

# FARMING'S IDEAL TRAINING GROUND AN 856-HECTARE CAMPUS

writer **PETER WHITE** // photographer **GEOFF HORRELL**

Starting a new career in farming is a dream come true for **ANDREW SOMERFIELD**.

The 20-year-old grew up on a lifestyle block in Tauranga and is loving life as a junior shepherd at Riverslea Farm near Te Anau in Southland.

Working on a farm has been his goal for as far back as he can remember.

In Year 13 at Tauranga Boys' College he made the decision to enrol in a two-year course at Telford, part of the Southern Institute of Technology.

The Balclutha campus extends over 856 hectares of farmland. It was the ideal training ground for Andrew who loved every minute there.

He completed the practical and theory-based Certificate in Agriculture and followed that up last year with the Massey Diploma in Agriculture – Level 5.

At the start of this year he began working for Landcorp at Riverslea Farm as a junior shepherd on a sheep breeding and steer finishing farm. He has



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found Landcorp to be a great company to work for as they provide good opportunities for young shepherds and a safe working environment.

“I just love getting up in the morning and working outside with a team of dogs and all the animals,” Andrew says.

“It is just really nice here. You are always doing something and there are always challenges you have to work out and overcome. It keeps you on your toes.”

In Year 13 Andrew took English, Photography, Metal Technology, High Performance Sport and

Horticulture. He says what you take at school is not vitally important to a career in farming but the right approach is.

His advice to students is to do a course like he did at Telford to see if farming is what you want to do. “You learn all the basics within a year and it gives you a heads-up for what you can look forward to. What most people are looking for is someone who is dedicated and will do the job and not back out of any challenges.

“It is just simple stuff really. You don't need to be the smartest person in the world to do it but you

have to have the right attitude really.”

Andrew says there are lots of rewards to be had from farming and the lifestyle is hard to beat.

“The key is you must not be afraid to work. I think that is one of the biggest things – to be willing to knuckle down and get the job done.

“There are lots of roles in farming where you can move your way up and get to see the country. There are lots of opportunities so if you love the outdoors and are not too sure what to do, I reckon it is worth giving it a go.”

## KEY FACTS



- **ANDREW SOMERFIELD HAS A CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE AND DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE – LEVEL 5 FROM TELFORD.**
- **HE WORKS AS A JUNIOR SHEPHERD AT RIVERSLEA FARM NEAR TE ANAU IN SOUTHLAND.**
- **ANDREW RECOMMENDS COMPLETING A COURSE TO TRY OUT FARMING AND SEE IF IT IS THE CAREER YOU WISH TO PURSUE.**



For more information on studying Agriculture at Telford through the Southern Institute of Technology, visit [www.sit.ac.nz/telford](http://www.sit.ac.nz/telford)

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