



Today, we honour two exceptional individuals who have left an indelible mark on our community – [Charlie and Chrissy Pedersen](#).

As joint laureate nominees of the Horowhenua Business Hall of Fame, their leadership, business success, and tireless contributions to the Foxton community stand as an inspiring example for us all.

Charlie Pedersen's journey began right in Foxton. Educated at Oroua Downs Primary School and Manawatu College, he initially embarked on a path to become a special needs teacher after attending Palmerston North Teachers College. However, fate had different plans.

Charlie, alongside his brother Wally, co-founded Pedersen Timber Co., focusing on the logging and processing of timber. This entrepreneurial spirit led him to excel not only in business but also in his role within Federated Farmers. He assumed various roles, ultimately becoming the National President and Chair of the Board. Known as a strong communicator and fierce advocate for farmers, he helped facilitate a 65,000-signature petition, then drove a vintage tractor and led a cow up the steps of Parliament to protest Government plans to tax for animal emissions. Beyond our national borders, Charlie's influence extended as Vice President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, further solidifying his commitment to the farming community.

Chrissy Pedersen's journey has been equally remarkable. Chrissy was born and raised on Te Whanga Road Levin where her grandfather Charlie Webb was a renowned breeder of Ayrshire Dairy Cows. Her education and career took her on a path of healing. Trained and qualified as a radiographer, she operated the first MRI system at Palmerston North Hospital, excelling in bone densitometry, medical imaging scans, and mammography. Yet, her contributions extended beyond the medical realm. Chrissy's commitment to her community was evident in her role on the PHO committee for the Himatangi area, where her dedication helped establish the Himatangi clinic.

However, the true magic lies in the synergy of their partnership. United in both business and marriage, Charlie and Chrissy Pedersen are emblematic of what it means to be a true team. Inheriting Charlie's parents' farm, they deftly converted it from beef and sheep to dairy. This was just the beginning, as they acquired five additional farms and ventured into the realm of poultry farming a decade ago. But their impact transcended the confines of their enterprises.

One friend who has worked with them both had this to say, "Charlie is the ideas person, but Chrissy is the cement of their business dealings. She is a big influencer, steady at times, a leader in getting the family involved."

United in their support for Foxton, the Pedersens' contributions have been profound. Both played active roles in the Foxton Rotary Club, serving as Presidents at different moments, demonstrating their commitment to community service. Chrissy's tenacity resulted in the lighting of the Foxton Water Tower – a beacon symbolising their dedication to putting Foxton on the map. Charlie's chairmanship of the Te Waiora Trust showcased their commitment to enhancing healthcare access within our region.

Their commitment to local economic vitality is evident through their investment in the heart of Foxton's township. Their ownership of shops and revitalisation efforts reflect their determination to see our community flourish. Their support for new businesses, through mentorship and removing barriers, has invigorated entrepreneurial spirit.

Today, as we recognise Charlie and Chrissy Pedersen as joint laureate nominees of the Horowhenua Business Hall of Fame, we celebrate not only their achievements but also their enduring legacy. Their leadership, business acumen, and unwavering dedication have left an indelible imprint on our community, reminding us all of the power of vision, partnership, and giving back.

Thank you, Charlie and Chrissy, for being beacons of inspiration in our midst. Your story reminds us that greatness is achieved not only through individual triumphs but through collective efforts that enrich and uplift our entire community.

BKH Hall of Fame - 2023 Horowhenua Laureate