

Terry Olsen
Trustee

I live and farm at Opiki, south of Palmerston North. The farm is run in a family partnership which is involved in dairy farming and potato growing. The milk supply is to Fonterra and the potatoes into export or process. The business started 45 years ago, however the family connection with Opiki goes back to 1937.

We have been previous entrants into the BFEA and at that time started my involvement with the Horizons BFEA Committee. I have now been chair for four years and have found myself on the Board of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust.

I have been involved with Potatoes New Zealand, and was chair for six years. I also served as a director of Horticulture New Zealand for three years.

In my time with Potatoes NZ we hosted the World Potato Congress in Christchurch, which was an interesting challenge but well attended with a great diversity of world attendees.

At present I am chair of Tararua Growers Inc, which is our local vegetable growers' association representing 50 members. We have just implemented two scholarships for assistance to suitable people to study horticulture. This action is an attempt to remain relevant in an ever-changing world. The environmental challenges our growers in priority catchments face is enormous and potentially will significantly change the face of vegetable growing at a local level.

I acknowledge however all forms of farming or indeed any business face considerable challenge more especially in this time of Covid 19.