

Summary of progress during this quarter

Overall

- A Communications Manager joined the RMPP team at the start of August. Over the last quarter there has been a significant amount of work undertaken to build RMPP's profile via different communications channels. This has included newspaper articles on RMPP pilot farmers, establishing a social media presence and presenting at a number of Agri Business events.
- The Annual Plan was reviewed, updated and approved.
- The Data Linker has been built and some organisations are now preparing to utilise its data sharing capability.
- A wide range of activity continues within the People Capability workstream, with various courses and group interactions taking place.
- The NZ Farm Assurance Programme (NZ-FAP) was trialled, evaluated and changes based on the feedback received in readiness for rollout.

Sector Capability

The **TeenAg clubs** in secondary schools were very active during September with a range of educational activities and fundraising to attend regional competitions. The **Red Meat Network** in tertiary institutions had a great range of speakers, including two from our partner group, Julie McDade from Greenlea, and Emma Higgins from Rabobank.

Understanding Your Farming Business for women, is ramping up for 2017, with more facilitators being trained and updated administration systems being put in place. **Computer upskill workshops** have completed for the year, with a review taking place in October, before activity for 2017 is proposed.

Extension Design

An interim summary of the end of year one behavioural evaluation was presented to the Pilot Working Group. It points towards a significant portion of farmers who have implemented change on-farm. Amongst trying new ideas, the pilots are also encouraging farmers to try things again that had previously failed. With access to independent experts, group interactions and top performing farmers the pilot farmers are implementing transformational changes through to tweaks in their systems.

Data and Systems Integration

Uptake by processor partners is proving to be a challenge in the **Data Linker** pilot due to ongoing internal projects. Work has commenced on the **eASD** pilot following PSG approval of funding for this next stage. Development of on-line **Benchmark** tools is being costed. Further work is required on the **RGW** algorithms to achieve acceptable results. The **Information Hub** proof of concept designs are now in development.

NZ Farm Assurance

The NZ-FAP product has been trialled across 34 farms. It was then thoroughly evaluated along with the distribution methods used, and auditing style. Some really positive and useful feedback was received which has enabled helpful changes to be made to the product and its delivery. It is now ready for launch before Christmas.

Key highlights and achievements

- NZ-FAP now ready for launch. A number of processors have enquired about the ability to use NZ-FAP, and additional processors from outside the RMPP are already on board.
- The Data Linker software is built and has been tested ready for use.
- Approval to extend eASD through to integration with one of our partner IT systems, and expand use to limited sites of all partners.

Collaboration with other PGP programmes

There are multiple areas where RMPP is continuing to collaborate with other PGP programmes – such as:

- **People (sector capability):** Continuing to collaborate with Transforming the Dairy Value Chain (TDVC) across a number of initiatives.
- **Extension networks:** Discussions continue with FarmIQ, Ravensdown, Ballance, Firstlight Wagyu, and DINZ PGP's around provision of coaching and guidance with extension activities enabling RMPP to gain further insights into uptake of new innovations.
- **Systems and data integration:** Continuing work on the Data Linker (integration layer) which is a common project between the RMPP and the TDVC PGP programmes: - Data standards (Animal, Land Application, Finance, Effluent and Irrigation), is a jointly funded collaboration between RMPP and the Dairy PGP. - IT Platform – RMPP continues to work closely with FarmIQ as we review benchmarking platforms and options for development. FarmIQ developed recent feedSmart app for RMPP and B+LNZ collaborative delivery.
- **Standardised QA:** Has been developed in conjunction with DINZ, and now ready for launch.

Upcoming

- Planning is underway for a Rural Professionals workshop to understand the current requirements from this sector.
- PSG meeting to be held in Southland, and include a farm visit to one of the pilot farmers and an opportunity to talk to Alliance senior management.
- PGP Expo on 1 November 2016.
- Publication of the first RMPP Progress Update which will provide an overview of the RMPP Programme and progress to date.
- Launch of the NZ-FAP, initially expected through ANZCO.

Investment

Investment period	Industry contribution	MPI contribution	Total investment
During this Quarter	\$1,044,831	\$1,044,831	\$2,089,662
Programme To Date	\$7,721,733	\$7,721,733	\$15,443,466