



# ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2013

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## WE HAVE MOVED

**Clutha Agricultural Development Board OFFICE**  
**Now at 35 Clyde Street, Balclutha**

At the end of February, we moved into rooms at the rear of what was the Arcade, under the old Loft cafe. We are happy to talk to you here or at your place about your ideas to improve farming practice in the district.

As well as completing the Council's contract by June this year, the Ag. Board wants to cement our place as the pre-eminent New Zealand option for extension and field work on real farms that will have knowledge and dollar impacts for farmers. No other non-commercial and non-levy-paying agricultural body has done as many trials and extension activities and had as significant an impact as in our recent calf trials.

We believe that we have the independence, the expertise and the grassroots support that is exactly what's needed to move farmers away from their reliance on commercial and pseudo-science 'experts'. We are looking to have farmers make evidence-based decisions. We will always be happy to talk to farmers about next steps in making this district the most active trials and extension farming area of New Zealand – and therefore the most knowledgeable and most profitable.

## Are microbes the next big thing?

The Ag. Board is optimistic that our spring 2012 probiotics calf trial and on-going work with microbial inputs into farming systems will have huge benefits for farmers.

However you look at the data collected on our three farms and approx 300 calves, there was shown to be a significant benefit to the calves who were fed the fresh probiotic supplement over the calves in control groups.

### 48 grams per day

The science paper is being drafted as this newsletter is being released, but it appears that the conclusion will be that fresh probiotic supplementation induced an average increase in weight gain of 48 grams per day per animal.

The P value for the data (for those of you who have done statistics) is <0.001. This means that the data is very, very reliable.

Claims are made to farmers all the time for products and procedures and it's the Board's intention to put the science behind the trial, the results and the value proposition in front of farmers as soon as possible. The MPI SFF reports will be available when completed. We have also asked DairyNZ for support in the follow-up extension work. We aim to give farmers the understandings and confidence to look for independent evidence before making farming systems and buying decisions.

Lots more work needs to be done (be it to identify the reasons for the improved weight gain, to confirm other anecdotal health benefits, or perhaps consider the long-term consequences of the weight gain on future fertility, growth and milk production).

The Ag. Board has made a hugely promising start to this work on microbial inputs into farming systems. We are very keen to see the reactions to this world-class trial and where it will take us next.



## Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 26 March 2013

South Otago Town & Country Club, Balclutha

### 6.00 pm Annual General Meeting

#### A review of the 2012 year

Election of the Executive – note three members are to retire by rotation and are standing again; there is at least one other available place to fill; nominations for the Executive are to be in the hands of the secretary before the meeting; please contact the Projects Manager for a nomination form.

**General Business** at the AGM will include clarification of the way the Executive is proposing to proceed. There will be an indicative vote to help the Executive decide how to proceed after the completion of current work. The three choices available to members are explained elsewhere in this report.

### 6.45 pm Guest Speaker

**Colin Brown - Currently Managing Director of TracMap Holdings, TracMap Aviation, TracMap NZ Ltd.**

Colin was born and bred in Omakau Otago. Colin has a BAg.Sc from Lincoln University and early on was a valuer in Blenheim and farmer at Wangaloa. NZ Young Farmer of the Year in 1982, he then worked for Maftech then Agriculture NZ and Wrightson. Colin was involved closely with formation of the Clutha Agricultural Development Board and served on the Executive committee in the early days. He has been Chair of the Milton Community health establishment Board, active in the BOT of Arthur Burns and Silverstream Primary school, and offices incl. Chairman of the New Zealand Grassland Association.

Colin purchased Thomas Electronics Ltd and became more interested in the latest global tracking processes. He sold this firm and developed TracMap in 2006 as a special GPS guidance tool for fertiliser spreading and placement. This has expanded from its Mosgiel base to sell products into many parts of the world.

### 7.45 pm Dinner (optional and own cost)

*Please RSVP to all events above to help with our arrangements to:*

**Malcolm Deverson (Projects Manager)**

Ph. 03 418 3188 • Email. cadb@ihug.co.nz

## Survey soon . . .

One of the best ways to help the Ag. Board at this time is to complete our survey.

We are asking for your opinion on the best way forward. We want to get your personal feedback on our performance, our activities and our importance to you. A reasonable response will be required for us to be confident about the right next moves.

We will give you an electronic link to this on-line survey very soon. Sorry, we just couldn't get the technologies to collide to have it in this newsletter.

If you want a paper copy or don't hear about the survey, get in touch please.

Malcolm Deverson

## Clover Root Weevil

The clover root weevil (*Sitona lepidus*) is now widespread in the south. We found two of the tiny, white dot creatures (larvae) in a spadeful dug for grass grubs on one of our demonstration farms last month.

It's worth knowing what to look for to gauge the extent of damage to your pastures, so we reprint the photo we had in our March 2010 newsletter just after it was confirmed in the district.

Estimates of the damage caused to NZ pastures are up to \$300 million and more. Talk to your seed and pasture advisors to cope with the issue on your place.



An adult clover root weevil and tell-tale even notches damage.

## Older texts and reports available

In our move from Development House we have rediscovered a variety of older texts and reports that may be better at your place than ours.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand have some brilliant current titles, but if you think you'd like to check what the older advice was, come and pick up a copy. Free to paid up members.

Examples: "A guide to improved lamb growth," ed. Peter Kerr, Sept. 2000.

"A guide to improved lambing percentage: 200 by 2000," ed. G.K. Geenty, April 1998.

"Profitable Beef Production," ed. D.C. Smeaton, May 2003.

"100 more: a guide to hogget mating," ed. R. Gavigan & P. Rattray

"Growing poplar and willow trees on farms," National poplar & willow users group, May 2007.

## Why the Ag. Board . . .?

As members, you may be wondering where the CADB is at with current changes.

At this stage we are looking to continue with our open-ended, grassroots initiated projects and activities which inspire individuals and groups across the district and beyond. We believe that this organisation, the Clutha Agricultural Development Board, has unparalleled advantages in doing this type of field trial and extension work.

- The Ag. Board 'brand' represents a unique, independent and nationally-recognised Clutha organisation
- We have a broad but direct grassroots farming focus – economic and community
- We can call on an interested and supportive farmer membership base for trials, demonstrations or to give feedback
- We have a history of being able to leverage specific funds and interest into the district
- We are the type of independent organisation, between farming's research & development organisations and grassroots farmers, that science and the Universities want to work with
- We are able to be flexible enough to meet current and changing needs
- We have intellectual capital and relationship links built up over many years

We stand ready to co-operate with any group, agency, industry body or any individual who wants to support our expertise and our goals, and make the Clutha district the centre of quality extension and field trial programmes for agriculture.

*An agreed statement by the Executive*

## The Ag. Board will progress into 2013

- We will complete contract work due by the end of June 2013 and associated reports into August.
- We will consider further applications to replace Council funding and work to build a reliable income stream in place if we are to continue.
- We will adjust the current 1.8 staffing level after 30 June 2013 to meet work and funding requirements to protect the Board's equity.

**At our 26 March AGM, members will have a clear choice:**

We are at a crossroads and need to make a clear choice about the Board's future at this AGM.

We will consider your feedback at the AGM and through the SURVEY and make a decision by June this year.

**PLEASE give us your support by attending the AGM and/or completing the SURVEY.**

The choice for paid up members will have to be one of these THREE OPTIONS:

1. We will work to achieve a reliable income stream to cover the Board's annual expenses and confirm our position as an on-going agricultural extension and financial concern – and we CONTINUE the Board's mission (the FULL-STEAM AHEAD option);

**OR**

2. We continue, but only as a supportive group for agricultural enterprise managing an Ag. Board legacy still with a volunteer executive but with no staff (the HOLDING position);

**OR**

3. We will have decided that for sound financial and/ or community need reasons that we do NOT wish to continue in our Ag. Board mission to provide grassroots & volunteer support for agriculture. We will move to wind up the organisation (the WIND-UP option).

*An agreed statement by the Executive*



# PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

## 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2012

After two very challenging years, we certainly made ground in 2012 in projects and events achieved, in the associated financial returns, and in the development of connections which have the potential to ensure our future. It continues to be a privilege for Graeme and myself to work for this unique grassroots-based farmer organisation with its rich history outlined in this newsletter.

### The effects of a probiotic supplement on dairy calves

MPI SFF L12-083 "Effects of a probiotic supplement on growth, feed conversion and general health of dairy calves" was one of two Sustainable Farming Fund applications achieved in February 2012. The project grew, with the co-operation and extra support of DairyNZ, to a study of 10 replicated groups of between 12 and 24 calves with one of the pairs receiving a fresh probiotic supplement with their milk and the other pair being a control group. Over 300 calves were involved and we weighed them all weekly over a seven week period.

The benefits of probiotics have been shown in a variety of agricultural situations overseas but this was the first reliable trial of calves in a New Zealand grassland farming setting. The scientists at DairyNZ encouraged us to adjust our initial project design and the project team thanks them for their knowledge and expertise. We now have robust and undeniable sets of data that show that more work on the benefits of probiotics should be a high priority for the dairy industry.

A note of thanks to the Board's helpers in this exhausting weekly ritual of calf weighing in the spring of 2012. And, of course a huge thanks to our selected farms in West Otago, near Clinton and near Balclutha, who were generous with their time and support. There is more on these trials and the follow-ups elsewhere in this newsletter.



Calves feeding during the probiotics calf trial in the spring of 2012.

### Updated grass grub advice and demonstrations

SFF L12-133 "Updated grass grub advice and demonstrations" was the second of our MPI SFF successful applications in 2012. (How many other non-industry groups achieved two successes in this round I wonder?) This is a co-operative endeavour in association with AgResearch scientists and Beef + Lamb New Zealand. Farmers know the damage that these native pests can cause. Even a moderate grass grub infestation (300/m<sup>2</sup>) will cause a 20% production loss and the problem is widespread across the district.

In the second half of the year we set up six demonstration farms at Te Houka, Hillend, Owaka, Clydevale, Hindon and West Otago to encourage farmers to look at some new technologies for management and an appropriate timetable for best effects. We have looked at paddocks in early spring to suggest problem areas (stage one) and estimated numbers through pheromone traps in November (stage two). In February 2013 we dig susceptible paddocks and suggest a variety of treatments to be monitored early in the year. One or two demonstration farms will be selected for a May 2013 field day to see the effects of various treatments.



A grass grub 3rd instar larvae from [www.pestweb.co.nz](http://www.pestweb.co.nz)

### Thistle beetle project by the Californian thistle Action Group continues

July 2012 saw the beginning of the second year of our latest CalTAG project: MPI SFF L11-172 "Green thistle beetle monitoring to spread the biological attack on Californian thistles."

Late in the year we searched again our 40+ sites in South Otago & Southland for our favourite insect, the green thistle beetle (*Cassida rubiginosa*), released 2005-09. Results of the searches have been mixed. We have a very few brilliant sites, with adults, larvae and eggs in

evidence, and a large number where there is clear "windows" evidence of beetle feeding but no other signs. At other sites, we can't find thistles at all! We were hopeful of being able to find a few sites from which to spread the beetles in the coming autumn, but this looks unlikely in South Otago.

They are still out there, and we know they travel – we have found them up to a kilometre away from their release site. Especially if you know your neighbour had a release site, have a look on your thistles. As we have always said, this is a very long-term project. In the meantime, current advice appears to advise the use of the mow-heavy grazing technique, or mowing in the wet.

Search for any of these projects by putting the project number in the search box at: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/environment-natural-resources/funding-programmes/sustainable-farming-fund/sustainable-farming-fund-search.aspx>

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



### Clutha District Farming Statistics

Our May 2012 Clutha Agricultural Statistics Report was a large part of our Council contract work for the first half of the year. The initial 2010 report was updated in May 2011, but the 2012 document is re-written, reformatted and with sections added. Statistics at a district council level are notoriously difficult to identify, but we believe we have put together a comprehensive and robust document from available sources.

It can be found at <http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz/CADBStats2012.pdf>



### Work alongside Beef + Lamb New Zealand

Our facilitation of the Beef + Lamb New Zealand 'Farming for Profit' programme in East & North Otago continues, with six events held in the 2012 calendar year. Some top properties on the east coast were featured and the Invermay seminar

in June on 'Making the most of ewe scanning' was well attended by people from throughout Otago.

At our annual report for this contract in August, we were pleased to have met 27 of the 28 criteria where 80% support was required on attendees surveys. We averaged 95% on the criteria "The format of the day was good" and "I learnt something useful today." We averaged over 50 participants at 2012 events and took B+LNZ messages the length of the catchment from Mosgiel to near the Waitaki River.

Graeme Pringle's expertise and contacts are invaluable to the Board in this work. We are now writing newsletters after each event, so if you can't travel and are still interested in the topic of any day, we are happy to send you information. Call us to get put on the mailing list.

<http://www.beeflambnz.com/local/southern-south-island/>



*B+LNZ field days offer something for all types and levels of farmers and we experienced some spectacular surroundings in east and north otago such as here at The Hummock..*

## Sheep Council trip to Jeff farm

This year our local outing featured the great work being done at Jeff Farm – both on the sheep & beef farming operation and with the Salvation Army supported trainees that continue to get expert help into the industry. A small group supported by Shand Thomson, Rabobank and Beef & Lamb New Zealand organised the event combining some Sheep Council goals with an opportunity to showcase the great employment and training practices at Jeff Farm.

The 60 attendees looked at the variety of training opportunities for all farmers and their staff, the value proposition for training, the concept of quality employment relationships, and completed a survey on some aspects of rural employment and training.



*John Chittock explains stock & pasture developments at our trip to Jeff Farm in May.*

## Rural employment - quality and quantity

This is a topic that has occupied some considerable thinking time in 2012, but resulted in virtually no actions or outcomes. It was the Board's hope from a well-supported meeting in December 2011 that we could make some sort of progress on a variety of issues in relation to the numbers and quality of jobs that support our vital farming businesses in the district.

This widely representative meeting of industry groups, youth employment agencies and farmers acknowledged the need to encourage and promote quality employment relationships. Funding restrictions and our own priorities in other project areas has meant that we have unfortunately not been able to take a lead in this area. We would be happy to use our extensive and unique experience with employer-employee relationships through the Clydevale Clinton Quality Employers but we will not make progress until the Big Players or a group of Clutha farmers are prepared to give the issue priority.

The Board continued to support the Mayor's Taskforce group to get all our under 25s into work. It was telling that of the approx 25 young people on a MSD/ Telford/ Youth Development course late in 2012, very few if any would consider work on farms. The work, the hours, the expectations, the isolation are all too tough – that's the perception.

## Other funding applications

Our approach in 2012 was to achieve project funding that would take us through to the end of the Council contract in good financial shape. In the early part of the year, we were still considering our response to the Council promoted changes and the Board was working through a co-operative endeavour with the District Development Board and Enterprise Clutha. This meant that we held back on some applications/ ideas and did not look to tie the Board into long term projects.

By the end of 2012, however, our approach has changed and our possibilities for the future are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. I should stress the fact that our unique, independent, grassroots organisation is constantly told that we are an ideal conduit organisation to deliver on-farm action and change, sitting as we do between the research and academic institutions and farmers in the field with the skills and opportunity to put ideas into practice.

## Food & Fibre Hemp options

The Catlins Hemp Group (Chair – Grant Bradfield, Owaka) have had every reason to be discouraged from their investigations into this crop and its associated variety of products. They have been restricted by the bureaucrats, hit with unreasonable charges, swamped in paperwork, had their crops attacked by birds, been unable to harvest effectively, and been denied by funders and politicians. Yet they still see the potential and want to succeed.

This has been made much more possible by the involvement of a grain expert from Advance Agriculture in Gore. The group also has a new, fertile piece of ground for the 2012-13 season and a farmer determined to grow a successful crop.

An important step forward has also been made with this crop in the political arena with the positive recommendation to the application A1039 to have whole hemp seeds be accepted as a foodstuff in Australia and New Zealand as it is in most other countries in the world. The bureaucrats at Food Standards Australia New Zealand have listened to submissions and run a public consultation process (which we submitted to) and have agreed with the case. It is now up to the two countries politicians to agree and make the necessary law changes, or think they know better than the evidence suggests and destroy the opportunities. The assessment and consultation reports are at <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodstandards/applications/applicationa1039lowt4708.cfm>

## Other networking opportunities

We have maintained good contact with our extensive list of regular partners and supporters, as in the events and activities above. Our links with Beef + Lamb New Zealand enabled us to pick up a small contract to run a Climate Change seminar at Invermay in June. More extensive networking and meeting-goings have not been considered a priority – in terms of finances and in our need to redefine our role in the district.

In 2012 the Ag Board has also continued or begun associations with:

- DairyNZ and the Otago Regional Council through the Dairy Leaders' Team meetings.
- Ballance Farm Environment Awards Otago organising committee – we have an important role on the judging panel.
- MAF Sustainable Farming Fund through our new advisor George Strachan in Christchurch.
- Primary Industries Training



Organisation (PITO, formerly AglITO) Otago Regional Committee, supporting local farm-based training programmes.

- Silver Fern Farms – we considered a practical add-on to our calf trial which did not prove feasible after investigation.
- Telford, a Division of Lincoln University – we had Charley Lamb, Director, talk at our April AGM, and have had meetings with Charley and Telford Farms Manager Allan Gorton to attempt district co-operations.
- The Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Lincoln University – we are exploring a variety of microbial based issues and possible farming inputs.

There has also been Clutha Agricultural Development Board attendance at the following events:

- Local Digital Strategy (Agriculture) meeting in February.
- Bill English's breakfast meeting in February.
- Meetings of the Establishment Board for the new Clutha Development Trust.
- Waimumu Field days in February.
- ORC Owaka River catchment meeting in April.
- MPI Farm Monitoring discussion in May.
- Centre for Sustainable Food, Agriculture and the Environment meeting with the 'Dirt Doctor.'
- Business After Five 'Halftime' talk with Mayor Bryan Cadogan.
- Vodafone Broadband seminar in Balclutha.
- B+LNZ 'Strategic Planning, Questioning and Thinking' seminar in May.
- Otago Chamber of Commerce course 'Embracing Free Technologies.'

- Business After 5: 100 years of Silver Fern Farms at Finegand in July
- Opening of new Telford Dairy Shed in July.
- A B+LNZ South Island conference in Oamaru in October.
- New Zealand Grasslands Association conference in Gore in November.
- Farm Tour organised for a USA school group in November.
- Lincoln Seminar on 'Microbial inputs in Farming Systems,' Malcolm presented an outline of our calf trial work.
- Farewells to Steve Milosavljevic in November and for Jill Borland in Owaka in December.

## Development House

We have enjoyed the co-operative endeavour at Development House since 2005 and thank the good people at Enterprise Clutha, the Community Co-ordinators, and Daniel with his 'Making a Difference' programmes for their contributions to a pleasant working environment. We appreciate the Clutha Council's having made this space available during our time with Council contracts. We have been moved out and are moving on – into what was the Arcade at 35 Clyde Street.

## Random queries to the office

We trust it has been useful for people to have our office as the place to refer agricultural enquiries and in 2012 the request were as varied and interesting as usual: e.g. English language classes for foreign workers, sustainability, probiotics, First Aid courses, Chemical waste, NAIT, sugar grass, sewing of feed bags, Schmallenberg virus, Agrichemical Handlers Certificates, employment opportunities and requests, shearing careers, mushroom farming, workplace health & safety schemes, employment agreements, hemp seed availability, garden chemical waste, and pine nuts.

## Submissions

It has been part of our role to look after the interests of agriculture in the planning and goal setting by other organisations that might impact on farming. As well as the hemp submissions above, we made relevant submissions to:

- the ORC re Water Plan Change – 6A Water Quality; this was and still is a huge issue, but it was pleasing that our submissions were supported by other farming groups.
- the CDC re Plan Changes 26-27 (Biodiversity)
- support the Catlins application to the Vodafone Community Cell Site Scheme
- the ORC re their Long Term Plan

## Media

Media interest in our work in 2012 involved farming paper coverage of our thistle beetle progress, the grass grub demonstrations and our B+LNZ work. The calf trial & probiotics trial was covered by farming papers, the general papers and by the Canterbury TV programme "Rob's Country." The trial and the work of the Ag. Board featured twice late in the year. We also continued the monthly "Ag. Board Clips" in the Southern Rural Life which is established as a comment & advocacy column as well as an advert for our events and issues.

## Membership of the Board

Our membership remained loyal in subs collected in 2012 despite uncertain times and we hope this will be the case this year also. Membership was 182 (196 in 2011, 198 in 2010, 185 in 2009, 165 in 2008). This is nearly 20% of Clutha farmers and is a remarkable percentage for a voluntary community group. We believe that we provide opportunity and value. We thank all our members for your continued and much appreciated support.



Thistle release site Feb. 2010 (left); same site in Jan. 2012 (middle); same piece of ground in Dec 2012. We can't find the thistle beetles here, but then we can't find many thistles either. There's no evidence to suggest the beetles have had this effect. There are certainly other sites where we have found beetles and still thistles! Still the farmer here isn't complaining!

## Feedback

As I have said a few times in the last year or so, there are interesting times ahead. Your Ag. Board's staff want you to consider the options and make the best choice for on-going agricultural extension activity in our district. We are comfortable with whatever that decision may be as to the future of your Ag. Board. Please take part in the discussion.

Thank you to Chairman Dave and the executive for your consideration and leadership. Thanks also to members who have given us occasional feedback and to everyone who is supporting our programmes.

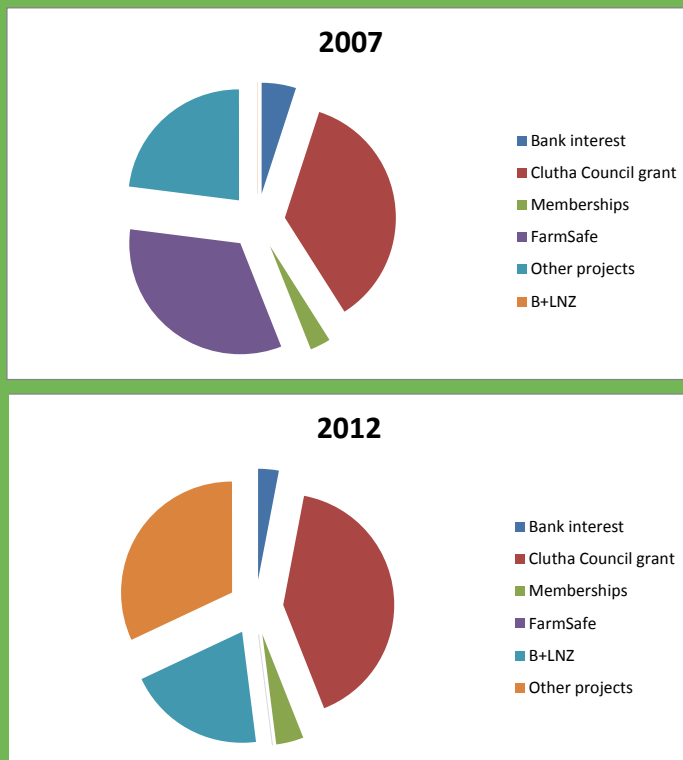
**Malcolm Deverson, Projects Manager**



*Farmers gather at Stephen Harrison's Sandy Bay property for a grass grub discussion in November.*

## CADB Incomes 2007 and 2012

We thought it would be interesting to compare our income streams from last year with five years ago. The Clutha District Council grant will be a big hole to fill but we have managed to overcome the loss of FarmSafe income from 2007.



## 2012 Clutha Statistics Summary

Our Statistics document produced in May 2012 gave the following points as summary highlights. Further data collected in the Agricultural Census in 2012 will provide further reliable information soon. Unfortunately district data will not be released until after June 2013.

- In 2010-11 core sheep & beef farming gross incomes at \$313 million are still larger than dairy farmer milk solid payouts of \$276 million.
- In June 2011, the Clutha district has 22% of Otago's land area, but has 49% of Otago's dairying land and 48% of its lambs raised.
- There are approximately 1100 farms in the Clutha district, and this number has reduced approximately 16% in the last 10 years.
- 67% of the district's farmers are sheep or sheep & beef farmers; nearly 20% are dairy farmers.
- In the 5 years to June 2011 there has been a 18% increase in dairy farms, and a 30% increase in cow numbers.
- In the 5 years to June 2011 there has been a reduction in the sheep population of 14%.
- In June 2011, Clutha held 7% of the nation's sheep numbers and 2.2% of production dairy cow numbers.
- The average lambing percentage for the Clutha district to June 2011, affected by spring rain & snow, was 120% which is down on the national average of 123% over the last ten years.
- The drop in staffing numbers in recent years and throughput at Silver Fern Farms Finegand plant reflects the continuing drop in sheep numbers in the lower South Island.
- The payout to Clutha dairy farmers at \$276 million for 2010-11 was 25% up on the previous season's and 53% up on the previous four season's average.
- The dollar values of significant value building construction permits from the Clutha district reduced 69% in the two years to 2010-11.
- Harvest volumes for logs are up in the district over the two years to March 2011 but other aspects of the forestry industry have seen a fall off in production and employment.



**Thank you to the Clutha District Council for solid support of this organisation since 1999**

## A selection of Ag. Board activities, research and projects over the years:

- Employment Survey of Sheep/Beef and Dairy Farms in Clutha District (1995).
- "Community Builders" Courses – Leadership training.
- Wool Industry Training Courses - full time for 4 weeks with 20 participants.
- CF2000 Farm Technology Service researched, designed, and established; then went to over 100 Clutha, Southland, and South Canterbury farms as NZFT2000.
- Rural Support Network begun helping farmers and rural families at risk.
- Special Social Study of Clutha Valley area to determine the needs, concerns, and social matters that effect sustainable agriculture.
- Publication of comprehensive "Clutha Rural Information Manual" 1997.
- Clutha District Sheep Farmer of the Year competition to 2007.
- "Farm Fact" Service with 0800 number bringing information and business advice to farmers, rural communities and small agricultural businesses.
- Rural Women's Research Project - seminars and a major survey to identify the needs and opportunities for rural women.
- Major Seminar on "Crossbreeding" in the NZ Sheep industry, followed by publication of authoritative 88 page book "Crossbreeding for the NZ Sheep Farmer".
- Promotion, establishment, and support to 6 Landcare Groups and building infrastructure and administration to support these groups.
- "Umbrella" organisation for a number of voluntary groups operating as branches of the AgBoard giving them a legal entity and supporting infrastructure.
- Research Projects on:
  - Disposal of sheep dip-wash and recommendations for dip use.
  - Groundwater study for Rural Water schemes (1997).
  - Soil Suitability classification for development and diversification.
- Monitoring District's agricultural production and sector performance.
- Long-term involvement with the Californian thistle action group (CalTAG) including three biocontrol release projects to 2012.
- Board involvement in three of the 13 successful first SFF applications out of 363 original contenders (2000).
- 'Cool Climate Crops' collaborative investigations.
- Pilot involvement in 'Window on Dairying' and 'Gateway to Meat & Wool' – both taken up by industry bodies nationally.
- Sustainable Farming Fund projects:
  - A beef benchmarking programme
  - Soil aeration and K-line technology to limit overland flow of dairy farm effluent.
  - A photographic study of the management of riparian strips.
  - Willows for the management of dairy effluent runoff and as fodder.
  - Demonstration of a wetland as a water filtration site in a sheep & beef context.
- Advice and demonstrations of new technologies to manage grass grub
- Protecting People & Property workshops.
- Administrative and financial support for Postively Clutha Women until 2010.
- A 'Digital Strategy' project – "Switch On" (2008) to deliver computer training to 300 rural people in 16 Clutha neighbourhoods.
- On-farm Health & Safety focus via FarmSafe programmes (Awareness, Plans & Skills); Otago co-ordination 2004-2011.
- Administrative and ideas support for the Clydevale Clinton Quality Employers group (2004-09) and "Beginners Guide to Employers Groups" for DairyNZ.
- Support for the Catlins Hemp Group in managing licencing and building expertise for this new crop.
- Co-ordination with Clutha Sheep Council of 'mystery' autumn trips amongst neighbourhood success stories.
- World-leading on-farm research into the weight gain benefits of a fresh probiotic to dairy calves in a New Zealand pastoral setting (2012-13).

## Headlines from 100 years ago

*(With apologies to the Otago Witness as this was not the style)*

- Snow causes miners' tents to collapse
- Frostbitten toes of lost shepherd removed
- Scottish immigrations scheme working well
- Gold escorts' unruly horses causing concern
- New schools built in South Otago
- Rain causes new £47 Home to collapse
- Butcher meat reaches 14p/lb
- Graded Flax hits £23 /ton
- American Imported Manila hemp fibre depresses price
- Jane 'S' , "a well known pest" escapes Jail
- Sunday movement of vessels now illegal in Otago harbour
- Irrigation experiments for grapes in Central Otago
- Farmer Union picnics a huge success
- New Rabbit exterminators, fumigators and traps now available
- NZ Butter now outselling Danish@ over 130s/cwt
- Clover used to increase soil Nitrogen
- Lincoln College experiment with French hybrid wheat
- New Nitrogen now competing with Chilean Nitrate of Soda

## Headlines 100 Years from now (perhaps)

- Snow deepest for 200 years
- Worries over advance of Rees and Dart Glaciers
- Taxes to be raised again on home fuel cell plants
- Dual North-South Island carriage ways completed
- India Outbids China for new Wool protein product rights
- Prosecutions of evaporators for depleting Lake Waiholo
- Demand for wool outstrips \$1700/ Kg
- Fresh meat outselling healthy pressed proteins
- Balclutha City citizens back rezoning proposal
- Demand for Tuakitoto Power shares high
- Otago outstrips 4 millions at census
- Research announces another zero input high output clover
- Farms over 200m above seas level most profitable
- Wintering cattle outdoors attracts higher export tax
- Farmers Union oppose satellite home learning guidelines
- Individual allowed to buy farm in North Otago - government's AgriCorp to appeal

**Graeme Pringle**



# The Chairman's Report

The close of yet another year for the CADB, has brought with it some stressful and challenging times.

Various media releases and council funding changes may have some members concerned over our longevity, as a one-of-its-kind farming group in the country.

A summary of events to date includes:

The CADB has been forced to re-evaluate its position in the wake of the council's restructure that included the contracts and funding for Enterprise Clutha, the District Development Board and the Ag. Board.

All three groups were funded fully or partly by the council. In the CADB's case, the funding was approximately 40% of our required gross income. The remainder has been leveraged by us to run farming trials and events for our members and others in our community.

The CADB executive, with feedback from our members and other influential members of farming circles, groups, businesses and science leaders, have decided to continue promoting ourselves as an unique and innovative group.

What we believe sets the CADB aside is not only that we boast a membership of around 180 good farmers and local industry people, but that we also have a list of life members all of whom we are very proud of. We as an executive were simply not prepared to sell our members out.

The CADB has agreed to support the new council-supported group and not to compete with their community events. However, we may be happy to contract the co-ordination of some of those events and projects on their behalf if they so wish.

At this moment the future of the CADB is a little uncertain and depends largely on our ability to generate new funding streams, but also on whether you, the members, want us to continue.

We have a strong interest in trialling probiotics, as against the excessive use of antibiotics in our farming systems, using the expertise of some of our country's most influential scientists. The recent calf trial project has been viewed by some as being world class. Through recent TV coverage and farming media your Ag. Board now holds national interest.

I must reiterate the value of the continued support of our members as a vital link to our continuing functions. We really see value to members and the welfare of our community for a \$30 subscription and would like even more members. We would also like to see a little more interest from our members to join the executive.

I wish to finish by showing my sincere thanks and gratitude to executive members who work for you all tirelessly on a strictly voluntary basis, and also to our staff who have given in excess of 100% in recent stressful and difficult times.

Kind regards to all. **Dave Inder, Chairman.**



*Chairman Dave Inder (centre) at the opening of the co-operative venture in Development House (March 2005) which ended last month, alongside past Chairman Neil Cullen (right) and much respected early Ag. Board stalwart, the late Alan Shaw.*

## CADB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please consider becoming a member if you'd like to support a group that:

- Adds knowledge and innovation to the agricultural community
- Runs world class trials and extension activities in your backyard
- Is a unique, independent voice for grassroots farmers

Please complete and return this form with your payment to Box 149, Balclutha and become a supporter.

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Email:

Single/partnership membership **\$30** inclusive of GST  
Corporate Membership **\$60** inclusive of GST

## Events by the Ag. Board:

**9 May:** Beef+Lamb New Zealand 'Farming for Profit' Field day – venue to be confirmed. Topic: Brassicas for winter feed, incl. an explanation of the Cleancrop™ brassica system.

**22 May:** Clutha Sheep Council autumn 'event' this year – Ideas on how to meet water standards. Guest speakers include Dr Doug Edmeades and reps from the ORC. Should be an instructive and entertaining afternoon at the Town & Country club in Balclutha.

**23 May:** At the Waihemo Lodge, Palmerston, a B+LNZ seminar afternoon on fertilizers. Dr Doug Edmeades is a key speaker, as is Peter Wilson (South Otago's Melrose Station). Get some 'good oil' and some voices of experience on a topic which is a big black hole for many farmers.



**Doug Edmeades**

## Grass Grub

### project demonstration day

A good number of farmers have followed through the three stages of the process so far this season. Read in the Project Manager's report about this project. Don't miss stage four and the wrap up that will give you the latest ideas to manage your grass grub issue. Last chance to make use of Colin Ferguson's (AgResearch scientist) experience.

**DEMONSTRATION DAY** – to show you the treatments & technologies tried and the results in the field. This will be in May – time and farm(s) t.b.a.