

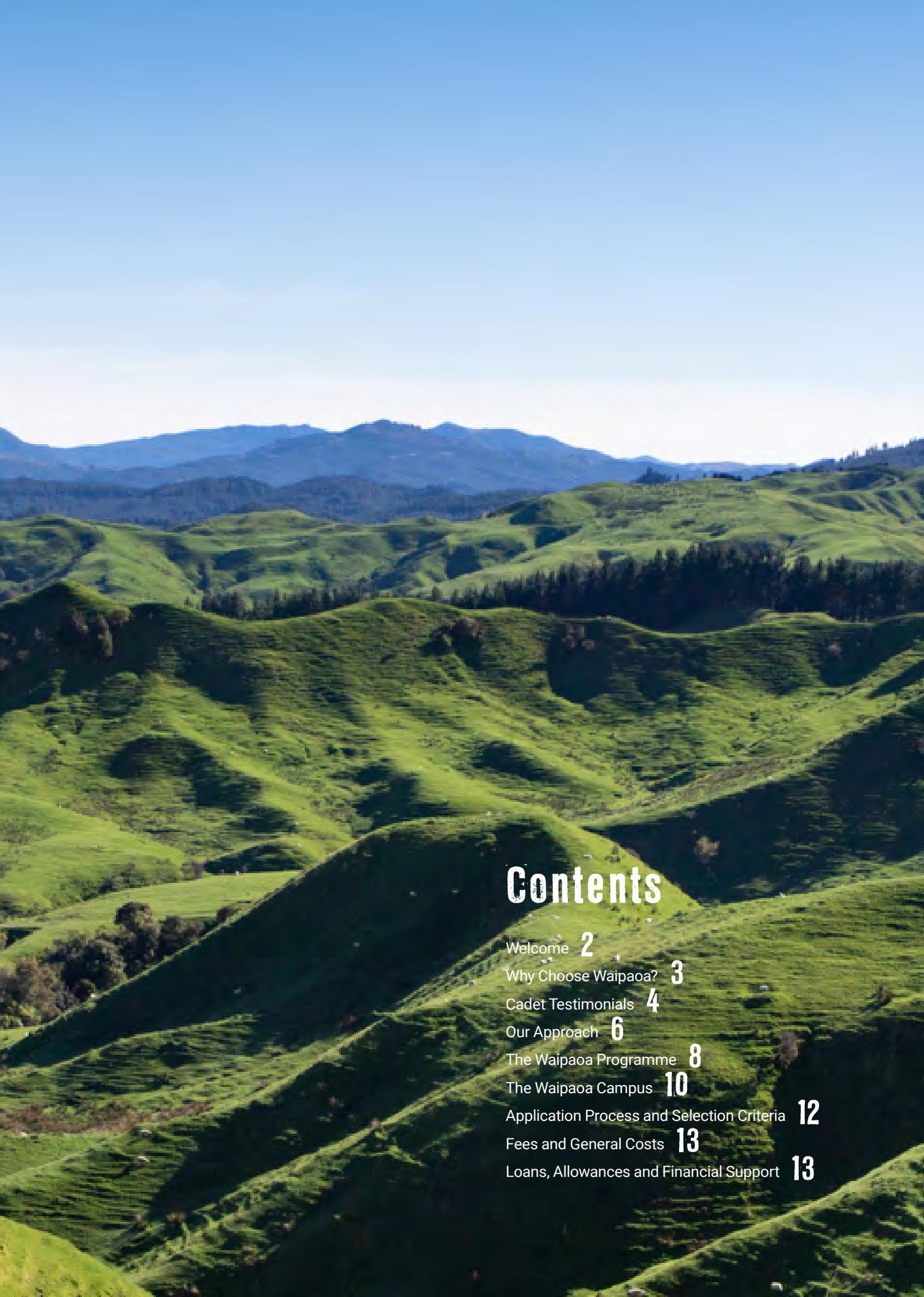


Training the best young farming professionals in a practical, hands-on learning environment.

# Prospectus







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# Kia ora & Welcome to the Waipaoa Station Farm Cadet Training Trust Prospectus.

This prospectus will give you some idea of who we are at Waipaoa, what we do, how we do it and why – and why you should consider studying with us for a head start in your future farming career.

Waipaoa Station is a specialist training institution for sheep and beef farming. Our graduates are among the most sought-after highly skilled young farmers in New Zealand because of the training methods, culture, and values we instil in our cadets.

We run a small, close-knit community of staff and students, with a focus on academic and practical farm skills. Our core business competencies

allow us to send our graduates into the industry confident, well rounded and work-ready. A Waipaoa graduate is considered a valuable asset to any commercial farming station.

At Waipaoa, we are industry leaders and pride ourselves on educating the people who will influence the future of sheep and beef farming in New Zealand. The future of tomorrow's farming is starting today, and at Waipaoa we want to make sure it's in good hands.

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**PAT SHERRIFF**

*Chairman*

Waipaoa Station Farm Cadet Training Trust





# Why Choose Waipaoa?

## We Are Sheep and Beef

At Waipaoa, we are specialists in sheep and beef. That's it – we don't mix our disciplines. We've proudly dedicated our station to educating and shaping the people who will shape the future of beef and lamb farming in New Zealand. At Waipaoa, we're growing the leaders of New Zealand's red meat production.

## We Value Our Individuals

We have kept our class sizes at Waipaoa small. We believe this offers a distinct advantage for students to be actively engaged in all areas of life at Waipaoa. It also provides many additional academic and practical farming skill learning opportunities at a truly individual level.

With only five students accepted each year, our size also enables students to interact and quickly develop solid professional relationships and a cooperative spirit that they will take with them into their future careers.

The smaller class sizes also offer greater opportunities for Waipaoa staff to provide additional pastoral care and leadership on a more individual basis – we care about our students and take the responsibility of their care seriously.

## We Keep It Real

We believe our station size balances the practical and academic nature of farming. Our students graduate as skilled work-ready young farmers who have experienced the running of a successful commercial sheep and beef station and know the theoretical rationale behind it.

While we have a keen eye on the future, we never forget our roots. Waipaoa's farming traditions have been established over many generations and, while the station has moved with the times and champions innovation, there is a distinct respect for the tradition and institution that is New Zealand farming. Why Choose Waipaoa?

## We Know Our Stuff

In farming terms, we're only young. But, since we started in 2007, we've achieved a lot.

Our training methods are award-winning. We are committed to, and focused on, teaching our students how to apply classroom theories in practical environments. We also focus on key competencies in business management areas so cadets can succeed in the all-important business aspects of farming.

Waipaoa students are constantly challenged to think about the purpose of their training, what they gain from their new skills, and how they can apply those skills to improve operation performance and efficiency. A winning combination in our books.

Our lecture facilities and student accommodation are all based at Waipaoa Station so we can better integrate both the practical and theoretical components of our training. All students study towards an NZ Certificate in Agriculture (levels 3 and 4) as part of their two-year training programme at Waipaoa.

We want our cadets to be well-rounded, confident and educated to the highest level to support a better sheep and beef industry.

## We're All About Old Fashioned Commitment

If you think you've got what it takes to be a leader in the sheep and beef industry, the cost of your education shouldn't be a barrier to your success. At Waipaoa, our cadet programme is one of the most affordable in the country and various scholarships with our industry partners are also available to eligible cadets to further support their educational goals.

## We Utilise Academic and Industry Expertise

At Waipaoa, we like to involve industry experts at every opportunity. This means working closely with our academic and industry partners and sponsors to give our students the best education possible from the most knowledgeable sources. Our industry partners help us deliver various programmes within the two year cadetship and proudly support our students throughout their Waipaoa journey.



# Cadet Testimonials



## Zak Carmichael

**From:** Rotorua

**School:** Rotorua Boys' High School

**Goal:** Shepherding and working towards a manager position on a sheep and beef farm, but the dream is owning my own station.

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*"Life at Waipaoa is really busy. Living on site means that we're always learning. But we also take time out to enjoy life. The training manager and cook both make sure that we are all well looked after – the food is awesome! The staff also ensure that we're part of the community and encourage us to take part in sport, get in to town and involve ourselves in community activities. It's a good balance."*



## Katie Herries

**From:** Gisborne

**School:** Iona and Gisborne Girls' High School

**Goal:** Work towards farm management, then sheep and beef farm ownership.

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*"For me, Waipaoa offers the perfect balance of practical and theoretical work. We get hands-on training from some of the best in the business when it comes to skills like shearing and dog training, and the staff on site have plenty of time to really involve themselves with our learning.*

*What's exciting is that I'll enter the workforce with a great qualification and a tonne of practical skills I'll be able to put to use straight away."*



## Sam Wright

**From:** Queenstown

**School:** John McGlashan College (Dunedin)

**Goal:** High country station management and ownership.

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*“The thing I really appreciate about Waipaoa is that the farm staff really know their stuff – both the theory and the practical. We graduate confident that we’re ready to get stuck in on a station.*

*But if you ask any one of us, the highlight is getting our pups – training them and knowing that we’ll leave Waipaoa with a highly valuable team of dogs.”*



## Jeffrey Marshall

**From:** Wanganui

**School:** Fielding High School

**Goal:** Working towards a manager position on a sheep and beef farm, and one day owning my own farm.

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*“With a lot of our course focussed on practical farming skills, every day at Waipaoa is different. We are constantly learning a range of skills that we’ll need when we’re out in the workforce – from stock work and handling sheep, dogs and horses to general farm labour like fencing.*

*It’s great to know we’ll be able to cope with almost any task we’re thrown when we’re out on a station. But, just as importantly, that we have the theoretical understanding and a qualification to back it all up.”*



## Our Approach

**At Waipaoa, we believe in shaping young farmers not only to be great farmers, but skilled business people too. Yes, you need to be able to mend a fence and take care of your stock, but in today's competitive agriculture industry business applications are equally as important to your success.**

We approach our training with this balance in mind, with skills taught in the classroom able to be applied out in the paddocks. We challenge our cadets to apply their training practically and use their new skills frequently, cementing their knowledge.

Providing solid leadership and mentoring is something Waipaoa excels at. We are able to offer more one-on-one learning and make sure our cadets receive the very best farming education possible. There's no chance of slipping through the cracks at Waipaoa!

### Theory Programme

While classroom learning is vital, all cadets really want to be outside on the farm – so that's what we do. Lectures are run weekly. Cadets complete written assessments and portfolios with topics synchronised to complement current farm operations. This learning is overseen by a dedicated training manager and whose focus is on the academic success of our students.

### Practical Training Programme

Waipaoa cadets work daily with experienced farm staff on the station, performing normal farm procedures. Each cadet has individual skills that require development and Waipaoa staff support their development by aligning cadets to certain practical activities which are happening on the commercial farms. The practical programme is mainly completed on Waipaoa, however when the opportunity arises they can head to Te Hau or Wheturau for learning opportunities such as intensive operations and pivot irrigation systems

Practical Assessments are completed throughout the year based on course requirements.

Ful time live-in pastoral carer and cook. 3x full-time farm staff.



## Short Courses and Specialist Tuition

Keeping up with the latest industry developments, techniques and information is an essential part of a cadet's education, and improvement and innovation is always welcomed at Waipaoa. So, in addition to our core training staff, we welcome various industry experts to Waipaoa to provide lectures and short, specialist courses throughout the year.

### SPECIALIST COURSES INCLUDE:

- ▶ Animal anatomy, ruminant anatomy and internal parasite identification.
- ▶ Animal health and husbandry, animal health planning and policies and animal welfare.
- ▶ Electric fence systems and on-farm application.
- ▶ Fertilisers, soil testing, nutrient budgeting, programme development, environmental awareness, fertiliser types and their purpose.
- ▶ Meat production, strategic management practices for improved protein production, sales and marketing, grading and processing systems.
- ▶ Pasture and crop management renewal programmes, feed budgeting, pasture, weed and crop identification and factors influencing pasture production.

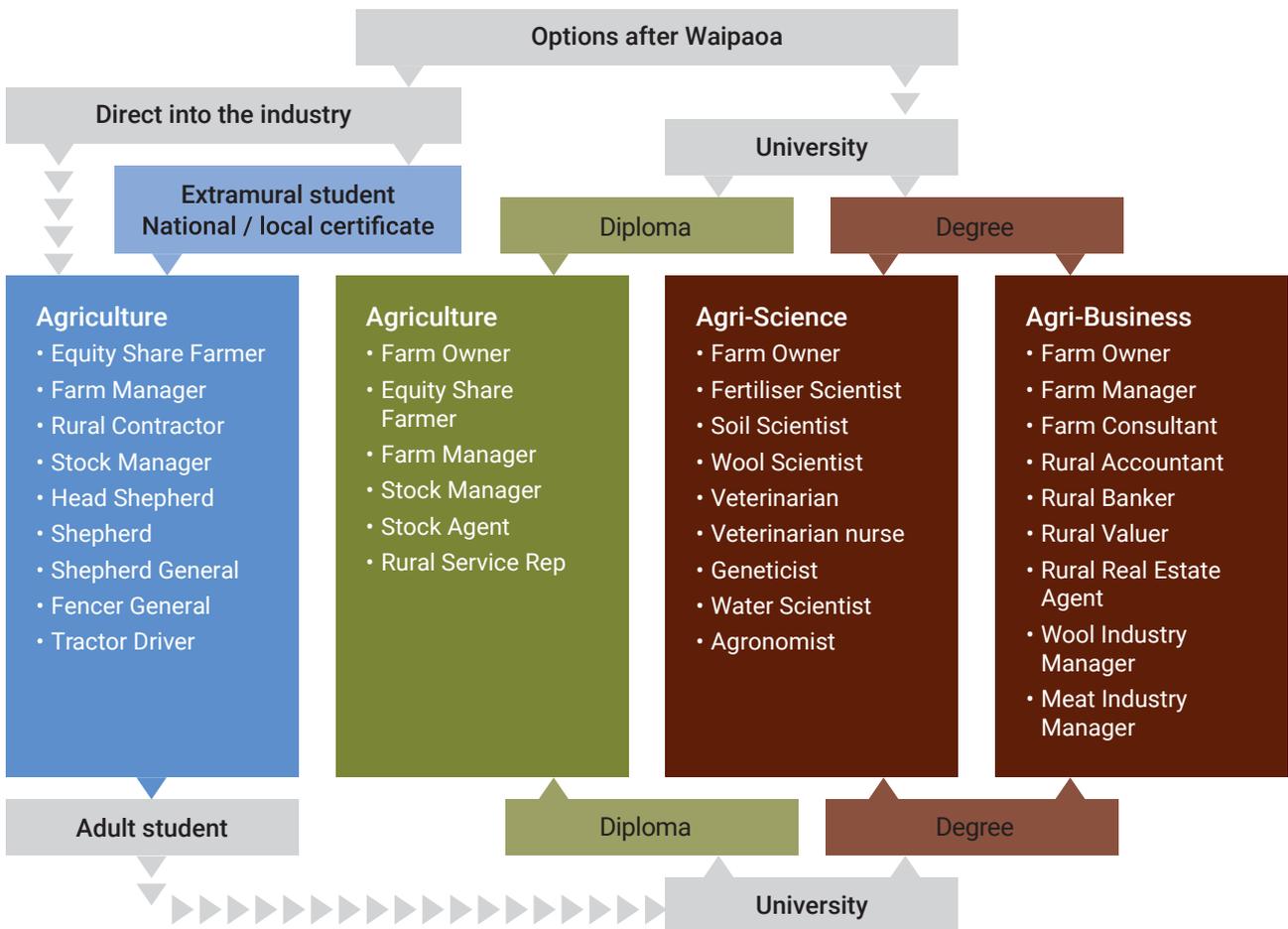




# The Waipaoa Programme

A cadetship at Waipaoa Station is two years long, with each year having a distinct study programme. Starting in the second week of January and running through to the third week in December, our academic year is synchronised with the annual farm cycle.

## Academic Pathway



# Cadetship Year One

During the first year of training as a Waipaoa cadet, students will focus on academic and general farm work, while assisting with general hostel duties.

The practical and theoretical focus for first year cadets includes:

- **Technical farming** including soil analysis, fertilizers, budgeting, meat and wool production and pasture management.
- **Academic principles** of farm management, including record keeping and analysis and personnel management.
- **Practical farming** Practical farming including the basic principles of slaughtering, carpentry, fencing, water systems, stock sense, general maintenance, woolshed operations, animal welfare, tractor operations, rearing and training a heading dog pup (given to each cadet in March) and training a huntaway (from August).

Additionally, all first year cadets will take part in a comprehensive first aid course, a one week health and safety induction course, a shearing course and complete part of their National Certificate in Agriculture.

First year cadets will finish the year with the following qualifications:

- ▶ NZ Certificate in Agriculture – Primary Industry Skills Level 2, Vehicles Machinery and Infrastructure (VMI) and Farming Systems Level 3
- ▶ Certificate in Workplace First Aid

# Cadetship Year Two

In the second year of training as a Waipaoa cadet, students focus on stock work and improving their business competencies, while assisting with general hostel duties. There is also a strong emphasis on mentoring, and senior cadets are paired with junior cadets to provide support and promote a sense of community.

The practical and theoretical focus for second year cadets includes:

- **Academic principles** of farm management, including record keeping and analysis, and budgeting.
- **Practical farming** including increased responsibility for mustering and animal health operation, and working with the two dogs trained in year one.
- **Breaking in a horse** – most mustering done on horse.
- **Technical farming** including pasture harvesting, stock management, genetic improvement, pro-active climatic situation management, and reinforcing and expanding on skills and knowledge gained in the first year, with educational visits to a fertiliser plant, woolstore, freezing works and farm field days.

Second year cadets will finish the year with the following qualifications:

- ▶ NZ Certificate in Agriculture Level 4 (Breeding Livestock Farming)
- ▶ Waipaoa Station Cadet Training Trust Graduation Certificate



# The Waipaoa Campus

The Waipaoa Station Farm Cadet Training Trust is a registered charitable trust, and was set up in 2007 to fund, develop and run a land-based agricultural training programme. The training is based at Waipaoa Station (Gisborne) on one of the East Coast's established hill country properties. With 1760 hectares of effective land sustaining 16,000 stock units, Waipaoa Station is ideally sized to provide an excellent base for agricultural training and a real-life learning environment for young farmers.

Waipaoa is part of a larger 5500 hectare sheep and beef farming business with a range of farming systems varying from extensive hill-country breeding to intensive irrigated finishing, all of which cadets are exposed to.

## Life at Waipaoa

Being a Waipaoa cadet is an amazing learning experience and a great way to launch a farming career, but there's still life to live in there too.

Because cadet training is our number one priority we have a full-time, live-in team consisting of the training manager and cook.

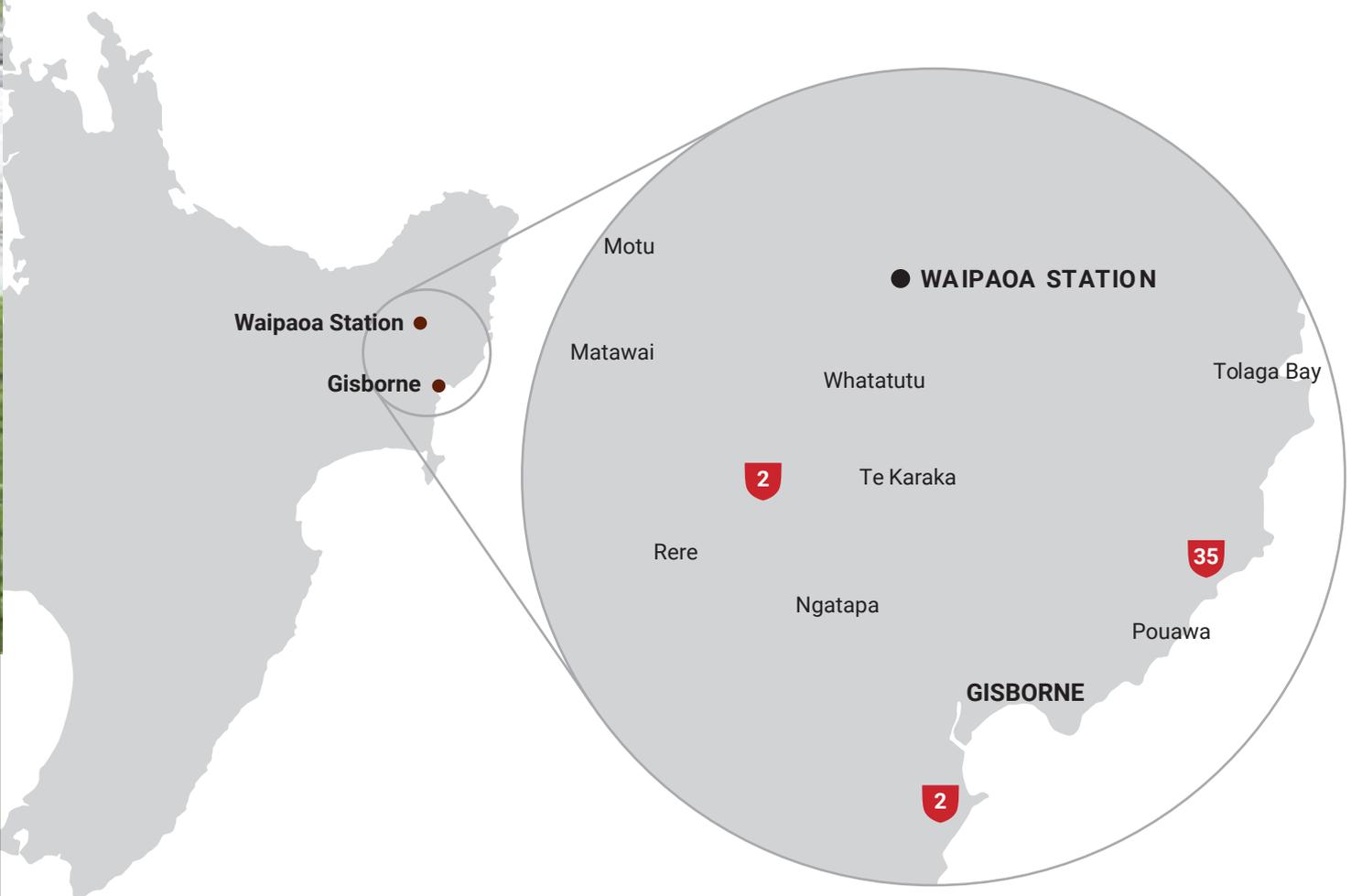
The station includes living quarters for Waipaoa cadets, a kitchen, lounge, and lecture room enabling the cadets to live and learn onsite. Due to the size of our facilities, our cadets quickly become a close knit group, with staff acting as "parents", mentors, and friends to the 10 students living at the station. Working and living together has its challenges, but they are vastly outweighed by the advantages of having a built in support network.

Senior and junior cadets are paired to take care of the general hostel duties, including milking the cow, feeding the horses and pigs, managing dogcourse



requirements. food supplies, cleaning the hostel and general maintenance. We see this as a critical component to their training – every cadet leaves Waipaoa as a useful well-rounded member of a team, well-equipped to handle the day-to-day needs of living on a station. They say the way to a farmers'





heart is through his or her stomach, so each cadet is also taught to cook and is expected to assist during meal preparations when on hostel duty.

## Personal Development

All cadets are mentored on a daily basis, and taught self-management, leadership and teamwork. Senior and junior cadets are teamed up and need to operate as a unit, reinforcing the importance of role modelling and teamwork. These are values that Waipaoa cadets take with them into their farming careers and are part of what makes them such sought after young graduates. Throughout the two-year course, we focus on personal development at an individual level, instilling core values in our cadets. We provide them with confidence in themselves and their skills, which makes them an asset to any commercial farm.

## Life in Rural Gisborne

Waipaoa is approximately an hour's drive from Gisborne, in a rural and somewhat isolated setting. Life on the farm operates at a different pace to that of town, but we like it like that. Waipaoa's relative isolation and small rural community are a

good way to slowly acclimatise our cadets to the realities of rural farm life. In their free time, cadets tend to get involved with local sports clubs, join the young farmers club, or find some weekend work to supplement their incomes. They seem to enjoy the East Coast – famous for its beaches, hunting, and fishing. Many of our cadets join the local Ngatapa Rugby and Associated Sports Club – a great way to meet the locals and keep the fitness levels up.





# Application Process & Selection Criteria

## Entrance Criteria

Applicants must:

- ▶ Be between 16 and 19 years of age.
- ▶ Still be at school.
- ▶ Be studying in at least their fourth year of secondary education.
- ▶ Have achieved NCEA level two by the end of the school year in which they have applied for Waipaoa.
- ▶ Have visited Waipaoa Station – preferably at our Open Days in June, otherwise by appointment.

## Applications

To be eligible for consideration, the application form and supporting material must be received in hard copy by the application closing date.

If any information is to be submitted in addition to that stipulated in the application criteria, seven complete copies of each additional page must be supplied for consideration by the interviewing panel.

Applicants will be contacted by phone and advised as to whether application has been accepted. Successful applicants will receive instruction on interview times and venue, and confirmation will also be sent in hard copy.

Application forms and relevant dates can be downloaded from [www.waipaoa.co.nz](http://www.waipaoa.co.nz)

## Interviews

Once an application has been accepted, the applicant will be required to attend a short 15-minute interview with the Waipaoa selection panel.

The application form and interview will both be considered as part of the decision making process.

## Selection Notification

Applicants will receive the results of the interview and selection process by phone within 14 days of the interview.

# Fees and General Costs

## Boarding Charge

Cadets are charged an annual one off sum of \$7500 + GST (\$8625 incl) for each year of the cadetship. This covers the operational cost of running the cadet's hostel and cookhouse. There is no charge for the course itself.

## General Costs

Cadets need to have the items on the list below and may require additional funds to purchase these.

YEAR 1
<b>January</b>
<b>Knife, sheath, belt</b>
<b>Note book pouch</b>
<b>Leather lace up work boots: 1x safety, 1x non safety</b>
<b>Rain wear</b>
<i>For first year cadets a saddle is supplied but cadets may bring their own saddle and tack, subject to the training manager's approval.</i>
<b>March</b>
<b>Heading pup (approx. \$400)</b>
<b>Chain/clip/collar</b>
<b>August</b>
<b>6-8 month old huntaway (\$500+)</b>
<i>Dog registrations, vaccinations, worming and dog food are paid by the station. Pups are sourced through trustworthy contacts in the dog trial circuit. Huntaways may be sourced by cadets, but are subject to station staff approval.</i>
YEAR 2
<b>Pre-January</b>
<b>Saddlery (\$600-\$1500)</b>
<i>Staff can advise on the purchase of saddlery once cadets are at Waipaoa.</i>

# Loans, Allowances and Financial Support

## StudyLink

Cadets are classed as full time students studying concurrently and may be eligible for help towards course related costs, a student loan and a boarding allowance based on parental income earnings. The decision on these options is up to parents to action.

Applicants are advised to wait until mid-January to fill out StudyLink documentation as official acceptance will not apply until the course is registered.

Following enrolment onto the course in mid-January, we will confirm all the relevant details with StudyLink. If a cadet is applying for a living allowance, Waipaoa can supply verification that the course is residential. We can also supply a course costs summary, which can be used to apply for a course related costs loan.

For more information on StudyLink visit [www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz).

## Scholarship Programmes

There are plenty of scholarships available depending on where cadets come from. We usually leave this to cadets and careers advisors to research, though the training manager is also available to advise





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[waipaoa.co.nz](http://waipaoa.co.nz)