

## FEBRUARY

### NATIONAL OFFICE REPORT

The National Office team grew by one in February with the arrival of our new intern, Dawn Farley. Dawn fits RWNZ like a glove and has achieved a lot in a very short time. It turned out that Dawn relished the chance to tidy up our working spaces and even more impressively, create order out of the chaos in the storage room.

The focus for the first part of February was on preparations for the first National Board meeting for 2020 and the Leadership Team Hui. This included drafting RWNZ's updated policy manifesto. Work is well advanced on this and it is an important document to complete as the General Election approaches.

National Office staff attended both meetings and reported on their areas of responsibility to the Board and contributed to the Leadership Team meeting. It was fantastic to have time to talk to those present about what was on their minds, issues and challenges facing the organisation and celebrating what we could be proud of. Many great ideas were shared over the two busy days.

The remainder of February passed in a blur as we compiled our task lists resulting from the Board and Leadership team meetings. In particular, we have been focusing on drawing all the ideas around membership together and developing them into a cohesive plan.

Meet  
our new  
intern,  
Dawn



Kia Ora. My name is Dawn Farley. I have come to lovely New Zealand on a Study Abroad and Internship program through Arizona State University (ASU) in Tempe, Arizona where I live with my family. I am studying Organisational Leadership with an emphasis on Non Governmental Organisations around the globe. I have been working in the non-profit sector for quite some time as a fundraising and outreach consultant. Earning my degree from ASU will allow me to augment the skills and experience I have in the hopes of pursuing a leadership role with an organisation dedicated to the betterment of people.

#### Liz took part in the following meetings and events:

*Wednesday, 5 February*

Conference call on International Year of the Midwife

*Wednesday, 5 February*

Meeting with Jane and Kate Spencer from CR McPhail

*Thursday, 6 February*

Attended the Governor General's Bledisloe Garden Reception

*Thursday, 13 February*

Meeting with Ministry for Women

#### Angela attended and spoke at the following:

*Tuesday 11 & Wednesday 12 February*

National Climate Change Risk Assessment Workshops – Human, Governance and Built Environment Domains, hosted by Massey University in Wellington

*Monday, 17 February*

Lunch with RWNZ Members in Hawera

*Tuesday, 25 February*

Speaker at 7th Public Sector Women in Leadership Summit, Wellington



## LEADERSHIP MEETING REPORT

The Rural Women New Zealand National Board, Leadership Councillors and Area Committee Chairs met in Wellington for two days in February. There is no substitute for having time together and this meeting was lively, creative and collaborative. The venue was wonderful – Our Lady’s Home of Compassion in Island Bay provides accommodation and meeting facilities so everyone stayed together and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings, excellent meals made on-site and the heritage and history of the Sisters of Compassion and founder of the Order, Mother Suzanne Aubert.

As we discovered during the guided tour of the Chapel and Heritage Centre, Sister Suzanne spent her early years in Aotearoa New Zealand reviving the Māori Mission at Jerusalem/Hiruhārama. Suzanne, also known by Māori as Sister Meri Hōhepa, learnt to speak fluent Māori and became adept at using native plants to create medicines and remedies for a range of maladies. She also rode a horse to reach women and their families in need of her care. Sister Suzanne’s work had many parallels with that undertaken by our own bush nurses.

There was a very busy agenda for both days. After preliminary introductions and welcomes, attendees set about the serious task of determining on Wellington’s best cheese scone. A blind testing of five different scones was conducted and each participant rated each scone on its appearance, smell, taste and texture. The winner, by a clear majority, was the scone from New World Metro which beat out more expensive and touted scones for the honour.

It was then time to get on with the serious business. We started with a review of the last February meeting’s action points. Liz then introduced the National Office staff who described their roles and the tasks and projects they were currently working on. This was followed by an update from around the Regions which included a brief summary of activities, highlights and challenges and plans for the year.

After lunch, Angela led a discussion on RWNZ policy development, the RWNZ policy portfolios, presenting to select committees and developing relationships and working with government representatives, political parties, Ministry

and Department officials. The second session of the afternoon focused on membership. Fiona led a discussion which emphasised that growing RWNZ’s membership is the primary goal for the organisation this year. A brainstorming session on ways to increase membership followed and plenty of excellent and innovative ideas were shared. More information on this potpourri of inspiration will be available shortly. The last afternoon session was an update on the upcoming National and Regional elections.

After dinner, the team reconvened for workshop on RWNZ’s competitions and Awards. We briefly reviewed the current competitions and Honours before thinking about how we want to celebrate success. Attendees were asked to submit ideas for new competitions and Awards. Lisa is now collating all that information and will report back to the Leadership Team shortly.

It was an early start on Day Two. The Leadership Councillors and Area Committee Chairs met separately to discuss their roles and experiences. The wonderful women who undertake both roles in their Regions oscillated between the two groups. Both groups came together for a feedback session before morning tea.

After morning tea, Jenny provided an overview of RWNZ’s finances and the process for this year’s Statements of Service reporting and audit. In particular, Jenny explained how important it is that we complete the necessary reporting as efficiently and accurately as possible in order to have audited accounts prepared for the Annual General Meeting and to meet RWNZ’s legal obligations to the Charities Commission.

The last session was focused on the future. The key issues identified are building the number, diversity and capability of our Members; assessing the ways we can meet and creating opportunities to attract more Members; being proactive about how we measure and celebrate our successes.

Fiona had the task of summing up what had been a frenzy of ideas and information before we broke for lunch. This was a remarkable day and a half – the energy and commitment of the participants in addressing today’s challenges was exciting and exhilarating. Work has already begun on the extensive task list from the meeting.





# BRANCH NEWS

## Korokipo Branch

Members of the Korokipo Branch hosted a lunch and ran a stand at the East Coast Farming Expo which was held in Wairoa on Wednesday, 26 and Thursday, 27 February. The lunch was sold out and guests were warmly welcomed by Korokipo Branch President Tamzin Coull. Tamzin also introduced the guest speaker and good friend of RWNZ, Mavis Mullins.

# RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND BOARD ELECTIONS IN 2020

Pursuant to the Rules and Bylaws of Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated, an election will be held for the following Board positions this year:

- National President
- National Finance Chair
- North Island Board Representative x 2
- South Island Board Representative x 1

A timetable for the election process has been confirmed by the Board and in accordance with the Bylaws, this is formal notification to the Members of Rural Women New Zealand of these arrangements.

Nomination forms for the available positions will be available and circulated to Members in the first week of July.

Advice on the nomination process, a description of the skills and qualities sought in candidates and the terms of reference for each of the positions will also be included.

The closing date for nominations for all positions will be Friday, 21 August 2020.

Following the receipt of the nominations, the National Office staff will prepare, as appropriate, voting papers and candidate information which will be posted to Members on Friday, 4 September 2020.

The closing date for receipt of completed voting papers at National Office will be 5pm on Friday, 23 October 2020. The votes will be counted by the Returning Officer and the election results will be declared at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday, 21 November 2020.

## Remits

Pursuant to RWNZ policy, the RWNZ National Board is calling for the submission of proposed Remits which must be sent to the National Office by Tuesday, 21 July 2020.

The RWNZ Remit Template and Guidelines are available on the Members Zone of the RWNZ website.

## Scotland Te Kiteroa Trust Grants

Applications for grants from this Fund close at the end of December each year. There were three successful applications from the latest round and these will be paid in 2020.

The recipients are:

- Youth Encounter Ministries Trust - \$1280 - Rotorua
- Waikaretu Sea Scouts - \$1500 - Tuakau
- Mangawhai Beach School - \$1500 - Mangawhai



# Handy Hints

An extract from the *Golden Jubilee Cook Book*

Add a little sugar to cooked tomatoes to improve the flavour.

Jellies will set more quickly if you add a pinch of baking soda when preparing.

Run a grater under the tap before grating lemon or orange rind and the rind will not stick to the grater.

Troublesome flies can be got rid of if you place a few sprigs of mint around the kitchen.

Sausage skins are easily removed by immersing them in cold water.

To keep cheese fresh and tasty, place a small lump of sugar in the cheese dish.

Parsley can be kept fresh for several weeks by washing and placing in an airtight container and storing in a refrigerator.

A pinch of salt in the frying pan stops the fat from spitting when frying.

Keep stainless steel and chrome as bright as new by wiping over with a damp cloth which has a little kerosene added.

When brass has been cleaned, place some flour on a cloth and rub over. This keeps brass shiny and new-looking for longer.

Use a pair of scissors to cut off bacon rind - it makes the job much easier.

Try adding ½ t of baking powder to stuffing for poultry, makes it lighter.

To make a thin custard set, add 1 teaspoon of golden syrup after cooking.

Add a few drops of vinegar to mint leaves before chopping, they will chop much easier.



Women's Division  
Federated Farmers  
New Zealand

Golden Jubilee

Cook  
Book

featuring  
New Zealand  
Foods



## Recipe for Happiness

Equal parts of health, honest work, rest and recreation, mix carefully with diligence, cheerfulness and an even temper. Sift them through the sieve of determination to get rid of any lumps of idleness or despondency. Then bring the whole to a cream with the milk of human kindness and spirits of consideration and sympathy, stirring each gently with an inspiring hand. Add to this a sparkle of smiles and colour with laughter, a mere thought and a few illusions. This mixture can be made at home by anyone.  
**Bobbie Poll, St Arnaud**

from *Cooking Up a Treat with Rural Women NZ - True stories and tasty delights from the Top of The South*