

Online shepherds, I shall not want

by Sarah Kaci

Farmers are buying and selling more and more livestock on the internet through the auction site Trademe.

Jessi Morgan, Trademe operations manager, says although livestock have been for sale on the site since 1999, the number of sales has grown 60 per cent in the last six months.

The farming category as a whole has grown 100 per cent in the same period.

Typing in "livestock" in the search tool produced 59 listings including a "very cute lamb" for \$65 and a "friendly Friesian bull" for \$700.

Rotokauri lifestyle farmer Sue Webber bought five in-lamb ewes and a hogget in April for \$70 a head.

"We actually saw them before we made a bid and we were offered a guarantee by the farmer that if the ewes were not in-lamb he would take them back. But they were in-lamb so we're really happy about

the trade," she says.

Roy Allen, stock agent from Pukekohe, does not think the sale of livestock on the internet is a threat to his business.

"My clients usually buy a big number of livestock and buying online doesn't suit them.

"I am from the old school. I have been here too long probably, so I wouldn't buy livestock on the internet, but it isn't a bad thing," he says.

Northland manager of a livestock team Derek Cochrane says while the new trend has not been threatening, it has provided a new form of competition.

"The biggest difficulty is that a big percentage of farmers who buy livestock like to see it themselves physically. Also, most farmers like to buy locally which you can't always do with internet sales," he says.

"Our type of operation and system has been around for a long long time. It may need to be challenged but for now it's not something that appeals to us."



PHOTO: SARAH KACI

NEW TREND: Livestock trade is becoming more popular as more farmers go online.

Top bands, singers to perform at Maori Expo

by Kate Fisher

Celebrating Maori culture and learning is the focus for AUT's Maori Expo at the Aotea Centre next Thursday.

Kia Tu Kia Maia (Seize the day) is the maxim for this year's event, encouraging young people to stand up and be proud to be Maori, and to take advantage of the opportunities available to them, says Renata Blair, communications and marketing manager of Maori at AUT.

The Maori Expo is a day to celebrate the achievements of the Maori community and show young Maori what they can aspire to.

Artists performing include Katchafire, Kora, Whirimako

Black, Nat Rose and Ruia Aperahama, with dance crews such as DZIAH and Urban Beat also taking the stage.

They will be joined by Rangatahi groups from intermediate and primary schools in the Auckland region, who will perform kapa haka.

A sports debate forum will see Eric Rush, Tawera Nikau and Temepara George take the stage. Julian Wilcox, Don Selwyn and Derek Fox will appear in a 'Maori in Media' debate.

Representatives from all the major political parties will take up the challenge in a political debate.

The expo will be broadcast by Maori TV and Mai FM, with the radio station broadcasting live in

the morning.

Blair says Maori achievers in education, sport, media, business, art and fashion will be role models on the day.

"It is a chance for our kids to have a great day and see that they can have success in whatever they choose to do because they have live examples," says Blair.

"The expo is a response from AUT Maori staff to create an event that connects with the Maori community and provides solid education pathways so the community can advance their education," he says.

The Maori Expo is the legacy of Maori staff who previously set it up, such as Maaki Howard, May Paki-Slater and Ruth Throll. Maaki Howard, a Maori

language lecturer at AUT's Te Ara Poutama, is described as the Marae Ahi Kaa – "she 'keeps the fires burning on the land'".

Exhibition stalls will present leading programmes from the main AUT faculties to outline different career paths. The education area will house stalls for government institutions and other universities around the country.

Blair says organising the event has been a huge exercise in event planning for the project team. Te Puni Kokiri, the Edge Aotea Centre, and Te Mana – the Ministry of Education have sponsored the event.

He hopes children will look back at the expo and say: "That was an awesome day and I'm

proud to be Maori.

"I'd like to see AUT leading the way in terms of our commitment to links with the Maori community," says Blair.

A powhiri conducted by AUT's Chancellor, Sir Paul Reeves, Vice Chancellor Derek McCormack and senior management staff alongside Ngati Whatua will start the expo in the morning.

The chancellor says it is a chance to bring higher learning communities together, and acknowledge the contribution of Maori to the fabric of Auckland society and culture.

The powhiri begins at 8am next Thursday, followed by the expo from 9am-5pm. An evening launch will be held at the Aotea Centre next Wednesday.



SINGER: Logan from Katchafire will be among the entertainers at the expo.



PHOTOS: ALYSON YOUNG

CARVER: A demonstration of the art of carving.