

CAREER WITH A LIFESTYLE

PICTURESQUE FARMING

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“IT IS PRETTY AWESOME COUNTRY TO WORK. I SPEND A LOT OF TIME SHIFTING STOCK AROUND, DOING GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND SHEPHERD WORK.”

JACK PRICE

Working in the outdoors surrounded by magnificent scenery on an iconic South Island sheep farm is the ideal career for JACK PRICE.

The 19-year-old works as a general shepherd at Newhaven Perendales, which is renowned for high quality, hill-country sheep farming and has won awards for sustainable, environmentally friendly farming.

The farm is located 650 metres above sea level among snow-capped mountain peaks in the Kakanui Range in North Otago, with mostly very steep terrain with heavy tussock and icy slopes.

What Jack loves most about what he does is being outside in the open air and working the high-performing Perendale, Romdale and Perendale-Texel sheep breeds with a team of dogs. It is hard work but very rewarding.

“It is pretty awesome country to work on. I spend a lot of time shifting stock around, doing general maintenance and shepherd work. Of course,

during lambing season we are flat out with that,” says Jack.

“It is a good farm to start out on with a team of dogs and there is really good hunting up here as well, so plenty of good outdoor past times. It is always enjoyable.”

Jack is from the small Canterbury town of Southbridge, world famous for where All Blacks legend Dan Carter grew up. He attended Waitaki Boys’ High School as a boarder and says the school’s Fraser Farm (www.facebook.com/WBHSPP) was the final inspiration for him to get into farming.

In Year 13, he took part in the school’s agriculture and agribusiness programme, where he studied maths and other subjects.

Students study various relevant topics and also take part in the day-to-day running of Fraser Farm, including on weekends.

Jack joined the Gateway programme at school – he worked once a week on a farm and gained valuable agricultural theory work through the

Telford campus of Southland Institute of Technology. The work placement Jack got at Newhaven Perendales ended up being a great result for him as he landed a fulltime role there after he left school.

“Through the school’s farm I met David Ruddenklau and got in touch with his daughter and son-in-law. I did work experience through Year 13 with them and I have been with them fulltime since.”

Jack’s advice for school leavers – if you are fit, don’t mind hard work and are keen and willing to learn then sheep farming is potentially a great career choice.

“You have to admit you are not always right. Someone might show you a better way to work your dogs, for example. There is a good career path. Once I establish a very good team of dogs, I could look at moving into a stock manager role then eventually a block manager role, or even become a fulltime farm manager.

“It is just good to get into the industry and see what suits you best when you are young.”

KEY FACTS



- **JACK PRICE** WORKS AS A **GENERAL SHEPHERD** AT **NEWHAVEN PERENDALES**, AN AWARD-WINNING HILL-COUNTRY SHEEP FARM IN NORTH OTAGO.
- HE ATTENDED **WAITAKI BOYS’ HIGH SCHOOL** AND TOOK PART IN ITS **AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS PROGRAMME**, WHICH INCLUDED PARTICIPATING IN THE DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING OF **FRASER FARM**.
- **JACK** JOINED THE **GATEWAY PROGRAMME** AT SCHOOL. HE STUDIED THEORY THROUGH THE **TELFORD CAMPUS** OF **SOUTHLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**.



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