



FIL

# THE DAIRY FARMER

FARM INNOVATION / HYGIENE/ ANIMAL HEALTH / MARKERS / NUTRITION

MAKING YOUR JOB EASIER

WINTER 2010

## FONTERRA PLANT A POSITIVE STAMP ON CANTERBURY DAIRYING

The decision by Fonterra to build a milk processing plant near the village of Darfield, 45km west of Christchurch cements Canterbury's place as a rising powerhouse of milk solids growth.

At present milk from the central and north Canterbury is carted south to the co-operative's Clandeboye plant in South Canterbury. A plant in Darfield will carve millions of kilometres off Fonterra's transport route.

Fonterra head of capital projects Dave Packer says the co-operative estimates the new factory will save around 4000t of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and a massive 3.5 million kilometres of tanker travel every year.

The Central Canterbury region is ripe for the green-fields construction, with the region now generating 15% of the country's milk supply. This year sees average production through the region up around 5% and with more irrigation projects and conversions on the cards that growth remains likely for at least the next five years.

As well as being in the middle of a fast growing supply region, the Darfield site has particular appeal for Fonterra's first green-fields site since Litchfield was built in the South Waikato in the early nineties.

Ample ground water supplies, distance to Christchurch for good staffing resources and proximity to a rail line make it an ideal location for a large scale-processing site.

Initial plans are for the \$100 million factory to be capable of processing 2.2 million litres a day. The new capacity at Darfield will provide some valuable extra capacity for Fonterra's Clandeboye plant, further south.

"Even now we are transporting some milk further south to Edendale, so this will keep the processing in the province," he says.



ABOVE: ON THE PROPOSED DARFIELD PLANT SITE IN CANTERBURY (FROM LEFT) FONTERRA DIRECTOR MALCOLM BAILEY, SELWYN DISTRICT MAYOR KELVIN COE AND FONTERRA CEO ANDREW FERRIER.

The project is still in the community consultation and consent seeking stage, but Dave Packer says feedback from the wider community is "very positive" for a project that promises to employ up to 50 people full time, and as many as 400 at peak of construction.

The plant is to be located on a 600ha site that provides ample room for wastewater application and a suitable distance between it and other landowners.

Dave Packer relishes the opportunity to start with a blank slate on the site. It gives Fonterra the opportunity to design in processes and technology that reinforce the co-operatives' best practice and sustainable ethos.

"Fonterra has had a policy in place to substantially reduce its energy use every year for several years. Building such a plant means we will build in recovery and re-use systems of water and chemicals used to clean the plant. In our latest plant designs we are also re-using a lot of the water extracted from milk, and the focus is on reducing and re-using where ever possible."

Canterbury dairy farmer and North Canterbury Feds dairy president Kieran Stone welcomes the decision to build a plant closer to the growing supply base.

**"With Darfield only 20 minutes up the road, this decision ticks all the boxes. The large piece of land Fonterra has bought provides a good green belt around the plant, and room for expansion in years to come."**

Given the positive prospects for irrigation schemes like Central Plains Water Scheme and Fonterra's investment in the plant, dairying's future was looking highly positive for the province, he said.

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

Fun and games with team purpose <sup>3</sup>

Curing the heifer mastitis headache for this spring <sup>4</sup>

FIL hosts like minds <sup>5</sup>

FIL strikes a blow at southern Stoats <sup>6</sup>

### A WORD FROM FIL:

The 2009-2010 season finished a little earlier than we all anticipated, yet again our industry was in the lap of the gods as they say. The prospect for 2010-2011 is certainly a lot better than it was this time last year and for that we must all be appreciative. On behalf of the team at FIL, I would like to thank all the farmers and retailers for your custom and support and we look forward to building on those relationships in the years to come. FIL's product development continues to surge forward and we should see the release of at least two new products in the near future. Some 'return' drums are coming back to our facility and this is great to see. All the very best for the 2010-2011 season.

WARWICK DOWSE - General Manager

Farming to Succeed

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Agriculture ITO  
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# FOCUSED FOR NEW SEASON



**FIL'S AREA MANAGERS BRING A WEALTH OF PRACTICAL DAIRYING EXPERIENCE WITH THEM, ALONG WITH OVER 100 YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERTISE AT FIL ALONE.**

LEFT: BRIAN MCKERCHAR, FIL AREA MANAGER OTAGO

Regional managers Mike Rose and Colin Bishop have been working hard to get the most out of this talented experienced team for the coming season. In the North Island John Atkin who has been managing the North Taranaki region is now hopping over Mount Messenger regularly to service clients in the King Country as well.

“Aria and Piopio areas have a number of larger dairy units now, and we wanted to ensure they were getting the support they deserved. John brings an immense amount of experience with him that will do much to boost FIL's presence in an area that has seen a strong growth in dairying recently,” says Mike.

The region is an interesting contrast to coastal North Taranaki for John. He was FIL area manager for South Taranaki for 13 years before he had a lifestyle change and went to manage Motoroa island, a farm and bird refuge in Northland for two years.

Further down the island Wairarapa area manager Mark McManaway continues to relish the challenge of his new position. Mark's skills are shared in a joint arrangement between FIL and tag company Allflex to build the presence of both companies in the region.

Mike says a year into the position Mark has formed an excellent working relationship with another long time FIL area manager Clint Humphrey who covers the southern North Island. Clint's background as a milking machine fitter means he has been an ideal source of knowledge for Mark to build on in his compact territory around Greytown and Masterton. With his Allflex work taking him into the Hawke's Bay, Mark has also been able to broaden the FIL profile with sheep and beef farmers.

“We have had a lot of interest in Fleecemark, our scorable fluorescent marker and Mark is really pushing into that country up into Hawke's Bay,” says Mike.

With the massive growth in dairying through the southern South Island, FIL's regional manager Colin Bishop has just appointed a new area manager for Otago. “We have wanted to boost our presence through the Otago-Southland region given the number of new suppliers throughout the region. Graham Beggs who previously covered Otago is going to share Southland with Mike Broomhall, and our new Otago manager is Brian McKerchar.”

Brian brings both extensive dairying and service experience with him to the new position. Coming from RD1 he will be familiar to many farmers in the region, and he has also spent time dairying. Moving to Gore puts him in a central location to deliver optimal service to FIL clients.

To keep FIL area managers up to date on latest hygiene developments all attend a QCONZ course, which enhances their ability to understand, detect and solve any dairy hygiene problems FIL clients, may experience. The managers also attend a mastitis and animal health update run by long time dairy farm consultant Mel Eden who has an extensive knowledge on mastitis and how to minimize its effect on herd health and production.

“We feel we have the best team in the industry to really focus on not only supplying farmers with the best products, but also offering the most informed and useful advice,” says Mike.

# HYGIENE ✓

## SIMPLE ADVICE FOR STARTING GRADE FREE THIS COMING SEASON

Down time over winter for farm dairies is the time to identify any problems and aspects of plant hygiene, components and rubber ware that may need attention before the demands of Spring leave too much to do and too little time to do it.

### KEY AREAS TO LOOK AT FOR A WINTER PLANT CHECK:

#### MILKING PLANT.

- Check sanitary trap, receiving can, pulsator line and clean if necessary, milk residue can often build up as a result of plant flooding through the season.
- Replace all liners if they have exceeded 2500 cow milkings, while all other joiners, seals and elbows will require replacement every second season.

#### MILK ROOM.

- Check vacuum pump and replenish oil if required.
- Check milk filter, replacing rubber bung and washers if worn.
- Plate cooler will need opening to check seals, be sure to measure distance before splitting plates.
- Delivery line from cooler to bulk milk silo will require inspection.

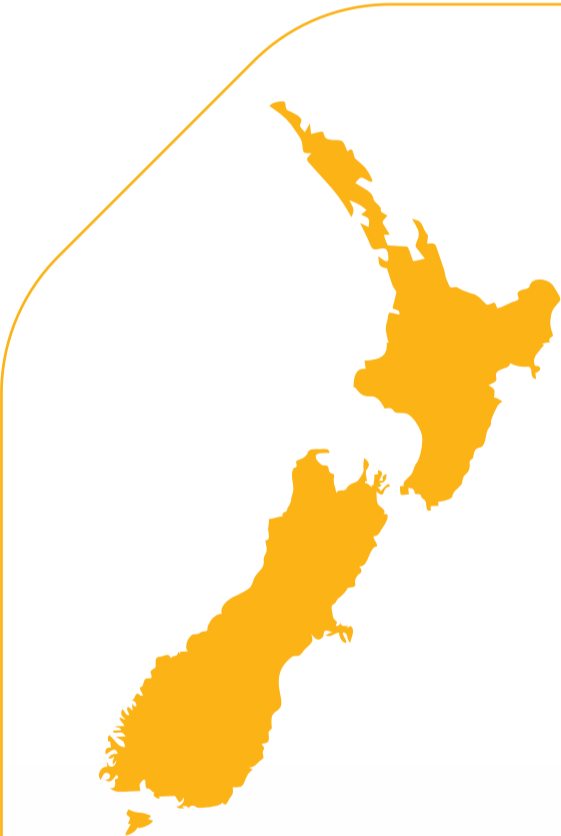
#### MILK SILO.

- 40% of grades occur here, yet are easily avoided with a pre-season check.
- Visual check for “rainbowing” and protein build up.
- Spray ball inspected for blockages and grit.
- Silo paddle may require scrubbing and donut seals on the outlet require replacement.
- Three way tap may need checking.
- It could be time to decide on installing a recycling system for the milk silo wash water.
- Check chiller is operating properly.

#### WASH SYSTEM.

- Check there is sufficient hot water and temperature is at 85°C.
- Replace cracked or perished jettors and check rate of flow and turbulence through plant system.
- Check to ensure the flushing pulsator or purge is working correctly.

*If you have any doubts about hygiene areas, or wish to have new staff upskilled on hygiene management, your local FIL area manager has the knowledge and products to keep your dairy grade free this coming season.*



# FARMING HERE?

## WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

Our team of QCONZ trained AREA MANAGERS cover the country from the Cape to Bluff. Speak to your local FIL representative to discuss your needs, and find out how we can improve your farm's performance.

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**MARK MOHRING**  
North Waikato /  
Hauraki /  
Morrinsville West  
0274 721 502

**GREG DUNCAN**  
Cambridge /  
Matamata /  
Morrinsville East  
Te Aroha  
0274 721 505

**ALLAN CLARKE**  
Bay of Plenty /  
Paeroa  
0274 730 572

**GAVIN DUNN**  
Rotorua /  
Reporoa  
Tokoroa /  
Putaruru  
0274 798 470

**DAVE HEWSON**  
Te Awamutu /  
Otorohanga  
0274 991 674

**JOHN ATKIN**  
North Taranaki /  
King Country  
0274 721 506



**MARK WARD**  
South Taranaki /  
Wanganui  
0274 828 535

**CLINT HUMPHREY**  
Southern  
North Island  
0274 721 507

**MARK MCMANAWAY**  
Wairarapa  
0275 176 693

**IAN GROOBY**  
Northern  
South Island  
0274 721 503

**BRUCE SMITH**  
Canterbury  
0274 993 783

**GRAHAM BEGGS**  
Otago  
0274 721 818

**MIKE BROOMHALL**  
Southland  
0274 721 504

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# FUN & GAMES WITH TEAM PURPOSE

A WARM MORNING IN EARLY AUTUMN ON THE BEACH AT MOUNT MAUNGANUI WAS AN IDEAL VENUE FOR THIS YEAR'S FARMING TO SUCCEED PARTICIPANTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LINK BETWEEN FITNESS, GOAL SETTING AND FARMING SUCCESS.

GROUP PIC OF THE 2010 INAUGURAL FARMING TO SUCCEED INTAKE, NORTH ISLAND.

Farming to Succeed is a new sponsorship initiative FIL has undertaken with Agriculture ITO. Farm employees selected for the week long course get the opportunity to not only meet those who have succeeded in different agribusiness sectors, but to set goals and review their own career pathways. The 25 selected for the North Island group this year visited several successful agribusiness ventures around the central North Island, and got to have some fun along the way.

The beach morning included a variety of team focused activities designed to get a group working and thinking together - challenges like standing on a tarpaulin and folding it up to the point where all the team were standing on it, with no one touching the sand.

Big yellow FIL barrels inevitably formed one of the challenges. It involved filling buckets with seawater and getting barrels back across the line in a demanding relay



ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: 1. THREE OF THE PARTICIPANTS ON THE FARMING TO SUCCEED NORTH ISLAND GROUP, (FROM LEFT) ROBERT HORNE OF TOKOROA, WARREN SMITH OF HIKURANGI, AND STEVE TAYLOR OF EUREKA. 2. HAWKES BAY SHEEP AND BEEF EMPLOYEE WILL BELL TACKLES THE "ELECTRIC FENCE" CHALLENGE AT THE MOUNT. 3. THE GROUP AFTER MANAGING TO FOLD A TARPULIN AND ALL REMAIN ON IT WITHOUT TOUCHING THE BEACH.

"The beach morning was very much a reflection of that old adage that having a healthy body brings a healthy mind, and getting a balance in your life is essential if you are to enjoy all aspects of true success," says course organiser Grant Taylor.

This was the first time the programme had included a physical fitness element, and it was met with unanimous approval from the group.

Given the stunning weather, warm water and varied challenges provided, it was easy to see why. The focus of all the activities was on teamwork and physical activity, and all 25 established an easy bond within the teams they formed for the activities. There was still room for a few friendly rivalries, usually around "north of the Harbour Bridge vs. South" or "sheep and beef vs. dairy."

Blair Jordan, FIL's production manager who has spent two years on the professional world triathlon circuit and attained a world ranking of 110th, discussed the link between sporting and business success.

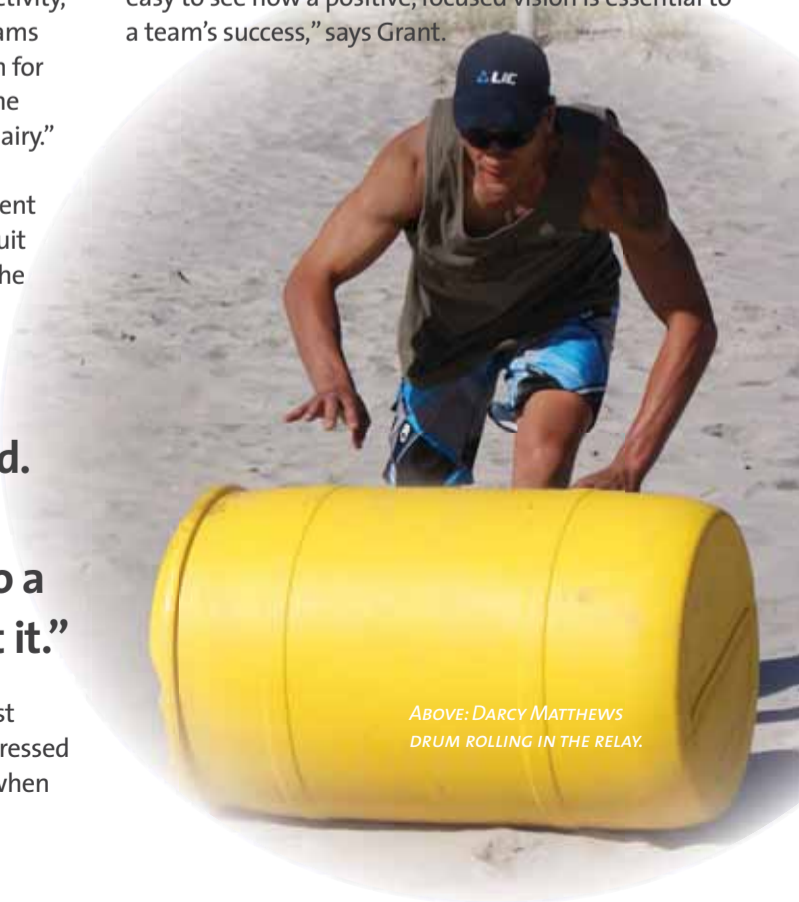
**"Any successful sports person will be focused and disciplined. Generally these people can take those skills sideways into a farming career, and do well at it."**

The group had also met successful farmer and past Olympic rower Richard Hamilton, who had also stressed the value of having the right people around you when growing your business.


challenge. Another challenge close to the farm experience of many was "electric fence". Each team member had to get over a rope ("electric fence") without touching it.

After a swim in the warm Pacific the group got to visit FIL head office and factory at Mount Maunganui. Here they gained an insight to how a New Zealand owned business started 30 years ago with a single product had grown successfully to encompass multiple health and hygiene products, whilst its original founders retained control.

"Even within a fun session like the beach exercises it was easy to see how a positive, focused vision is essential to a team's success," says Grant.



ABOVE: DARCY MATTHEWS DRUM ROLLING IN THE RELAY.



## NUTRITION

FIL BOOSTER BLOCK MAGNUM.

FIL has used its close contacts with New Zealand dairy farmers to develop, fine tune and trial its quality mineral supplement block the Booster Block Magnum. The Booster Block Magnum offers farmers a portable and convenient means of providing high quality mineral supplements to stock over periods when intake is compromised by stress and/or lack of quality feed.

FIL has managed to develop a premium formula combining molasses with minerals including high grade Australian Magnesium and quality Calcium, two of the most critical minerals required over springtime.

Other valuable trace elements include Selenium, Cobalt and Copper, all combined in with high grade molasses to produce a stock lick that is highly palatable, right down to its edible outer box.

Stock digestive health is also aided with the addition of Diamond V XP™, a yeast based feed additive that provides a valuable boost to rumen digestive health. As more overseas sourced alternatives for stock licks come onto the market, farmers can be assured that FIL's Booster Block Magnum has been developed and proven right here with New Zealand farmers.

- Available in easy to carry 15kg edible boxes, or 500kg "Big Boy" complete with pallet.
- Highly palatable formulation for maximum stock uptake.
- Extensively trialled on New Zealand pasture based livestock, with New Zealand farmers.

**"The Booster Block provided a good indicator of what minerals my cows needed more of, over the winter-spring period."**

*Richard Cookson, Cookson Family Trust, Waikato.*

# CURING THE HEIFER MASTITIS HEADACHE FOR THIS SPRING

MASTITIS IN HEIFERS IS A CORROSIVE, DEBILITATING AFFLICTION THAT CAN SEVERELY REDUCE THE ABILITY OF YOUNG HIGH BW DAIRY COWS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL RIGHT FROM THE START OF THEIR LACTATION.

WAIKATO VETERINARIAN  
KATRINA ROBERTS



Estimates are that around 13% of all heifers contract mastitis early in lactation, meaning many large herds face costly headaches every spring grappling with a problem that exceeds that percentage.

Solutions exist which can be put in place over the more relaxed winter months, paying big dividends when the stress of spring is on.

Katrina Roberts is a mastitis consultant and practicing veterinarian based at the Animal Health Centre, Morrinsville, Waikato. Katrina completed her Masters project on heifer mastitis back in 2006 which included an extensive study across 30 commercial Waikato herds. Working with Chris Compton, their study included identifying risk factors for heifer mastitis and examining the value of using a teat sealant to prevent post calving infections and clinical mastitis in heifers.

Teat sealants are a wax based infusion placed in the teat canal of cows at drying off and imitates the natural keratin plug that forms in most cows' teat canals. The presence of the plug prevents any bacteria entering and infecting the udder.

While commonly used on mixed age cows, no work had been done on studying the benefits of using teat sealants on heifers before they calved, preventing bacteria entering the udder as they near calving time.

The research was a world first, and has delivered some immediate "take home" lessons that farmers can apply simply on their own herds, with paybacks that begin that season and continue for those to follow.

The larger scale 30 herd sample research Katrina and her colleagues conducted revealed around 16% of all heifer quarters contained bacteria 4-6 weeks before the planned start of calving. "We found that if a quarter did have bacteria isolated, that it was 3.5 times more likely to have subclinical infections after calving."

She acknowledges this is a controversial area among mastitis researchers, with another school of thought maintaining the presence of certain types of bacteria indicates a natural ability to resist infection.

Chris Compton investigated the time period closer to calving in subsequent research, sampling milk over four time points leading up to and after calving. The researchers were able to determine that the type of bacteria present in the udder changes, and changes remarkably quickly. "In that one to two days leading up to calving when immunity is lower, the teat canal is open, the heifer becomes more susceptible to picking up strep uberis infections."

The research with teat sealants revealed that they were extremely effective at preventing new infections leading up to calving, particularly strep uberis infections culminating in clinical mastitis post calving.

"The reductions were very significant with s.uberis, by around 85%."

These study results have been supported widely now on farms that have had heifer mastitis problems. One property in Canterbury that had recorded 22% heifer infection post calving in August 2008 reported a drop to only 1.5% in August 2009 after using teat sealant on its heifers.

Katrina admits she is surprised not more farmers are opting for teat sealants as part of their heifer mastitis management programme. Her practice has between 33-50% of its clients' heifers being treated this season.

One reason may be a reluctance by farmers to administer to heifers that are so often associated with difficulties in the dairy over spring time. "You have to remember though you are going to treat them in the relaxed winter months, they are still some weeks from calving, they are well fed, relaxed and have probably even been through the dairy before. They are not the same animals you see in spring time."

Hygiene when inserting teat sealants is critical, and many veterinary practices have well trained technicians skilled at administering them, and educating farmers about safe application.

Economically at \$6.00/kgMS payout a 13% infection rate is an accurate breakeven point for blanket treatment of all heifers in a herd.

Katrina says the rewarding aspect of the research is it is easily applied, although some farms may have practicality issues with heifers grazed off over winter. However other valuable information on reducing heifer mastitis also came out of Chris's work that can be applied on many farms.

Twelve hour removal of calves from their heifer dams, rather than every 24 hours results in a massive 45% lowering in heifer clinical mastitis. Removal from a dirty paddock, removing the calf's mouth (and transferred bacteria from it) and stripping out the quarter by milking sooner all contribute to this decline.

Some work from Dairy NZ also indicated teat spraying heifers every day pre-calving helps reduce infection rates. This may not be practical for all farmers, but for those feeding heifers on a feed pad, spraying can be done with a conventional back pack spray applicator.

"So along with the teat sealants there are a number of tools there to help reduce what can be an expensive, time consuming head ache over the spring time," says Katrina.



## NEED MASTITIS CONTROL?

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# SOILS SEEK MOISTURE THROUGH WINTER TO RECHARGE

AS EL NINO CONDITIONS AROUND NEW ZEALAND BEGIN TO DECAY, MOST FARMERS IN THE NORTH ISLAND WILL WELCOME NIWA'S ESTIMATES OF "AVERAGE" RAINFALL COMING INTO WINTER.

However soil moisture deficits are so severe that it is most likely soils will not be fully recharged until late winter at the earliest. One Dairy NZ consultant described the drought in the upper North Island as a "blight" that has steadily moved south from the first, and worst, affected region of Northland.

NIWA's agricultural climatologist Alan Porteous says much of Northland has had less than average rainfall since August, and farmers' desire for 150mm of rainfall accurately reflects just how far into deficit soil moisture levels are.

"The last two years, particularly 2008 were also dry summers, but farmers got good recharge of soil moisture deficits in April, that simply did not happen this year." He says as the El Nino pattern has decayed the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has moved into a mildly positive or La Nina phase. However he is loath to predict the future impact of this on spring weather conditions.

"This is the most volatile part of the year for predicting. This movement may not mean we will necessarily see a La Nina phase take over, this movement into positive could simply be a blip for this time of year."

The El Nino conditions kicked in early November and accounted for the ongoing westerly patterns that have dominated the weather since.

For farmers suffering the third dry season in a row Alan Porteous says such clusters of dry weather are not unusual. Similar patterns were experienced in the late nineties through parts of the Waikato, and the early eighties.

**"The severity of this dry period makes it a one in twenty year event, however the impact is greater, coming hard on the heels of a drought in 2008 that was estimated to be at least a one in sixty year drought."**

Areas particularly hard hit within the Waikato region include the Hauraki Plains, which has struggled to recover since the drought two years ago. Alan Porteous says this time the impact of the dry spell is compounded by it having extended so far into April, meaning any moisture benefits can be compromised if soil temperature falls too low. "We usually work on 8°C being sufficient to keep rye grass and clover active."

Ideally rainfall should come in 20-30mm patterns to allow the very dry soil to soak up moisture efficiently, rather than losing it through run off.

# FIL HOSTS LIKE MINDS

FIL'S SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO BUILDING DESIGN HAS DRAWN STRONG INTEREST FROM BAY OF PLENTY BUSINESSES KEEN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

Over 30 businesses visited the company at a forum hosted by energy efficiency company Envirostate recently to learn more about efficient rainwater harvesting. The building opened in 2008 and was built with several core efficiency aspects incorporated into it, including two 30,000L water tanks to collect rainwater from the office-factory roof area.

"When it comes to energy efficiency there are a lot of unknowns out there, and FIL has provided an example of how to apply methods for conserving energy and water," says Callum Revfem, director of Envirostate, sustainability consultants.

FIL has 3000sqm of roof area and in a region that averages 1200mm of rainfall a year has the potential to collect 2.2 million litres of rainwater per annum.

FIL operations manager David Eru pointed out to businesses that the benefits of the rainwater collection extend further than simply reducing the amount having to be taken through council supply.

"The collection system also means we significantly reduce the run off into council storm water systems in

the event of a downpour, taking the load and reducing the requirement for storm water systems to cope." The water collected off the roof is filtered and treated and is used in industrial processes at the plant.

The rainwater harvesting system is one of many features that have helped future proof the headquarters as councils move to have businesses become more focused on incorporating energy and water conservation technology into construction.

The building's construction was approached in a holistic sense, giving FIL the opportunity to be the leader in terms of innovations.

Other aspects of building construction observed by businesses at the forum were the solar tube lighting systems that channel natural light into rooms, reducing the reliance upon bulbs.

The air conditioning units throughout the office area are designed to source air of the desired temperature from elsewhere in the building and channel it into the targeted area, reducing heating costs; meanwhile solar panels provide the energy for heating water.



## NEED A BALANCED DIET?

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## FIL STRIKES A BLOW AT SOUTHERN STOATS

THE NEXT SALES MEETING FIL HOLD IN MID JUNE PROMISES TO BE ONE OF THE MOST REMOTE HELD BY ANY COMPANY IN THE COUNTRY. THE SALES TEAM WILL BE PULLING UP A FEW LOGS TO SIT ON AROUND A CAMPFIRE DEEP IN THE FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK, ALONG THE EDGE OF LAKE HAUROKO, WEST OF TUATAPERE.

But this will not be a “Men versus Wild” experience for the team - rather it is more a place to mark another innovative sponsorship activity by FIL. Thanks to the enthusiasm and passion for the bush and the environment that Southland area manager Mike Broomhall has, FIL has decided to contribute to a sponsored rodent control programme in the Lake Hauroko region.

Local tourism company Wairaurahiri Jet, run by locals Johan Groeters and Joyce Kolk has dedicated much time and energy to setting up a rodent control scheme in the area they depend so much upon for their living.

Wairaurahiri Jet offers tourists one of the South Island’s most adrenaline pumped, exhilarating jet boat trips that takes in not only Lake Hauroko, but also the Wairaurahiri River.

However, the couple have made the adventure experience more holistic than just a fast boat ride. Since 2006 they have offered individuals and companies the opportunity to sponsor Stoat traps they set in the area. FIL has opted to sponsor 10 of the traps valued at \$200 a piece to reinforce a fight against Stoats.

“Johan sees this scheme as a win-win for his business and the environment here. Without this spectacular environment he does not have a business,” says FIL’s Southland area manager Mike Broomhall.

“Meanwhile FIL’s sponsorship proves once again it is capable of walking the talk when it comes to supporting sustainable, initiatives that protect and improve the environment,” says Mike. He admits being “absolutely thrilled” when FIL owner- directors Arthur Jordan and Dave Hancox decided to support the scheme.

Sitting at 150m above sea level, Lake Hauroko is New Zealand’s deepest lake, going well below sea level to 460m deep. While off the well-trodden tourist path that includes Queenstown, Mike believes the jet boat trip is easily the most exciting and scenic in the country.

“I have done the Shotover, Kawerau and a bit of jet sprint racing, but this is also the most exciting. While Johan is a very relaxed and knowledgeable guide, he is completely focused on safety, knowing where every rock on that 30km stretch of river is!”

Johan is rapt with FIL’s decision to go ahead with the sponsorship. The 10 extra traps represent a significant contribution to his Stoat-trapping scheme that has around 85 sponsored traps in place now. Johan estimates they would have trapped over 300 Stoats since 2006.

“It does not take many Stoats to make a huge impact upon bird populations. They are born hunters, and will kill for the sake of it,” he says. The traps are deadly effective and are starting to make a difference to localised bird populations around Lake Hauroko.



JOHAN RETRIEVES ANOTHER BIRD KILLING STOAT FROM THE UNFORGIVING TRAPS IN FIORDLAND.

**“We need to keep the efforts up however, birds like the Kaka have a ratio of 9 males to every female, due to the females being killed on their nests.”**

He believes the recent dairy boom in Southland has had a highly positive effect on his business, bringing in many farmers looking for an interesting family day trip after milking in the morning. Often farm bosses will also treat their staff to a day out, for an experience that is no more expensive than heading to Queenstown to the pub.

“Dairying has been good to us, and we appreciate the efforts by FIL to help us out. We look forward to having the sales guys here for their trip soon.”

## WATER METERING TO EXTEND BEYOND CANTERBURY

WITH DROUGHT STRICKEN NORTH ISLAND FARMERS LOOKING ENVOIOUSLY UPON THE IRRIGATION SUPPLY AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN CANTERBURY, RECENT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT ARE TIMELY.

Environment minister Nick Smith has announced New Zealand would be moving to a mandatory water measuring requirement for all major water users, including farmers.

At present Canterbury accounts for almost 85% of New Zealand’s irrigated water use, but only farmers in the Selwyn-Rakaia region are required to have water meters installed as a mandatory requirement under ECan rules. Estimates are that only 30% of the country’s total water take is metered.

“We can’t even begin to manage water properly in New Zealand when we have so little information on how much is extracted and when,” Dr Smith said.

Some areas where water supply is plentiful will initially be exempt from the requirement, as will households. This will assist with gradually phasing in the regulations over a set timeframe. All takes with over 20L/s will need to be measured by 2012, over 10L/s by 2014 and over 5L/s by 2016.

The moves have been welcomed by Irrigation New Zealand, the body representing all irrigation interests. “You can’t manage water if you do

not measure it. In order to move forward and optimise water management in New Zealand, water measuring is an essential part of the equation,” says Irrigation New Zealand CEO Andrew Curtis.

Meantime, pressure on water resources has been increasing significantly, driven in part by a greater number of dairy conversions in areas requiring irrigation, including Canterbury and Otago.

Several new Canterbury schemes like the Barhill-Chertsey scheme are well in play, but non-traditional irrigation areas are also considering options.

In the North Island a planned irrigation scheme in the Wairarapa is estimated to be capable of supplying 30,000ha and bring an additional \$500 million income to the Wellington region’s economy.

An overarching national plan to measure water is the most efficient and uniform way to measure water take, rather than leaving the decision and timing to each individual regional council, says Curtis.

Part of the reason for the recent sacking of Canterbury regional council members was due to issues around

dealing with growing demand for water in the region and management of that demand.

Curtis acknowledges the considerable cost to irrigators, accurate water measurement entails. Measuring components can cost several thousand dollars and this needed to be recognised by the wider community, he says.

Andrew Neill of Canterbury water meter technology company Watermetrics welcomed the decision. His company supplies technology for metering water flow and monitoring soil moisture-temperature levels for more accurate, sustainable application.

He says those farmers who have installed meters in the Selwyn district are not only complying with councils’ regulations, but are discovering significant economic benefits in knowing exactly what their water usage was at any time. “If farmers install a system to monitor water use we can show economic return over a very short time, and farmers can stand up in the community and say we are managing water more efficiently and sustainably, that’s good for everyone.”

# SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK

MAY - JULY 2010

## A MILD START TO WINTER, AND THE END OF THE EL NIÑO

The latest seasonal outlook from the NIWA National Climate Centre says that mean temperatures are likely to be above average in the North Island and either average or above average in the South Island, for the three months May-July. However, short-term cold snaps typical of winter will still occur.

The centre's latest outlook states that mean sea level pressures are likely to be lower than normal south of the country, associated with stronger than normal westerlies over New Zealand, on average for May-July.

For May-July, normal or below normal soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely over most of the country, but near normal or above normal soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely in the west and south of the South Island.

## OVERALL PICTURE

### TEMPERATURE:

Temperatures are likely to be above average in the North Island, and average or above average in the South Island.

### RAINFALL, SOIL MOISTURE, AND STREAM FLOWS:

Rainfall is likely to be near normal over much of the country, but normal or below normal in eastern regions and normal or above normal in the west and south of the South Island. Normal or below normal soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely over most of the country, but near normal or above normal soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely in the west and south of the South Island.

## REGIONAL PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS:

### NORTHLAND, AUCKLAND, WAIKATO, BAY OF PLENTY:

Temperatures are likely to be above average. Seasonal rainfall totals are likely to be near normal, while below normal soil moisture levels are likely. Stream flows are very likely to be in the below normal range. Probabilities are assigned in three categories; above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	STREAM FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	50%	20%	20%	10%
NEAR AVERAGE	30%	50%	30%	30%
BELOW AVERAGE	20%	30%	50%	60%

### CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND, TARANAKI, WANGANUI, MANAWATU AND WELLINGTON:

Above average seasonal temperatures are likely. Rainfall totals are likely to be near normal, while stream flows and soil moisture levels are equally likely to be in the near normal or below normal range, for the three months as a whole. Probabilities are assigned in three categories; above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	STREAM FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	50%	25%	20%	20%
NEAR AVERAGE	30%	50%	40%	40%
BELOW AVERAGE	20%	25%	40%	40%

### GISBORNE, HAWKE'S BAY, WAIRARAPA:

Temperatures averaged over the three months are very likely to be in the above average category. Seasonal rainfall totals are equally likely to be near normal or below normal, but stream flows and soil moisture levels are very likely to be in the below normal range. Probabilities are assigned in three categories; above normal, near normal, and below normal. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	STREAM FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	60%	10%	10%	10%
NEAR AVERAGE	30%	45%	30%	30%
BELOW AVERAGE	10%	45%	60%	60%

### NELSON, MARLBOROUGH, BULLER:

Seasonal temperatures are likely to be in the average or above average range. Rainfalls are likely to be near normal overall, while stream flows and soil moisture levels are equally likely to be near normal or below normal. Probabilities are assigned in three categories; above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	STREAM FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	40%	25%	20%	20%
NEAR AVERAGE	40%	50%	40%	40%
BELOW AVERAGE	20%	25%	40%	40%

### WEST COAST, ALPS AND FOOTHILLS, INLAND OTAGO, SOUTHLAND:

Temperatures are equally likely to be in the average or the above average category. Seasonal rainfall, stream

flows and soil moisture levels are likely to be near normal or above normal. Probabilities are assigned in three categories; above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	STREAM FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	40%	40%	40%	40%
NEAR AVERAGE	40%	40%	40%	40%
BELOW AVERAGE	20%	20%	20%	20%

### COASTAL CANTERBURY, EAST OTAGO:

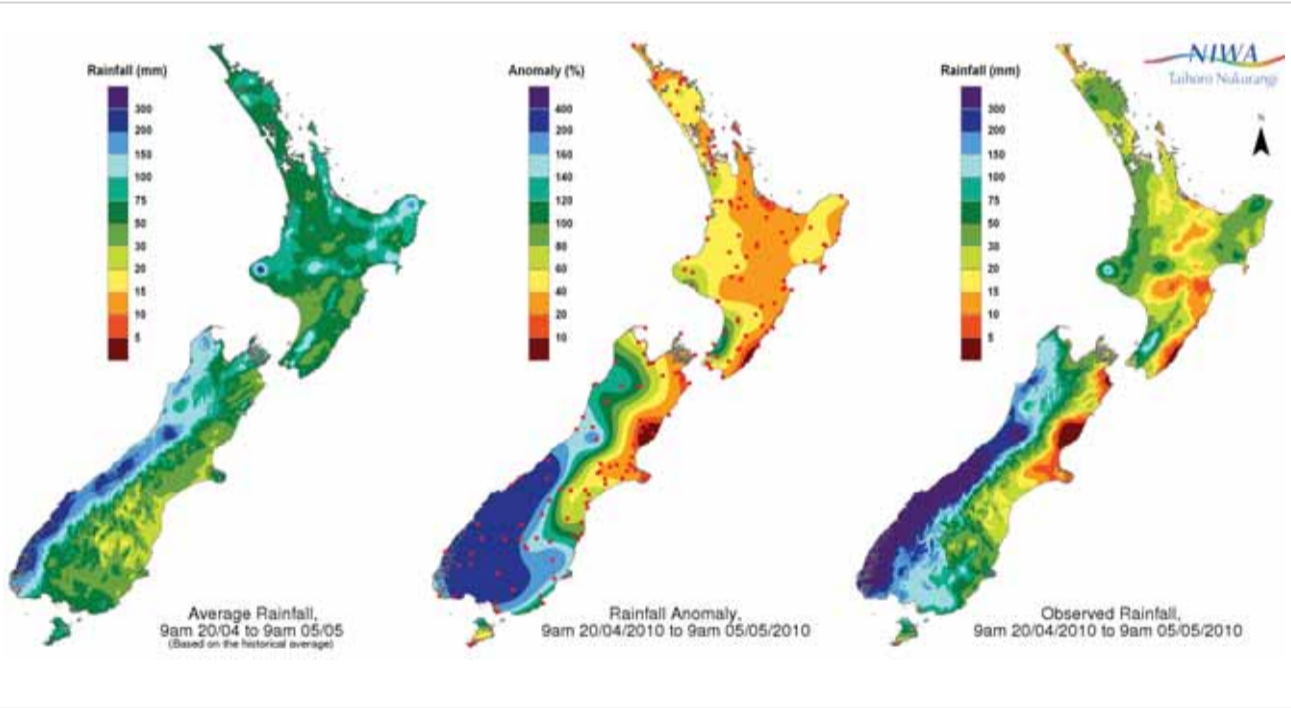
Temperatures are equally likely to be in the average or the above average category, on the whole during May-July. Seasonal rainfall totals are equally likely to be in the normal or the below normal range, while soil moisture levels and stream flows are very likely to be below normal. Probabilities are assigned in three categories; above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	STREAM FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	40%	20%	10%	10%
NEAR AVERAGE	40%	40%	30%	30%
BELOW AVERAGE	20%	40%	60%	60%

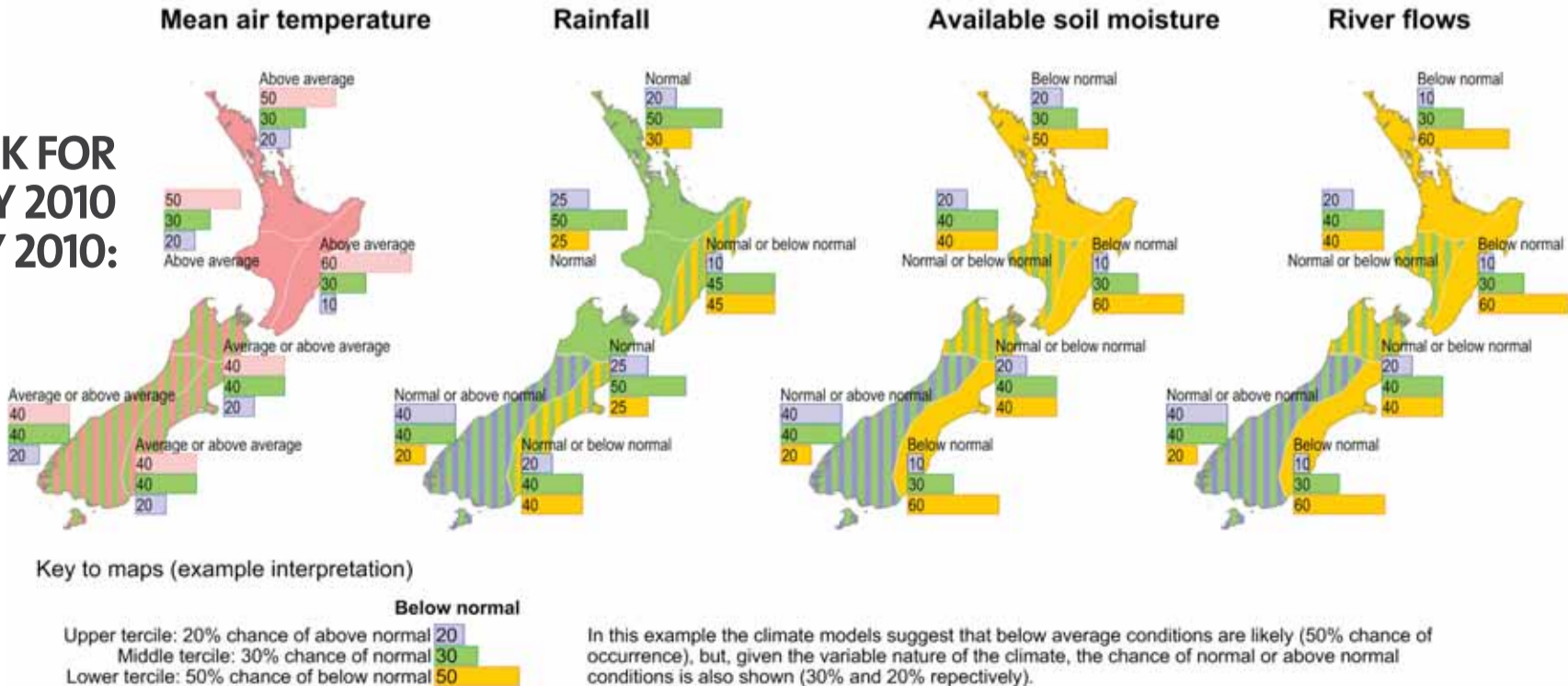
## BACKGROUND

The El Niño in the tropical Pacific is fading fast and is likely to be gone by June. Neutral conditions (no El Niño or La Niña) are expected over the winter.

For comment, please contact: DR JAMES RENWICK, NIWA Principal Scientist, Climate Variability & Change. MOB. (021) 178 5550, OFFICE DDI (04) 386 0343 GEORGINA GRIFFITHS, NIWA Climate Scientist. MOB. (027) 293 6545



## OUTLOOK FOR MAY 2010 - JULY 2010:



FINAL  
DAYS!

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QUANTUM GOLD	200L				IMPACT BLUE	25KG		ULTRACARE TEATSHIELD	200L		
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