



Spring/Summer 2025

Here's the impact you make in rural communities.

You've changed my daughters life!

When Christina, Marlee's mum, found out about an intensive therapy workshop being held in Rotorua late last year, she knew it could be life changing for her five year old daughter Marlee. Thanks to your support of the Calf & Rural Scheme, Marlee and her family were able to attend.

Marlee was born with a rare condition, Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome. Before attending the workshop, Marlee could walk a few steps but was constantly falling over and spent most of the day in her wheelchair. Her family had to do everything for her, she couldn't feed herself. She has hypotonia, which means she has low muscle tone and tires easily which made many activities harder for her. "We literally have to do everything for her," Christina, Marlee's mum told us.

"It has been known for a long time that the most effective way for kids like Marlee to acquire new skills is if you repeat them thousands of times, over and over, and on a daily basis.



It is known that this is how they will achieve milestones and learn the best," said Christina. The intensive therapy workshop was designed to do this, but it was expensive and would require the family to be away from home for three weeks to attend the workshop.



Christina wanted to say thank you to you for giving Marlee this life changing opportunity.

Watch a short (90 second) video where Christina introduces Marlee and gives a quick update on the new things she learned at the workshop.



You can hear more about the intensive therapy workshop and see more of Marlee's progress in this longer (5 minutes) heartwarming video message from Christina.



Thanks to your Calf & Rural Scheme support, IHC's Family Fund was able to help cover some of these costs. And the workshop has made such a big difference in Marlee's life. She can now walk without constantly falling and, an important thing for Christina a busy mum who also has a toddler, feed herself.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who makes the Calf & Rural Scheme such a great success. Your support means people living with intellectual disabilities in rural communities live meaningful lives.

Thank you to all the wonderful farmers who donate, the reps at PGG Wrightson who help sell the animals, the freight companies who get the calves to sale at no or a reduced cost, and the canvassers who do a wonderful job signing people up for the scheme. We couldn't do it without you!

You bring friendship into the lives of people with intellectual disabilities

IHC's Volunteer Friendship Programme matches people with intellectual disabilities with a volunteer friend. These friendships may be in person, or online and all volunteers are vetted to ensure they are suitable to be friends with a vulnerable person.

Hamish and Jonathan

Hamish and Jonathan have been friends through the i-Volunteer (online) Friendship programme for five years. Hamish joined after he finished school. His friends were moving away to go to university or get jobs and he missed them.

Jonathan thought it was a great opportunity to have a positive impact on someone else.

"What is cool about this programme is that it doesn't really matter where I go, I can always have contact with Hamish on the internet," Jonathan said. "We've got lots in common. We're both in our twenties, we both love the outdoors." Jonathan grew up on a farm and **his family are long time supporters of the IHC Calf & Rural Scheme, so IHC is a cause close to his heart.**

Friends in the i-Volunteer Friendship Programme don't usually get to meet. But when late last year they realised they would both be in Wellington at the same time, they arranged to meet up.



As Jonathan was passing through Wellington as part of a cycle tour, Hamish met him in Upper Hutt and rode from there into Wellington with Jonathan.

"I was up for the challenge," he says. "I thought it was pretty cool to join in and meet Jonathan. It was a good experience."

The pair also took the opportunity to spend some time together and explore Wellington, just like friends do!

If you'd like to know more about volunteering or to sign up to become a



friend to a person with an intellectual disability, you can find out more at ihc.org.nz/volunteer.

Giving a Virtual Calf is easy!

Terry and Sue Lawn moved onto their farm in Taranaki in the early 1980s. They became early supporters of the Calf & Rural Scheme when it came to Taranaki in around 1982.

Terry says he had caught the school bus with kids with intellectual disabilities when he went to high school in New Plymouth. "The bus would come up the coast and pick up kids going to different schools in New Plymouth, and some of them had intellectual disabilities," Terry said. Seeing how tough things were for them, when he was asked some years later about joining IHC's Calf & Rural Scheme, Terry was happy to help. "It was an easy way to give them a few dollars every year."

Terry and his wife Sue farmed a mainly Jersey herd but had about 30 Friesians. "That is where we would get a Friesian bull to donate to IHC," Terry said. Sue reared the calves but after a while she got sick of the big Friesian bulls amongst the Jersey calves and didn't want to rear them anymore. "So I said to the IHC Canasser that we wouldn't rear a calf anymore but would just give them the \$300 that a calf would sell for." And that was the start of the Virtual Calf programme as part of the Calf & Rural Scheme.

Terry and Sue retired from the farm about three years ago, and still give two Virtual Calves each year. **They say it is an easy way to continue their many years of supporting people with intellectual disabilities through the Calf & Rural Scheme.**



SibCamps - here's what kids who recently attended had to say

Thanks to your Calf & Rural Club support, IHC can now run more SibCamps around the country this year. These camps give the child siblings of people with intellectual disabilities a chance to get away and spend time with other kids who know how they feel. This is particularly important for children from rural communities who may not know other kids who have a sibling with a disability.

These kids often have very complicated feelings about their brother or sister with a disability. They may feel they miss out on time from their parents who are preoccupied with their disabled sibling who needs more attention. Or they may be embarrassed about the way people stare at them when they are out in public or at school. These camps give them an opportunity to unpack their feelings in a safe space with others who understand how they feel - and also do some really fun activities!



You can watch a short video of their feedback by scanning the QR code or going to tinyurl.com/3skbyx8x.



"Lucas had such a wonderful time (at SibCamp). It was beautiful to see him really trying to implement the positive engagements that must have been discussed at camp with his brother. So grateful that we had this opportunity!"

"We just wanted to express our gratitude at the incredible time Nate had away at Sib Camp over the weekend! He was knackered when he got home, his cup was full, his cheeks were sore from smiling and the break from being a big brother was the perfect reset! He is still raving about it to anyone who will listen!"

Enter the Mystery Weekend prize draw!

We have two Mystery Weekend prizes to give away.

- **Draw One** – live animals sold for \$300 and over before 31st March 2026
- **Draw Two** – All donations of \$300 and over received before 31st March 2026, this includes virtual calves and donations.

Congratulations to our pre-pledge draw winners, Bruce & Helen Donald from Tirau; and Jimmy Gerritsen from Gore.



Photo Competition

Enter before Friday 31 October

We have some talented photographers who are part of the Calf & Rural Scheme. Melissa Mehring won the IHC Calf category last year with her image The boys for a good cause.

Do you have one of the winning photos this year?

There are three categories in the Calf & Rural Scheme Photo Competition this year

- **IHC Calf (show us your ear tag)**
- prize \$150 Prezzy Card
- **Farm Animals**
- prize \$100 Prezzy Card
- **Working on the farm**
- prize \$100 Prezzy Card

Enter online at ihcorg.nz/CSphoto or scan the QR code.



Thanks to our Wonderful Sponsors

Their support means your gift helps even more people in our rural communities.

Principal Sponsor

PGG Wrightson

Other sponsors



Alltech

Welcome to our new sponsor, **Alltech**

Alltech NZ is joining the IHC Calf & Rural Scheme sponsorship family. Alltech help farmers feed the world, raise healthy plants and animals, and protect the environment through nutrition and scientific innovation. They provide a wide range of products, solutions and programmes to the agriculture industry, with an emphasis on the ruminant sector, but supporting all species. Alltech solutions have been an integral part of the agriculture industry in New Zealand for over 30 years.

Recommended Sale Dates

PGG Wrightson Livestock recommend you send your calves to one of the following sales. Livestock sold at these sales will be eligible for the Top Pen competition. If you prefer to send your calf to a different sale, please get in touch with your local rep listed here and they will advise you when it is best to send them.

Top Pen

To add a bit of healthy competition and encourage you to donate top quality calves, PGG Wrightson have again donated 10 regional prize vouchers of \$100 for winners of the Top Pen Competition. IHC Calf & Rural Scheme calves that are in the top 10% of the sale prices achieved at each sale are automatically entered into the draw.

Make sure you mark IHC Calf on your ASD form to ensure you get a donation receipt and are entered into the Top Pen competition. You can increase your chances of winning by donating a well breed, early born calf and getting its weight to more than 100kgs before sending it to sale.

It's not too late to pledge!
Go to ihc.org.nz/pledge

Congratulations Jamie Mackay

Congratulations to IHC Calf & Rural Scheme Ambassador and Host of The Country, Jamie MacKay



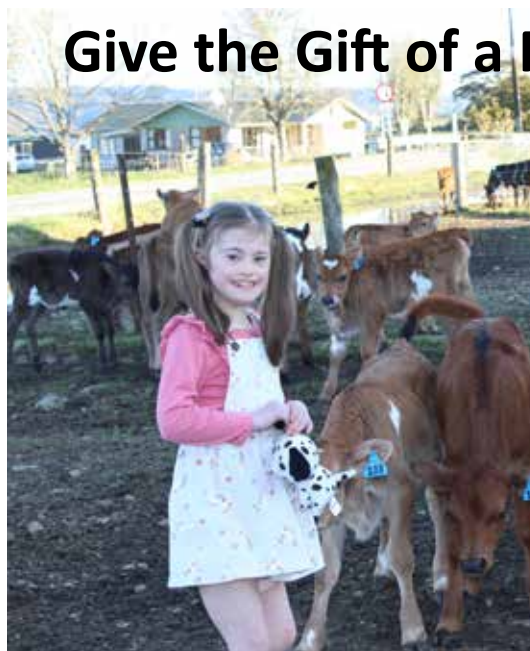
who won the Outstanding Contribution to Radio award at the Radio and Podcast Awards recently.

Jamie has a long and generous association with the IHC Calf & Rural Scheme and regularly promotes it on The Country.

PGW-IHC Recommended Sale Dates 2025-26 Season

Saleyard	Sale Dates	Weekday	PGW Rep/s
Paeroa	20/10/2025	Monday	Rhys Mellow - 027 664 5143
Rangiuru	29/10/2025	Wednesday	Simon Rouse - 027 492 4805
Frankton	03/11/2025	Monday	Neil Lyons - 027 223 5784
Rangiuru	12/11/2025	Wednesday	Simon Rouse - 027 492 4805
Inglewood (Taranaki)	13/11/2025	Thursday	Andrew Gibson - 027 444 0108
Feilding	13/11/2025	Thursday	Paul Jefferies - 027 591 8632 / Rex Playle - 027 594 6512
Tuakau	14/11/2025	Friday	Andrew Person (Andy) 027 590 4826 & Karyn Blake (office)
Wellsford	24/11/2025	Monday	Bernie McGahan 027 590 2210
Kaikohē	26/11/2025	Wednesday	Vaughn Vujcich - 027 496 8706
Stortford Lodge	26/11/2005	Wednesday	Neil Common 027 444 8745
Feilding	27/11/2025	Thursday	Paul Jefferies - 027 591 8632 / Rex Playle - 027 594 6512
Golden Bay	27/11/2025	Thursday	Craig Taylor - 027 435 7437
Waiareka	01/12/2025	Monday	Wayne Brensell - 027 405 8248
Dannevirke	02/12/2025	Tuesday	Cam Smith - 027 446 9963
Canterbury Park	02/12/2025	Tuesday	Stu Walsh - 027 434 4093
Brightwater	03/12/2025	Wednesday	Craig Taylor (Brightwater) - 027 435 7437 & Chaz Woodhouse (Blenheim) - 027 560 4584
Temuka	03/12/2025	Wednesday	Bernie Cox - 027 477 0551
Temuka	04/12/2025	Thursday	Bernie Cox - 027 477 0551
Lorneville	04/12/2025	Thursday	Andy Yule - 027 436 7962 / Hayley MacDonald 027 306 2796
Charlton	11/12/2025	Thursday	Hayley MacDonald - 027 306 2796
Ross	21/01/2026	Wednesday	Robbie Lash - 027 438 4802
Balclutha	21/01/2026	Wednesday	Hayley MacDonald - 027 306 2796

Give the Gift of a Meaningful Life



For 75+ years, with support from caring New Zealanders like you, IHC has been helping people with intellectual disabilities live rich and meaningful lives.

Through a gift in your Will, you will carry on IHC's long tradition of care for people with intellectual disabilities.

If you would like to continue to bring purpose, joy and choice to the lives of people with disabilities, please consider a gift to IHC in your Will. For more information please call Julie Osborne on 0800 442 886 or email julie@ihc.org.nz