

# Groundspread

**Volume 192**  
**February 2018**



## **Spreading Sandford**



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— NEW ZEALAND —  
**GROUNDSPREAD**  
**FERTILISERS ASSOCIATION**

PROMOTING BEST PRACTICE SPREADING

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## SPREADMARK REGISTERED COMPANIES

As at 1 February 2018

Amuri Transport Ltd  
Andrews Transport 1993 Ltd  
Barwood Motors Ltd  
Beckers Transport Ltd  
Boags Contracting  
Bowe Spreading  
Brooks Spreading Ltd  
Brown & Shanley Bulk Spreading  
Bruce Groundspreading  
Cairns Groundspreaders  
Callander Groundspread  
Central Transport  
Counties Bulk Spreaders Ltd  
DT Kings Transport Ltd  
EG Corlett 2006 Ltd  
Fertspread Ltd  
GVT Landline Ltd  
Himatangi Transport  
Hobbs and Banks Transport  
Hogarth Spreading Ltd

Hokonui Rural Transport  
Hyslop Rural Transport Ltd  
Jackson Spreading  
Karaka Bulkspreading Ltd  
Knight and Dickey  
Kui Griffin & Co Ltd  
Mainland Spreading Ltd  
Manawatu Mini Spreaders  
McCarthy Contracting Ltd  
McQuinn Spreading  
Northern Southland  
Ongarue Transport Ltd  
Osflo - Spreadmark  
Pedersen Spreaders  
Peter Sole Transport Ltd  
PG Smith Ltd  
Rae Bros Ltd  
R&R Spreading Ltd  
Ravensdown Ltd  
RE Brooks Ltd

Renwick Transport Ltd  
Rose Ag Ltd  
Rural Transport Ltd  
Ryal Bush Transport  
Scullys Transport Ltd  
Sollys Contractors  
Spreading Canterbury Ltd  
Spreading FBT Ltd  
Spreading North Canterbury  
Spreading Northland Ltd  
Spreading Sandford Ltd  
St Andrews Transport  
Stephenson Transport Ltd  
Temuka Transport  
Transport (Waimate) Ltd  
Transport Services Southland  
Wheel Spread Ltd  
Wilson Bulk Transport



Spreadmark is a fertiliser placement quality assurance programme. The scheme will register spreading companies provided they have certified spreading machinery, trained operators and an appropriate quality management system which ensures that farmer/grower outcomes are

met and environmental sustainability is protected.

The Spreadmark scheme is governed by the Fertiliser Quality Council consisting of representatives from fertiliser user groups, NZGFA and fertiliser manufacturers.

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The Fertiliser Quality Council open Forum meeting was held in Wellington on the 31st January. NZGFA was represented by John Schultz, Brent Scully, Kevin Geddes and myself. It was pleasing to note that the fertiliser manufacturers are taking practical steps to improve the spreading qualities of fertilisers to the point of delivery. Issues such as multiple handling of fertilisers causing excessive fines are being addressed by looking at production and delivery systems to eliminate as much unnecessary handling as possible.

Mark Wren, Synlait Milk, Environment Manager attended the FQC meeting last week to consolidate the work that has been done on Farmer Spreadmark and its application to Synlait Milk's Gold Suppliers. My summary of the Farmers Spreadmark scheme follows:

Firstly, a Synlait Gold supplier, or any farmer, may choose to use a commercial Spreadmark accredited spreading company to spread all the fertiliser used on that farm. The Spreadmark accredited company will have Spreadmark trained and certified drivers, operating a spreader that has a current Spreadmark pattern test certificate and the spreading company will hold a current Spreadmark company audit certificate, signed off by the Spreadmark auditor. Only Spreadmark accredited spreading companies will be able to spread fertilisers on a Synlait Gold Suppliers farms and the Synlait supplier audit undertaken by Assure Quality will ensure that these requirements have been met. Details of individual Spreadmark companies are available on the NZGFA website [www.nzgfa.co.nz](http://www.nzgfa.co.nz) the FQC website [www.fqc.co.nz](http://www.fqc.co.nz) or from the Spreadmark auditor [peterwood@qconz.co.nz](mailto:peterwood@qconz.co.nz)

If a Synlait Gold Supplier or any other farmer wishes to spread their own fertiliser as a Farmer Spreadmark farmer, they must apply to the Spreadmark auditor to become a Farmer Spreadmark supplier. They must complete the online Farmer Spreadmark driver test available on [www.qconz.co.nz](http://www.qconz.co.nz) or [www.fqc.co.nz](http://www.fqc.co.nz) Further driver training is available now from; Spreadmark accredited trainers, CanDrive (Phil Johnson, P O Box 345, Rangiora; [office@candrive.co.nz](mailto:office@candrive.co.nz)) or H W Richardson Group (Peter Herrick, PO Box 1104, Invercargill, 9812; [peter.herrick@hwr.co.nz](mailto:peter.herrick@hwr.co.nz)). Another potential trainer is developing a training programme specifically for Farmer Spreadmark training, yet to be approved by NZGFA.

To comply with Farmer Spreadmark, a Synlait Gold Supplier or any farmer must get his / her fertiliser spreader tested to the Spreadmark pattern test and certified by a certified Spreadmark tester. Compliance with ISO or ASAE (American Society of Agricultural Biological Engineers) standards is essential to ensure the international acceptance of Spreadmark as a credible Code of Practice for fertiliser placement. Also, James McCloy from EuroAgri in Ashburton told both NZGFA and the Fertiliser Quality Council of developments in the use of electronic tray weighing to measure Spreadmark pattern test weights to 0.1gm. Currently Spreadmark pattern testers can do 4 runs per hour, with the new electronic weighing system, testers are able to do 10 runs per hour, giving substantial savings. The new electronic weighing system is fully transportable from farm to farm.

The on farm audit process for Synlait Gold suppliers is carried out by Assure Quality as part of the Synlait's product quality assurance process. This is similar to the audit process for Aerial Spreadmark where the NZ AAA auditor, audits Aerial Spreadmark as one of the five audits required under the Air Care quality assurance programme. There is no reason why Farmer Spreadmark for Synlait suppliers and any other farmers who seek Farmers Spreadmark accreditation cannot begin now, as everything is in place. It is really significant that Synlait have identified a significant production gain on their monitor farms from accurate fertiliser placement. Also, they are paying their Gold suppliers an additional 6 cents per kilogram milk solids and their Elite Gold suppliers an additional 12 cents per kilogram. We applaud Synlait for recognising the need for quality assured fertiliser placement

and for paying suppliers who meet their higher standards.

Keep safe out there.

Dean Brooks  
President.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

The sun is shining today in the Waikato, finally! It seems most regions have struggled with wet conditions following the earlier summer period of drought – the upside is farmers are now growing plenty of grass.

Favourable market conditions are set to underpin a second consecutive year of broad-based profitability for New Zealand agriculture in 2018, according to Rabobank's latest Agribusiness Outlook.

Tougher freshwater management standards will limit further intensification of farming operations, and therefore growth in agricultural production, in some areas. The good news is high export prices for meat, horticultural, and forestry exports will help boost the overall agricultural sector economy.

I hope the weather is more settled for autumn and I wish you a busy and safe spreading season.

Mandy



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FERTILISERS ASSOCIATION

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# Groundspread

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The National Council of NZGFA Council met in Wellington on Tuesday 30 January. This meeting was timed so that some Councillors could stay over and attend the Fertiliser Quality Council meeting the following day. Following is a summary of the matters currently being handled by your Council.

In the ongoing review of Spreadmark, FQC sent a questionnaire to processors of land-based food products about the use of Spreadmark as an 'on farm' quality assurance for fertiliser use. The response was modest reflecting the confidence shared by industry and farmers that the quality of fertiliser placement is high. The responses received however were very supportive of Spreadmark as a QA scheme. It was noted that the Aerial Aviation industry has a 'risk based' approach to spreading fertiliser, reflecting the reputational risk from any environmental damage from the misplacement of fertiliser.

The revision of the NZGFA Driver Safety Manual is underway with WorksafeNZ advising they want to refocus the existing material in the Manual to better reflect the recent changes in health and safety legislation. Kevin Geddes and John Schultz met with Al McCone, Rural Advisor WorksafeNZ in Wellington who advised Worksafe will rewrite some sections and pass the Manual back to NZGFA for completion.

The 2017 Professional Development Courses were successful, and Council confirmed that further professional development for NZGFA members should be run again in June 2018. It proposed that the course content could cover issues such as: the recruitment of employees, HR management, employment

review processes, company drug and alcohol policies, employment agreements. Council agreed that this course should be aimed at dispatchers and managers within the industry and will impart skills to make the groundspread industry more attractive to employees. Potential venues could be: Christchurch, Hamilton, Manawatu, Invercargill.

Dealing with finance, Dani Konig, Federated Farmers accountant told Council that cash flow is running close to budget with a cash inflow of \$4k and a budgeted cash balance at year's end of \$97k.

Canterbury Branch secretary, James McCloy of EuroAgri in Ashburton, importer and distributor of Bredal fertiliser spreaders, addressed Council on the development of an electronic tray weighing system. Work to date has developed a reliable system to measure Spreadmark pattern test weights to 0.1gm. Currently Spreadmark pattern testers can do 4 runs per hour. The new electronic weighing system can do 10 runs per hour and the system is movable from farm to farm. With the retirement of Russell Horrell, the industry in the South Island is going to be short of Spreadmark testers. Council supported James McCloy and the EuroAgri proposal for electronic tray weighing for the Spreadmark pattern test.

Nadine Parata from Ballance AgriNutrients spoke to the meeting about the "My Ballance System". Phase 1 is now in place. Phase 2 and 3 are to include the spreading team. Ballance is working on a fertiliser QA quality project as end users require certainty about how the product will spread. Frequently fertilisers have broken down through excessive handling. Ballance is looking to create a better supply chain, recognising there are more products now. Port hubs do not put all products into one store and some products will be held in bags. The introduction of self-serve silos will simplify product management. Store opening hours should only be set after discussion with customers. Groundspreaders reported that coated Urea when mixed with super is still generating spreader build-up problems.

Bill McGregor NZ AAA has replaced John Sinclair as NZ AAA Executive Director. Bill also addressed Council to continue the linkage that exists between NZ AAA and NZGFA as industry associations that have many common issues. NZ AAA has commented about the limited value of the Spreadmark pattern test for aerial application. The spreading ability

of fertiliser is the principal determinant. Lime does not meet the aircraft jettison standard so prilled lime only, may be spread by air. We must overcome the perception of fertiliser as contaminant into water.

Waikato Branch brought to Council the issue of finely ground agricultural lime presenting safety issues for groundspreaders. It was felt extremely fine ground lime may be outside the Fertmark product specification for agricultural lime. This matter was raised at the FQC meeting and the Spreadmark auditor will follow it up from the industry safety point of view. NZ AAA Conference will run 29 July to 1 August at the Nelson Rutherford Hotel.

Dealing with promotion, the FQC promotions manager reported releasing one media release and one placed article under the NZGFA brand. This resulted in six pieces of media coverage across: National Farming Review, Groundspread magazine, Farmers Weekly, Scoop News and Rural Contractor. The Alan Emerson article 'Fertiliser visionaries owed debt' in the Farmers Weekly in September was particularly valuable to Spreadmark and the work of NZGFA. The NZGFA pages have now been removed from the FQC website, although links remain and NZGFA stories are featured on the FQC home page. Stories and newsworthy events – such as the professional development workshops – are promoted on the FQC social media sites.

Daniela Konig reported that the creation of new sponsorships and partnership arrangements are proceeding. Firstly, the promotional partnership with FQC for \$10k for specific promotion of Spreadmark is signed. The Member Directory has attracted an additional \$2.5k in advertising and talks have begun with a major rural insurer to form an association with NZGFA as a predominantly rural based industry. The NZGFA website traffic since the launch of the site in July 2017 has been:

Month	Sessions	Users	Page Views
Jul-17	146	109	859
Aug-17	115	60	592
Sep-17	93	78	296
Oct-17	95	79	358
Nov-17	162	135	452
Dec-17	133	102	437
Jan-18	98	85	236

Simon Pedersen reported the profit from the 2017 Conference profit was \$10k which the Central Districts would like to be directed to the NZGFA Trust.

Conference 2018 will be held in Invercargill from the 15th to the 17th July. The Conference theme is proposed: "Spread it right – get home safe at night".

Kevin Geddes,  
 Executive Director



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## Northland

Hi to everybody from the Far North, where the sun had been shining - as I say, had been. We have had 180mls of rain in the last two weeks in my area, damn good though, the grass has gone mad.

The work load has not been that great

in January as most farmers were taking time out.

Last week Ballance had a meeting to discuss where to put new stores etc.

I hope if this weather settles down our

fertiliser suppliers can deliver the goods, it's going to be a short sharp season I'm picking. It's persisting down here again right now.

Just a Spinner Northland

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## Waikato



As I am writing this report the whole of the Waikato and Bay of Plenty region is in the grip of all day sun with high temperatures up to 30degC. This is a significant contrast to our last report when we came through the very wet September and October.

In general, the region is looking pretty good as we have had occasional rains to keep pushing the grass growth along. The rain has come sporadically and in isolated patches, so some areas have at times missed out completely.

Spring was a busy period and most that I have spoken to report they had good order volumes and managed to get through the work regardless of the pressure some farmers put on us to get their fertiliser and nitrogen on - on top of this establishing crops was also a challenge. A familiar story to last year.

We have continued to enjoy good attendance at our regional meetings and have had good presenters with relevant topics to discuss - namely H&S and Healthy River Plans. Both are significant for us to consider. At our December meeting we had the opportunity to meet socially over dinner before we got in to the Christmas break.

Looking forward I think we will have a solid autumn demand. All indicators look good for farmers. With what looks like an increase in crops being planted in spring there should be the corresponding demand for new grass applications. Interest is good for lime applications also.

We hope everyone managed to get a good break over the holiday period, so all the best for 2018.

Graeme Martin

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## Taranaki

Hello from the Naki.



Welcome to 2018 and already we are two months in. I trust everyone survived the Christmas, New Year festivities and hopefully managed to get in some R&R as well.

Since my last report the weather hasn't changed much with no rain recorded in the first 16 days of November but thankfully sporadic mid-afternoon thunderstorms in the second half of November and into early

December provided a steady work load for Ground Spread Operators in this region as farmers made the most of the welcomed moisture. This was short lived, and quickly turned to hot dry drought conditions over the festive season. January and February has seen minimal product applied leaving a number of outstanding orders.

Grass growth has been slow in the region and as a result a number of farmers particularly in the Coastal areas South, have been forced to 16 hour or once a day milking. This has resulted in farmers having to cull numbers putting some buyers/works under pressure.

Maize crops flourished with good cobs which should give some relief going into the wetter season as little supplement has been made.

Stock feed demand has been unprecedented throughout this period with a number of suppliers being caught out with supply and demand resulting in huge delays for carriers,

some waiting upwards of eight hours for a load out.

Today's reliance on feeding straight Palm kernel makes for interesting conversations around the traps as Fonterra implements its excessive use of PKE from June this year.

How will the farming community cope?

What ever happen to old school farming, the way our Grandparents farmed?

Looking to autumn, both major suppliers Ballance and Ravensdown are forecasting a reasonable season, here's hoping.

Exciting times ahead for us Taranaki operators as the New Ravensdown New Plymouth site nears its 30-million-dollar completion. This state of the art facility will be opening in March.

Until the next edition, Happy spreading.

Lee Cooper

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## Central Districts

I hope everybody got some time to rest and spend time with family over the Christmas period. It is hard to believe we are already well into February.

For the Central Districts and in particular Hawkes Bay, it has been a very kind summer for farmers. Good consistent rainfall means plenty of feed around. Many farmers are holding stock on longer and taking to better weights and produce crops are coming off paddocks at above average yields.

In Hawkes Bay the apples and pears are coming off the trees and the high quality and yield of the fruit gives an indication of the season we are having.

With plenty of grass around and consistent rain continuing some farmers are deferring their fertiliser application. Hopefully this does not lead to more bottlenecks later in the season.

We hope this rain will let up enough to get

autumn fertiliser orders complete and give farmers a large enough window to get new grass and crops in the ground.

I hope everybody has a busy and safe autumn season.

All the best from the Central Districts.

Tom Yule



## Nelson/Marlborough

### Nelson/Tasman

The dry conditions continued to mid to late December. The ground went very hard, then we had heavy rain and a storm with king tides playing havoc in coastal areas. Houses flooded (some red stickered) and one two storey house moved off its foundation. Today (11th February) it's rather wet again (100mm plus) and still raining.

We are still experiencing slow load outs at Ravensdown; we will have another meeting with management soon to see where they are up to with planned improvements discussed at our meeting in July.

Spreader Changes – National President Dean Brooks, has sold one truck, and I am building a new orchard spreader to be ready by early April for orchard and hop work (to look after our beer and cider drinkers!!).

I have been slowed down somewhat myself, due to having a stroke just prior to Christmas, but am still organising work from home - but finding not being able to drive a hassle and relying on

others to transport me around. I am planning on standing down as Nelson/Marlborough Chairman at our AGM.

### Golden Bay

Pastures are greening up well from the dry period. Crops had a slow start but are now doing great.

Work was extra busy for us after the spring wet – now work is at a steady level with a good lot of lime orders to carry on with.

We had a great weekend for our recent A&P show with a record crowd attending. Merv Solly's rebuilt TK Bedford 8x2 truck was on show which had been a present for his 70th birthday.

Keith Lindup

### Marlborough

Due to the wet spring and warm summer we have had huge growth in pasture and vineyards this summer. The grass is still green and very lush, and farmers are very happy to have no shortage of feed this summer.

Spreading has been very busy right up to Christmas in the vineyard with

Nitrogen based products – the growth on the vines caused a few headaches with owners not managing to keep up with trimming and then the trucks struggled to get down the rows through the forest of vines – visibility was a big issue with this and also damage to the trucks with vines getting caught around bumpers, mirrors etc.

We are also doing a last big run on fertiliser for some vineyards leading up to harvest which we have never done this late before.

Pasture spreading has also been very busy especially out Awatere but also around the rest of Marlborough too including Waihopai, Linkwater, Havelock etc.

We have had another big dump of rain yesterday and back to 30 degrees today – so we don't expect anything to stop growing soon. Fingers crossed for a dry harvest this year, after last year's deluge.

Tracy

## Canterbury

Hi from Canterbury

Hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year but if it has been like our region, there has been no break.

Sad to hear about Mycoplasma bovis being found in our region. Hopefully they can eradicate this thing. I'm surprised that the ground spreaders haven't been kept up to date with how this disease will affect our industry; lots of stories but no information coming our way.

Another issue that has angered spreading companies in the Ashburton area is the crazy hours the company stores put in place over the Christmas/New Year

period. Times have changed and with irrigation and all the dairy and dairy support, we no longer get a quiet time and having stores open only from 7am to 1pm or manned by only an operator has led to huge delays (over two hours one day) both for farmers and transport companies. So much so, that one company calculated they were losing the use of one truck per day and are thinking of billing the fertiliser company for lost income! We have to work full days now and we need the fertiliser stores open and fully resourced. One store had its opening time advertised but the store

operator didn't turn up and didn't even let companies know he wasn't coming in for whatever reason.

Interesting that the consignment stores still provided good service through this time.

Fertiliser companies' biggest client is the transport industry, both for inward and outward goods, and they need to work with us to ensure that everyone gets in and out of the stores as quickly as possible, so we can service the farmers who are the source of our incomes.

## Otago/Southland

Hi All from the Deep South,

I hope everyone had a relaxing Christmas and enjoyed a break.

It has been very dry in most southern areas with very little rain over the past three months and with consistent hot days in the 30 degrees plus. This has given us as a good run with the weather to get work done, however it has really slowed up now with most farms with little or no covers on, and not wanting fertiliser on due to the risk of stock poisoning.

There has been very little winter feeds

made and some crops have failed due to the dry weather, adding more pressure going forward.

Many sheep and beef farmers have sold large amounts of store lambs and some have even been feeding silage out to keep ewes going.

Many dairy farms have been forced to buy in extra supplementary feeds and have moved to once a day milking.

Yes, things are very dry in the South, however in the last week we have had a good rain throughout most of Southland

and Otago - this has been great with temperatures staying in the low twenties as well. With a good follow up rain forecast this week (early Feb) hopefully it will stimulate pasture growth, as there was a lot of run off with the first rain, only soaking in about 10mm to 20mm in some areas, because the ground was so hard and dry.

As soon as the grass recovers and starts growing, we will all be very busy and under pressure to help get large amounts of grass grown before winter arrives.

Cheers Steve Whitehead

## Lime and Fertiliser Report

By Ross Corlett

Both Ravensdown and Ballance seem to be doing a good job with super so far this season and most other products seem to be performing well, although PhasedN from Ballance can be a problem for some drivers and care should be taken with handling and spreading.

Some white lime in the North Island appears to be getting dustier with more fines which may be a side effect from further processing. Operators should be careful with what lime they are ordering for jobs around roads as dust and other road users do not mix and also for any hill country where you are working at slow speeds and could be caught in whiteout conditions. Coarser lime should be sourced for these jobs.

Keep safe and here's hoping for a good autumn.

## Transport Report

By Simon Pedersen

One of the biggest challenges at present, is getting enough skilled drivers. As the workforce is aging, and a lot of drivers are at, or near retirement age, training new, young drivers is the only option. When looking for drivers, as Operators, we need to explore all avenues, so we haven't got trucks parked up with no drivers. After recently training a young driver and helping him through his licenses, this seems to have also encouraged some of his young friends to get their licenses too. This has huge benefits for the transport industry, as it is creating a pool of new drivers in our region. Initially, I was not that keen to train someone with no experience, but it is working out very well. This is

a cost to your company, but the alternative is trucks not working.

As this is a major issue for many companies, the only helpful hint I can give is to get the applicant to come in, in their own time, and go with them for a drive off road to ensure that they will be able to do the job and also that the job is what they think it will be. This ensures both parties know what will be expected of each other, and weeds out any time wasters that probably won't last.

As an Organisation, there is plenty of help available with associate members who do licensing and driving training and assessments.

Happy spreading.

## 2017 NZGFA Conference Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following companies for their sponsorship of the 2017 Napier Conference.

Ace Equipment Ltd  
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**Thank you also to our 2017 Trade Display Exhibitors**

## NZGFA Conference 2018

**'Spread it right – get home safe at night'**  
**Invercargill, 15 - 17 July 2018**

Past NZGFA Conferences

2017 61st Napier – Central Districts  
2016 60th Nelson – Nelson/Marlborough  
2015 59th New Plymouth - Taranaki  
2014 58th Waitangi - Northland  
2013 57th Methven - Canterbury  
2012 56th Tauranga - Waikato  
2011 55th Masterton – Central Districts  
2010 54th Invercargill – Otago/Southland  
2009 53rd Nelson – Nelson/Marlborough  
2008 52nd New Plymouth - Taranaki  
2007 51st Christchurch - Canterbury  
2006 50th Auckland - National



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Your driver is guided by the TracMap GPS display unit to the right paddock or area where the job is to be completed.

You can watch the job as it happens and know when your staff have entered and left the property.

The data collected by TracMap Online from the TracMap in-cab GPS display unit is sent back to you so you can invoice immediately with proof of placement.





## Spreadmark testing tray spacing

By Peter Wood

### Background

Clarification was recently sought regarding the spacing of the collector trays used for a Spreadmark Certification Test. It seems appropriate to remind those involved of the rules regarding this.

### Tray spacing rule:

The tray spacing rule is defined on page 58 of the May 2017 version of the Spreadmark Code of Practice ('Collectors and Collector Layout' in the 'Technical Specification for the Testing of Groundspread Fertiliser Machines') states:

*For transverse distribution measurement, a single line of*

*collectors at right angles to the direction of travel will be used. The length of the line will be sufficient to ensure the significant single pass pattern is measured. Collector spacing will be 0.5 m centre-to-centre (i.e. for a pattern 36 m wide, 72 collectors are to be used).*

The current version of the Spreadmark Code is available from the website of the Fertiliser Quality Council: [www.fertqual.co.nz](http://www.fertqual.co.nz).

### Possible changes to this rule:

The current Spreadmark tray spacing rule is consistent with the International Standard for the testing and certification of groundspread fertiliser machines (ISO 5690). It is possible that the

tray spacing rule could change if the review of Spreadmark underway with agricultural food processors shows that they believe that this international link is unimportant to the credibility of the overall Spreadmark programme with their customers.



## Approved spreading equipment testers

### North Island:

#### Miles Smith

PG Smith Ltd  
Helensville

Phone: (09) 420 7079 or (0274) 464 535

#### Ben McLennan

McLennan Groundspread Ltd  
Whangarei

Phone: (09) 432-2251 or (021) 762-727

#### Ted Usmar

NT Wealleans Ltd

Hinuera

Phone: (07) 888 1759 or (0275) 774 146

#### Jim Laird

Jim Laird Assessment Services

Masterton

Phone: (0274) 412 659

### South Island:

#### Matthew Hunt

#### Gavin Hunt

Engineering Repairs Ltd

Ashburton

Phone: (03) 308 1506

#### James Robinson

#### Mark Smitheram

#### Arran Linfoot

#### Reed Gibbons

#### Hamish Wilson

EuroAgri Ltd

Ashburton

Phone: (03) 307 7445

#### Barry Sadler

Transport Waimate Ltd

Waimate

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#### Garth McMaster

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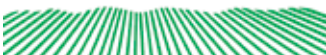
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## Training Day in Taranaki

**Taranaki Branch held a Groundspread drivers training day at Hawera on Thursday 8 February.**

The course was delivered by Jim Laird on behalf of the HWR Group.

Jim says the course was well received by the eight participants from: Spreading Sandford - Wanganui and Auroa, EG Corlett, Gwynn Contracting, and Peter Sole Transport.

"All participants are relatively new to the groundspread industry and showed great interest in all aspects of the presentation," says Jim. "Particular interest and comments were made on the result and consequences of accidents in the industry, and how they could perhaps have been avoided from occurring in the first place. The importance of density testing, use of the sieve box and reading the spreadmark test results generated a lot of interest, questions and comment."

Peter Harrison from ACE Equipment gave an interesting presentation on the correct maintenance of a spreader, and how regular greasing, particularly of the spinners, will result in a lot less unnecessary downtime and expense. Peter also stated that if the spreader should incur a breakdown, give the workshop as much information as possible, as this will help determine more quickly as to whether it is more likely to be computer or hydraulic related. After covering several other points Peter took questions prior to leaving.

The address from Peter Harrison was of great value to all attendees.



## Training Report

**By Philip Johnson – Candrive**

Hope everyone got a break over Christmas/New Year and 2018 has started off well for all of you and hopefully should lead to a good season.

Summer is always the busiest part of the year for spreader trucks and their operators, both working to their full capacity. This is the time that the driver training and maintenance programs your company completes in the slower months really pays off. Both have the advantage of less down time and costs for your company. Careful pre planning well in advance is the key to successfully implementing either into your business.

March is the start of Autumn, this is a good time to be thinking about any training needs you may have and getting them booked in early. Are your drivers up to date with any inductions they need to have with the companies you deal with locally?

Would a first aid course benefit your company?

Are driving licences up to date/ will they need to renew them in the next few months? Don't leave it until the last minute.

Are your drivers familiar with all the vehicles or a variety of the vehicles in your fleet? Autumn is a good time for your newer drivers to have inductions/training on the other trucks you have. If they are familiar with other trucks and gps systems, that they may not normally operate, you can be confident that they could step in at short notice and do a great job.

Regional Groundspread Health & Safety Training Days - We are planning to run some of these courses in Winter this year, if you would like your branch to hold one please contact us - 03 313 6567 - office@candrive.co.nz

Spreader Operator NZ (Spreadmark) If any of your drivers have attended a Spreader Operator NZ course, please remember they are NOT certified drivers until they have had final sign off and received their certificate.

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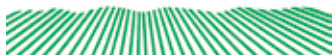
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## HEALTH | SAFETY | HR

With the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) in its second year, we are starting to see the first of the prosecutions coming through the courts. With that in mind, it is a good time for businesses to stop and take stock of where their health and safety culture sits and think about what risks they may be exposed to and how best to manage these.

One area we find many businesses are still struggling with is when they have workers working on multiple sites or sites that they don't have a lot of influence over.

Consider these challenges in managing these remote employees and drivers:

- Employees operate from their homes or report to supervision at a different location from their reporting site.
- Employees rarely gather together for any type of meeting, let alone regular safety briefings.
- Employees increasingly work alone and, even when working alongside other companies' workers, they remain responsible for means and methods, safety and often even quality assurance. No "supervisors" or safety professionals are present from their employer.
- Often no Manager or auditor checks on or approves the work.
- No Supervisor may be present, and the employer has no control of the site.
- Many of these employees may not have developed a safety culture. They may not view their worksite as hazardous.

### Legal Requirements

The HSWA requires you to protect your workers regardless of where they work and require the PCBU to determine the hazards of a job and train and equip workers accordingly. However, the legislation is vague about how a business should meet this challenge when its workers work at a dozen different sites per week, none controlled by the business.

Worksafe guidelines do not give a business a free pass just because it does not directly control the place where its workers work. The PCBU must ensure that those employees are trained and equipped for any safety hazards they may encounter. Under the HSWA, PCBUs that operate in the same workplace and who have overlapping duties need to Consult, Co-operate and Co-ordinate with each other to ensure the work place is safe for everyone in it.

Given this complex requirement, it is in the best interests of all PCBU's at a worksite to coordinate their safety efforts, clearly delineating who is responsible for which workers, the safety procedures all workers

(regardless of employer) must follow on a site and other key issues. Remember, this should be done in consultation with all PCBU's that have overlapping duties and not just dictated from the largest company involved.

### Workers Responsibility

Train all workers to recognize hazards, especially when they work at multiple locations on a variety of tasks. Train your workers to assess a site before beginning work and document this training. One possible strategy is to provide Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) books or programmes that off-site workers can use to compile a simple

job analysis. Draft your JHAs to recognise the hazards of customer sites. If regular safety meetings are impractical, use E-Text, teleconferences or other methods to update employees and remind them of their safety obligations. Create a safety culture.

As the new year begins, take the opportunity to review your health and safety programmes, objectives and where the safety culture in your business currently sits, and how you can reduce your risks to both your people and your business.

If you would like to find out more, give SBS a call on 0508424723 or email [info@safebusiness.co.nz](mailto:info@safebusiness.co.nz).

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# Machinery a matter of life and death



## There are no second chances with heavy machinery says WorkSafe's agricultural sector lead Al McCone.

In early February, a Manawatu farming company was sentenced over the death of a worker in a potato harvesting machine. The worker had worked in the business for 30 years and was familiar with the machine he was using. His death is a cruel reminder to all farmers of the risks inherent in the vehicles and machinery we use to do our every day jobs and the need to eliminate and mitigate those critical risks.

As an industry, there have been nine fatalities involving spreading of fertiliser on farms since 2003. The potential to kill or seriously harm someone makes fertiliser spreading a critical risk.

Add to this vehicles and machinery

coming in and out of properties, shifting material into trucks, large vehicles moving around at the company yard and the need for communication between farm, dispatcher and driver and the risk to people is multiplied. This calls for vigilance around these vehicles and their use to keep everyone safe.

This year, WorkSafe is focussing on farm vehicle and machinery safety to bring about safer operating of all farm vehicles.

While there are many risks in business, critical ones – which have potential to severely injury or kill – such as working in, on or around vehicles and machinery require more attention because of the serious consequences.

In fact, nearly 90% of work-related fatalities on farms involve vehicles and machinery.

It makes sense that if all businesses identify and know what their most serious critical risks are, they can then focus attention to dealing with them so they are appropriately dealt with.

There is a hierarchy of controls to manage critical risks. The most effective means of dealing to risk are higher on the list:

- Elimination (don't do the task involving the risk)
- Substitution (use a different method)
- engineering (roll cages, seat belts)
- administrative (communication, maintenance schedules, training)
- personal protective equipment (masks, gloves).

The Health and Safety at Work Act (2015) says that when you identify a risk, you must eliminate it. Only if it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate it should you then consider the other controls.

It's not just about health and safety; it is business survival too. What will happen to your farm or business if you or one of your workers are killed or injured- would that make you put a seatbelt on?

*Continued page 14 (bottom)*

## FOR ALL YOUR FERTILIZER HANDLING EQUIPMENT!

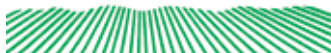
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## Time to talk more about fertiliser



**Anders Crofoot, Chairman of the FQC is keen to encourage spreading companies to ask their customers about the origin of the fertiliser product and if it is**

**Fertmark registered.**



It is great news that over 80% of fertiliser companies in New Zealand are registered with the Fertmark product verification scheme. This means that for the majority of fertiliser being spread on New Zealand soil we know the ingredients that manufacturers and suppliers claim to be in the product (including any coating), have been tested and declared 'true to label'.

But it also means that 20% of fertiliser companies aren't part of this voluntary scheme and are slipping under the radar. Many will likely be selling genuine fertiliser product and making claims that can be verified. On the other hand, others could well be unscrupulously off-loading product that could contain unnamed ingredients in unspecified quantities.

If a farmer, grower or local council doesn't ask their fertiliser supplier if the product is Fertmark registered, or what it contains, they will not know what they are spreading on their land.

The knock-on effect for spreading companies is that they too will be none-the-wiser. A lack of knowledge about a product (and how it will perform in the spinners) will make vehicle calibration difficult and accurate placement less easy to guarantee. In short, an unknown fertiliser product compromises a spreading company's ability to do a decent job.

We know that most fertiliser users don't ask about fertiliser products. It seems, here in New Zealand, that blind trust is good enough

for most. But if those who are ordering the product don't ask the questions they can't pass on any valuable information to spreaders.

So, what do we do? At a recent FQC meeting it was suggested that we need to educate our farmers and growers that when it comes to buying fertiliser 'blind trust' is not an option. It was put forward that we as an industry need to encourage fertiliser users to take responsibility for knowing exactly what they are feeding into their soil.

It could be argued that those who use a reputable fertiliser company don't need to know – since it is the job of the fert rep to recommend a product, and it is a given that they will know what that product contains. But, consensus at the meeting was that we need to help fertiliser users move away from assuming that all will be fine to making sure that it will.

One place we can start is to encourage all spreading companies to ask their customers where the product they are being asked to spread came from and if it is Fertmark registered. If a customer doesn't know the origin we would urge spreaders to ask them to find out – explaining to them why they are asking.

If the spreading industry can help here, this will bolster the efforts that the FQC is currently making to 1) contact non-Fertmark registered companies and advise them of the scheme (and their legal obligations under the ACVM Act), and 2) target farmers directly with a strong message that they 'need to know what's in their fertiliser'.



The Fertmark Tick means that fertiliser has been independently audited to ensure what's on the label is actually in the bag and the Fertmark Code of Practice relates to all fertilisers made and sold under the Fertmark programme.

Fertmark now includes the requirements of the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act which requires fertilisers to be supplied in such a way as to minimise risks to food safety and animal welfare.

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## Machinery a matter of life and death

(continued from page 13)

The way our inspectors talk to you about vehicle use will change as part of our Safer Vehicles work. While we have always asked about vehicles, maintenance and training, these conversations will now focus on the vehicle as a critical risk. Every inspector will be asking the same questions.

Knowing what works for you in reducing critical risk is crucial. We need to know what it is going to take to bring about change not only for your business but for the industry as a whole.

WorkSafe is encouraging the sector to be finding new solutions for themselves.

The bottom line, there is plenty of information out there that points out the risks in using vehicles on the road and on farms. Now it's time for those businesses working in the agriculture sector to step up to reduce their particular risks.

If you purchase machinery, it is your responsibility to ensure it is up to a safe standard for the task and you have procedures for its use that protect your workers from harm.

Take stock of your machines and the risks associated with them and either eliminate, or where that is not reasonably practicable manage, those risks.

And farmers have a responsibility too. An owner or manager needs to be thinking about what measures you have in place to keep those coming onto a property safe.

As a contractor, you need to be asking the farmer if there is anything you should be mindful of. They won't always understand what your operator needs to know, so having a set of questions that gives you the right information is essential.

Keeping you healthy and safe on farm is a two way conversation and it pays to speak up if you aren't sure whether something is safe.

So that if you or your workers make a mistake – you just might have saved a life.



## Precision blending moves North



**By Stephanie Laird**

We're excited to be opening our new store in New Plymouth which will serve a large part of the North Island. At 31 metres high, the store is 1.5ha in area, it's been quite the engineering challenge. Constructing it took three Olympic swimming pools of structural concrete and 27km of roofing and cladding.

Dispatch efficiency, dust emission and stormwater management are some of the many things we have incorporated into the design of the new site. It is also home to only the second Precision Blending Plant of its



New Plymouth Store, featuring the precision blending tower (left)

kind in the whole of Australasia – the first being in Ravensdown in Christchurch.

The unique precision blending plant, developed in the United States, is very similar to a cake-mixer with two counter-rotating paddles that gently and thoroughly mix all fertiliser blend components.

The plant is part of Ravensdown's investment to ensure delivery of high quality products and leading technology to enable smarter farming. It allows an accurate and efficient dispatch of fertiliser blends on demand, enabling us to efficiently service our North Island customers with high quality precision blends. Comments from the South Island

plant around fertiliser blend quality have been fantastic with complete evenness of nutrients, from the start to the finish of the load.

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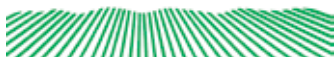


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## Spreading it around with Jim Laird

Since the last Groundspread magazine Jim has been busy presenting the HWR Groundspread Training course to a small group in both Napier and Hastings; and on 8 February eight people attended the course in Hawera organised by Ross Corlett.

Jim says both Northland and Central Districts have asked him to present the course to their respective branches, which will be undertaken soon.

Jim has been busy keeping up with Spreadmark testing too and says he has completed quite a few companies with some still yet to do. In mid-January he was testing Kui Griffin & Co at Raetihi, then Callander Groundspread at Hamilton, and was about to depart for Northland when the weather changed for the worse. Hopefully better luck next time.

The weather has made things very difficult for testing in the North Island and Jim said he hoped the testers in the South Island have had a better run.



*Willing workers from Rural Bulk Spreading help with trays at spreader testing in Bulls*



*John Hickmott, Fertspread – spreader testing day at Stratford Showgrounds*

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## Mycoplasma bovis – advice for operators

As at 8 February 2018, Mycoplasma bovis infection has been confirmed in animals on 23 properties. The regional breakdown is:

Hawkes' Bay (near Hastings) – 1

Canterbury (Rangiora) – 1

Mid-Canterbury (Ashburton) – 2

South Canterbury/North Otago (Waitaki and Waimate Districts) – 11

Otago (Middlemarch) – 1

Southland (Winton, Lumsden, Invercargill, Gore) – 7

All infected properties are under quarantine controls set out in Restricted Place Notices under the Biosecurity Act. These legal controls restrict the movement of stock and equipment on and off those farms to contain the disease.

**On farm:** Mycoplasma bovis is spread from animal to animal through close contact and bodily fluids, for example, mucus and also milking equipment. Calves can be infected through drinking milk from infected cows. Urine and faeces are not regarded as significant transmitters of the disease, but the bacterium does survive for longer in a moist environment such as in piles of moist faeces or wet bedding material.

**Off farm:** The disease is mostly spread through movement of cattle from farm to farm. Movement restrictions on infected properties are therefore the most appropriate measures to contain this disease.

Farm equipment may play a role in the spread of the disease, especially equipment that comes into direct contact with infected animals such as AI instruments.

Vehicles pose a negligible biosecurity risk. It is absolutely safe for trucks to move from infected farms to other properties. All infected farms are under strict legal controls under the Biosecurity Act which require comprehensive cleaning and disinfection.

### Advice for operators

Farmers should be using routine on-farm biosecurity practices to minimise risk to their animals. Service providers can help

minimise risk by complying with the farm's cleaning and disinfection requirements.

Don't arrive unannounced. Let the farmer know you plan to visit their farm and ask their requirements.

Work with the farmer to comply with any farm biosecurity requirements.

Clean and disinfect footwear, protective clothing and equipment before coming on farm and again before leaving the farm.

Be proactive – assure farmers of your hygiene practices.

All the properties under a Restricted Place Notice require permits to move animals between properties and to slaughter. The permits require the truck to be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each movement.

All vehicles are being cleaned and disinfected on leaving the properties. Vehicles carrying animals – for example, transporters to the meat processing premises – are disinfecting on exit, going directly to the meat processor (not to other farms) and then being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at the plant on completing the job.

Vehicles from neighbouring farms are not required to clean vehicles leaving their properties as the biosecurity risk is considered by MPI to be very small.

### Looking to sell or buy gear?

Classified listings are free for NZGFA members in Groundspread. Email to [amandaryan@farmside.co.nz](mailto:amandaryan@farmside.co.nz)

Or list online in The Sales Yard section of NZGFA website (log in to the Members Toolkit Section on website: [www.nzgfa.co.nz](http://www.nzgfa.co.nz))

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# NOTHING CHANGES FOR SPREADERS EVERYTHING CHANGES FOR FARMERS



With the launch of MyBallance in partnership with Precision Farming, farmers can now integrate and manage a wider range of farm technologies all within the MyBallance platform.

The Nutrient Cycle is the inner core of the MyBallance system, delivering value to farmers in managing all aspects of their nutrient management. Farmers access Proof of Application through an annual Precision Farming subscription from as little as \$480 per year.

Farmers can then choose to upgrade to more advanced packages depending on their requirements to achieve greater value in their farming businesses.

And for Ground Spreaders, it's business as usual, only better. Irrespective of whether you use Precision Tracking or TracMap GPS technology in your fleet, you can receive fully detailed orders for spreading in exactly the same way you always have. Farmers place their orders for product and application in MyBallance and spreading orders are forwarded to you as usual. Farmers subscribing to Precision Farming get their electronic Proof of Application records automatically back from TracMap or Precision Tracking devices via Precision back into MyBallance.

**Significant improvements for farmers.**  
**Business as usual, only better, for Ground Spreaders.**





# TracMap, Precision Tracking and Precision Farming collaborate for the good of the industry

TracMap, New Zealand's largest supplier of GPS Guidance Systems to the Groundspread industry, and Precision Tracking, who together cover an estimated 95% of all spreading trucks across New Zealand, have created the channels so farmers' spreading data can be automatically populated in Ballance Agri-Nutrients' new farmer technology platform, MyBallance.

TracMap and Precision Tracking are critical to the success of farmers not only getting their nutrients applied in the right place at the right time, but also in being able to increasingly use technology to make nutrient management more profitable, compliant and sustainable.

The new MyBallance technology platform is designed to provide Ballance's 19,000 shareholders with all their nutrient management requirements in the one system. Ballance provides farm mapping, the soil science services that generate the annual Fertiliser and Application Plan, the commercial terms and records of invoices and payments, and of course, the supply of product whether as single ingredients or mixes.

Ballance's farm technology partner in MyBallance, Precision Farming, adds further value to farmers who are using MyBallance and also subscribe to Precision Farming, by providing more farm data including water and irrigation technology, soil moisture and temperature, effluent data including NPK integration, spray data including NPK and pasture growth etc.

It is in this context that electronic fertiliser management is so important and valuable, and where TracMap and Precision Tracking play a pivotal role. The old days of phone calls, bits of paper and farm maps with highlighter to show spread areas, are going. Electronic ordering made within an accurate Fertiliser & Application plan, transfer of each spreading order using electronic shape files, not merely pdf's, accurate guidance within each paddock, electronic GPS Proof of Application files recorded as shape files not pdf's, and the return of these POA files via Precision Farming to MyBallance are critical to individual farm performance and to national improvements in environmental sustainability.

TracMap and Precision Tracking both support best-practice nutrient management, which is why it has signed a collaboration agreement with Precision Farming to "close the loop" on nutrient management in the context of MyBallance.

Farmers wanting to derive full value from MyBallance achieve these benefits by subscribing to Precision Farming. This gives farmers broad access to the full electronic loop, with each step along the way being electronic, and therefore able to be integrated. Farmers are increasingly seeing the benefits of doing away with phone calls, scraps of paper or texts for ordering spreading. It might seem quick at the time, but it inevitably leads to hours of paperwork later on to prepare Overseer and other reports.

And every hour farmers spend on the phone talking to their spreader is an hour's wages the spreader has to pay. TracMap and Precision Tracking have many contractors who get over 80% of their work through TracMap Online, meaning not only savings in wages but also improvements in accuracy.

Farmers using MyBallance to the fullest advantage, place their orders in the context of their annual plan and these orders are forwarded electronically to TracMap and Precision Tracking to maintain the electronic daisy-chain. As contractors complete these applications, TracMap and Precision Tracking technology generates the electronic Proof of Application files.

Farmers who want Proof of Application in MyBallance get this by subscribing to Precision Farming. By paying this subscription, the transfer of data from TracMap or Precision Tracking is automated, with no additional charging to the farmer and contractor, as a portion of the subscription received is paid to TracMap or Precision Tracking to cover the Proof of Application.

David Glen, CEO of TracMap is supportive of this collaboration. "We have all heard farmers for many years saying they want all their farm data in one place. TracMap supports progress in this direction, which is why TracMap is working with Precision Farming to enable Ballance to bring together the full spectrum of information relating to nutrient management, compliance and sustainability."



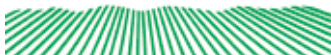
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## History of Manawatu and Districts Branch

By Joyce Telfer

**At Groomsbridge's Restaurant, in Fielding on Wednesday, 1 May 1957, at 8pm,** a meeting was called by Dave Domett of interested people to gauge the interest in forming a branch of the NZ Bulk Fertilizers Association. Dave Domett was elected Chairman of the branch and Mr R Toothill was elected Secretary. There were seven people present, so it looks as if the Branch will be holding their 50th Anniversary in 2007. There is even a copy of the Rules of the NZ Bulk Fertilisers Association which was then current in our minute book. The following meeting held early in 1958 discussed circulars that had arrived from HQ regarding price fixation and it was unanimously agreed not to set a minimum rate for the area. Evidently also in this year the Branch were approached to host the Annual Conference, but declined, because of the small Branch and recommended it go to Waitomo.

**In 1959 a Remit to Conference** was made by the Branch...*That the Association make further representations*

*and actively pursue, the licensing of bulk fertiliser topdressing units.*

**In 1964 the branch evidently took the name of Southern Districts NI Branch.** At the June meeting of the same year the Secretary was instructed to write to HQ regarding the possibility of establishing branches in Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa.

**At the Annual General Meeting held in June 1967,** E. Dix was elected Chairman, a position he held until 1970. In 1968 Hargraves Lime and Fertilisers Ltd transferred to the Wairarapa Branch.

**The first meeting held outside Fielding was held in Hastings on 5 December 1969** at the Red Cross Hall. Reading through the minutes of two or three years round this time the subject of poor granulation of super being supplied was discussed several times.

**Len Johnson was elected President in 1970,** a position he held until 1972 when I. Morton was elected President. Gary Domett was also elected Vice President of the NZ Association in 1972. The subs for the branch were calculated at Basic Rate \$26, each additional unit \$14.

**At a meeting held in January 1974,** Keith Kui (my son) was recorded as attending the meeting for the first time, and the branch name had been changed back to Manawatu-Hawkes Bay Branch. Gary Domett was also elected National President, and the branch hosted the national Conference in Napier.

**At the AGM held in Fielding in 1975 Wilbur Petty was elected Life Member of the Branch,** and D. A. Tollison was elected Branch President, and Lance Pedersen's name appeared for the first time.

**It is also noted that in 1976 the branch forwarded a remit.... *That an educational and training programme for drivers with the objective of setting up a certification for drivers and possibly an annual driver's competition.***

**In November 1977 a Membership Liaison committee was formed** with three prospective new members to be interviewed.

**May 1978 saw Geoff Haycock elected as Branch President** and the meeting agreed to support the proposal submitted from the branch recommending a minimum requirement on the National Council of one representative from each branch.

**1979 saw Charlie Bannister mentioned for the first time and Lance Pedersen was elected delegate to National Council.** Members also discussed the principle of holding meetings more often, but it was finally decided that two meetings per year, as it was then, was adequate. It was decided by Council that the 1980 Conference be held in Rarotonga because of interest shown by members.

**1980 saw Rex Elwin of Taihape become a member, Graeme King became President, and Charlie Bannister was nominated for the Groundspread Merit Award.** Alan Zander announced his retirement from the industry. Len Johnson and Alan Sandar became Life Members of the Branch and were presented with a silver tankard each at the next meeting held in October.

**Because of illness, Secretary R. Toothill, who had been Secretary since the inception of the Branch in 1957 retired in 1981, and Len Johnson was appointed to the position of Secretary.** A recommendation was also made that R. Toothill be made a life member of the branch for the many years of service to the Branch and the industry. It was with regret the Branch learnt later in the year of his passing.



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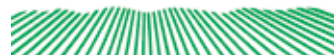
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**With the inclusion of the Wairarapa members into the Branch** it was felt that this should be shown in the name and it was decided that the Branch Name would now be the **Manawatu-Hawkes Bay-Wairarapa Branch**. A discussion was held for the venue of conference 1982, Wairakei being first suggested, but it was finally decided to hold it at Angus Inn in Hastings. The branch was to aim for a minimum of \$6000 sponsorship. Site costs were set at \$200. Geoff Haycock tendered his resignation from the Branch having severed his connections with his firm, it was felt that membership could be maintained on an associate basis.

**1982 saw the resignation of Doug Tollison from the Branch**, having sold his business to his son Paul. He and his wife Madaline were given a presentation to thank them for their many years of service to the Branch.

**Charlie Bannister became the Branch President in May 1983.** Fertiliser quality was still under some criticism. A suggested new logo for the Association was mentioned and members were in agreement that the new one became the official logo, this was to be presented at Conference.

**1984 saw quite a bit of discussion regarding the NZRTA dual membership** and the subs that had to be paid, members of the branch decided they would not pay any subs currently due to the RTA until such time as the National Association informed them the matter of dual subscription had been satisfactorily agreed upon.

**1985 saw T shirts, hats and logo stickers available** at the following prices.... T Shirts \$12, Tank Tops \$10, Collared T Shirts \$14, Caps \$4, Interior or Exterior stickers 60 cents. The suggestion was also made that the branch change its name to central Districts (NI) as it had been set up twenty-nine years previously, members were to think about it.

**At the AGM in 1986** these four names were suggested: Eastern and Central, Eastern and Central Districts, Central Districts (NI) and Manawatu and Eastern Districts, and these were to be thought on and discussed at the next meeting. Bill Parkes was elected President.

**The Annual General Meeting in May 1987 saw the branch name finally decided upon, after a vote it became the Manawatu and Districts Branch.** Len Johnson intimated that he would shortly be leaving the district but would carry on until a new Secretary was found.

**Steve Harvey became President of the Branch at the AGM in 1988**, and after being auditor for a couple of years and typing the minutes since 1981, **Joyce Telfer became the Branch Secretary.** The Branch had undertaken to host the 1989 Conference which would be held at The Coachman in Palmerston North, and a conference committee was elected.

**At the AGM in 1990 Keith Kui took over the mantle of President** and after several years Lance Pedersen resigned as Branch delegate, Ean Brien becoming delegate. Lance in turn became the National President. Ravensdown at Awatoto offered their premises for any future meetings. Jim Smith attended for the first time.

**1991 saw the Branch meet at the RNZAF Base, Ohakea**, prior to a meeting to be held at the Junction Hotel in Sanson, a little different from other meetings. An approach was made to try and gain Associate members and resulted in five becoming associates.

A general meeting was also held in November of 1991 in the Hobbit Motels, Ohakune. Keith Kui had arranged a week-end for members which involved visits to Karori Pulp Mill, Tangiwai Memorial, and also a short address by Jim Neill, Calibration NZ prior to a social hour and great dinner. On the Sunday morning six left for Pipiriki traveling by jet boat and walking through the bush to the Bridge to Nowhere for lunch, and others to the Army Museum at Waiouru. A great weekend.

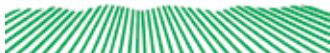
**In 1992 a draft copy of the new constitution was distributed and discussed.** Charlie Bannister tendered his resignation as he was no longer operating as a groundspreader but would still remain an associate member through Central Lime. Stewart Glasgow became a member of the Branch. Members still appeared to be having problems with products.

**1993 AGM was held on the premises of Himatangi Transport** where prior to the meeting calibration tests were carried out for members to observe, followed by a barbeque luncheon. Keith Kui resigned as President and Ean Brien took it on.

August 1993 saw us holding our meeting on the premises of Hatuma Lime where we had a tour of the works from where the lime is still in the ground to the finished product. The shark teeth found in the lime as well as other 'bits' were very interesting. The general meeting was held after a barbeque lunch.

**Ean Brien resigned at the AGM in 1994**, being held at the premises of





## OBITUARY

### Joyce Telfer - Aged 84 years on Thursday 14 December 2017

It is with sadness we note the passing of Joyce Telfer on 14 December 2017.

Joyce gave many years of service to NZGFA as the Secretary of the Manawatu and Districts Branch from 1981 to 2014.

Joyce was also involved with many of the National Conferences organised by the Manawatu and Districts Branch and is remembered fondly by many NZGFA members and their partners.

When Joyce retired at the Manawatu and Districts Branch AGM in 2014 she said she had a lot of fun meeting so many people and enjoying the conferences. She thanked everyone in the association for the warmth and friendship they had shown to her. Her contribution to NZGFA will not be forgotten.

Joyce collated the history of the Manawatu and Districts Branch for the NZGFA 50th Anniversary Magazine (July 2006) and as a tribute to her tireless enthusiasm and service we reprint the article in full on pages 20–22.

*Left: Joyce Telfer being presented with flowers at the 2014 AGM of Manawatu and Districts Branch*



## History of Manawatu and Districts Branch continued

Horowhenua Transport, having sold a large part of his business, however the branch decided to appoint him as Liaison/Recruitment Officer, utilizing him this way. Our branch levy was increased to \$35 per unit from \$25. Charlie Bannister, having come back into the industry was elected President.

**In 1995 the Branch purchased their own testing trays**, sponsored by Ravensdown, and Lance became custodian of these. A meeting was also held again at Himatangi Transport where the morning was spent showing members what was involved in getting a spreader ready for testing for Spreadmark. Lance was also congratulated on being awarded Life Membership of the Association, a reward well earned, and Jim Smith became our Branch Delegate. The mountain trip in 1996 with the Taranaki Branch with a trip up to the crater on Mt Ruapehu was held with 21 and a guide tramped up, some needed a little help, but everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

**1996 also saw the Branch getting prepared to host the 1997 Conference**, and after checking out several venues both in Palmerston North and Wellington, it was decided to use the James Cook (Centra) in Wellington. Bellamy's was also confirmed as a venue for the dinner and Lance Pedersen became the President of the Branch again and Stewart Glasgow our Branch delegate. Keith Kui was bestowed with Life Membership of the Branch at the 1997 Conference. The Branch also purchased a fax machine for the Secretary.

**1999 AGM saw the Branch remembering Rex Elwin** who had passed away. A date for Spreadmark

testing in Fielding was also arranged.

**At the AGM in 2000 Lance stood down as President**, and Charlie Bannister once again stepped into the role. Also, a welcome was extended to Peter Elwin who had taken over his father's business, and to Geoff Haycock who had returned to groundspreading.

**For the AGM in 2001**, for the first time a change of day was taken for the meeting which was held at Ravensdown, Awatoto, commencing with a tour of the works by members and wives prior to the meeting. The Branch levy was increased to \$40 per unit, and Geoff Haycock became our Branch President. Charlie Bannister also resigned from the Branch because of illness, and that he was retiring. It was also decided to continue having the meetings held on a Friday afternoon in the meantime after the questionnaire returns had been studied.

**At our September 2002 meeting Jim Smith tendered his resignation** as Branch delegate because of his work situation and Lance Pedersen agreed to take the position on.

At the February 2003 meeting, members remembered Jim Smith as one of the Branch's hard-working members when he died as a result of a spreading accident.

**The 2003 meeting saw Malcolm Hickford become President** of the Branch and Lance Pedersen continue as Branch Delegate. As the Branch was to host the 2004 Conference there was some talk as to whether to hold it offshore or not, and it was finally decided that enquiries would be made as to venues and facilities in Napier. It was also moved and seconded that Charlie

Bannister be awarded Life Membership of the Branch.

At a meeting in September of 2003, it was decided after seeing the various facilities that the Scenic Circle Te Pania Hotel would be the accommodation and across the road the Conference and Event Centre for conference, meals etc.

**President Malcolm Hickford, because of health problems stepped down** at the AGM in 2004, and mention was made of the passing of Ean Brien in January, who although an associate member had always had the interests of the Branch at heart. Stewart Glasgow became President with Rob Hammond Vice President and Lance continuing on as Branch Delegate. One of our meetings in 2004 was held at the Glasgow Residence after a tour of TRS Agri-Tyres had been held for the members and the ladies were taken on a garden tour. Following the meeting a TRS sponsored social hour was held before another delicious barbeque.

**2004 AGM saw the best attended meeting ever**, held by the Branch with several new members attending for the first time and being welcomed into the Branch. The Branch now numbers 25 paid up members. Unfortunately, because of the sale of his business, Stewart Glasgow tendered his resignation from being President, and Paul Johnston was elected in his place.

**That is the history of the Branch as taken from the minute books, it is amazing how long you are connected to an organisation without knowing it. I first started connection with the Branch in 1979 when I typed the minutes up for Len Johnson before becoming Secretary in 1981.**





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