



Otiwhiti Station Land Based Training School

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“Cadet Quarters”

3rd Edition – March 2023

Welcome to 2023 and a new intake of students who started at Otiwhiti in February. We are really enjoying getting to know them and seeing them grow in confidence with all of the experiences they are getting. See the attachment to this newsletter for an introduction of each student.

The first few weeks have been jammed packed with rotations of activities from dog training to horse riding, killing to woolshed and fencing. The cadets then completed their ATV & UTV course, followed by chainsaw course then they experienced a 4-day shearing course. This was followed by a well-deserved 3-day weekend which they were all looking forward to! A big thank you needs to go out to Duncan Atkinson, Donna McLean and Ross Berrett for their assistance with horse and dog training.



Our Kitchen ...

We have had an overhaul of our kitchen space at the station and it looks great! Catherine is thrilled with her new arena and the cadets have lots more room to prepare their lunch in the mornings which is another valuable skill they learn here at Otiwhiti.

Down On Our Farm ...

A big part of farming in a rural community is supporting the community itself. Our local school, Hunterville Consolidated School, have been fundraising for their school camps by picking up hay and we have been right there beside them. This is a great opportunity for the cadets to get out into the local community, to meet people, and to understand how important it is to be a huge part of the community around you. It also gives everyone a bit more exercise after a hard day's work!



Our Success Stories...

Sam McKay started at Otiwhiti in 2008 and came back for his second year in 2009. He says Otiwhiti was a great stepping stone to kick start his farming career and to learn all the basics you need to know in farming and he built up a team of dogs.

After Otiwhiti Sam went farming around Taihape and Hunterville for the next 9 years. For the last 5 years he been working for ANZCO foods in Wairarapa as a stock agent and is really enjoying this career path.



Our Staff...

Daniel Wilson and his partner Troye have been living on Otiwhiti Station since September 2021. Dan works as a fencing contractor, DW Fencing Ltd, and covers the wider Manawatu and Rangitikei regions. Cadets go with him to work to get a taste of working in the fencing industry while gaining on the job training. They also carry out fence repairs and new lines on Otiwhiti station and Westoe farming.

Back in 2015 Dan also trained at Otiwhiti as a cadet. They have lived and worked all over the east coast from the Hawkes Bay to Gisborne and eventually finding their way back to Hunterville. Troye is currently studying in Palmerston North and is in her third year of her bachelor of veterinary science.



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Richard Bell is the Territory Manager for Nufarm in the Taranaki, Wairarapa and Manawatu districts and a proud local who has worked in the region for more than 4 decades. His focus is developing long term partnerships with his customers to plan and create total crop protection solutions for improved yields and profit. If you would like to learn more, please contact Richard on Mobile 0274 949 015 or Email richard.bell@nufarm.com.

Nufarm is now proud to be a sponsor of the Otiwhiti Agricultural Training School helping produce the next generation of great New Zealand farmers.

Our Farmer Partners...

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Sam, Sarah, Richard and Lindy Horrocks are one of Otiwhiti Station Land Based Training Schools Farmer Partners. Their property is located just South of Hunterville and is very accessible for the cadets. Originally, they came on board to utilise the labour units that are provided by the cadets. They need help sometime but not all the time so it worked perfectly being able to have cadets come to the farm when they were needed.

“It is great to meet the younger generation,” Sam said, “it is another link to the community. I have enjoyed having them more than I thought I would – they learn so much during the year that it is incredible to see their transformation.’



Our Course...

The cadets started out their first week at Otiwhiti building up their knowledge and experience of fencing. They have worked on termination knots, figure 8 knots, and tex brown knots. They have also been digging post holes and putting foots in line posts, and digging and footing strainer posts. We are extremely lucky here at Otiwhiti to have such high-quality tutors working with our cadets. We are very thankful to Daniel Wilson and Alan Rennie for sharing their knowledge and passion for the industry with our cadets. We really appreciate their time and expertise.

