

## Job Information Form

Job Opportunity:

Farm Manager (part time)

- Option to be engaged as a contractor or employee

Business Name:

Ōtakanini Tōpū Inc

Property Summary:

Ōtakanini Tōpū Inc was established in 1959, when numerous owners of individual titles opted to incorporate their lands and created a single large property of 2593ha. The farming business is running a drystock sheep and cattle operation on 1550ha and has forestry on a further 641ha. The property runs down to the Kaipara Harbour and the Board has established strong farming policies to mitigate any issues to the coastal environment, they have also fenced off significant historical/cultural areas and invested in developing their infrastructure. Due to the sandy nature of some areas of the farm there are erosion issues they are mitigating along with some re-grassing.

Ōtakanini Tōpū Inc established a farm plan in 2016, each year they take 3 target areas to work through and continue with development of the property.

Ōtakanini Tōpū Inc's mission is to become a progressive sheep, cattle and forestry operation, that strives to improve on past performance in a forward-thinking manner, using best practice. Along with having a focus of being a productive, profitable and sustainable business, The Tōpū is also underpinned by Kaupapa Māori values as a living cultural landscape linked to tribal history and identity.



Position Overview:

As the Farm Manager you will be directly reporting to the Chair of the Ōtakanini Tōpū Inc Board, and you will be fully responsible for the day to day running of the farm and meeting farm goals, although stating part time 20-30 hours per week there is an expectation it may require



up to 40 hours per week, to meet seasonal requirements. There is the option to be engaged as a Contractor or as an Employee.

This is a hands-on role and will require you to have a strong level of stockmanship, with a team of 4 capable working dogs and ideally a pup coming through. You will need to understand genetics and how to achieve the desired production of the Ōtakanini Tōpū Board. This will include the procurement and sales of stock, optimising the markets and capitalising on seasonal opportunities.

With the coastal environment and sandy soils comes erosion, therefore an understanding of managing feed budgets, rotations and the stock grazing policy to mitigate and ensure minimal erosion is imperative.

There will be a high level of reporting, which involves delivering an annual farm budget, you need to understand financial budgets, revenue targets and be able to explain any variances to the budget throughout the year to the Ōtakanini Tōpū Inc Board.

There is a comprehensive farm plan in place, and the Board are always looking to achieve and act on what is best for the farm and the shareholders. This will also include maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all kaimahi and visitors to the Tōpū.

Skills, Experience, and Attributes Required:

- 5 years management experience in drystock.
- Strong in stockmanship, animal health.
- Pasture, feed budgeting, stock rotations.
- Excellent Kaimahi management and organisation.
- Environmental understanding (comprehensive farm plan).
- Strong communication - verbal and written.
- Financial budgeting and understanding.
- Strong recording, monitoring and reporting skills.
- Knowledge and understanding of Tikanga relating to “sites of significance” on the farm or a willingness to develop in this area is expected.
- Knowledge of Te Reo Māori or the appreciation of and willingness to learn.

Staff Structure:

Farm Manager  
Head Shepherd  
Junior Shepherd General  
General Hand  
Office/Admin

Career Opportunities & Benefits:

This is an opportunity to work with a well-structured incorporation that takes immense pride in their land and whenua. They are looking



**Partner Work Opportunities:**

for an experienced Farm Manager that can continue to build on the current foundations and step the production up to the next level.

There is some casual work available on farm during busy times, like docking and tree planting. Helensville 10km away where there may be some work available, and the property is 45km from Auckland, which is a 45-minute drive.

**Lifestyle Information****Accommodation:**

Although there is no accommodation available on farm, if a successful candidate is engaged on a permanent part-time basis as an employee, OTI may consider contributing to rental expenses. (If a candidate is engaged as a contractor, there are no additional benefits over and above the hourly rate of pay).

**Farm Location & Community Information:**

Located at 405 South Head Road, on the inner Kaipara Harbour. It is a coastal property with lots of recreational opportunities including fishing, with some hunting available. Located 10 minutes from Helensville and 45 minutes north of Auckland and 1hour 15 minutes from Auckland airport.

**Schooling:**

Local schools include 4 primary schools and early childhood centres and Kaipara College in Helensville.

**Farm Information****Farm Area (total/effective):**

2,593ha / 2800ha total

- 1550ha drystock
- 641ha – forestry
- 609ha – ineffective (riparian planting, historical sites, dunes)

**Contour:**

Mix of rolling hills to flats.

**Soil Type:**

Sandy loam soils.

**Rainfall:**

Average approximately 1200ml per annum.

**Subdivision/Fences:**

Majority of fences are 7 wire conventional batten with some electrics. Wetlands and cultural historical sites have been fenced off.

**Woolshed & Other Buildings:**

There is a raised board 6 stand woolshed. The yards are a combination of covered and uncovered, with a night pen capacity of 2000 ewes. Workshop, shearers quarters, 3 large barns. There is a set of cattle yards and additional 2 sets of stock yards on farm.



Weeds:	Seasonal Thistles, Woolly Nightshade (Tobacco Weed) , Rushes in low lying areas, Bathurst Burr and Gorse. Tractor spray unit and mulcher used for weed control. (Remove kikuyu as this is a grass we graze but needs managing.)
Water:	There is a spring and they run a water system to troughs through this. There is also some natural water.
Machinery:	2 tractors, 2 farm utes, feed out wagon, side by sides. Recently purchased a seeder.
Tracks:	Easy access for bikes, some areas are tricky, not a lot of tracks, in the rain they do erode.

## Farm Policy & Systems

Production System	Semi Intensive
Stock Policy - Breeds/Number:	<p>Sheep &amp; cattle.</p> <p>3000 MA Romney breeding ewes.</p> <p>2000 to maternal and 1000 to terminal.</p> <p>Keep replacements and finishing all the rest.</p> <p>Angus cattle, working through a process to establish.</p>
Maternal/Terminal Policy:	<p>Maternal - Romney</p> <p>Terminal - Sufftex</p>
Sheep – Mating/ Lambing/Weaning Dates:	<p>Ram out – 1<sup>st</sup> February 1000 terminal ewes</p> <p>Ram out – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2000 maternal ewes</p> <p>Lambing – 1<sup>st</sup> July – terminal      25<sup>th</sup> July - maternal</p> <p>Wean – October</p> <p>All replacements lambs kept.</p> <p>Lambs are sold at an estimate of cc's weight of 18kg.</p> <p>Ideally looking to finish all progeny, but climate and market dependent.</p>
Cows – Mating/ Calving/Weaning Dates:	<p>Bull out - 1<sup>st</sup> October - 300MA breeding cows</p> <p>Bull out – 1<sup>st</sup> October – 100-150 R2 Heifers</p> <p>Calving – from 1<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> August – all marked by end of Sept</p> <p>Wean – 1<sup>st</sup> March</p> <p>100-150 heifer replacements kept, rest sold fat at 24 months, 220kg.</p> <p>All male calves steered sold store at 280kg, 28 months.</p> <p>There is some flexibility around the cattle, climate and market dependent.</p>



Animal Health Practices:

Best practice at all times, due to the climatic conditions there is a close eye kept on all classes of stock.

Cropping Policy:

Spray out and direct drill – Ōtakanini Tōpū Inc have recently purchased their own seeder.

Brassica, to finish lambs.

Cattle supplemented with hay and silage.



Photos



**Map**
