

## Family farms

Your editorial (Aug 8) and the utterings of many prominent politicians miss the point regarding land sales.

Are we not celebrating the 100 years since the start of World War I, next year 70 years since the end of World War II? If so what were they fighting for? Did it not have something to do with safeguarding our territory, way of life, future sovereignty? If that word means anything to the post-Rogernomics-spawned greed-based society.

In 1964, we had 60,000 family dairy farms and 120,000 sheep and

beef. The 2014-5 figures suggest we have 12,290 sheep and beef farms left, many of which are now corporate and/or overseas owned. Roughly 100,000 farming families have exited the land, taking with them intergenerational skills in livestock management and conservation.

Witness the closing of schools, depressed rural areas. Many who once relied on land-based work are demoralised. Family farms have become, thanks to political expediency/abuse, an endangered species.

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## Quite correct

David Haynes (Aug 9) is quite correct in his assertion about foreign purchasers of farm land erecting locked gates to outdoors New Zealanders. Indeed, Poronui Station's access has controversially festered for some 40 years through a succession of foreign owners.

It is therefore strange that Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy and Prime Minister John Key played pre-election political games by accusing a 2007 Labour Government of failing when Poronui was sold.

It is a pity that journalist Duncan Garner (Aug 9) didn't do his homework and should parrot the minister's and prime minister's false accusation.

New Zealand's outdoors is a large participant sector embracing saltwater, salmon and trout anglers, deerstalkers, trampers etc.

With commercial interests given priority by Government over recreational sea anglers, dwindling quality and flow of rivers with mega dairy farms, lack of game management, 1080 poison and foreigners erecting locked gates, access to traditional outdoor recreation areas and pursuits is being eroded.

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