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## *Tarrant Bell and Tutaenui Bell Public Speaking Contest Rules*

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**NOTE:** These rules apply specifically to the National Final, but may be used in any Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) Public Speaking Contest.

RWNZ holds two speaking competitions which are held annually. The first is the Tarrant Bell which is awarded to the best speech as judged according to the Contest Rules. The second is the Tutaenui Bell which is awarded to the best first time entrant.

This contest is open to one contestant only from each region. Regional entries are to be sent to the Convenor on the official entry form. The contestant must be an active financial RWNZ member.

The National Final will take place in conjunction with the National Conference or Annual General Meeting.

Each speech shall be no less than four minutes and no more than five minutes 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.

The contest will be under the control of the chairman who is responsible for supervising the drawing of lots for order of speaking; giving a resume of the rules before the contest begins; ensuring speakers are familiar with the timing device; making no preliminary remarks about any speaker or their subject, other than name Branch and Region and title of speech; and allow reasonable interval between speeches as the judges may require.

There shall be two timekeepers, one of whom shall be provided with a stop watch. The timekeeper will keep an official record of the time of each contestant's speech, (this to be handed to the adjudicators at the end of the contest, with any times or overtimes clearly tabulated); begin timing when the speaker starts communicating with the audience; and operate the timing device provided. Coloured lights will be provided on the timing device.

The green light shall be turned on after **three** minutes for one minute and a red light shall go on at **four** minutes and remain until the speech is complete. A bell or buzzer will also be used and there shall be one clear ring or buzz at four minutes, and two distinct rings or buzzes at **five** minutes.

The judging panel will consist of three judges experienced in public speaking. One of the judges shall, by mutual agreement be the chief judge. Judges shall sit at tables separated from one another at the end of the audience. No person shall judge the National final who has already judged one of the contestants in an earlier round of the current year's contest. Each judge shall be supplied with a work sheet and a copy of rules.

Each judge shall allot marks to each speaker from the total marks indicated in the various section on the sheet, (the other marks shown on the work sheet are given as a guide only). At the end of each speech the judge shall total and record the marks allotted.

The chief judge shall record the total points, penalties and placing of the contestants as recorded by the judge on a master worksheet. An aggregation of points shall be used to determine the placing and penalties and in the event of a tie the contestants with the highest points given under the heading "Speech Structure and Development" shall be the winner. Individual judges must not award equal placing.

The contest arrangements shall be the responsibility of the National Public Speaking Committee. Some responsibility may be delegated to the local Conference Committee.

The Val Tarrant Bell and Tutaenui Bell will be awarded to the winner/s and are held by them until the following Conference.