



National Board Portfolios Report

This report provides an overview of activity in relation to each of the Rural Women New Zealand public policy portfolios over the last financial year.

During 2022, the Board reviewed the portfolio groups, combining business and technology and renaming the social portfolio to reflect the breadth of the work undertaken. The current Convenors for each of the portfolios are:

Portfolio	Convenor (s)
Community and Social Inclusion	Sharron Davie-Martin
Connectivity and Business	Claire Williamson
Education	Emma Higgins and Gill Naylor (Co-Convenors)
Environment and Land Use	Emma Higgins
Health	Sandra Matthews
International	Gill Naylor (President)

Focus of Activity

Community and Social Inclusion

- Regular engagement at Ministerial level regarding workforce issues, immigration settings, wellbeing in rural communities;
- Engagement with the Minister of Education and Ministry of Education officials (jointly with the Education Portfolio Convenor) regarding issues impacting school children and their families in rural communities;
- Written and oral submission to the Enquiry into the future needs for the primary industry workforce;
- Written submission on the Firearms Prohibition Orders Legislation Bill;
- Regular, on occasion daily, participation in industry update meetings following major flooding events;
- Participation in National Adverse Events Committee calls, convened by the Ministry for Primary Industries, which focus on information sharing and risk assessment and readiness for a range of actual or possible adverse events;
- Member of EQC National Reference Group that acts to hold to account those who are implementing the actions recommended from the Enquiry after the Canterbury Earthquakes;
- Participant in the Ministry of Social Development Working Group on Social Inclusion created following the Royal Commission Enquiry into the Christchurch Mosque and now continuing as part of Inclusive Aotearoa work to increase social inclusion for all groups in our communities;
- Engagement with Safer Farms regarding the Farm without Harm campaign.

Connectivity and Business

- Presentation to the TUANZ (Tech Users Association of NZ) Connectivity Symposium;
- Creation of a specialist working group to work with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and Minister Clark regarding ongoing investment and improvement for rural connectivity;
- Participation in discussions with major telecommunications companies regarding rural connectivity and services;



- Support for Citizens Advice Bureau Digital Inclusion campaign;
- Media interviews regarding connectivity issues and solutions for rural communities;
- Contribution to the submission on the Inquiry into Future Workforce Needs.

Education

- Quarterly participation in Rural Education Reference Group meetings covering education issues relevant to rural communities;
- Support of campaign for safety belts on school buses;
- Raising issues regarding boarding bursaries, school transport and child safety with the Minister of Education and officials;
- Supporting rural schools to raise concerns with Ministry of Transport and resolve issues regarding school transport.

Environment and Land Use

- Response to consultation on Low Slope Map and Winter grazing;
- Response to consultation on Freshwater Farm Plans;
- Submission on Natural and Built Environment Bill Exposure Draft (Resource Management Act Reform);
- Response to Taumata Arowai (newly established water regulator) regarding proposed regulations;
- Response to Ministry for Primary Industries consultation regarding afforestation.

Health

- Participation as a member of the Rural Health Alliance NZ (RHAANZ), now the Rural Communities Chapter of Hauora Taiwhenua (Rural Health Network). This engagement included discussions across the health sector with regard to issues impacting on rural communities including the COVID-19 vaccination rollout and the changes proposed as part of the health reforms;
- Early engagement with representatives from Te Whatu Ora-Health New Zealand (one of the new health entities) regarding consultation processes with rural communities;
- Engagement with both the Associate Minister of Health and Ministry of Health officials regarding health services for rural communities including workforce, accessibility of services and maternal health services;
- Engagement with the Minister for Agriculture (also Minister for Rural Communities) regarding mental health and health support for rural communities;
- Representation at cross-sector discussions regarding the proposed Rural Health Strategy and Women's Health Strategy;
- Media interviews by President regarding upcoming reforms.

International

- Representation at meetings of the International Women’s Caucus;
- Participant in the United Nations sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW66) side panel session hosted by Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW);
- Resolution submitted for consideration for ACWW Triennial Conference in Malaysia in 2023 regarding Women’s Employment Action Plans;
- Nomination of RWNZ member, Claire Mahon for the ACWW Board of Trustees (elections to be held in May 2023)

Upcoming changes to our public policy work.

During 2022, we have been reviewing our approach with the aim of building greater influence in policy and building member engagement and leadership pathways through participation in our work in this area.

We look forward to sharing more on these plans over the coming months

Rural Women New Zealand Board



Charitable Funding

Scotlands Te Kiteroa Charitable Fund

This Fund originated from proceeds from the sale of the Scotlands (Auckland) and Te Kiteroa (Waimate) Rest Homes. Each year, interest from the Fund is disbursed to the community in the form of grants for up to \$1500. These grants support projects and activities related to the welfare of children and the elderly, community, conservation and education.

Grants made this year for 9 successful applications totalled \$12,300 and included projects covering support for foster children, a sensory garden for neuro diverse children, an environmental education programme, equipment for a kindergarten and outreach services for youth.

Committee:

Gill Naylor (Chair)	National President
Jenny McDonald	National Finance Chair
Sharron Davie-Martin	South Island representative
Cheyenne Wilson	South Island representative
Wendy Coup	North Island representative
Tamzin Coull	North Island representative

A review of the Terms of Reference for this fund was also completed and the decision was made to move the date for the closure of applications from 31 December to 30 April for the next funding round.

Education Bursaries

This financial year \$17,200 was paid out in Education Bursaries and Text Book Grants.

Grants were made as follows:

Grants	Grants made	Total amount paid
Boarding Bursaries	8	\$7,200
Other Bursaries	5	\$4,500
Education Fund	4	\$2,000
Diamond Jubilee Agricultural Tertiary	1	\$1,000
Textbook Grant	5	\$2,500
	23	\$17,200

A number of incremental improvements have been made to the application and review process over the past two years. Further work is planned to look at the overall approach and whether further improvements could be made to enhance the worth and impact of this support.

Committee:

Emma Higgins (Chair)	RWNZ Education Portfolio Convenor
Gill Naylor	National President and Education
Jenny McDonald	National Finance Chair
Jane Hall	South Island representative
Rachel Whalley	North Island representative

Community Fund

The Community Fund is administered by the RWNZ Board. This fund is open to grant applications of up to \$1000 to assist those in rural New Zealand who have suffered hardship in situations that are not covered by the Adverse Events Relief Fund.

All details of the grants are confidential due to their sensitive nature.

In the 2021/2022 financial year, a total of \$7,250 was granted to recipients in need.

Adverse Events Relief Fund

The Rural Women New Zealand Adverse Event Relief Fund was established following the 2016 Kaikoura Earthquake. It was to be used to better target assistance to those rural families suffering hardship due to an adverse event. Applications are also open to groups looking to support rural families and communities following an adverse event.

This fund has replaced donations historically made to Mayoral Funds thereby ensuring it reaches rural communities.

Grants of up to \$1000 are available. The fund is promoted in a variety of ways including promotion during our regular involvement in the National Adverse Events Committee meetings which also include other groups such as MPI, industry bodies, Rural Support Trust and NEMA.

Given the increased number of serious adverse events in Aotearoa New Zealand, we ask Members to continue to keep this fund active by considering donating directly to the Fund and by promoting the Fund when there is a need.

We are thankful to those who have contributed to the Adverse Events Relief Fund. Your generosity allows Rural Women New Zealand to continue our efforts to support rural communities.

In the 2021-2022 financial year the Adverse Events Relief Fund Committee approved seven grants to assist with community support and seven grants to assist with personal hardship. The Committee referred two worthy applications to the Community Grants Committee as they were more suited to that funding stream.

Committee:

Sharron Davie-Martin (Chair)	Board Member
Gill Naylor	National President
Jenny McDonald	National Finance Chair
Melva Robb	South Island representative
Bronwyn Main	North Island representative

Movement in Fund

Opening Balance	\$52,629.48
Income (Donations)	\$7,911.34
Grants paid	-\$12,241.50
Closing Balance	\$48,299.32

O is for... National Project

The O is for... National Project worked to raise awareness about ovarian and the other four main gynaecological cancers – uterine, cervical, vaginal and vulval cancer. Funds were raised to support three charities (Talk Peach, Cure Our Ovarian Cancer and K9 Medical Detection NZ) who are working to improve outcomes through raising awareness, support, research and development of better diagnostic tools.

As reported in our Statement of Service Performance, \$43,451 was raised for the three charities supported by this project across two financial years.

This fantastic result was due to the combined efforts of Members around the country who have not only made donations and held other fundraising activities but have also worked to raise awareness through newspaper articles, speaking events and publicity. Activities included:

- newspaper articles in local publications on Women’s Health Day;
- a visit and subsequent donation made to the K9MD medical detection research centre;
- holding Women’s Health events with speakers raising awareness of these cancers and the signs to look for;
- Producing a “Calendar Girls” calendar to raise funds for both this project and the local Cancer Society;
- Collecting donations at membership gatherings and community events;
- a very successful online auction.

The impact of this campaign will be ongoing as the collateral produced for the campaign continues to be shared.