



## *Executive news*

- World Board news – James Burnby attended a WPO online zoom meeting on our behalf recently. This was a general business meeting. There was a report on Croatia. There is now a leaflet advertising Croatia. There was a presentation from Kenya and the Netherlands. James gave a 15 minute presentation about 2029 which seemed well received.
- World team to Croatia update. We have had some changes to our team travelling to Croatia. Ian Woolley is unable to attend as World Board Member so James Burnby will take on this role. Bruce Redmond is unavailable to take on the coaching role. NZPA are very lucky to have secured the services of Thomas Cochrane from Northern Ireland as our team coach. Thomas is a very capable ploughing competitor and previous World Conventional and Reversible ploughing champion. He is also an experienced judge. We are sure that Thomas will be an asset to our team.
- The NZPA received a written application to host the 2029 Power Farming New Zealand Ploughing Championships in South Otago. This was accepted.
- Ian McSporran has retired from his position on the executive. We welcome Brian Kirk from the North Island.



I am currently chairman of the Takapau Ploughing club which is one of the last of dozens of ploughing clubs that have been in Hawkes Bay. I have always been an active member and as a teenager I did begin competitive ploughing under the guidance of previous national competitors, but with a young family and the family farm commanding my first responsibilities, that participation took second place.

After a spell of hill country farming in the Manawatu in the 90s, I returned to Hawkes Bay working in contracting operations associated with the growing and harvesting of process food crops. This era solidified my life's interest and philosophies about soil, what it was, how it grows pastures and crops and how it needs to be managed, not used or abused. This led to my working in fertiliser spreading and setting up Kirk Groundspread with lightweight bulk and liquid spreaders in Napier.

I am married to Miranda and we have 2 sons in Australia, one farming, and a daughter in Auckland. Between them we have 6 grandsons.

Now in my senior years I have been involved with the judging at ploughing matches, I am active and vitally interested to foster the ploughing objectives here and across the world.



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# Coming EVENTS

## Mid Canterbury Vintage Machinery Club Ploughing Match

Saturday 23rd May 2026 10.30am start  
On Matthew and Julia Paton's property, Wakanui Paddock is on the sea side of Wakanui School Rd, past the school and the Paton farmyard, 400 mtrs from Beach Rd. Loading bank at the Laurel Glen yard, 124 Christys Rd. All classes, \$25 entry fee, includes afternoon tea. BYO lunch. Free entry to public, all welcome.  
Entries close Sunday 17th May with;  
Colin Boon 03 3070105 0211359485  
Keith Howden 0272445005  
email keithhowden2@gmail.com



## Hinds Ploughing Association Ploughing Match

Sunday 24th May 2026 10.30am Start  
At the Lowe Property, 815 Winslow Road, Hinds - follow the signs.  
All classes, \$25 entry fee includes afternoon tea, BYO lunch. Qualifying match.  
Free entry to public, all welcome  
Entries close Tuesday 19 May 2026 - entries to:  
Neil Ross Ph 03 302 6055  
John Booth Ph 0274 366 302  
email dayboostud@gmail.com

# SAVE THE DATE



Rakaia Ploughing Match Associations Centennial match on **Saturday 27 June.**

A full day including an evening celebrating 100years is planned. All welcome. More details shortly. Any enquiries please contact Simon Reed 0272828572 or email rakaiaploughingassn@gmail.com



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# Ploughing opportunity taken up

**NIC.DUFF**  
@oamarumail.co.nz

North Otago farmers were given the opportunity to show what they have got at a ploughing match in the region last weekend.

Organised by the Waitaki Ploughing Association, the event was held on a property near Ngapara.

It was a successful day out, association secretary Owen Horsnell said.

“It was a very good day . . . everything went very well, right up to our expectations.”

There were no winners on the day as the association just wanted to let people give it a go, he said.

“There was no competition as such. We did actually score it but no actual competition.

“It gave the new guys a chance to see what the others that have been ploughing for a while can do.”

The event attracted 14 entries.

“I was only expecting probably eight or nine, maybe 10.”

Mr Horsnell was impressed with all the participants.

“They all scored pretty well — the two judges weren’t that hard on them.”

Competitors were judged on eight individual aspects — straightness, opening split, crown, seed bed, weed control, finish, ins and outs and general



North Otago farmers took part in a ploughing match in the region last weekend.

PHOTO: NIC DUFF

appearance.

Each category was judged out of 10, although straightness is judged four times with the total score then divided by four.

Mr Horsnell, who is also on the New Zealand Ploughing Association executive, hoped to see more people giving ploughing a go in the future.

“It is a national sport and it is international as well, we have a world final ever year, we’ve got the world final here in New Zealand in 2029.”

## Waitaki Ploughing Match

26 April 2026

A great paddock, barley stubble which was reasonably long, good moisture, and ploughed well.

This was a non qualifying event, a learning day for the new ploughing competitors and a time for the experienced plough men to try new things. There were six competitors who had ploughed at the Power Farming NZ Ploughing Championships at Methven the weekend before .

For eight ploughmen it was the first time ploughing against each other. The standard was pretty good . At least all had shiny boards to start with !!!

All are keen to have another day out ploughing .

A much welcomed BBQ was put on by the local rugby club at the conclusion of ploughing.

Great day , good paddock , and a great view up the Waitaki valley!!!

Owen Horsnell

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*From the history books*

**26 MAY 1879**

**PARIHAKA PLOUGHING CAMPAIGN**

Parihaka Māori began a ploughing campaign in protest against European settlement on land confiscated from Māori.

Located on the lower slopes of Taranaki Maunga near Cape Egmont, Parihaka became a centre of peaceful resistance from the mid-1860s. The movement involved not only neighbouring tribes, but Māori from around the country.

This campaign used non-violent methods. In 1879 the government started surveying confiscated land on the Waimate plain, south-east of Parihaka. Te Whiti's followers disrupted these surveys and ploughed and fenced off land occupied by settlers. Many were arrested and held without trial in the South Island, but the protests continued.

In November 1881, the government sent more than 1500 troops to Parihaka. Most of its inhabitants were arrested or driven away; Te Whiti and Tohu were imprisoned until 1883 and much of the village was demolished. Despite the absence of its leaders, Parihaka was rebuilt. Ploughing campaigns - and arrests without trial - continued into the 1890s.



Information from The New Zealand History website:  
Parihaka ploughing campaign begins, URL:  
<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/parihaka-ploughing-campaign-begins>, (Manatū Taonga – Ministry for Culture and Heritage),  
updated 13-Feb-2025

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*thank you*

Ian, Amy, Hayden & Sophie, Tony & James, would like to thank all members of New Zealand Ploughing for their cards, messages, phone calls and flowers that we received at the passing of Jenny. Thanks also to all those who came to support us at the funeral.

As you can all imagine the family is still shocked and struggling with Jenny's death, she was the matriarch of the family and her death will leave a devastating impact on us. She will be sorely missed by all those that knew her. A true lady and friend of many.



**Middlemarch, Taieri, and East Otago ploughing matches at Middlemarch 10th 11th 12th July.**

In other news... all association secretaries will receive a survey to fill in regarding information we can use in our strategic plan, as well as a copy of the constitution with the numbering changes.

