



Otiwhiti Station Land Based Training School

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“Cadet Quarters”

Welcome to the very first edition of ‘Cadets Quarters’, our new quarterly newsletter keeping you up to date with the happenings of the school, farm and cadets. This year we have 17 cadets from various backgrounds who are really enjoying being involved in everything Otiwhiti Station Land Based Training School has to offer. They have all done a small introduction to give you an insight into who we have this year at the school.

After 15 years of operation there is still no lack of demand for places and we are really pleased with the calibre of trainees we produce each year, many of whom go out into the local community to work for local farmers. We held an Open Day on June 11 and despite the weather it was great to see some keen young people who are enthusiastic about a career in agriculture. We look forward to getting those applications in and having a whole new set of cadets here to learn with us in 2023.



Our Course...

Applications for next year’s course close on Friday, 29 July, 2022. Applicants must be between 16 and under 20 years of age, and studying in at least their third year of secondary education. If this sounds like you or you know someone who would be interested, please go to our website for more information.

Our Sponsors...

We couldn’t achieve what we do here at the school without the support of our wonderful sponsors. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all and ask that you show them your support.

While we do use horses, we would be lost without the use of our bikes from Wanganui Marine Services and we would like to make a special thanks to them for providing safe and reliable transport for our cadets.

A big thanks to ANZCO for recently showing the Cadets around the Rangitikei plant. We are very privileged to have ANZCO generously supporting the cadet school.



From Our Kitchen ...

Here at Otiwhiti we do our best to give our cadets a well-rounded experience and many skills that they can use when they leave us and go out into the big, wide world! We have a fantastic vegetable garden which they all help in. This gives a really hands on approach to the ‘garden to table’ experience. As well as this we have four house cows that are milked daily providing us with milk, cream, and home-made butter! Our recent litter of piglets tidy up any scraps from the kitchen and vege garden as well as providing meat for the table later on in the year. It is great to see some of the cadets really enjoying this aspect of their time here with us.





Our Farmer Partners...

Farmer Partners are local farmers who pay the school a donation and in return they get to have cadets working with them in their business throughout the year. This gives the students a chance to interact with different people during the week, to learn some new skills from new people, and it gives the farmers a helping hand as well as letting them see who is available for employment at the end of the year!

Currently our Farmer Partners are Ruanui Station, Siberia, Papanui / Ferndale, Mounganui, Rimanui Farms, Otairi Station, Puketoi, James Rodgers, Sam Horrocks, and Thistledene Farms, and we are thrilled to have them all on board.

Our Staff...

Catherine & Darin Arnott, Cook & Front of Station & Cadet Managers. We have two boys, our eldest Max boards at Fielding Agricultural High School and our youngest Nate attends Hunterville School. Darin has been on Stud farm for the past 18 years previous to that he was a green keeper. Catherine has been catering for several years. We both wanted a new and exciting challenge and Otiwhiti is an amazing opportunity to influence and care for young adults. We love the community and how self-sufficient and family oriented the station is. Darin enjoys golf and we as a family love camping and tramping in our spare time. We look forward to having many years at Otiwhiti.



Down On Our Farm ...

Lately our cadets have been spending some time in the shearing shed. Under the guidance of Blair Rhodes, ex shearer and current farm manager, all of the cadets have been up-skilling in the art of shearing, wool handling and pressing. They have all shown lots of improvement with five doing their first 100 last week – such a great achievement. Congratulations to Ollie who was the first to get his 100 this year. Lachy, Jake, Josh, Luke and Sid have all also got their 100 now.

Our Success Stories...

Each quarter we will be highlighting a past cadet and bringing you up to date with where they are in today. Our success story this quarter is on Adam Coe. Adam was a cadet back in 2009 and at the time was looking for a new path. It turned out to be a great decision as Adam has gone from strength to strength. He went straight on to work for Hugh Lilburn and then back to Otiwhiti Station as a head shepherd. From there Adam travelled to Australia where he worked on 2million acre property for a season before coming home and ‘picking up a handpiece’.

For the last 9 years Adam has travelled the world perfecting the art of shearing sheep and saving money which allowed him to purchase a house. This year Adam has leased 500 acres in the Poukiore Valley north of Hunterville where he runs 1200 ewes and 45 heifers while still shearing part time in the area. His ultimate aim is to purchase some land of his own and he credits his success to his years at Otiwhiti that have set him up to be where he is today. Well done to you Adam, you have a great story.

