

# I'M NOT A XENOPHOBE - JUST A PATRIOT!

YOUR EDITORIAL "Foreign ownership brings out the dog whistlers" (Dec 17, 2013) repeated the catch cry of the Right in name calling those who are concerned over foreign purchases of New Zealand land as 'xenophobic'. I prefer the term 'patriotic'.

The prices overseas corporates can and will pay; tends to price the average Kiwi and young farmer from going onto the land. This year, 2014, has a theme of the Kiwi Family Farm. We should celebrate it and in an election year look closely at the foreign acquisition policies of political parties.

Your editorial derided NZ First as composed of xenophobes. Again patriotic Kiwis would be better and more accurate.

On the other hand, government's "system" (Overseas Investment Office - OIO) for approving foreign buy-ups is just a rubber stamp for foreigners to purchase at will. Figures show conservatively it is estimated that 9% (including forestry) is foreign-owned. In recent

years, more freehold land of all types was sold to overseas interests in net terms than any other year since 2006.

Foreign ownership impacts on all New Zealanders. Profits flow offshore. And the good old Kiwi tradition of egalitarian access to the outdoors is eroded. Outdoor recreational users from trampers to trout anglers, to hunters to 4WD enthusiasts access farm country - particularly high country - for their recreation.

Foreign buyers usually come from a society of locked gates and private estates. The consequence is reduced public access. The Kiwi inter-generational family farm has almost always been willing to grant permission to bona-fide outdoor recreationists. On the other hand foreigners usually do not understand, appreciate or want to embrace the Kiwi egalitarian ethos.

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# TOO MUCH TB SPIN

THE HOUND (November 5) pointed out that TBfree NZ/OSPRI had made a blunder re the filling out of ASD forms.

However, in a recent article in another rural newspaper TBfree NZ/OSPRI chief executive William McCook said that while he applauded "farmers' efforts to get to grips with the new livestock ID system he remains frustrated at some serious holes left unfilled in the data trail".

The biggest hole was created by TBfree NZ/OSPRI itself, by not

supplying to the farmer proper communication in the use of proper ASD paperwork. They effectively legroped the whole NAIT scheme but, as usual, the farmer still carries the blame for TBfree NZ/OSPRI mistakes. In the same time period the number of TB-infected herds has rocketed, with herd movement being a major player and cattle movements have proved to be practically untraceable.

McCook claimed there were 91 TB-infected herds in New Zealand

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at June 30. At June 30 last year the Animal Health Board claimed there were only 60 TB-infected herds, while their website showed there were actually 66.

But in 'Ospri changes to clear C2 confusion' (*Rural News* December 3), Ospri's Stu Hutchings says: "The recent Taranaki, Waikato, Northland and Canterbury cases, plus a new infection at Waiuku, south of Auckland, have pushed the number of herds classified as infected up from a low in the

1970s to exactly 100 as of last week."

If the low point of TB-infected herds was in the 1970s, why were they claiming there were only 60 herds as of June last year?

There is so much confusion in TBfree NZ/OSPRI, it's no wonder they have lost control of NAIT and the subsequent new TB infections in cattle herds.

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(abridged. Ed.)

"Sunday  
Star Times"  
19.1.14 →

YOUR ARTICLE (12 January) headed "Make Sure the Fish You Eat Hasn't Any (ethical) Hooks", ranked kahawai highly as third for sustainability. Many New Zealanders who've fished for kahawai over decades will disagree. Successive ministers of fisheries, on dubious advice, have allowed over-exploitation of kahawai. Twenty or 30 years ago, kahawai were always visible accompanied by wheeling gulls. Now surface-feeding schools are sporadic, often non-existent.  
**Bill Benfield**, Martinborough.