

Job Information Form

Job Opportunity:

Block Manager – Parks Peak Block

Business Name:

Smedley Station

Business Summary:

In 1919 Josiah Howard bequeathed Smedley Station to the Crown for it to be carried on as a farm to train young people in practical farming. Smedley exists today as a training farm of excellence to develop the very best future farmers.



Public Trust is responsible for the administration of Smedley Station and the Cadet Training. The Howard Estate Advisory Board, established in 1931, advises Public Trust on the operational aspects of the Station and the Cadet Training Program.

The farming operation and cadet training farm is located in Tikokino, 40kms west of Waipukurau near the Wakarara and Ruahine Ranges in Central Hawke's Bay. Smedley is farmed commercially.

Over 90 years of training cadets, Smedley has grown to its current size of 5,600ha (3,400ha effective), wintering 30,000su. Within the Smedley farming operation there are four blocks including the main Smedley block, Parks Peak, Onepoto and Ridglands, the first three have Block Managers employed on them.

More information on Smedley Station can be found here <https://smedley.ac.nz/>

Property Summary:

Parks Peak is 1400ha, with 900ha effective, and is the main breeding unit for Smedley Station, they run 4500 MA Romney ewes, 1500 hoggets and 250 Angus breeding cows. It is based in the Wakarara farming district, and boundaries the back end of the Smedley Station and they look after the back block. It is a 30-minute drive from the main station to Parks Peak.

Because of the contours and for the training of the cadets on Parks Peak, a significant amount of the mustering is done on horseback.

Position Overview:

The appointee to this Block Manager role needs to have excellent stockmanship including both horse and dog skills, the ability to effectively manage livestock, with a high level of animal health knowledge. They will be working directly with the stock agents and be



responsible for all day to day management of the property. A team of 5 working dogs will be a requirement.

The Block Manager will need to have a good eye for detail with feed and pasture management, and understand stock rotations, completing pasture covers and feed availability.

Along with the stock work there is a requirement to complete general tasks including managing R & M fencing, handpiece work and all other activities related to farming.

From Monday to Friday each week there can be up to 6 cadets on Parks Peak, they stay in the 3-bedroom cottage and are self-sufficient. The cadets will be working alongside the Block Manager during the week who will be responsible for supporting them with all tasks. It's important the successful applicant enjoys teaching and training people and has a good level of empathy and patience. Some weekend work will be required.

This role requires a strong understanding of Health & Safety and the adoption and follow through of the station's farm policies and procedures. Computer literacy will be beneficial as a monthly farm report will be required, and Smedley Station also use FarmIQ therefore some experience with this would be beneficial.

Smedley will also support and encourage the Block Manager to complete further training.

The appointee to this role will be a person able to mentor young cadets in a positive and proactive way, whilst also having the ability to work with the rest of the team when needed to support the Station Manager.

To succeed in this role, you will bring:

- Excellent understanding of the fundamentals of farming.
- Strong understanding of feed quality and supply/demand.
- Ability to provide input into your blocks stocking policies and ability to achieve stock production targets.
- Excellent communication and relationship building skills.
- High level of stockmanship with a team of 5 good working dogs.
- Proficiency and passion around the training and working of dogs, with the transference of this passion and skill set to cadets.
- Accurate record keeping and reporting skills – FarmIQ, monthly reporting and excel is utilised on farm.
- Interest and ability in utilising technology and modern systems.
- Strong forward planning and time management skills.
- Well-rounded general skills – fencing, handpiece.

Skills, Experience, and
Attributes Required:



Staff Structure:

This role reports to the Station Manager.

Career Opportunities & Benefits:

- High personal standards, a strong work ethic and good communication skills, and therefore able to set a high-quality example to both cadets and colleagues.
- Sense of humour.
- This role will allow you to take responsibility of Parks Peak Station with the support of a strong management team.
- This is a great opportunity to develop yourself professionally in a farming business with excellent policies in place.
- Take the chance to guide and train the next generation of farmers.
- To be fully immersed in a larger farming operation with many moving parts.
- Opportunity to support the cadets with their horse and dog skills.

Partner Work Opportunities:

There aren't any work opportunities on farm, but there may be some farm work locally or it is 35-minute drive into Waipukurau. It is an hour drive to Hastings.

Lifestyle Information
Accommodation:

There is a comfortable 3 bedroom open plan home, including a large living area. With a good fireplace and heat pump. There is a garage and sleep out. Healthy homes certified.

Farm Location & Community Information:

The farm is based in the Wakarara farming district, this is a small rural community. It is 30 minutes from Tikokino, where there is the Sawyers Arms café and pub, along with the Young Farmers based out of here. There is also the local Tiko rugby club.

Schooling:

There is a local primary school at Tikokino, High School is at Central Hawkes Bay College, there is a bus from Tikokino. Boarding options in Hastings and Havelock North.

Farm Information
Farm Area (total/effective):

Smedley Station – total 5,600ha

- Parks Peak – 1,400ha, 900ha effective
 - Onepoto – 640ha eff
 - Smedley – 960ha eff
 - Ridgeland – 540ha eff
 - Deer Unit – 300ha eff



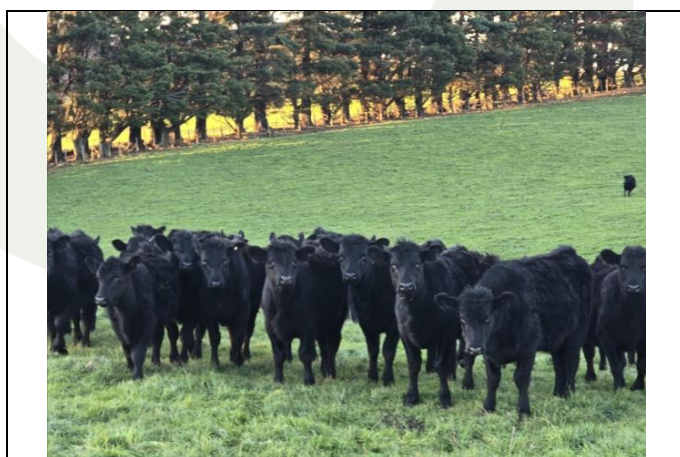
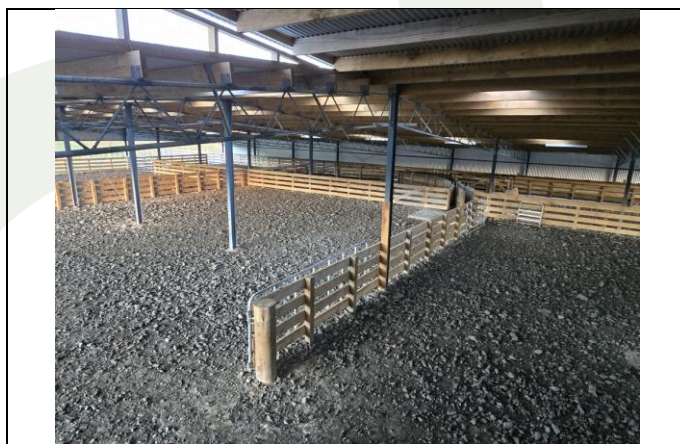
Contour:	Easy to steeper hill country with bush blocks, it is horse and dog country.
Soil Type:	Silt loam
Rainfall:	1500ml – summer safe
Subdivision/Fences:	Parks Peak is conventional 7 wire fencing with battens.
Woolshed & Other Buildings:	There is a brand new 6 stand woolshed with cover yards with night pen capacity for approximately 3000 ewes. TPW press.
Weeds:	There is gorse, blackberry and thistles, with some scrub.
Water:	Some reticulated water with dams and springs.
Machinery:	There is a tractor, side by side, quad, weed sprayer.
Tracks:	Reasonably well tracked – horse and dog – 2/3 of stock work is done with a horse.

Farm Policy & Systems

Production System	Semi Intensive/Extensive.
Stock Policy – Breeds/Number:	Breeding unit. 4500 Romney ewes 1500 Hoggets 250 Angus cows
Maternal Policy:	Maternal
Sheep – Mating/ Lambing/Weaning Dates:	Ram out 19 th April Lamb - September Wean - January The progeny goes to the finishing blocks – Onepoto/Ridgeland.
Cows – Mating/ Calving/Weaning Dates:	Bull out – 1 st January Calving – October Wean – Mid March – yard wean for 3-4 days.
Animal Health Practices:	There is a full animal health plan and Smedley work closely with the vets.



Photos



Map

