

Rural Wrap-Up #10

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Members Advisory • 19 March 2024

It feels like Easter has rolled around fast this year! It's earlier than usual but always marks the end to a busy summer. I hope you all get a chance to have some time with friends and family over the Easter long weekend.

Before we indulge in too many Easter treats, here's a quick update on some key things happening at National office.

Last week we advertised for a Policy Advisor. The role will help to coordinate and support the work of the Policy Action Advisory Groups (PAAGs) at a national level to ensure the voice of rural women and their communities are heard and not forgotten when legislation and regulations are being changed and considered. You can check out the job by clicking this link.

(<https://www.seek.co.nz/job/74372822?ref=search-standalone&type=standout#sol=7207aa60a007747889000d4b9ea23a6929bb0499>)

Applications close 2 April.

Thank you also to everyone who has taken the time to complete our 2024 Communications Survey. The survey helps us continuously improve how National Office communicates with you.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. If you're able to complete it by 3rd of April that would be much appreciated! Please note that a hard copy will be sent to members who do not receive email communications with the Express Magazine mailout in April. You can take the survey by clicking this link. (<https://ruralwomennz.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cd2e8501ce39fd2252af611e6&id=493d877a4e&e=cf71d60398>)

Ngā mihi

Gabrielle O'Brien and the National Office team (Janet, Felicity, Lisa and Mia)

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** Government advocacy update

In early March, our President Gill Naylor and CE Gabrielle O'Brien met with the new Minister for Rural Communities, Hon. Mark Patterson.

The hour-long meeting was a great opportunity to brief the Minister on the work of Rural Women NZ at both a local and national level, share the priorities identified by our Policy Action Advisory Groups (as shared in the last Rural Wrap-Up) and discuss how to ensure rural and gender proofing is undertaken for new legislation and policies.

The Minister expressed his desire to meet with Rural Women representatives regularly to build a strong link to the rural communities we represent.

** Meeting with Ministry of Transport on road safety

Our CE Gabe and RWNZ's Policy Advisor recently had their 6-monthly update with officials from the Ministry of Transport on road safety. They discussed 'where to from here' for the previous Government's Road to Zero Road Safety Strategy.

The update is that an 'Interim' Road Safety document is being prepared to replace Road to Zero which will be informed by the Government Policy Statement (GPS) on land transport and changes to New Zealand speed limits.

The GPS focusses on four key strategic priorities: economic growth and productivity, increased maintenance and resilience, safety, and value for money.

The intended aim is to balance investing in new projects and ensuring existing infrastructure is maintained and repaired.

RWNZ will be making a submission on the GPS and will share more details in the next Rural Wrap-Up. We will also keep a watch on the speed limit changes.

Share your experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic

The Government is currently seeking public feedback on New Zealand's COVID-19 response.

We encourage members to provide your personal experiences and reflections to help the Royal Commission of Inquiry better understand the impacts of the pandemic response on rural communities, and the lessons that can be learned for the future.

You can make your submission through their dedicated online submission website by clicking the button below.

They are also seeking feedback on what an expanded terms of reference for the Inquiry might include.

Submissions close on Sunday 24 March 2024.

Make your submission (<http://www.Covid19Inquiry.nz>)

** Join a PAAG (Policy Action Advisory Group)

Rural Women New Zealand's advocacy work provides credible advice to politicians, government agencies and stakeholders on issues that affect our rural communities. With the help of members like you, we advocate locally, nationally and internationally on issues in the areas of health, education, connectivity and business, environment, and community and social inclusion to ensure the perspectives of rural women and their families are heard and celebrated. We're on the lookout for more members to join a PAAG! It's a great opportunity to contribute to our work in our priority policy areas, build your advocacy skills and engage with fellow members from around the country.

You can find FAQs and role descriptions on the PAAG page of our website by clicking here (<https://www.ruralwomennz.nz/paags>) .

If you have any questions, please email us at enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz

** International advocacy update

Presentation at Human Rights Commission for the NZ Universal Periodic Review

RWNZ President Gill was one of the speakers from a range of organisations who shared their views on the state of human rights in Aotearoa to inform New Zealand's fourth Universal Periodic Review in Geneva at the end of April. More than 30 diplomatic missions from all regions of the world were represented at the event. Their submissions will contribute to information that United Nations members will consider as part of the review. Gill spoke to RWNZ's key priorities for government and provided a copy of our Manifesto to each of the diplomats. You can download the RWNZ presentation by clicking here.

(<https://tikatangata.org.nz/our-work/wellington-upr-presession-presentations-7-march-2024?stage=Live>)

This session was in addition to a pre-session held in Geneva in February where RWNZ member and ACWW representative Claire Mahon also made a presentation.

** News

** Aged Care Commissioner releases report on amplifying the voices of older people

The Aged Care Commissioner Carolyn Cooper has released her report - Amplifying the voices of older people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The report was informed by a number of voices, including ours, with RWNZ hosting a webinar last year to give members an opportunity to have their say.

The report provides a snapshot into the issues and challenges faced by older people using health and disability services in New Zealand and focuses on the need for an integrated continuum of care that concentrates on prevention and support.

The report makes 20 recommendations, several of which have a rural focus:

- * Supporting initiatives such as the 24-hour rural telehealth line recently established to ensure more equitable access to primary care services in rural areas

- * The need for Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand's review of aged-care funding

and services models to consider models of care and funding that support access and choice in home and community support services for rural communities.

If you have any feedback on the report, please email agedcare@hdc.org.nz
(<mailto:agedcare@hdc.org.nz?subject=&body=>)

Read the report (<https://awdt.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dc714cf5dd133d2a5c404bd65&id=655a5f51fa&e=28fcae5136>)

** ACWW launches new podcast with UNESCO

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), which Rural Women NZ is affiliated to, has launched a new podcast series with UNESCO. The podcast explores the major challenges still barring women's paths to leadership. The first episode features Magdie de Kock (World President of ACWW), alongside Gabriela Ramos (Assistant-Director General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences), and Rosie Agoi (Secretary-General of the Ugandan National Commission for UNESCO).

Listen (https://nzgamecouncil.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_00tH2eoIzYASv4i)

Expressions of Interest open for two RWNZ Grant Committees

Expressions of Interest are now open for one place on the Education Bursary Committee and two places on the Scotlands Te Kiteroa Committee.

The roles come as a result of vacancies left by Jane Hall, Sharron Davie-Martin and Cheyenne Wilson. A big thank you to the trio for their time and contributions to these committees which has been hugely valued. You can find more information about the Committees by clicking this link.

(https://mcusercontent.com/cd2e8501ce39fd2252af611e6/files/9feafb23-b648-6584-dbe8-efe28def8c13/Background_information_for_Expressions_of_Interest_grant_committees.01.docx)

Interested members are asked to fill out the application form by clicking the button below.

Applications close on 2 April.

Apply Now (https://mcusercontent.com/cd2e8501ce39fd2252af611e6/files/569d4760-d78f-1daa-a6c3-4bb306680021/Expressions_of_Interest_Form_Fillable.pdf)

** Endometriosis Awareness Month

March is international Endometriosis Awareness Month and a chance to grow understanding of endometriosis and highlight the impact it can have on those who live with the condition.

Endometriosis is estimated to affect 120,000 New Zealanders, with symptoms including period pain that affects daily life; pain during and/or after sex; pelvic, lower back and leg pain; bladder and/or bowel troubles; abnormal menstrual bleeding; fertility issues; tiredness and low energy; immune system issues; premenstrual syndrome (PMS); and low mood and depression.

You can find more information about endometriosis and awareness month events and activities on Endometriosis NZ's website below.

Endometriosis NZ (<https://nzendo.org.nz/march-awareness-month/>)

Calling all hunters - take part in NZ Game Animal Hunting Research Project

The New Zealand Game Animal Council (GAC) is undertaking a major research project about deer, pig, chamois and tahr hunting in NZ that requires the contributions of recreational hunters.

The research is designed to provide the GAC, hunting sector and rural stakeholders, as well as decision-makers with data on the number of hunters by species hunted and by demographic groups. It will also provide insights on how people hunt, why they hunt, overall harvest rates and hunter participation in conservation initiatives and is designed to identify where improvements need to be made for game animal management and hunting opportunities.

The initial survey only takes 5-10 minutes to complete and is available by clicking the button below or via the QR code in the image above.

Complete here

(https://nzgamecouncil.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_00tH2eoIzYASv4i)

Help Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora's project to support New Zealanders to access their health information online

Health NZ is keen to engage with individuals and groups in rural communities as part of their project to expand My Health Record to include more information.

Currently My Health Record includes people's immunisation and COVID-19 test results but over time they hope to make more information available including current and past medications, lab results and community services and high use card entitlements.

If you are keen to take part, please email contact@hira.health.govt.nz
More information (<https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/our-health-system/digital-health/hira-connecting-health-information/>)

** Have your say on quad bike safety

Farm Without Harm is keen to hear from our members who use quad bikes about what you are doing to keep you, your workers, and families safe?

From 2019-2023, WorkSafe recorded 22 fatalities involving quad bikes, with the majority involving rollovers, with steep grades and incorrect driving positions the two leading causes.

Share your views on their website and go in the draw to win a \$500 Greenlea voucher thanks to FMG, or one of two \$250 vouchers from Alliance Group and Silver Fern Farms.

You can have your say by clicking this link.

The feedback period closes on 25 March.

** Regional Spotlight: North Island Weather Event (NIWE) Event

This weekend saw the first of RWNZ's Rest, Restore, Revitalise events take place in Tairāwhiti. Following on from RWNZ's support for community events and the delivery Christmas care packages at the end of last year, the Rest Restore and Revitalise events have been made possible through MPI's North Island Weather Event (NIWE) Fund.

These events bring together groups of women who have been champions for their communities following the cyclones last year and provides a chance for them to rest, reset, connect and collaborate.

Over this past weekend, our Tairāwhiti based cohort enjoyed experiences and activities including feeding friendly stingrays on an eco-reef walk and yoga on the beach.

The remaining events will be held in Hawke's Bay, Tairāwhiti and Tararua over the next few weeks.

**** Triple F Challenge in Cromwell**

Registrations will open soon for this year's Triple F Challenge which will be held in beautiful Cromwell and environs.

The programme will commence at 10am on Friday 26 April in Cromwell and finish with dinner on the evening of Saturday 27 April in Cromwell.

Full programme details will be available shortly, but you can book your travel and accommodation now.

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