

Espresso

April 2020

ISSN:2463-560X


Rural Women
NEW ZEALAND
Ngā Wāhine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa

Dear Members

It is not possible to publish and mail out a hard copy edition of the Express at present. However, as all the content for the latest issue had been completed, we do not want to wait to share this with you.

Over the next week we will send you the Express in parts. These “Expressos” will be just like the coffee of the same name – short, full of flavour and a great way to start each day.

We are going to keep them small and printable so if you read something that you know someone else might like, you can share it with them.

We hope you enjoy catching up with all RWNZ news from around the country via the Espresso over the next week. If you have a moment, please let us know what you think by emailing us at lisa.thompson@ruralwomennz.nz or phoning 0800 256 267.

EDITORIAL

Fiona Gower



Kia ora tātou

As I write this editorial, circumstances are changing very quickly in our world. The advent of COVID 19 will undoubtedly affect all New Zealanders in both the short and longer terms. Rural people are resilient and are often self-sufficient and many are able to self-isolate, especially those living and working on the land. However, rural businesses and communities will be highly affected. Our communities will need to support each other. We still need to connect with each other and we need to be innovative about how we do this in these uncertain times. We are well practised in addressing the loneliness and isolation that can be part of rural living. Now is the time to be strong in our communities and reach out to those that need our support.

It has been a tough few months for many rural communities. The dry, hot conditions of those affected by droughts make for very sobering and challenging times. And yet in other parts of the country, there is too much water. Both extremes mean that our rural families and communities need the help and support that is an ingrained part of our heritage. Members have been organising food and supply deliveries to, and supporting, those in need. Thank you for your work especially for reaching out to those who are isolated and vulnerable.

I have had two opportunities to celebrate wool in the last few months. Firstly, I was delighted to attend and support the 40 over 400 Women’s Shearing record challenge in Turangi in late January. It was a fantastic day and I was very proud that RWNZ was a sponsor of this event. The record was set at 2066 lambs by the four shearers which was an excellent result. These women shearers were recognised at the second of my wool based celebrations – the Golden Shears 2020.

It was Golden Shears’ 60th anniversary this year and it was a

truly wonderful event. It takes over 200 volunteers many months to prepare for the Golden Shears and you can sense the commitment and passion each and every one of them feels for the event. Sam Saunders, President of the Golden Shears Committee, spoke very well about the heritage, sustainability and many uses for our excellent wool. RWNZ has a long and rich history with wool and I believe that our wool industry is on the verge of being rediscovered.

I was honoured to be part of the StandTallLeapHigh programme that brought together women business leaders with members of the Silver Ferns in early February. It was an inspirational event and will be one of my highlights this year. I am following the interviews from that day as they are released. You can view them on the StandTallLeapHigh Instagram page.

In mid-February I attended the first Board Meeting of the year which was wrapped around the annual Leadership Team meeting. We were hosted at the Home of Compassion in Island Bay which is a great venue. The Leadership Team meeting was excellent. We covered a lot of ground and very clearly identified our mission for the year: increasing our Membership in number and capability. We have discussed several strategies on how to do this and you will see more about those in the upcoming months.

RWNZ’s work in building and supporting our rural communities will be essential to maintain the fabric of these communities in the coming weeks. This is the work that we have done for many years and this longstanding commitment to our communities will see us through uncertain times.

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NATIONAL OFFICE REPORT

JANUARY

Much of our work in January was spent tidying up the tail end of last year's tasks and planning this year's schedule. We also caught up on our reporting for the Statement of Service Documents so that they are half completed for later in the year. We prepare an Events and Communications Calendar for the year which has all the dates marked for key events, charitable funding deadlines, National Office's communications schedule including the Express and e-news, RWNZ sponsorship, Board Meetings and the dates that reports need to be prepared and collated for those Board meetings. Even though we are many months out from some of our calendar dates, there is a lot of pre-planning work that needs to be done now.

Another focus point in January has been fundraising for those affected by the devastating bush fires in Australia. Thank you to Members who have made donations to this Fund. National Office will be closing the Fund on Tuesday, 31 March. The funds will be forwarded to our sister organisation, Country Women's Association of Australia, for distribution to those in need.

RWNZ also supported the Open Farms programme in January. Open Farms is a movement to reconnect urban and rural Kiwis through a nationwide Open Farm Day which was held on Sunday, 1 March 2020. RWNZ believes that every Kiwi should have access to a genuine on-farm experience to connect with the people and places that grow our food and fibre.

National Office staff also attended several meetings with other organisations and stakeholders in January. Lisa and Liz joined Fiona in meeting Jon, Christina and Annita from NZI for a review meeting of last year's hugely successful NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards. We are thrilled that NZI will be continuing as our Premier Partner in 2020. We are working on our plan to recognise and celebrate entrepreneurial rural businesswomen this year and will have more information about this soon.

Liz and Lisa met with Andrew and Angus who are our fund managers at Jarden and discussed how we can develop our partnership this year. We are delighted that Jarden will be helping host some regional events with RWNZ in the future. A range of possible topics are currently being discussed.

Liz attended the following meetings in January:

Monday, 6 January	Open Farms NZ
Tuesday, 7 January	Kevin Hague re: the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission
Tuesday, 14 January	Researchers from the OECD on adverse event preparedness
Monday, 27 January	Karen Adair and Cathy Robinson, MPI
Tuesday, 28 January	NZI meeting – Review of 2019 Awards
Wednesday, 29 January	PWC
Friday, 31 January	Jarden

Angela attended the following meetings in January:

Tuesday, 14 January	OECD representatives regarding how rural communities respond to adverse events, hosted at MPI, Wellington
Tuesday, 17 January	MPI re Livestock Export regulations

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Toni Croon

Annabelle Gourlie

Renee Harrison

Dawn Farley

Rebecca Andrews

Greg Chubb

David Bleackley

Anne Jakeman

Leigh Richardson

Kirstin Engelbrecht

Nicki Prentice

Lucy Taylor

Pauline Fraser

BRANCH NEWS

St Arnaud Branch

Members of the St Arnaud Branch were very busy in the lead up to Christmas. They held a Christmas decoration workshop for pupils from Lake Rotoitoe school which resulted in some amazing, creative pieces. Members also decorated their local chapel which delighted their community and visitors. It was a wonderful opportunity for Members to talk about RWNZ and they noted the high level of interest in RWNZ by tourists to the area. This was followed by a gift wrapping workshop which was weather affected as Members from Wairau were unable to get to the event due to flooding on the state highway.



St Arnaud Branch also held a very successful fundraiser at the Annual Book Fair and Trash n Treasure. This was the 10th year that Members had taken part in this event and they have built some great friendships over the years. It was also another wonderful opportunity to talk to the locals and holidaymakers about RWNZ.



Julie Sowman, Nicky Bevan and Margaret Hunter at St Arnaud Branch's Trash 'n Treasure.

Fordell/Mangamahu Branch

The Fordell/Mangamahu Branch recently made a donation of \$500 to Whanganui based Shine City, an organisation which runs self-development courses for women, girls and boys. The donation to Shine City enables them to run a complete course. Shine City is a registered charity and relies on grants, sponsorships and fundraising to deliver its programmes.

Muhunua East Branch

January was the start of all the local Shows around the country. These have provided wonderful opportunities for Members to use our new RWNZ Toolkits.



Muhunua East Branch Members had a stand in the Home Industry Hall at the Horowhenua AP&I Show which won them second prize in the competition. The Branch also had a show stand about RWNZ and used items from the toolkit for the display.



Winchmore Branch

On Saturday 11 January Members of the Winchmore Branch took part in the NZ Gifts of Love and Strength craft day to support the Australian firefighters and provide resources for the recovering animals in wildlife centres.

RWNZ Members took along a sewing machine, an overlocker and knitting needles to assist with the making of fabric joey pouches of all sizes and knitted birds nests. Handmade cards were also made by children to send to the many firemen and volunteers.



From left: Sandra Curd, Elsa Hydes, Marg Verrall, Alison Shearer, Maureen Maginness.

LEADERSHIP COUNCILLORS & AREA COMMITTEES BY REGION

Region 1 Lower South Island	Position	Contact Email
Pat Macaulay	Leadership Councillor	Pat.macaulay@outlook.com
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Virginia Broughton		broughtonvp@gmail.com
Sally Hammond		lrsjhammond@netspeed.net.nz
Elaine Sloan		sloanrimu1@xtra.co.nz
Gloria McHutchon		gloria_alexm@hotmail.com
Raewyn van Vugt	Area Committee Chair	whitegold@rivernet.co.nz
Judy Kingan		jaydeekgn@gmail.com
Margaret Pittaway	Advisory – Ex officio	lochlea@xtra.co.nz

Region 2 Canterbury	Position	Contact Email
Sandra Curd	Leadership Councillor	curd@xtra.co.nz
Beverley Forrester		forrester@amuri.net
Mary Watson	Vice Chair	mmf.wats@gmail.com
Christine Anderson		jcandynz@gmail.com
Margaret Chapman	Area Committee Chair	mgchapman@xtra.co.nz
Margaret Chapman [Hook]		randmchapman@hotmail.com
Elsa Hydes		esurya@hotmail.com
Cheyenne Wilson		ctkwilson@hotmail.co.nz

Region 3 Top of the South	Position	Contact Email
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6	Judy Board (Greater Waikato)	07 872 4828	027 365 0998	judy.board@xtra.co.nz
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