

## Hard-working winner



**WHAT DELIGHT:** Tokoroa student Rachelle Stables opens her \$10,000 cheque.

### Nursing student wins scholarship

By FRITHA TAGG

Hard work pays off. Tokoroa student Rachelle Stables is \$10,000 better off as the main recipient of the New Zealand Institute of Rural Health (NZIRH) undergraduate scholarship award.

Rachelle, who is Tokoroa-born, educated and lives in the town with her two children, is in her second year of a three-year Bachelor of Nursing studying at Waiariki in Rotorua.

Each year the New Zealand Institute of Rural Health pays out about \$60,000 in scholarships to students studying in the health sector.

NZIRH chief executive Robin Steed, said there were 50 applicants for the award which Rachelle received.

Described by Ms Steed as "a finisher" Rachelle, 31, single mother of two children started her career as a vet nurse, in Tokoroa gaining her Animal Science and Technology Certificate and several years later moved into dentistry, starting as a dental chair assistant and ending up as practice

manager. Once her youngest child was at school she decided to make the big step and applied to study for Bachelor of Nursing.

She is now at the start of her second year, car pooling with three other students to Waiariki in Rotorua.

"We want the scholarships to go to people committed to careers in rural health, people part-way through their studies, to help limit the debt, said Ms Steed.

"It opens things up at the end of their studies, gives more choice."

There is no bond attached to the scholarship but by supporting hard-working students who have come from a rural community the institute believes they will come back to the rural areas at a later stage.

"This is a long-term investment in Rachelle. Her first year studying was not without its challenges but she has worked through them and academically she has achieved well."

Rachelle said she isn't a "swat-nerd" and had to work really hard,

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## Delegation Over the Moon with visit

By KELLY BADMAN

A Northern Ireland trade delegation talked cheese on Thursday with the Over the Moon Dairy Company in Putaruru.

The eight-day tour of New Zealand included representatives from the Northern Ireland dairy and red meat industry as well as niche cheese manufacturers.

Chief executive of Fane Valley Co-operative Society Trevor Lockhart said there were many similarities between New Zealand and Ireland and the whirlwind tour allowed for sharing of ideas.

"We are both island economies. We are both heavily dependent on agriculture and also both heavily dependent on food exports. We have relatively small populations and we have to export. So given these similarities we want to investigate a variety of food companies to see how they respond to the



#### CHEESE CHAT:

New Zealand Cheese School tutor Neil Willman (right) shows off some of the products created by Over the Moon Dairy Company to the chief executive of Irish dairy company Fane Valley Co-operative Society, Trevor Lockhart.

challenges on trading in the agri-foods environment."

Mr Lockhart was also full of praise for Sue Arthur's, Over the Moon Dairy Company and New Zealand Cheese School, both of which were started last year.

"I am a big cheese fan to start with and what has been achieved

here in such a short space of time is remarkable. Sue should be really proud of what they have achieved. There's no doubt they are destined for bigger and better things. Their quality is excellent and clearly they are not prepared to sacrifice this quality to grow the business faster." Farm liaison

officer for specialist Irish cheese makers Five Mile Town Creamery, Maimie Neill said there was no cheese-making schools in Ireland and those wanting to learn the craft had to travel to England. Ms Neill had asked to visit a specialist cheese-making facility during the trip.

"Over the Moon has a real point of difference too, with the school and shop. I've got lots of ideas to take back with me." Over the Moon's founder and head cheese maker Sue Arthur said the delegate's visit had been mutually beneficial. "I think it was a wonderful opportunity to put Putaruru on the map. We exchanged lots of ideas and it was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet people of such a high level in the industry in Ireland and get information from them about cheese-making and the dairy industry over there."



#### Local girl succeeds

Education worth the effort

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