

Irrigation Company Nurtures Success

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By Sally Brooker

A Waitaki Boys' High School year 13 pupil is off to a flying start with next year's student fees.

Zac Johnston (18) was presented with a \$1000 scholarship from the North Otago Irrigation Company this month. It will go towards the fees for the bachelor of commerce (agriculture) degree he will start at Lincoln University in February. Zac, who studied agriculture at school, lives on a sheep and beef farm at Five Forks - the third generation of his family to live there. He will be the first person from his family to go to university.

Zac already has secured a place in one of the halls of residence for next year. In the meantime, he is working for an agricultural contractor during the summer. In the future, he said he would find work wherever his education took him, with the long-term goal of farm ownership.

North Otago Irrigation Company chairman Leigh Hamilton said Zac was selected because of his passion for agriculture and willingness to learn, with an emphasis on sustainability. "That's where the challenges are". The company encourages year 12 and 13 pupils from Oamaru secondary schools and East Otago High School to apply next year if they were planning to study primary production at university or polytechnic.



NOIC Chairman Leigh Hamilton presents scholarship to Zac Johnston