



September 2020



# RWENZ +1

On Wednesday, 1 July, RWENZ launched the Rural Women New Zealand Plus One campaign. This campaign aims to double RWENZ's membership through each and every one of our current Members this year. The challenge is for each Member to find one new Member.

SO HOW ARE WE DOING SO FAR...?

## HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?

Give the gift of a RWENZ membership to someone you know who cares about the future and wellbeing of rural New Zealanders and carries a little bit of rural in their heart.

When you think about the incredible legacy that RWENZ continues to create, who do you think of?

Perhaps you may think of someone who knows how important it is to have a say about how decisions and policies affect rural women and their families.

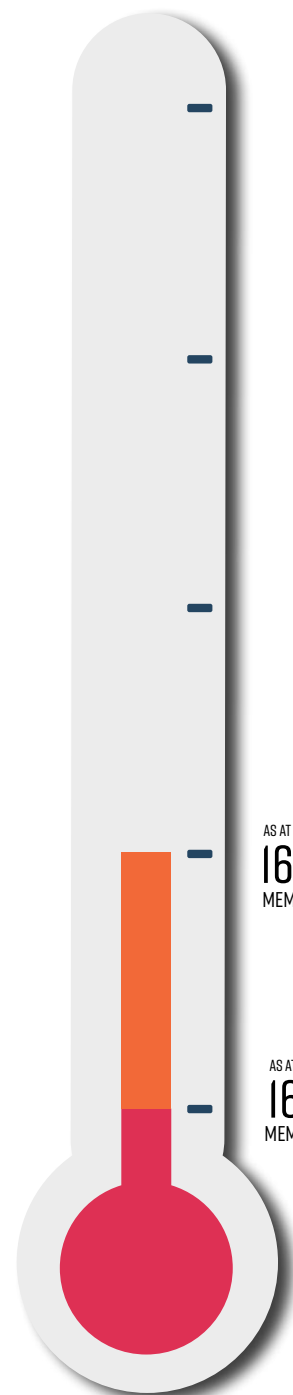
Or maybe you know a woman who owns and operates a rural business who would benefit from being part of a bigger network.

What about a woman who could learn new skills as a RWENZ Member?

There are so many reasons why the women you know should be Members of RWENZ.



Help us to find the next generation of incredible rural women leaders by adding your +1.



## HILDE & DEB FROM GOOD HEAVENS

In November last year, RWNZ partnered with the Ministry for Primary Industries to run an Activator session for rural women at the outset of their business journey. One of the participants was Hilde Hoven from Great Barrier Island.

Great Barrier Island is one of a few Dark Sky Sanctuaries in the world. Away from city lights and as an off-the-grid island, light pollution on the island is minimal so its dark skies are amazing for stargazing. But stargazing is so much more fun when you know what you are looking at.

This gave Hilde and Deborah Kilgallon a great idea. They wanted to offer visitors to beautiful Great Barrier Island the opportunity to go on an entertaining, astronomical journey. They studied hard over the next few years to find the most interesting and entertaining astronomical objects, facts and stories to share. Good Heavens was born.

They believe this story is best absorbed in comfort so they provide their customers with comfy chairs, blankets and even a hot water bottle in winter. “We want our clients to be warm and comfortable as they look up at the sky,” says Deb.

Small group sizes ensure a personalised experience. Hilde says that, “there is opportunity for questions and to have a giggle. People remember things best when they’re having a laugh, so we keep things light-hearted. The myths and legends we share helped our ancestors make sense of this magical world throughout the ages.”

“And we find stunning locations, often with sea and sky views” says Deb. “We need a wide view of the sky. And on Great Barrier Island, where 60% of the island is park and covered in trees, this is usually best achieved close to the sea.”

Deborah grew up in by the sea in Kerikeri, riding horses and looking up at the stars before heading off for an extended OE. After an international corporate career, Deb and husband Andy, decided they wanted to live in a place they truly loved, to create an active, sustainable life for themselves and their imminent baby. So they went to live on the stunningly beautiful Great Barrier Island, in 2014.

Hilde, born in the Netherlands, has a background in hospitality management. She moved to New Zealand and Great Barrier Island in 1999 after meeting her husband Roger on the island. Growing up in the light-polluted Netherlands, becoming a starguide was a revelation.

Creating Good Heavens has been life changing for both of them. “It’s heart-warming to see the enjoyment our clients experience when they see planets and star clusters through our telescopes and binoculars for the first time.”



“Our Dark Sky Experience for groups runs whenever the stars are out, usually at Medlands Beach. For about a week each month, when the moon is bright in the sky and the Milky Way recedes into the background, our Moon Walk replaces this Dark Sky Experience.”

Clients can also choose a private Dark Sky Experience, which is perfect for honeymooners, proposers, family groups with small children, corporate groups or a touring group of RWNZ Members.

Good Heavens are mindful of their fragile island. They consciously use products that generate limited waste and laser pointers that are charged by the sun. During their experiences, they touch on the effects of light pollution. After each tour, only footprints are left behind.

As overseas adventures are off our collective agendas at present, New Zealanders looking for amazing places to visit should definitely consider a trip to Great Barrier Island and a night time adventure with Good Heavens.

For more information and make a booking visit Good Heavens at: <https://www.goodheavens.co.nz/>



# The Women's Creed

The Collect for Club Women, known to RWNZ as The Women's Creed, was written by Mary Stewart in 1904. Since then it has been adopted as part of the opening or closing of meetings of many women's organisations worldwide.

## Collect

The collect is a short general prayer of a particular structure used in Christian liturgy. Collects appear in the liturgies of Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches, among others.

(source: Wikipedia)

Mary Stewart was born in 1876 in Ohio, USA. Although the words of her Collect suggest a mature and experienced world view, Mary Stewart was only 28 years old when she wrote it. Drawn from her own experiences as a member of women's clubs and a suffragette, the Collect's timelessness invokes in each of us to be the best that we can while still recognising our imperfections.

This year we have experienced rapid and eventful change. It has been, and still is, very challenging and Mary Stewart's prayer seems all the more relevant in our troubled world. It reminds us to focus on what we can influence at a time when we must accept change. The original Collect is written in the plural voice which invokes a collective call to work together for larger ends – something that Mary Stewart thought was a new ambition for women in 1904 but was the foundation stone of Rural Women New Zealand on its inception nearly 100 years ago.

There have been many reproductions of the original Collect and plenty of critique and analysis of its wording. One is a version translated to be read in the first person which personalises the prayer and makes striving to fulfil it our individual responsibility (shown on right).

As a result of circumstances beyond our control this year we have, at time, been unable to meet face to face.

Keep me, O Lord, from pettiness,  
let me be large in thought, in word and deed.

Let me be done with fault finding  
and leave off self seeking.

May I put away all pretence  
and meet others face to face,  
without self pity and without prejudice.

May I never be hasty in judgement  
and always generous.

Let me take time for all things,  
make me grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach me to put into action my better impulses,  
straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that I may realise that it is  
the little things that create differences;  
that in the big things of life we are one.

And may I strive to touch and know  
the great human heart common to us all,  
and, O Lord God, let me not forget to be kind.

# RWNZ BURSARIES

CLOSING DATES

There are two RWNZ Bursaries which have a closing date for applications on Wednesday, 30 September 2020. These are the:

## FLORENCE POLSON ONE YEAR SECONDARY BURSARY:

This one-year bursary is available to secondary students and valued at \$1000.

## YEAR 12 AND 13 BOARDING BURSARY:

This bursary is available to Year 12 and 13 students and applications can be made up to the value of \$900 for one year only.

Applicants must be New Zealand citizens.

Application forms and online application information can be found at <https://ruralwomennz.nz/services/charitable-grants/>



## Speech Competitions 2020

The topic for this year's Speech Competition has been announced and is: *"Life during lockdown"*.

The competition will be held in Wellington in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting on Friday, 20 November.

This contest is open to one contestant only from each region. Details of each regional representative entrant must be provided by email ([competitions@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:competitions@ruralwomennz.nz)) or post to the RWNZ National Office no later than Monday, 2 November. The contestant must be an active financial RWNZ member.

Each speech shall be no less than four minutes and no more than five minutes in duration. If a contestant speaks for longer than the five minutes allowed, Penalty Points will be deducted. One (1) point for every 10 seconds overtime will be deducted.

Two prizes will be presented. The first is the Tarrant Bell which will be awarded to the best speech as judged according to the Contest Rules. The second prize is the Tutaenul Bell which will be awarded to the best first time entrant.

