

Ben and Heidi Rosewarne
Entrants
2013 Bay of Plenty Ballance Farm Environment Awards



Returning to the family farm five years ago was an in-the-deep-end experience for Waikato farmer James Bailey and his wife Ella.

‘Momona’, a 440ha (effective) Tirau sheep and beef farm, had been in the Bailey family for five generations, so James was eager to start off on the right foot. While he was mindful of the work performed by past generations, he was also keen to improve the environmental sustainability of the business.

James and Ella moved onto the farm in 2008, initially working alongside James' parents Richard and Pamela.

Eager to learn as much as he could, James turned to a number of different sources for information, including his late father, rural professionals and a discussion group.

The Waikato Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA) also provided another great educational opportunity.

James says he was encouraged to enter the competition by other farmers who had been

involved in the past. They told him it was “a great learning experience”.

Their involvement in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards reassured the Baileys that they were heading in the right direction as far as environmental sustainability goes. James says he learned a lot from the experience.

“I really enjoyed the process. It was great to have the judges visiting the farm twice. That outside expert perspective opens up your mind to different possibilities.”

James and Ella are now enthusiastic supporters of the competition and plan to enter again in future.

“I'd definitely encourage other farmers to give it a go,” says James.

“You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain.”

James and Ella Bailey
Entrants
2013 Waikato Ballance Farm Environment Awards



Graeme Williams and Derry Stovell entered the 2013 Ballance Farm Environment Awards because they wanted to highlight the value of East Cape hill country.

Graeme and Derry farm 700ha (effective) 'Mangaroa', a steep hill-country property southwest of Tokomaru Bay.

They were encouraged to enter the competition by other farmers who asked them to represent the Gisborne region.

"We felt this place tells a real story," says Graeme.

"Most people think that erodible East Coast hill country should be in forestry, but we wanted to show that sheep and beef farms like this can make a sustainable economic return."

Around 58,000 trees have been planted on Mangaroa, mainly for erosion control, shelter and even stock feed.

Graeme says the Ballance Farm Environment Awards were "a great thing to be part of".

He says the judging was conducted in an informal

and enjoyable manner.

"The judges were there to listen to your story. I found the whole process very interesting."



Derry also enjoyed participating in the Awards and she and Graeme are now actively encouraging other farmers to enter the competition.

Graeme says the Awards play an important role in highlighting environmental issues and showcasing some of the good work being done on farms.

He says the competition gets important messages out to both rural and urban audiences.

"The majority of farmers are very aware of these issues and they know that being a good conservationist puts more money in your hip pocket."

Graeme Williams and Derry Stovell
Entrants
2013 East Coast Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Otago dairy farmers Terry and Jacqui Carr are always looking for ways to increase their farming knowledge.

Equity managers for the Argyll Dairy Farm Partnership, the Carrs regard farming competitions as a good way to benchmark themselves against other dairy farmers while also gaining valuable farm management information.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards helped them do just that.

"We entered because we wanted to improve our knowledge of environmental issues and to pick up information that would help us grow our business in a sustainable way," says Jacqui.

Jacqui says their experience in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards provided reassurance that the business was addressing environmental issues in the correct manner.

"Being involved in the awards confirmed that we were doing the right thing," she says.

"Getting our entry together was a good exercise for us and the actual judging process was done in a very relaxed manner. It wasn't just the judges asking us questions, we were also able to ask them questions and so we picked up a lot of information from them."



Jacqui says the expert judges made a number of good recommendations.

Jacqui says the feedback received from the judges was excellent.

"We felt it was a very worthwhile experience and we would certainly encourage other farmers to enter the competition. It's a great opportunity to increase your knowledge."

Terry and Jacqui Carr
Entrants
2013 Otago Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Participating in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards inspired Ken and Janine Hames to step up environmental work on their Northland farm.

Ken says they entered the awards to benchmark themselves against other farmers and “to see where we were at” in terms of environmental sustainability.

He and Janine, a vet at Ruawai, first entered the Northland Ballance Farm Environment Awards in 2010 and were thrilled to win two category awards.

“I guess it showed we were on the right track,” says Ken, who runs an intensive bull finishing operation on 400ha at Paparua, southeast of Dargaville.

He says the judging process motivated him to set a number of achievable goals over the next five years.

He has continued with an extensive waterway and bush fencing programme. Almost 60% of the riparian fencing is now complete and Ken plans to finish the rest over the next three years.

“We’ve had fairly low profitability in the sheep and beef sector, so you can’t expect to do everything in year one. We’ve got to be realistic.”

Ken says he would certainly encourage other farmers to enter, even if they feel their farm is not ready.

“You are never going to have the perfect farm. It’s always going to be a work in progress.”

“Entering the awards is very worthwhile. The feedback from the judges is fantastic and it’s a great experience meeting the other contestants and learning from them as well.”

Ken says the ‘journey’ towards environmental sustainability is of huge importance to New Zealand agriculture.

“Farmers need to be aware that environmental issues associated with farming are here to stay. We have to position ourselves for the future and make sure everything we do is sustainable in the long-term.”

**Ken and Janine Hames
Entrants
2013 Northland Ballance Farm Environment
Awards**



King Country sharemilker Dean Marshall says there is nothing flashy about the way he farms. “I’m not a high-tech farmer. I just concentrate on getting the basics right.”

Dean and wife Lucy sharemilk 350 cows on ‘Paatarā’, a 158ha farm situated northeast of Taumarunui and owned by the Te Uranga B2 Incorporation.

Good environmental stewardship is a crucial feature of Te Uranga’s operations, and the Trust and the Marshalls have always strived to improve sustainability on Paatarā.

Dean says they entered the Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards because they wanted to get feedback on the operation “and gauge how we were doing compared to other farms”.

He says winning the LIC Dairy Farm Award was a good endorsement of the management system employed on Paatarā and the strong focus on sustainability. “We run a low input system that capitalises on New Zealand’s ability to grow grass. Pasture management is key and the aim is to fully utilise whatever we can grow.”

The Marshalls, now in their eleventh season with

Te Uranga, also strive to support their staff as much as possible. “We are full of encouragement for people who want to enter this industry.”

Dean says being involved in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards was highly beneficial. “We got some great feedback from the judges and the whole judging process was very constructive.”

He and Lucy also enjoyed mingling with other competitors on Awards night. “It was good to find out what other people are doing on their farms.”

He says he would certainly encourage other farm owners and sharemilkers to enter the competition. “Lucy and I learnt a lot from it. If you really want to make it worthwhile, the key thing is to be open and honest with the judges about what you are doing and what you hope to achieve.”

**Dean and Lucy Marshall and Te Uranga B2
Incorporation
Entrants
2013 Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards**



Entering the Ballance Farm Environment Awards helped a fledgling Southland dairy operation measure its progress as a successful and sustainable farming business.

South Coast Dairy Ltd, an equity partnership between five families, owns 202ha between Curio Bay and the Haldane Estuary in Eastern Southland. The former sheep and beef farm was converted four years ago and now milks 385 cows on a 135ha milking platform.

Mindful of the farm's location in a sensitive coastal area, the owners have made a big effort to mitigate the environmental impacts of dairying, with extensive riparian fencing and planting work conducted following consultation with the Department of Conservation, Environment Southland, Landcare Trust and Fish and Game.

Equity partners Chris and Lynsey Stratford, who oversee the day to day management of the farm, milked 380 cows last year, achieving production of 437kgMS/cow.

Lynsey says entering the competition provided the business with a good opportunity to benchmark economic and environmental progress.

While some farmers are reluctant to enter the competition because they feel their farm isn't ready, Lynsey says the owners of South Coast Dairy Ltd were keen to enter because they wanted to build knowledge and find out if they were on the right track.

"The main benefit for us was the ability to get feedback from a diverse group of people with different skill sets. We felt we had a lot to gain by entering early rather than waiting for a few more years."



Lynsey says she and Chris enjoyed the interactive judging process.

"It was just like have a friendly discussion as you go around the farm. It was very much a collaborative approach because the judges asked us questions and we were able to ask them questions. We got a lot of good feedback and the whole process gave us great food for thought."

She says the judges provided a valuable outside perspective of the operation.

"The Awards night was another highlight because we got to meet the other competitors and be inspired by their stories."

She says she and Chris would definitely encourage other farmers to participate in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

"It's an empowering competition. You've got nothing to lose by entering."

Chris and Lynsey Stratford and South Coast Dairy Ltd
2013 Entrants
Southland Ballance Farm Environment Awards

"It's a fun competition with a serious side."

That's how Mid Canterbury farmer Philip Wareing describes the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Philip and wife Wendy own Mt Arrowsmith Station – a 9000ha sheep, beef and deer farm, 70km southwest of Methven.

Though Philip admits it took some gentle arm-twisting to get him into the competition, he was pleased he participated.

He says he enjoyed showing BFEA judges around Mt Arrowsmith.

"We had two panels of judges here and the different judges all brought different skills and experience. They gave us some great feedback and the whole judging process was very relaxed and encouraged

the free flow of information."

Philip says one of the things he likes most about the Ballance Farm Environment Awards is that anyone can enter.



"They are open to all farmers. You don't have to have the perfect farm or lots of tertiary qualifications to get involved," he says.

"If you are proud of your farm, you should give it a go. It's good fun."

Philip and Wendy Wareing
2012 Entrants
Canterbury Ballance Farm Environment Awards

National Sponsors



national sponsors of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards in 1995.

Like the foresighted Gordon Stephenson, whose determination brought these awards to life, we are great believers in the future of agriculture in New Zealand and in the support and development of generations of outstanding farmers.

Today the awards are much more than an annual celebration of farming excellence. They have created opportunities for farmers to benchmark themselves against their peers – and learn something along the way. They have also created a growing cohort of farmers who consider the environment when implementing their industry leading farming practices; giving future generations the opportunity and skills required to farm.

That's vital, because global population growth and the need for food production to double by 2050 represent big opportunities for food producers like New Zealand's farmers and growers.

Growth in agriculture and greater productivity are key to taking advantage of these opportunities, and we need to be very conscious that this food has to be produced sustainably, as well as profitably.

As a co-operative, owned by farmers and here for farmers, Ballance recognises the challenges and the opportunities. We have expanded beyond fertiliser to offer complete farm nutrient management advice, technology, services and products backed by sound science.

Ballance Agri-Nutrients did not have to think twice before stepping up as

And we are looking to the future, with our research and development programme delivering the products, services, technology and advice to enable the pastoral sector to lift profitable production with reduced environmental impacts. This includes new systems and models to help farmers use fertiliser only on areas of their farm which will benefit most from nitrogen application.

We are also developing models for highly targeted phosphate use, using risk mapping to increase phosphate efficiency while minimising losses, along with advanced forms of soil testing to support very precise fertiliser applications.

To ensure all of this work is put to the best use, we are also working on how we improve the way information and practical support is delivered to farmers.

This programme - part funded with support from the Government's Primary Growth Partnership - is a \$32 million dollar investment, and what is exciting is that our research and development work is starting to deliver results.

Farmers can expect to see some of the results of this research roll out of the lab and onto the farm, once we have worked through user trials and validation currently underway on farms around the country. It's an exciting time for us, and a proud one. Most of all, we look forward to put this knowledge into the hands of our sustainable heroes, the current and former winners of these prestigious awards. Farmers look to other farmers for examples. We can think of no better advocates than our award winners.



As New Zealand's leading provider to the agricultural sector, PGG Wrightson offers a wide range of products, services and solutions to growers, farmers and processors in New Zealand and internationally.

Over 2,000 of our staff come to work each day to do our part in helping grow the country. Not only do we do this through the delivery of the right products and services, but also by supporting our rural community.

We are proud to sponsor the Ballance Farm Environment Awards which encourages sustainable land management and shows farmers that profitability can be balanced with environmental concerns.

The PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award is about the people element of farming and strongly aligns with our vision of helping grow the country. Winners have a keen community spirit and demonstrate a clear understanding of the role they play in local and regional prosperity. Ultimately, the outcome of this community involvement will be a healthy and vibrant rural sector, helping to ensure the future of New Zealand's farming family for generations to come.

PGG Wrightson congratulates all the nominees and winners of the 2013 Ballance Farm Environment Awards and we look forward to once again celebrating the successes of New Zealand farmers at the 2014 Awards.



LIC is one of the oldest farming cooperatives in New Zealand and, right from when the Farm Environment Awards were first launched in 2001, was proud to sponsor awareness and application of the highest standards of environmental sustainability through, initially, the Farm Environment Awards better known today as the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Back in 2001 the language was new, but the practice was not, and what the Awards has done has raise the profile of the good work being done on farms around New Zealand, and provide leadership so that these standards have become a goal for more farmers and more mainstream.

As an organisation, LIC applies environmental sustainability principles and practices to all aspects of our business – our offices, vehicles, farms,

products and services; our values and behaviours. Achieving this in any measure comes down to role-modelling and it is in this area that the Ballance Farm Environment Awards plays such an important part. Not only do the Awards recognise individual excellence, but collectively promote and position agriculture as guardians and protectors of nature. LIC is proud to be part of that vision, of that movement.

The LIC Dairy Farm Award recognises the dairy farmer who role-models best practices through long term, practical, environmental planning and their commitment to the entrenchment of our country's clean green image through their stewardship of the land.

LIC extends its congratulations to the winner/s of this Award, and to all the nominees and winners in the 2013 Ballance Farm Environment Awards.



Hill Laboratories has, since its inception in 1984, been committed

to serving the soil and plant analytical testing needs of the agricultural industry in New Zealand.

Throughout that time Hills has had an extremely positive relationship with their customers, working to ensure the primary industry is at its most productive and progressive.

It has been an honour to be a national sponsor of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and to recognise and acknowledge the high performing, sustainable farmers in our midst.

Hill Laboratories is the largest private analytical testing laboratory in New Zealand, and the aims and coverage of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards sit perfectly within the driving interests of Hill Laboratories.

Throughout the eight years we have been involved with sponsorship of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards it has been wonderful to see the innovative and socially conscious efforts being achieved throughout the farming industry in New Zealand and we are dedicated to supporting and promoting those efforts into the future.



Beef + Lamb New Zealand is proud to sponsor the Livestock Award in the Ballance Farm Environment

Awards recognising farming practices that support a long-term commitment to sustainability.

The essence of sustainability is in finding a balance between environmental, financial and social values and the awards provide an opportunity to showcase the farmers who are working in this way. Their stories inspire other farmers to think along the same lines and the awards are an opportunity to showcase wider environmental and economic benefits for the New Zealand economy.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand works to provide the tools and information that highlight environmental issues and promote sustainability and so it's good to be involved the awards which share our goals.

The Beef + Lamb New Zealand Land and Environment Planning Toolkit is one such tool that helps farmers identify land and environmental issues on their farms. From there they can make a plan to ensure the land is managed sustainably, taking into account the specific soil type, fertility, pasture types, susceptibility to erosion and management practices relevant to that particular farm.



Massey University is proud to be part of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and particularly the

Discovery Award, to be known as the Innovation Award from 2014. It recognises the identification and implementation of farming systems that are economically and environmentally sustainable.

New knowledge or research and its application is what innovation is about and this is highly valued at Massey University. We nurture the expertise and skills needed to explore new frontiers and to apply new information to developing the technologies and processes needed. We are committed to our research programmes and to research-led teaching and learning. We are also dedicated to working with industry leaders to ensure our research and teaching delivers what's wanted.

Each year Massey graduates with degrees ranging from agricultural and veterinary environmental science to international agribusiness take the next

step in roles building New Zealand's economy. Together they provide New Zealand with the latest knowledge and expertise across the food value chain, from smart production systems to food product development and from market research to developing international trade. Just as the primary production sector is critical to our country, Massey is the engine of the new New Zealand.

Innovation Award

The Innovation Award is given in recognition of the identification and implementation of economically and environmentally sustainable farming systems. The Award recognises farmers and farming families who develop or embrace new technologies and systems and have an established record of advancing farm practices for improved outcomes.

The winner, or their nominee, will receive a fees scholarship to further their professional development through a short course (subject to entry requirements), or period of private study, at Massey University.



WaterForce joined the Ballance Farm Environment

Awards sponsorship team in 2012. We have had a great introduction to the awards and are proud to be part of an organisation which promotes sustainable, proactive farming. The awards give us the opportunity to promote our industry while recognising and acknowledging those farmers who are leaders within New Zealand.

The WaterForce Integrated Management Award recognises farmers who have successfully

implemented water management systems and processes within their farming operation.

We believe water is one of our most precious resources. Efficient, sustainable and reliable water systems are vital to the running of a successful farming operation. We are dedicated to protecting this valuable resource for the future.

WaterForce supplies, installs and services a complete range of water, wastewater and irrigation products. With 10 branches nationwide, we are well-positioned to offer solutions for all types water related systems.



Meridian is proud to support the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

We recognise and applaud farmers who care for and respect their environment, and who adopt farming practices that preserve and protect

the land for future generations. Their philosophy is a natural fit with our own: we're committed to sustainability in everything we do, and to working

with farmers and communities to create a better energy future for all New Zealanders.

As the country's largest renewable electricity generator and a nationwide electricity supplier, we understand that power is fundamental to every farming business. That's why we offer the services of a dedicated Agribusiness electricity team, and energy solutions designed to suit farmers' unique and specialised needs.

DONAGHYS

Donaghys is pleased to be associated

with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust and Ballance Farm Environment Awards. The work done by the Trust and the recognition and encouragement inspired by the Awards are very important for New Zealand Agriculture. The need to maximise productivity from the land while ensuring sustainability and environmental care is essential.

Founded in Dunedin in 1876, Donaghys is one of New Zealand's oldest companies with a proud heritage linked to the land. Donaghys have invested

millions to develop products specifically tailored to improve a farms productivity and/or reduce costs of a farms inputs while protecting the environment. The sponsorship of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards reflects this continued focus and Donaghys on-going commitment to New Zealand farming.

The Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award acknowledges the ability to create special places on farm and protect or enhance wetlands, landscape features, or historic places while demonstrating management systems that improve productivity and sustainability.

Regional Partners



The Northland Regional Council introduced the awards to the Northland region in 2005-06, in

partnership with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust.

The key objectives of the awards are to encourage sustainable land management and to display to farmers that profitability need not compromise and, in the best examples, can restore and enhance environmental values.

The awards reflect our role as environmental guardians, while encouraging the sustainable use of

our region's resources to promote economic growth. The feedback and winners' profiles encourage other farmers to be proactive with their resource management as part of an economically viable agricultural enterprise.

It is our pleasure to continue to support the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, which acknowledge the success of land owners in achieving sustainable land management practices.

Craig Brown
Chairman
Northland Regional Council



Protection of our waterways is increasingly front and centre in people's minds, at both a regional and national level.

The New Zealand Farm Environment Trust has an important role in promoting excellence in environmental management on farms to ensure that agriculture's place in New Zealand is valued by the whole community.

Waikato Regional Council is strongly committed to working with the Trust and others in the agriculture sector, and elsewhere, to making further gains on water quality in our region.

For example, farmers and their representatives will be closely involved in helping design new policy to

protect and restore the health of the Waikato and Waipa rivers.

In co-operation with the farming sector we've launched a new menu of best practices for farms to manage the impact of their operations on water quality.

This work supports our vision of the Waikato "competing globally, caring locally". That vision puts into a nutshell our focus on ensuring we have a strong, competitive regional economy whilst carrying out local actions that protect our environment and our reputation in international markets.

Peter Buckley
Chairman
Waikato Regional Council



Bay of Plenty Regional Council has been a sponsor of the Ballance Farm

Environment Awards for 12 years.

The awards, and in particular the Bay of Plenty Ballance Farm Environment Award sponsored by the Regional Council, support and encourage sustainable farming practices.

Sustainability is about practical, on-going actions and decision-making on the farm. It's about establishing life-time habits and the way things are done so that everyone wins.

We're continually impressed with the commitment and drive shown by those who enter the awards, and by their willingness to learn from and to share with others.

We continue to be involved because we recognise the environmental and economic benefits that the region can achieve through sustainable farming.

John Cronin
Chairman
Bay of Plenty Regional Council



Tena koutou no matau
o te Tairāwhiti.

Toi tu te Whenua

Whakangarongaro te Tangata – the land is here forever as people come and go.

This year has been a tough year for agriculture with the worst drought in 70 years.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards demonstrate how important the learning opportunities are for those enter and those who attend the field days

The people who enter get to have their agribusiness critiqued so that they can make improvements.

The competition is a great way to celebrate to the world that New Zealand INC is working towards

more sustainability and growing safe food.

Maori agribusiness is going to grow substantially in the next few years, they are looking at opportunities of scaling up through relationships with other Maori farms in our region and across New Zealand, the opportunities of collaboration will benefit this growing sector tremendously in marketing, and buying power.

Thanks to our staff, judges, organisers and sponsors for a very professional event.

Kia ora

Meng Foon
Mayor
Gisborne District Council



The 2013 winner was the Hawke's Bay farming icon, Smedley Station at Tikokino.

As one of the country's finest agricultural training farms the importance of the award is not lost on the station's management. With graduates going on to manage some of New Zealand's top farming operations, environmental stewardship is a key element of farming in the 21st century.

The judging panel noted the importance placed on this by Smedley Station, which represented the Coast with pride at the national finals.

The satisfying aspect is the depth and range of great farmers along our coast who consider the environmental impacts of their operations with such high importance.

There is real desire to voluntarily make a positive difference during their day to day activities and the HBRC plus GDC are proud to be partner's in that progress.

Fenton Wilson
Chairman
Hawke's Bay Regional Council



Horizons Regional Council support the Ballance Farm Environment Awards as a vehicle to showcase best environment

management practice on farms within our Region.

The 2013 Winners, Curwen and Marija Hare of 'Ewanrigg', in Waituna West, were successful due to their impressively balanced approach on their sheep and beef farm. They have utilised outside expertise and adopted excellent riparian management practices, enabling them to maximise production within the natural limitations of their property.

We see great reward in being involved with the Ballance Farm Environment Awards each year as they not only recognise successful farmers in our region, but they provide the opportunity for farmers, industry and the Regional Council to share best practice and consider alternative approaches to building a successful business.

Horizons have been involved with the Ballance Farm Environment Awards since 2004 and appreciate the value the awards play in supporting our role in protecting and enhancing the environment.

Bruce Gordon
Chairman
Horizons Regional Council



Greater Wellington Regional Council is proud to continue to support the Balance Farm Environment Awards.

The awards recognise excellence in sustainable land management while providing a unique opportunity for innovative farming practices to be shared and discussed in a way that assists farmers in finding practical solutions to sustainability issues.

The awards show that restoration and the enhancement of environmental values do not have

to come at the cost of profitability, but rather can be successfully integrated to ensure a positive and profitable future for New Zealand farms.

Greater Wellington Regional Council is pleased to continue our involvement with the awards and we look forward to continuing success for landowners, sponsors and volunteers.

Fran Wilde
Chair
Greater Wellington Regional Council



Environment Canterbury is delighted to have an ongoing association with the Balance Farm

Environment Awards as a Regional Partner.

The awards have proven to be key in celebrating and acknowledging the importance of environmentally sustainable, profitable farming operations in Canterbury.

Farming is moving in to an era where farm productivity and environmental outcomes are not mutually exclusive, and technology and information is playing its part in enabling this.

The awards encourage best practice on-farm management and celebrate farmers who run socially, environmentally and financially sustainable businesses.

For this reason we are delighted to support an initiative that recognises farm management that is good for business and good for the environment. This can only be good for the future prosperity of our region.

The on-farm field days held following the awards' conclusion are a particular highlight for us as they are a celebration of excellence in farm management and provide a useful demonstration for farmers to learn new approaches.

We would like to commend each entrant, and all those involved in running the awards for their hard work in promoting sustainable farming practices.

Dame Margaret Bazley, ONZ, DNZM, Hon DLit
Chairperson
Environment Canterbury



The Otago Regional Council (ORC) has supported the Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA) for several

years. ORC congratulates all land managers, from across Otago's primary production sector, who have entered the awards and demonstrated that they have achieved high standards of sustainable farm management.

Life on any type of farm is complex and busy, and balancing environmental, economic and social issues in this working environment is an art and a science. The BFEA directly assist this creative process, and

in doing so supports resource management policies that ORC has developed that call for land managers to manage their water and land resources in a sustainable way. We value our association with them.

The BFEA also help farmers develop and share their knowledge of the latest quality farm management practices which play a part in maintaining New Zealand's position as one of the world's most innovative agricultural producers.

Stephen Woodhead
Chairman
Otago Regional Council

Strategic Partners of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust



Dairy for life

Continuously improving our environmental sustainability is a cornerstone of Fonterra's business and is key to ensuring dairying's future. We are committed to the dairy industry and balancing economic, environmental and social concerns.

That's why we are proud to support and partner with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. These awards give our farmers practical examples of how

farming systems can effectively drive production and profitability while protecting the land that's so important to us.

The role models celebrated in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are living proof that farmers do take the environment seriously and recognise the need for responsible practices. By awarding these top performers, we show all farmers that practicing sustainable farming is the way we will take care of what makes us unique, for today and tomorrow's generations.



QEII National Trust
Open Space New Zealand
Nga Kaiarahi Papa

Much of our unique natural heritage is found on private land and can only be protected with the goodwill and hard work of landowners. The QEII National Trust helps landowners identify and protect special natural features on their land and secure long term protection of these places with open space covenants.

QEII covenantors and the many other farmers

nominated for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are inspirational guardians of our productive landscapes and the biodiversity values found on their land.

The QEII National Trust is proud to support and partner the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust in acknowledging and celebrating the very best in sustainable farming practice in New Zealand.



Profitability. Sustainability. Competitiveness.

DairyNZ is proud to be a partner of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust.

The Trust has delivered the Building Dairy Environment Leaders programme in partnership with DairyNZ. It is a project which we fund to give dairy farmers an insight into sustainability issues and the

leadership skills to help them lead on solutions. Growing the skills of dairy farming leaders is important work and we are pleased this partnership is delivering to the high expectations of our farmers.

Dr Rick Pridmore
DairyNZ Strategy and Investment Leader for Sustainability

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is proud to be a

partner of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust. Now more than ever, the productivity and export performance of our primary industries is paramount to New Zealand's well-being.

MPI works across all aspects of primary production and is committed to growing and protecting New Zealand. The challenge in front of all of us today is to grow more of our quality products while minimising the impact of our activities on the natural environment. To do this, MPI is focused on partnering with, and enabling stakeholders across the

primary sectors.

The value of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards is that they recognise people who can be role models for all farmers and growers. The stories of all entrants – your philosophies, your experiences and your achievements – are invaluable to encourage your peers.

MPI thanks all entrants for your commitment to farming for the future. The awards' emphasis on shared expertise helps create partners in sustainability across the primary sector, and enables everyone involved to enhance their management of land and resources.



Federated Farmers: Farming for future Generations

Federated Farmers is proud of its partnership with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust. We are committed to sustainable and profitable farming for New Zealand and our support of the NZFE Trust fits well with this commitment. We can only be sustainable if we look after the water and land with which we farm. We must continue to grow our businesses but not at the expense of the environment. It's about building resilient farms.

New Zealand farmers are world leaders at working in sympathy with the environment, it is important for us to leave our farms in better shape than we found them. There are already many New Zealand farmers doing this very well, these awards celebrate and showcase these environmental leaders so that others can learn and be inspired. Environmental sustainability is vital if we are to farm successfully for generations to come. We strongly encourage farmers to be part of these awards and we commend the NZFE Trust for being at the forefront of recognising and celebrating good farming practice.



Rabobank New Zealand is part of the International Rabobank Group, the world's leading food and agribusiness bank. As a specialist lender to the food and agribusiness sector, Rabobank is focused on the long term viability and sustainability of New Zealand agriculture. That's why we are proud to partner with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust, an organisation that shares this focus.

Sustainability has always been at the heart of Rabobank. It is integral to who we are and how we operate. This incorporates a focus on sustainability orientated banking in areas including renewable energy, bio fuels and clean technology.

Throughout the 2013 Ballance Farm Environment Awards, Rabobank staff from around the country have played a significant role on the committees and judging panels of both the Regional and National Awards. This hands-on role provides our staff with a first hand view of farming best practice and we are continually impressed by the passion of New Zealand's farmers and their drive to improve their farming operations. We are delighted to partner with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust and are committed to working with the Trust to promote sustainable farming practices and the protection of the environment.

Directory

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Jim Cotman (resigned 23/10/2012)
Alistair Polson (appointed 23/10/2012)

Deputy Chairman

Simon Saunders

Treasurer

Joanne van Polanen

Secretary

Martin Wallace

Trustees

Jim Cotman (Advisory Trustee), Te Kauwhata
(resigned 25/04/2013)
Joanne van Polanen, Ashburton
David Cameron, Masterton
Bruce Fraser, Tauranga
Dougal McIntosh, Wanganui (resigned 23/10/2012)
Martin Wallace, Morrinsville
Simon Saunders, Lumsden
Larry Bilodeau, Tauranga
John Bourke, Katikati
Royce Kokich, Whangarei (resigned 23/10/2012)
Hew Dalrymple (appointed 23/10/2012)
Andrea Hanna (appointed 23/10/2012)
James Hunter (appointed 23/10/2012)

AUDITOR

Staples Rodway
Hamilton

SOLICITORS

Sharpe Tudhope
Tauranga

ACCOUNTANTS

Accountants on London Ltd
Hamilton

BANKER

Rabobank
Hamilton

GENERAL MANAGER

David Natzke

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

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Tracy Brown, Waikato
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Kate Taylor, East Coast
Stella Rackham, Horizons
Clare Rosser, Taranaki (interim)
Angeline Colquhoun, Greater Wellington
Jocelyn Muller, Canterbury
Camille McAtamney, Otago
Helen van der Linden, Southland

NATIONAL JUDGING CO-ORDINATOR

Jamie Strang

JUDGING CO-ORDINATORS

Managed by committee, Northland
Andrea Hanna, Waikato
Margaret Wright, Bay of Plenty
Lloyd Fitness, East Coast
Dave Harrison, Horizons
Katrina Knowles, Taranaki
Barbie Barton, Greater Wellington
James Hoban, Canterbury
Judy Miller, Otago
Megan Templeton, Southland

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ben Smith, Northland
Adrian Brocksopp, Waikato
Jim Hitchcock, Bay of Plenty
Bruce Wills, East Coast
Shelley Dew-Hopkins, Horizons
Alistair Abbott, Taranaki
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