



THE TRACTOR TIMES

BUSY SEASON IS UPON US

Hello again to all of our clients and friends across the Southland and Otago regions. I'm sure like me you have been counting down the days until winter ends and we've (finally) made it.

With the start of spring, some of you may already be well into calving and lambing, let's hope the weather plays ball for the next few months as well as hopefully put everyone in good stead for a bumper harvest season. As always, good luck to everyone over these busy few months and please do call into any of our branches if you are in town and having a break from off the farm.

Thanks to all of you who brought your lawn mowers in over winter and went into the draw to win a John Deere Weber BBQ. We know it can seem odd to be thinking about mowing lawns when there is a dusting of snow on the ground. A big congrats to Susan Keely who was the winner of the BBQ. We have a couple more in stock, so keep an eye out on future promotions for your chance to win one.

It's that time of the year again when John Deere recognise the achievements of some of our amazing Service and Parts staff, and we are thrilled again to have representation at the John Deere Technician of the Year Awards in Australia.

Service Technician Greg Bishop, from our Mosgiel branch was again selected as the South Islands Regional finalist after taking out the Service Technician of the Year 2022. This year wasn't to be his year however, but the whole company is still very proud of your achievements (watch out 2024!).

If you haven't already, then this is the time to get all your gear checked for the upcoming season - from a chainsaw or a ride on mower, up to a Combine or a Silage Chopper and everything in between, we service it all, so get in contact with one of our 6 branches today.

If you are also looking for your next purchase, be it new or used, we have plenty of stock in and available now including John Deere, Krone, Kramer, Giltrap and many other of our amazing brand partners.

Enough from me as I'm sure you are all busy, enjoy this month's Tractor Times.

Stacey Hitchens

Stacey Hitchens
General Manager

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TIME TO RECOGNISE TECHNICIANS

After Greg Bishop from our Mosgiel branch took out the title of Service Technician of the Year 2022 at the annual John Deere Technician Awards, it was a 'no-brainer' for Mosgiel Service Manager, Melissa Mitchell, to nominate him again this year.

"Greg possesses a very high skill level and is very capable of any repair required and enjoys tackling the more difficult diagnostic challenges" said Melissa.

We were all very excited when Greg was announced as the regional finalist for the South Island, and have the opportunity to head to Brisbane (John Deere HQ) to defend his title.



Greg Bishop in Brisbane with his Regional Finalist Awards.



Melissa Mitchell and Greg Bishop ready for the Awards Gala Event.

This year however, wasn't to be his year with some incredibly tough competition. Across the group we applaud Greg on his achievements highlighting his skill set and representing us so well. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the fantastic work our parts and service technicians do, and we look forward to next year having more of our amazing staff feature at these awards.

These awards also highlight the opportunities available in the agricultural sector, what a great industry it is to be a part of, and that it's not all about being covered in grease and mud.

TRAINING PLUS A BIT MORE TRAINING

With the evolution of the technology in machinery it's important that all of our staff are upskilled to be able to pass this knowledge on and give good advice.

This time it was the Sales team who spent 2 days with the team from John Deere covering topics such as Connected Support and Precision Ag, as well as product updates.

"Being able to put what was being taught into action is a valuable part of the training, and the general consensus was that this was a very valuable exercise" said IS Manager, Mike Cleland.

"Unfortunately we haven't been able to do as much training as we would've liked to in the last few years, so it really is great to have these opportunities opening up for us again", he said.

Next up it was the turn of some of our parts and service technicians to do Hay & Forage training with John Deere Aftermarket Hay & Forage Product Support Specialists, Chris Brock, and Roberto Scheidt.

This was a day spent trying to cover as much detail on the numerous components that make up a Self Propelled Forage Harvester, as well as the John Deere C441R Baler Wrapper.

The addition of the SPFH franchise has come with considerations such as which parts and stock quantities, as well as servicing and diagnostic techniques for our aftermarket teams.

"Having John Deere trainers coming to support our teams is vital in us being able to deliver the right kind of experience for our customers, and this is something we will continue to do" said Mike.



A stunning Southland day sets the scene perfectly for the 2023 SFML Sales Training



The line-up - parts and service technicians learning their way around Harvesters

JOHN DEERE 7R 230 EX DEMO MODELS NOW FOR SALE



7R 230 e23

- Tier 2 ENGINE (No Ad Blue)
- E23 (40K) Powershift Transmission
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7R 230 IVT

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- Front hitch and PTO
- AutoTrac, Section Control Activated
- Connected to Operations Center
- One Touch Work Setup



both have less than 80 hours...
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FLYING THE FLAG AT CAREERFEST

To highlight how great it is to work in the agricultural industry we headed to the CareerFest Southland held in July at Stadium Southland.

With the aim to open up study, training, employment and career support services to Southlanders a number of educational providers, industry training organisations and government agencies were all available to discuss options with the large number of attendees from across the province.

Thanks to those who stopped by our booth to find out what we were all about.

We also ran a competition highlighting the success of our apprentices at the 2022 John Deere Technician Awards.

The winner of the 100 year anniversary John Deere 7230R was Asher who had stopped by with his Mum and brother. Who knows, we might see him back one day in green overalls.



Flying the flag - quite literally - at our booth at CareerFest.



Congratulations Asher on being our winner.

HUG A TRACTOR

Thanks to Gore Sales Manager Andy Fraser the John Deere 7R 230 had an extra special outing when it joined in 'Southland Hug a Rig Day' starting and finishing at the Southern Field Days Site, Waimumu.

The day is designed to take people of all ages with special needs or a lifelong medical condition to enjoy a ride in a big rig or a hot rod, or why not a tractor?!



MEET OUR WEBER WINNER

Congratulations to Susan Keelty, winner of our Winter Mower Maintenance Promo! Susan won a John Deere Weber BBQ (presented by Invercargill Service Manager, Carrie Reynolds) getting her John Deere D105 its regular service.

Susan has owned her mower since 2014, and finds that it does a great job, and has been very reliable for her.

Thanks to everyone who brought their mowers in for a check up over winter, looks like they could be in for a busy spring season!



Heap of entries for our Winter Mower Promo.



The big moment, General Manager Stacey Hitchens draws the winner.

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SWAPPING HP FOR HP

It's amazing the variety of interests our customers have outside of working! We're glad to be on board with Craig from Broadview Farming Ltd and FX71 Racing. Best of luck for the racing season.



HANGING WITH HILLARY

Our head office admin team were treated to an ETC (Eat, Talk, Connect) lunch with guest speaker Hillary Barry.

They had a great time, and found Hillary to not just be a fantastic speaker and storyteller, but a genuinely lovely person.



From left: Raewyn Pedler (Group Administration Manager), Hillary Barry, Nicole Fowler (Group Administrator), and Hollie Cooper (Group Business Support)

RURAL CONTRACTORS IN TOWN

Sunny Invercargill was the destination for the 2023 Rural Contractors Conference, and we were quite happy to offer some machinery to display for them.



MORE GREEN AND GOLD



Krone twins heading out from our Invercargill branch on a brisk winters morning.

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES



Glen Harrex from Greendale Downs has kicked off winter the right way - with a new John Deere 6125M.

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