



Peter Laing Memorial Trust

The following are the guidelines for the Peter Laing Memorial Trust Grants.

The grants are designed to assist people obtain practical training for entry into the agricultural industry (e.g. through a cadet scheme, or certificate; diploma level of study) or alternatively, for those commencing their first farm employment and requiring dogs, or specialist equipment such as a saddle. Applications for University assistance are unlikely to be successful as the Trust objectives are to assist those who intend to follow a practical farming career.

Criteria for the grants are:

- Resident within the Wairarapa region or strong links with the Wairarapa.
- Focus on Pastoral farming.
- Based on merit and a clearly considered and planned career path.
- Initiative to extend knowledge and interest in agriculture.
- A realistic commitment to work in the industry.
- Must be available to be interviewed if required.
- Must be able to act as an Ambassador for the Trust, and promote the grant.
- Applicants will be expected to attend the annual awards function.

Applications are called for annually and one or more grants may be approved in any given year. These must be received by the closing date provided.

Masterton District Council will advertise the grants and administer the application process

The underlying objectives for the grants are to:

- **Recognise the strong interest Peter Laing had in assisting people to enter or develop within the sheep and beef industry.**
- **Provide financial assistance to encourage the ongoing acquisition of practical-related agricultural knowledge.**
- **Facilitate contacts that can assist with developing farming skills.**

Invoicing

The Peter Laing Memorial Trust will advise the successful candidate(s) that a grant has been approved and will forward grant funds direct to the “provider”; or alternatively reimburse actual and reasonable agreed costs based on a receipted invoice.

Application Process

All applications must be received on the attached approved application form within the duly noted timeframe.

The Peter Laing Memorial Trust will investigate, interview and determine qualifying applicants' suitability for the grants.



Peter Laing Memorial Trust

CONFIDENTIAL APPLICATION FORM

If there is insufficient space to answer any of the questions on this application please include additional information on a separate sheet. **The Trustees require a brief supporting handwritten (A4) outline of your reasons for applying for the grant and how it will benefit you.**

Surname: First name:

Preferred name: Male / female

Date of birth:

Home address:

.....

Home phone number: Day / work phone numbers:

Secondary school attended: from: to:

.....

Previous schools attended:

.....

Qualifications achieved, including academic and others:

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Sporting, cultural and other interests:

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Farming interests:

.....

.....

Application for:

.....

Institution (if applicable):

.....

Please provide three Referees and contact details:

1. Name: Phone:

2. Name: Phone:

3. Name: Phone:

I acknowledge that: I have read and understood the conditions of the Peter Laing Memorial Trust Grant. All information given in this application is true and correct. The decision of the Trust is final.

Signed: Date:

Please Note: Successful applicants will be expected to attend the annual awards function - the date will be advised at the interview.

Applications should be received no later than **4.00 pm, Friday 4 November 2016** and can be sent to:

Masterton District Council (Attention: Sandra Spence)

P O Box 444, MASTERTON 5840



Peter Laing

Peter Laing was born with a natural affinity for the land. Some of his many outstanding qualities were evident from a very early age, and his dedication to agriculture was already being recognised during his early school years.

Educated at Ferridge Primary School, Peter then went on to become a student at Wairarapa College where his passion for farming was unmistakable in his membership of the Young Farmers Club. This was built upon when he transferred to Feilding Agricultural High School in 1946, where he initiated and chaired a new division of the Young Farmers Club.

During his time at school in Feilding, Peter earned a number of awards for his excellence in the field of agriculture and his headmaster described him as “outstanding among students of his year, both for his common sense and executive efficiency”.

Peter spent several years working on a number of large Wairarapa stations. In 1952 he settled at Castlepoint where he was head shepherd and later manager of Castlepoint Station until his retirement. Farming was his life and his love.

Peter’s love of farming, coupled with his great vision, meant that he was always ahead of his time in the farming field. These qualities were the motivating factor behind some of his groundbreaking work with Grasslands, where Peter took a very keen interest in new grasses suited for drought-prone east coast hill country. His contribution to this work gained him further respect.

Peter’s name is synonymous with dedication and accomplishment. He was widely respected for the thousands of hours he put into his work on the farm, and he was always determined to convey his own principles and practices of farming to his staff. When combined with initiative and good work ethics, Peter believed these qualities provided a solid foundation for each of his staff’s respective farming careers.

Although farming was Peter’s life, he also found time to become a stalwart of the Castlepoint community. He spent 24 years as Chairman of the Castlepoint School Committee, was involved with the Castlepoint Racing Club for 50 years, instigated the development of the Castlepoint Golf Club and promoted the formation of the local Fire Brigade.

During his time as Manager of Castlepoint Station, Peter was also responsible for the development of the area’s well-known motor camp. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the Castlepoint Pony Club and became a warranted officer for the Department of Conservation.

Peter’s dedication to Castlepoint also led him to become a Councillor for the Masterton County Council for a number of years during which time he was a strong advocate for better roading and amenities for rural areas. In addition, he was a very active member of the Church Committee when the local church, St Peter’s by the Sea, was being built.

Peter’s enthusiasm, both for farming and his community, was remarkable. In 2000 he received an award from the Castlepoint Progressive Association for ‘outstanding voluntary service to the people and district of Castlepoint’, and in 2003 he received an award from the Masterton District Council in recognition of his services to the Castlepoint community.

Renowned for his excellent approach to every activity he undertook, Peter Laing was a man of pride and determination. He made a significant contribution to his greater community – a contribution that will be recognised for many years to come.