

RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND

Minutes of the Remit Session

Held on 3 March 2022

Via Zoom

PRESENT:	Sandra Matthews	National Chair
	Gill Naylor	National President
	Jenny McDonald	National Finance Chair
	Sharron Davie-Martin	South Island Board Member
	Emma Higgins	South Island Board Member
	Claire Williamson	North Island Board Member

In Attendance:	Gabrielle O'Brien	Chief Executive
	Katrina Bullen	Minute Secretary
	Pat Macaulay	Returning Officer

National Office staff were in attendance in the capacity of Member and technical support.

Present via Zoom – Session 1 commencing at 10:00 AM

Region 1: Pam Copland, Sally Hammond, Pat Macaulay, Margaret Pittaway NMH.

Region 2: Margaret Chapman ONZM NLM (Geraldine), Sandra Curd, Beverley Forrester, Margaret Verrall, Lyn Zuppicich.

Region 3: Dawn Batchelor, Margaret Faulkner, Heather Gardner, Sue Higgins NMH, Diane Higgins, Annetta Hodges, Barbara McKay, Carolyn McLellan QSM, Melva Robb QSM NMH, Isabel Weenink, Joyce Wyllie.

Region 4: Rachael Dean MNZM NLM, Pauline Masters, Dame Margaret Millard DNZM NLM, Penny Mudford ONZM NMH, Jane Russell-Bowen.

Region 5: Alex Eagles Tully, Jo Gravit, Wendy McGowan NLM, Mary McTavish, John McTavish, Kay Pridmore, Bev Sanford, Margaret Scrimgeour NMH, Sue Vowell.

Region 6 Greater Waikato:

Barbara Burden, Maureen Champion, Fiona Gower ONZM NLM, June Lambeth, Bronwyn Main, Raewyn Marwood, Liz Morgan, Ann Rawson, Janice Smith.

Region 6 Taranaki:

Helen Bayliss, Angela Hammond, Jo Morgan, Margaret Vickers.

Region 7: Marie Appleton NLM.

1. WELCOME

The National President opened the meeting and recited the RWNZ Creed. The National Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTION TO SESSION ONE

The National Chair outlined the process for the Remit sessions, how Zoom would be used throughout the meeting, how to use the chat function and how voting would be conducted.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following Members:

- Heather Smith - Region 1
- Kerry Smith NMH - Region 1

- Margaret Pittaway NMH - Region 1
- Joyce Wyllie, Region 3 - left the Remit Meeting before it concluded.
- Glenda Robb - Region 3
- Brenda Le Compte - Region 3
- Shirley Read NMH - Region 6 Taranaki (for the morning session)
- Karen Attwood - Region 6 Greater Waikato
- Mary Nowotarski - Region 5
- Chris Paterson - Region 5
- Lyn Staples - Region 5
- Tini Wetting NMH - Region 5
- Janet Williams NMH – Region 6 Greater Waikato

THAT the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Sandra Matthews **Seconded:** Claire Williamson **Carried**

4. VOTING STRENGTH

A headcount was made, and the Returning Officer confirmed that the voting strength for the morning session was 49.

5. REMITS

THAT the Speaking Rules for Remits and Resolutions be accepted.

Moved: Sandra Matthews **Seconded:** Joyce Wyllie **Carried**

THAT Pat Macaulay, as Returning Officer, be appointed Chief Scrutineer.

Moved: Sandra Matthews **Seconded:** Joyce Wyllie **Carried**

THAT Sharron Davie-Martin, Mary McTavish, Diane Higgins and Carolyn McLellan be appointed as Scrutineers for their groups.

Moved: Sandra Matthews **Seconded:** Marie Appleton **Carried**

THAT Gabrielle O'Brien be appointed as Timekeeper.

Moved: Sandra Matthews **Seconded:** Gill Naylor **Carried**

5.1 Internal Remit 1

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. changes its end of financial year to 31 December, so AGM can be held earlier in the year.

Moved: Joyce Wyllie **Seconded:** Melva Robb

Joyce Wyllie spoke to the Remit. She emphasised the need to get more people attending National Conferences. She also noted there were less Branches in New Zealand and there were less numbers.

The National Finance Chair made a statement of clarification that it was estimated that changing the financial year would cost close to \$70,000.

Rachael Dean stated that if the date were changed to 31 December, there would need to be an extra

month added in for changes to go through due to the month of January.

Penny Mudford spoke against the Remit but acknowledged the sentiment of it.

Marie Appleton spoke against the Remit stating concerns about Inland Revenue looking into RWNZ for changing their dates.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For:	15
Against:	30
Abstain:	4

The Remit was lost.

5.2 Internal Remit 2

***THAT** Rural Women New Zealand Inc. includes relevant UN Economic and Social Committee Statements of Declaration from High Level Political Forums to inform RWNZ's policy position, particularly those that pertain to rural women and girls.*

Moved: Fiona Gower **Seconded:** Gill Naylor

Fiona Gower spoke to the Remit and stated that she believed in the importance of the work Rural Women do in high level political forums, and that the work needed to carry on.

Gill Naylor spoke for the Remit stating that there was a lot of work at the international level taking place in support of the sustainable welfare goals, and the importance of feeding into the goals. Rural Women were there to remind the government about their responsibilities in these forums also.

Dame Margaret Millard stated that she would not recommend supporting all the statements but to take an interest in them.

Rachael Dean endorsed Dame Margaret's comments and felt Rural Women should look at them on a case-by-case basis.

Fiona Gower stated that the Remit was in favour of including only relevant statements, not all and to look at them on a case-by-case basis. Those pertaining to women and girls especially and then decide which pieces are relevant and should be supported.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For:	30
Against:	3
Abstain:	6

The Remit was carried.

5.3 Internal Remit 3

***THAT** the RWNZ Board consider adopting a mechanism to ensure Area Committees receive equitable funding.*

Moved: Liz Morgan **Seconded:** Bronwyn Main

Liz Morgan spoke to the Remit. Because their Region was split into two areas, they cannot achieve their work plan due to the funding and felt that financial equality needed to be promoted. More could be done for Members, community and organisations if the bigger Regions received more funding.

Bronwyn Main spoke in support of the Remit drawing attention to Appendix 1. She noted that all Members pay the same Membership subscription. In simple terms, 59.2% of Waikato Members do not receive equity of funding and a rebalance was asked for so that every Region gets a fair and equitable amount of money.

The National President made a Statement of Clarification that the Board understands the issue that has produced the Remit. If the Remit were successful, the Board would look at a way forward. She also noted that the Contestable Fund had been launched as part of the Growth Strategy. Regions can apply to this fund which is access to monies over and above the current Regional allocations.

Marie Appleton spoke against the Remit noting concerns about the smaller Regions.

Pat Macaulay spoke for the Remit and noted Region 1 have proportionally had the largest Membership for several years and often find that they need more funds. Pat agreed that the model should be investigated and to not lose sight of the need to gain new members.

Melva Robb spoke against the Remit and stated her concern regarding the distance the smaller Regions might have to travel, some 200km for a meeting. If the funds are cut, they would not be able to meet like they currently do. This would also affect things that they were involved in around their Region.

Rachael Dean spoke for the Remit but noted that it comes down to how it is calculated and the need to address the concerns of Members.

Dame Margaret Millard spoke against the Remit, noting the need to look at the big picture regarding the financial year and Membership including the need to empower people to make things happen. She also felt there were many issues that Rural Women could be dealing with that could bring in Members and noted that one thing would not fix the bigger issue.

Sue Higgins spoke for the Remit and noted the need to make every effort to increase Membership.

Mary McTavish and Bev Sanford proposed and seconded an Amendment to the Remit as follows:

THAT the RWNZ Board gives serious consideration to adopting a mechanism that ensures that all Area Committees receive the same annual amount of funding.

Bev Sanford stated she did not want there to be a cut back on Membership ratings.

There was some discussion about adopting a mechanism to empower the Board to make a decision.

The Chair asked the Mover to clarify the Amendment. Margaret Scrimgeour clarified the Amendment.

Marie Appleton did not want to speak for or against the Amendment but questioned the process for amending a Remit. The Chair noted that in the Rules and Procedures the Amendment is put up for immediate debate, which is what was done.

Melva Robb raised a Point of Order regarding the Area Committees - that if the Remit Amendment were put through due to there being two Committees in one Region, would that be opening up for other Regions to say they have two Area Committees to get more money.

The Chair stated that the Board would take into consideration what is in the budget for all areas of the organisation.

The National President stated there was scope within the Rules for there to be more than one Area Committee in a Region.

Jo Gravit spoke for the Amendment and stated that this still gives flexibility for the Board to work out details and check the situation with Area Committees.

Dame Margaret Millard exercised her right of reply and noted that things need to be fair and equitable and wanted all Area Committees to be treated equitably.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For:	30
Against:	12
Abstain:	2

The vote to adopt the amended Remit was carried.

5.3A Amended Internal Remit 3: Rebalancing of Funding to Area Committees

THAT the RWNZ Board gives serious consideration to adopting a mechanism that ensures that all Area Committees receive the same annual amount of funding.

Moved: Bev Sanford **Seconded:** Margaret Scrimgeour

Carolyn McLellan spoke against the Amended Remit stating that due to their Regions wide geographic area, this would not work in their favour. They would have to spend money on travel, whereas those who have a more compact area do not need to spend as much.

Mary McTavish noted that it was about keeping the balance and being equitable and fair.

The National President clarified Mary's statement, noting that the \$8,000 is given per Region and that there were eight Regions. Waikato and Taranaki had chosen to split, and the Regional allocation was thus split between the two Area Committees.

Margaret Scrimgeour noted that there was an understanding that they were one Region but felt that each Area Committee should receive \$8,000 each.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For:	21
Against:	20
Abstain:	2

The Amended Remit was carried.

5.4 Internal Remit 4 – Privacy Information Release Option

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. endorses the creation of a drop-down tab to give the option of Members contact details being able to be shared in their area to all Rural Women Members.

Moved: Jenny Boyne

Seconded: Trish Thomson

The Remit was laid on the table as Jenny Boyne and Trish Thomson were not in attendance.

5.5 Remit Report 2020

The Report was noted and taken as read.

The National Chair thanked everyone for their attendance at the morning session and for the opinions expressed. She noted it was important for them to have the discussion and for everyone to be able to share their views.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm.

REMIT SESSION TWO

PRESENT:	Sandra Matthews	National Chair
	Gill Naylor	National President
	Jenny McDonald	National Finance Chair
	Sharron Davie-Martin	South Island Board Member
	Emma Higgins	South Island Board Member
	Claire Williamson	North Island Board Member

In Attendance:	Gabrielle O'Brien	Chief Executive
	Katrina Bullen	Minute Secretary
	Pat Macaulay	Returning Officer

National Office staff were in attendance in the capacity of Member and technical support.

Present via Zoom – Session 2 commencing at 2:00 PM

Region 1: Pam Copland, Sally Hammond, Lynne Hill, Pat Macaulay, Raewyn van Vugt.

Region 2: Margaret Chapman ONZM NLM (Geraldine), Sandra Curd, Beverley Forrester, Margaret Verrall, Lyn Zuppich.

Region 3: Dawn Batchelor, Margaret Faulkner, Heather Gardner, Sue Higgins NMH, Diane Higgins, Annetta Hodges, Hanneke Kroon, Barbara McKay, Carolyn McLellan QSM, Diane Payton, Melva Robb QSM NMH, Leanne Schmidt, Isabel Weenink, Joyce Wyllie.

Region 4: Rachael Dean MNZM NLM, Elizabeth Hill, Pauline Masters, Dame Margaret Millard DNZM NLM, Penny Mudford ONZM NMH, Jane Russell-Bowen.

Region 5: Alex Eagles Tully, Jo Gravit, Wendy McGowan NLM, Mary McTavish, Kay Pridmore, Bev Sanford, Margaret Scrimgeour NMH, Sue Vowell.

Region 6: Greater Waikato: Barbara Burden, Maureen Champion, Fiona Gower ONZM NLM, June Lambeth, Bronwyn Main, Raewyn Marwood, Liz Morgan, Ann Rawson, Janice Smith.

Region 6: Taranaki: Helen Bayliss, Angela Hammond, Jo Morgan, Shirley Read NHM, Margaret Vickers.

Region 7: Marie Appleton NLM

1. WELCOME

The National President welcomed people to and back to the afternoon Remit session. She also welcomed National Life Members and National Members of Honour. The National President recited the RWNZ Creed.

2. INTRODUCTION TO SESSION 2

The National President handed over to the National Chair to lead the meeting. The National Chair also welcomed everyone back and welcomed the new people attending the afternoon session. She thanked everyone for taking the time to join the call and outlined the Zoom voting process and procedures. The National Chair acknowledged the support of Penny Mudford, Pat Macaulay and fellow Board Members and the dedicated National Office staff.

3. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received for the afternoon session:

- Karen Attwood – Region 6 Greater Waikato
- Heather Smith – Region 1
- Margaret Pittaway NMH Region 1
- Joyce Wyllie – Region 3
- Glenda Robb – Region 3
- Brenda La Compte - Region 3
- Tini Wetting NMH – Region 6 Greater Waikato
- Beverley Forrester - Region 2
- Janet Williams NMH – Region 6 Greater Waikato

THAT the apologies be accepted

Moved: Sandra Matthews

Seconded: Gill Naylor

Carried

4. VOTING STRENGTH

A headcount was made, and the Returning Officer confirmed that the voting strength for the afternoon session was 44.

5. REMITS

THAT the Speaking Rules for Remits and Resolutions be accepted.

Moved: Sandra Matthews

Seconded: Raewyn van Vugt

Carried

THAT Pat Macaulay, as Returning Officer, be appointed as Chief Scrutineer.

Moved: Sandra Matthews

Seconded: Melva Robb

Carried

THAT Mary McTavish is appointed as Scrutineer for her group.

Moved: Marie Appleton

Seconded: Claire Williamson

Carried

A practice poll was done to show how the voting would work.

THAT Gabrielle O'Brien be appointed as Timekeeper.

Moved: Sandra Matthews

Seconded: Gill Naylor

Carried

5.1 External Remit 1: Third Party Insurance

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. requests that third party insurance becomes mandatory as a part

of the registration process of private vehicles.

Moved: Mary McTavish

Seconded: Isabel Weenink

Mary McTavish spoke to the Remit and stated why it was important after an accident their son was involved in where the person who caused the accident did not have any insurance.

Isobel Weenick supported the Remit and had a son with a business where vehicle accidents occurring in the same manner were causing a lot of costs.

Hanneke Kroon spoke in support of compulsory vehicle insurance.

Rachael Dean spoke in support of the Remit. She stated that if a young person is unfortunate enough to have an accident they have to pay, and their excess is usually very high. AA have expressed concerns about the introduction of such a scheme and how it would operate. She also believed that non-compliance levels may remain the same but agreed it should be looked at.

Marie Appleton spoke for the Remit and referred to the English system.

Mary McTavish thanked everyone for their input and felt the current situation was very unfair.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For:	38
Against:	1
Abstain:	0

The Remit was carried.

5.2 External Remit 2: Decentralisation of Emergency Services

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. urges the Government to de-centralise the emergency services and the emergency services communication system to ensure more streamlined and timely medical outcomes for rural communities.

Moved: Melva Robb

Seconded: Penny Mudford

Melva Robb stated that staying centralised meant it would be in Wellington or Christchurch and getting help in a hurry does not work. There is a need to keep emergency services going in smaller towns.

Fiona Gower spoke against the Remit and noted that she did not believe de-centralisation was the answer and believed it was already happening.

Hanneke Kroon spoke for the Remit referring to the top of Marlborough Sounds and talked about the hospitals.

Dame Margaret Millard spoke in support of the Remit stating that the ambulance service uses GPS which doesn't always produce the right or most direct route for first responders. Need to use the Rapid Numbering System.

Shirley Read spoke against the Remit due to the wording of it regarding communication systems and noted that ambulances are local, but she was not sure how many comms centres are set up around New Zealand, nationally it was not an issue.

Melva Robb stated there had been cases of first responders going to the wrong locations and was partly why the Remit had been put forward. There are some areas where it is impossible to get an ambulance fast enough. She felt strongly that there was a need to keep local services and local hospitals going.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For: 24
Against: 12
Abstain: 5

The Remit was carried.

5.3 External Remit 3 – Deferral on Fees on petrol and diesel Vehicles for Rural People.

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. seeks deferral from the Government of fees on petrol and diesel vehicles for rural New Zealanders where a practical electric vehicle alternative is not available in New Zealand.

Moved: Melva Robb **Seconded:** Penny Mudford

Melva Robb spoke in support of the Remit on behalf of Glenda Robb. Due to the cost of fuel, there needs to be some coverage to make it possible for rural families to travel the distances they need to.

Rachael Dean proposed an amendment to the Remit as follows:

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. seeks deferral from the Government of fees on petrol and diesel vehicles for rural and regional New Zealanders where a practical (to be defined) electric vehicle alternative is not available in New Zealand.

Moved: Rachael Dean **Seconded:** Diane Payton

Diane Payton stated that there were not the EVs nor adequate power supplies to recharge the EVs.

Dame Margaret Millard supported the intent of the Remit but suggested the need for research and further work to present a compelling case.

Fiona Gower supported the intent of the Remit but did not believe it was practical to put the Remit through as a lot of work was needed. Need to be very clear and get the right wording to move ahead with it.

Rachael Dean agreed the Remit needed to be defined in terms of affected people and the number of times they need to recharge their vehicle.

The amended Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For: 22
Against: 14
Abstain: 6

The vote to amend the Remit was carried.

5.4 Amended External Remit 3 – Deferral on Fees on petrol and diesel Vehicles for Rural People.

***THAT** Rural Women New Zealand Inc. seeks deferral from the Government of fees on petrol and diesel vehicles for rural and Regional New Zealanders where a practical (to be defined) electric vehicle alternative is not available in New Zealand.*

Moved: Rachael Dean **Seconded:** Diane Payton

The amended Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For: 25
Against: 14
Abstain: 3

The amended Remit was carried.

5.5 External Remit 4 – Immigration Quotas

***THAT** Rural Women New Zealand Inc. seeks urgent action by the Government to significantly extend immigration quotas and associated conditions for skilled workers who are essential to the primary production sector.*

Moved: Jo Gravit **Seconded:** Margaret Scrimgeour

Jo Gravit spoke to the Remit and emphasised the sense of urgency around quotas and working with government and various departments.

Margaret Scrimgeour noted her involvement with the dairy, horticulture and forestry sectors and that there were not enough workers to do the necessary work particularly in the kiwifruit industry.

Melva Robb spoke in support of the Remit and noted the wine industry also had a huge shortage of people. Some areas may not be able to be harvested at all. Looking at making a machine to do the work of people.

Sharron Davie-Martin spoke in support of the Remit stating her passion for migrants and helping with staff shortages. It was causing a huge impact on mental health and the health and safety for people.

Jo Gravit stated it was all too slow and there was a need to expedite action. She thanked the meeting for their support.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For: 42
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

The Remit was passed unanimously.

5.6: External Remit 5: Rural Connectivity

***THAT** Rural Women New Zealand Inc. seeks an urgent review of policies, regulations and the RBI2 programme enabling better and more effective solutions to rural connectivity across rural and regional NZ.*

Moved: Leanne Schmidt **Seconded:** Diane Payton

Leanne Schmidt spoke to the Remit and highlighted the problems with rural connectivity.

Diane Payton also spoke about issues in her area and her support for the Remit.

Dame Margaret Millard spoke for the Remit and strongly supported it. Rural Women should embrace the Remit. She also noted that an action plan was needed.

Hanneke Kroon spoke in support of the Remit and stated that there was no internet or mobile coverage in the Marlborough Sounds.

Carolyn McLellan congratulated Leanne and Diane for bringing up the issue. She noted there was very poor communication in their area also, and this was a health and safety issue.

Leanne Schmidt thanked everyone for speaking in support.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For: 41
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

The Remit was passed unanimously.

5.7 External Remit 6: Maternity Services Review

***THAT** Rural Women New Zealand Inc. requests that the Minister of Health further reviews the conditions of work and funding regulations for maternity services to ensure that women have access to reliable midwifery support wherever they live in New Zealand.*

Moved: Wendy McGowan **Seconded:** Sue Vowell

Wendy McGowan spoke to the Remit. She stated that of the 4,000 midwives registered, a little over half were working. She would like to see a review to look at wages. Rural midwives report that they are overworked and feel undervalued.

Diane Higgins stated that there was definitely a need for more midwives in rural communities. Midwives are under immense pressure and are unable to provide the quality of service they should provide and need all the support they can get.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For: 39
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

The Remit was passed unanimously.

5.8 Late External Remit 7: Improved Visibility for Road Users

***THAT** Rural Women New Zealand Inc. requests that it be made mandatory for all road users (except registered vehicles) to wear high visibility clothing and to use other appropriate apparel or equipment to ensure visibility in all road conditions.*

Moved: Carolyn McLellan **Seconded:** Barbara McKay

Carolyn McLellan spoke to the Remit and stated that with cycling for health there were many more cyclists out on the narrow rural roads but often dressed in black and hard to see.

Barbara McKay spoke in support of the Remit and echoed Carolyn’s concerns that cyclists often wear dark clothing and are not able to be seen.

Shirley Read spoke against the Remit stating that the intention of the Remit was good but that making something mandatory she felt would not go down well.

Diane Higgins stated she did not believe mandatory had those connotations. She felt that cyclists really did need to wear high visibility clothing for the protection of both drivers and cyclists.

Carolyn McLellan exercised her Right of Reply and reminded them about a previous Remit regarding helmets for cyclists a few years ago which had since become mandatory.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For: 34
Against: 3
Abstain: 0

The Remit was passed.

5.9 Internal Remit 4: Privacy Information Release Option

***THAT** Rural Women New Zealand Inc. endorses a drop-down field that gives the option of Members details to be shared in their area to all Rural Women Members.*

Moved: Marie Appleton **Seconded:** Leanne Schmidt

Marie Appleton spoke in support of the Remit stating it would be of benefit to Area Committees to enable them to see who is in their area.

Leanne Schmidt noted people are usually happy to share their contact details.

The National President made a statement of clarification noting the need to work through some processes at the National Office to make the option available. The New Connector positions will have this as part of their role description.

Rachael Dean sought a Point of Clarification stating that it was a privacy matter if information was going to be made available and Members should be given an option to be able to opt out of their information being shareable.

The Chief Executive stated it would be possible for the Remit to be put into effect. The ‘how’ of managing the process as well as options for gaining consent to share information would need to be investigated and carefully considered.

Barbara McKay noted that additionally she would like to see a drop-down tag that listed the date of

the next Branch meeting so people could come along.

Carolyn McLellan spoke in favour of the Branch President being able to have a drop-down to be able to put people in touch, rather than every member having access.

Sandra Curd spoke against the Remit. She was concerned about details being so available. She felt they should wait and get guidance from the Connectors.

The Remit was put to the vote and the following numbers were noted:

For:	15
Against:	19
Abstain:	5

The Remit was lost.

5.10 REMIT MEETING CONCLUSION

The National Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared that it had been a rewarding day with some robust discussion.

The National President closed the Zoom Remit Sessions for 2021 and thanked the National Chair for leading the meetings. She also thanked the National Office staff and the Returning Officer. She thanked Penny Mudford for being the Chair's advisor which had been very much appreciated. She thanked all the participating Members and noted there had been a lot of valuable discussion.

Melva Robb thanked the National President, National Chair and Pat Macaulay for the wonderful job of managing the Remits meeting across the day noting there had been good discussions and outcomes.

Mary McTavish echoed Melva Robb's sentiments and thanked everyone for their input.

The meeting closed at 4.25pm

Signed by President

Date