

## Job Information Form

Job Opportunity:	Shepherd General (Junior)
Business Name:	Ōtakanini Tōpū Inc
Property Summary:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>  <p><b>VISION</b> Ōtakanini Tōpū thriving prosperity for the benefit of shareholders and their whānau</p> <p><b>MISSION</b> Commitment to be a progressive sheep, beef and forest operation, always striving to improve on past performance in a forward-thinking manner, using best practice</p>
Position Overview:	The Shepherd General (Junior) position is a newly created role, and in this position, you will be working alongside the Farm Manager, Head Shepherd and Fencer General with all day-to-day tasks, from stock work through to general work. Our client is looking for a person with minimum 12-18 months sheep and beef farming experience, who enjoys variety within their work.



The mix of work from stock to general will give you a good base, and you will bring a team of 2-4 working dogs that are under good control.

As your understanding of the role progresses there is the opportunity for further responsibility. Our client is fully supportive of your personal career development and will encourage additional training

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:**

- To be self-motivated, energetic and have a passion for farming.
- Show initiative and flexibility with the ability to work independently.
- Great communication skills as you will be working within an on-farm team of four.
- A competency in fencing, tractor driving and the use of side by sides.
- A current restricted driver's licence at a minimum.
- Knowledge of Te Reo Māori or the appreciation of and willingness to learn.

**Staff Structure:**

Farm Manager  
Head Shepherd  
Shepherd General (Junior)  
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.

There is the opportunity to gain experience and knowledge in the role, working towards a high level of competency as a Shepherd General and progress within the business.

**Partner Work Opportunities:**

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:	Unfortunately there is no on-farm accommodation available at this point in time, however there are properties to rent in the local and surrounding areas.
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 such as fishing. 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1550ha drystock</li><li>• 641ha – forestry</li><li>• 609ha – ineffective (riparian planting, historical sites, dunes)</li></ul>
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 they 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.

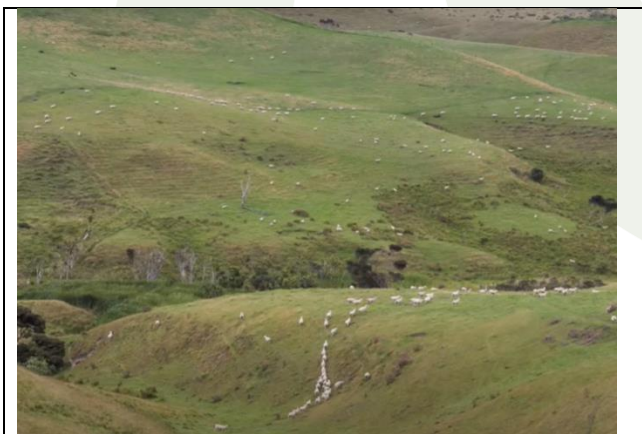
## Farm Policy & Systems

Production System	Semi Intensive
Stock Policy - Breeds/Number:	<p>Sheep &amp; cattle.</p> <p>3000 MA Romney breeding ewes. 2000 to maternal and 1000 to terminal. 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:	<p>Spray out and direct drill – Ōtakanini Tōpū Inc have recently purchased their own seeder.</p> <p>Brassica, to finish lambs.</p> <p>Cattle supplemented with hay and silage.</p>





Photos



Map

