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AUGUST
2015



To Our Valued Customers,

August hasn't been a great month so far, with cold, wet and windy weather, the All Blacks losing to the Aussies, and Fonterra increasing the gloom with a projected \$3.85/kg pay out. It behoves the banks to stand behind the farmers in this time of need, rather than do what their parent banks are doing to the drought stricken Australian farmers. The banks should carefully remember who it was that bailed them out all those years ago when they got "themselves" into financial strife also who has helped them create some huge profits in the subsequent years. The banks are very well able to support and carry the farmers through these difficult times; let's see if they have the will, compassion and intestinal fortitude to make it happen.

A business that only makes a profit is a poor business. - Henry Ford

Conference time

Over the last few weeks Raewyn and I have attended the HIANZ conference in Christchurch, and the Husqvarna conference in Fiji.

This was our first visit to Christchurch since the earthquake, which made the city bus tour very enlightening. The magnitude of the destruction is still very evident even though great progress has been made. One of the guest speakers at the conference was Sam Johnson, the young man behind the student army. He is well worth listening to if you get the opportunity. Much of his time is now spent travelling the world to known potential disaster spots setting up organisations before the event happens.

The Husqvarna conference was well worth attending with excellent speakers and some exciting new product releases. If you want to be inspired, I'll tell you about the keynote speaker, worth checking out. She is Renata Chlumska, a Swedish/Czech adventurer who has climbed Everest, the first of the "Seven Summits" which are the highest summits on each of the 7 continents in the world. There are also many other amazing feats she has achieved. Check her out on the internet, you won't be disappointed and you will be inspired.

The big news from the conference was the launch of the range of Husqvarna battery powered products. This has been a 10 year development process as Husqvarna wanted the performance of the battery products to equal or better the petrol versions. The consensus of the 500 plus delegates was they had cracked it. A full range of the products were available for everybody to try, and everybody did, including all the ladies who were impressed. One battery fits all the products. A back pack battery is available for contractors and councils who require a lot longer run time. There was even a battery powered ride-on mower to try as well.



This is still in development but has many advantages as it requires no pulleys, belts or petrol, and is quieter than a conventional ride-on.

Also in the pipeline is a battery powered push mower. Will keep you posted as updates come through. It was interesting looking at the cost of battery vs petrol products over the duration of their working life. Although the battery machines cost more initially, they are considerably cheaper to run than the petrol versions, which makes considerable savings over their lifetime.



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Briggs & Stratton Smart Power Inverter Generator

The latest out of the Briggs & Stratton stable is well worth a second look. 2600 watts continuous with LCD readout display that keeps you informed about power use, runtime and maintenance reminders. It also has a parallel connector port so you can link two of these together, with an optional cable, giving you 5200 watts continuous - now that's smart power!

The best of the lot is the price at just \$1999



LPG Refilling and BOC Gas



We have been Opatiki's BOC agent for over 20 years supplying oxygen, acetylene, helium, Argoshield etc to engineers, farmers, hotels, doctor surgeries and clubs. LPG has been another addition with Swap'n'Go 9kg cylinders 12 months ago. Then in the last few months we have been able to refill from our bulk LPG tanks. You could say we are the complete gas bag! While on the subject of gas we recently increased our range of foil and speciality balloons. Filled with helium, these last for ages, and can even be refilled for use again. Designs in store include Frozen™, Tinkerbell™, Cars™, Winnie The Pooh™, Planes™, Sofia the First™, Doc McStuffins™, The Princess And The Frog™, Toy Story™ and more!

Overheard at a restaurant:

"This beef is so undercooked, that it's starting to eat the salad!"

Thought For The Month:

Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of nowhere, and sometimes in the middle of nowhere you find yourself.

Have a great month. All the best from your friendly team at

Lowes Hire and Engineering – "so much more than just a hire centre..."