

# **BK Otway Education Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship**

## **Background**

Brian Otway (1926 - 2018) was a passionate farmer up until his death aged 91. His father and grandfather were earlier surveyors and pioneer farmers.

Brian Otway grew up and was schooled in Auckland but most weekends and holidays were spent with his brother, Bill, helping out on the family farm in the Waimai / Matira valleys. During World War Two Brian trained as a pilot with the R.N.Z.A.F.

In 1946 he attended Lincoln College to complete a Diploma of Agriculture where he also played for the Lincoln College 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby team until 1948. Three of Brian's children also attended Lincoln College studying programmes in agriculture and horticulture.

In the late 1940s Brian purchased a gorse and scrub infested block of land (originally milled for Kauri trees then Kauri gum) in the Te Arai district (Wellsford) with no buildings, fences, or roads. Brian worked extremely hard, contracting off the property by day (land clearing with a bulldozer) and working on his own land by night. Locals called him "mad Otway" as they could see the



**5. Selection Committee**