

December 2020

Dear Friends and Family of Totara Farm Trust

All of the Team at Totara Farm Trust wish you a restful and restorative festive season. It's been such a full-on year – lots of ups and downs but one that we have learnt a lot from.

Those supported by the trust have been real champions through such uncertain times and the staff have risen to every challenge with grace, humour and dedication.

It's been a challenging time for friends and families of Totara Farm Trust and we really appreciate your patience and support as we have responded to the shifting goal posts of lock downs and all the restrictions this has involved.

Christmas Celebrations

The family/whanau party was lovely. It was a little quieter than previous celebrations, and we had a record turnout. Thanks so much for coming and taking time to catch up and enjoy each other's company.

The party for people we support and staff was a hoot. For the first time we celebrated together rather on separate properties and had an amazing pot luck variety of food. Thanks so much to all the people we support and staff for the incredible spread and the Leadership Team for hosting and serving.



The property Christmas decoration competition was a huge success. What an amazing effort and congratulations to the Kingseat Top House for taking out the win.

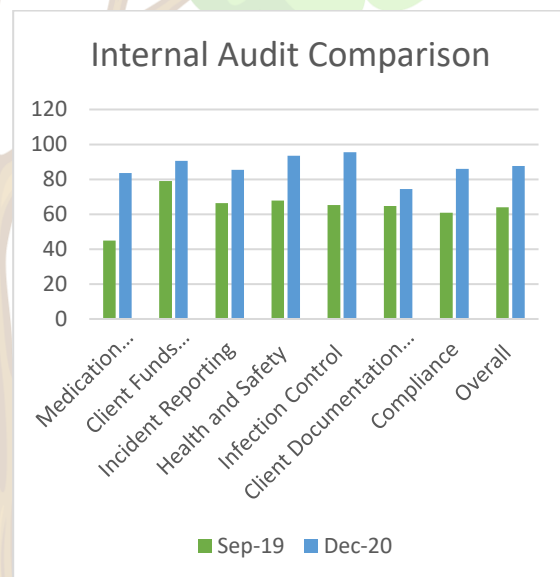
We now have a Totara Farm Trust Award Board with this competition the first to get a badge. We will have more competitions through the year to add to the fun.



General

We have another audit coming up! This time a Health Cert audit for Kingseat. I am sure it will go well – we'll let you know in the next update.

Here are the results of our internal audits comparing September 2019 to December 2020. What an awesome Team – great progress.



Thank you to those of you who completed the survey. The results were generally positive, but we also have some areas to focus with communication top of the list. We will publish results in the next newsletter along with plans around the whanau whanui group that several you have expressed an interest in.

We have some feedback that some families would like an update on finances. The sector is very stretched and the recent 1% increase across residential services really has very little positive impact. However, we remain very close to budget and the Leadership Team keeps a beady eye on managing costs without impacting on staffing levels and quality of support.

We have completed the fleet upgrade and own, rather than lease, all of our vehicles.

We are confident all vehicles are fit for purpose and that all properties have an appropriate level of vehicles for the number of people supported and that we can respond to their choices around how they want to spend their time and achieve their personal goals.



Nga manaakitanga ki a koe me o koutou whanau

Bernadette and The Leadership Team

The Kingseat septic tank has been upgraded after a lengthy wait due to delays associated with the pandemic.

We've restocked the freezers with one of the well-loved cows at Kingseat making the ultimate sacrifice. We're all set for summer barbeques.

We wish you and your loved one's happy holidays and really hope you get to enjoy each other's company and the best our beautiful country has to offer.

From the Totara Farm Trust Board

Thank you to all families for their understanding, help and support for our wonderful staff during the past rather difficult year.

It was lovely to meet many of you at the family end of year function and to be surrounded by enjoyment and love of life.

Have a safe and peaceful Christmas.

Sue Crockett

Board Chair