

20 November 2019

## Proceeds from a ram's sale help farmers in need.

At the 2019 Waimai Romney on-site sale there was one ram gathering a lot of attention... and it wasn't because he was the largest in the flock. Alastair Reeves had earlier decided that the proceeds of the sale of the ram in Lot 16 were being donated to the Will to Live organisation – a charity set up to raise awareness of the mental health of farmers and people in rural communities.

Lot 16 finally went under the hammer and was purchased by Jimmy Ormsby from Waitomo Petroleum, one of the sponsors for the sale and great supporters of rural communities.

Jimmy, on behalf of Waitomo Petroleum, paid a handsome sum of \$2800 which was directly given to the Will to Live Foundation.

Will to Live was set up to look for a way to create positive change in the rural mental health sector. Co-founder Elle Perriam's personal experience prompted her to organise the Speak Up Tours of Aotearoa in an attempt to get rural folk talking and sharing their stories.

"Good communication is extremely important on a remote farm," Perriam says. "It's really hard if you want to talk to someone when the nearest town is hours away or you can't get a day off in the middle of lambing or calving. Many young workers find it "nerve wracking," asking for time off work to take care of their mental health, and bosses need to take a deeper interest in their welfare," she says. "That whole stigma is still there about being weak, but it's not weak to speak."

Waimai Romney is incredibly proud to support Elle and this worthwhile organisation. Alastair was thrilled with the sale but was left a little perplexed. "We are delighted that Jimmy purchased the ram, but rather a little surprised," said Alastair, "we are not sure what he plans to do with the sire, especially since he doesn't own any sheep!"



## Where to get help:

**Rural Support Trust:** 0800 787 254

**Lifeline:** 0800 543 354 (available 24/7)

**Suicide Crisis Helpline:** 0508 828 865 (0508 TAUTOKO) (available 24/7)

**Youthline:** 0800 376 633

**Kidsline:** 0800 543 754 (available 24/7)

**Whatsup:** 0800 942 8787 (1pm to 11pm)

**Depression helpline:** 0800 111 757 (available 24/7)

**If it is an emergency and you feel like you or someone else is at risk, call 111.**



*Alastair Reeves with Jimmy Ormsby from Waitomo Petroleum and the ram (Lot 16) that he purchased at the Waimai Romney sale in November. Waitomo Petroleum are generous sponsors of the sale and given that Jimmy's sheep flock is non-existent - this generous donation to Will to Live is awesome.*