

NZI RWNZ BUSINESS AWARDS SUPREME WINNER

Marie Taylor of Plant Hawke's Bay

Supreme Winner – Sponsored by Premier Partner NZI

Love of the Land Winner – Sponsored by Agrisea

RWNZ Member, Marie Taylor owns and manages Plant Hawke's Bay Ltd, a native plant nursery supplying the Hawke's Bay revegetation market with eco-sourced wholesale native plants. She has a background in horticulture, rural journalism and working as a regional representative for the QEII National Trust.

Her business objective is to be the preferred supplier of native plants in Hawke's Bay, to grow a profitable and sustainable business, and to help save plant species by getting them back into the landscape.

"Being a part of the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards is a tremendous opportunity for me and my business Plant Hawke's Bay. It is a wonderful way to showcase Plant Hawke's Bay and build its profile, enabling me to tell my native plant story to a national audience. It is also great to meet other inspiring rural women and hear of their stories of business success," says Marie.

Judges' Comments:

'Marie's enthusiasm for growing rare, naturally-occurring local plants is evident in her work and she works closely and adds immense value to local Iwi, Councils, farmers and botanists' groups.'

'Passion is at the forefront of Plant Hawke's Bay and demonstrates how a passion can transform into a thriving business.'



Photo caption

The NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards are a tremendous showcase for rural women and a great opportunity to promote rural businesses owned and operated by women. I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Awards this year. I appreciate the all hard work by Rural Women New Zealand and the supportive sponsors who made the Awards happen.

I would especially like to thank the Premier Partner NZI, which sponsored the Supreme Winner Award, and Agrisea, which sponsored the Love of the Land Category. I'd also like to thank Hynds for their gift to me as Supreme Award Winner. I was pleased to attend the Business Workshop the day after the Awards celebration and found this very valuable. I'd like to thank NZI for its sponsorship of that event too. I encourage all women with rural enterprises to enter next year, as it is an excellent opportunity to focus on your business, realise its potential for growth, to tell the story of your journey to date and where you are reaching for in the future.

Preparing for the Awards encourages an entrant to amalgamate business ideas, marketing plans and financial details in a cohesive way. It challenges and stretches you in lots of ways: creating and editing a video, finalising accounts, forecasting future income, improving your interviewing skills, writing and delivering speeches whilst staying on top of the day to day running of the business.

I love how encouraging and supportive the members of Rural Women New Zealand are, and I definitely recommend entering these Awards. The NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards are an irresistible opportunity to learn more about yourself and grow your business.

- Marie Taylor, Supreme Award Winner 2018

EDITORIAL

by Fiona Gower, National President

Kia ora tātou

Welcome to our December Express. Firstly, to those who attended our Rural Women New Zealand Summit, thank you. I'm sure you will all agree it was a fantastic event.

Last year, Members voted to have the National Conference at a different time of year to the AGM. This means there will be two AGMs and a National Conference in the current year, as well as the ACWW World Conference in Melbourne. This makes for a very full calendar. This year's Summit provided the option for Members to attend the AGM only, or to also attend the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards and the Business and Policy workshops on Day Two. This will be the format for future Summits and AGMs.

Looking back over the last few months in the lead up to the Summit and AGM, I can appreciate the opportunities we have had to engage with other organisations, decision makers and stakeholders. This demonstrates the high level of influence RWNZ and was evident in the high calibre of guests, presenters and panellists at the Summit.

As a result, this high level of influence and engagement makes for a very busy time for Members, Board Members and National Office staff. Having the Policy Portfolio Hubs provides opportunities for Members to participate in particular areas of interests and knowledge. Members can draw on information gathered via the Hubs and represent RWNZ on these policy areas at external meetings. The Leadership Team can also use this information to represent our organisation. RWNZ seeks to encourage and support Members by ensuring engagement and developing their skills.

It was a real privilege to be on the judging panel for the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards. Yet again the entrants demonstrated the diversity of rural businesses, the entrepreneurial

spirit of our women living rurally, what being part of a rural community means to them and how they support those communities. Congratulations to all the finalists, especially to our Supreme Winner, Plants Hawkes Bay owner, Marie Taylor. I look forward to watching the journey ahead for each of you. It was also wonderful to see past Award Winners giving back to the organisation by participating as Award Sponsors.

Celebrating excellence within our membership is also important. My congratulations go to the winners of the Rural Women New Zealand Annual National Awards - you are all worthy winners. I encourage you to consider nominating a Member for these Awards next year. I enjoyed the opportunity of reading the Branch and Provincial reports before they were judged. So much great work goes on throughout the regions that other members would really like to hear about. Perhaps hearing about these projects and events might inspire other groups ideas to use them. Please send those good news stories and events into the National Office for inclusion in our regular newsletters.

Often when I meet with people, I get positive feedback on what they see about RWNZ on social media or on our website. They are amazed with what they see - and they only see the tip of the iceberg.

We have existed for nearly 100 years supporting and strengthening our rural communities, especially the women and families that live in them. What a heritage we have to be proud of.

Each of us make a contribution to that. We all matter. We all make a difference.

Ngā mihi,

Fiona Gower



Photo supplied: What Women Want project

NATIONAL BOARD OF RWNZ

National President & International Portfolio

Fiona Gower
Tuakau
Ph: 09 232 9711
Mobile: 027 428 3884
Fiona.Gower@ruralwomennz.nz

National Finance Chair & Business Portfolio

Jenny McDonald
Ashburton
Ph: 03 303 3196
jenny.mcdonald@ruralwomennz.nz

National Chair, Technology Portfolio & Health Portfolio

Penny Mudford
Wellington
Mobile: 027 246 1936
penny.mudford@ruralwomennz.nz

Board Member, Technology Portfolio & Social Portfolio

Zelda de Villiers
Ruawai
Mobile: 027 221 6670
zelda.devilliers@ruralwomennz.nz

Board Member & Environment Portfolio

Gill Naylor
Omakau
Mobile: 027 338 3089
gill.naylor@ruralwomennz.nz

Board Member & Education Portfolio

Sue Higgins
Wakefield
Mobile: 021 541 534
sue.higgins@ruralwomennz.nz

NATIONAL OFFICE

Ph: 04 473 5524
0800 256 467
PO Box 12-021
Wellington 6144
enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz

Chief Executive Officer

Penelope England
Penelope.England@ruralwomen.org.nz

Office Manager

Felicity Bunny
Felicity.Bunny@ruralwomennz.nz

Accounts Manager

Linda Tunley
Linda.Tunley@ruralwomennz.nz

Manager: Government, Public Sector & Academic Relationships

Angela McLeod
Angela.McLeod@ruralwomennz.nz

Projects & Events Manager

Lisa Thompson
lisa.thompson@ruralwomennz.nz

Assistant to the RWNZ Board and Chief Executive Officer

Maree Myers
maree.myers@ruralwomennz.nz

Dates for the Diary

National Office Closure Dates

Thursday, 20 December 2018 – Tuesday, 22 January 2019

Golden Shears

Thursday, 28 February – Saturday, 2 March; Masterton

International Women's Day

Friday, 8 March 2019

Region 3 Conference

Friday, 8 March; Golden Bay

Wool Week

Monday, 18 – Saturday, 23 March; Marlborough

Pokuru Branch 70th Anniversary Luncheon

11:00 am Saturday, 23 March; Te Awamutu Club,
542 Alexandra St, Te Awamutu 3800

MobileTECH

Wednesday, 3 – Thursday 4 April; Rotorua

NZRGPN National Rural Health Conference 2019

Thursday, 4 – Sunday, 7 April
Marlborough Convention Centre/ASB Theatre

ACWW World Conference

Thursday, 4 – Wednesday, 10 April; Melbourne, Australia

Lower South Island Region 1 Conference

Tuesday, 7 - Wednesday, 8 May; Oamaru

Rural Women New Zealand National Conference

Friday, 7 – Sunday 9 June; Whangarei

Fieldays

Wednesday, 12 – Saturday, 15 June
Mystery Creek, Hamilton

ProteinTECH

Tuesday, 30 - Wednesday, 31 July; Auckland

Welcome to New Members

Robyn Nancekivell – Awana Branch

Lisa Hansen – Region 4

Susan Hawkins – Rukuhia Branch

Janice Anderson – Thornbury Branch

Tracy Nalder – Bainham Branch

Bridget Tweed – Region 1

Judy Byrne – Region 6 Greater Waikato

Renate Staudringer – Tumahu Branch

Christine Corkill – Hillsborough Branch

Fiona Jones – Region 6 Taranaki

Nikki Nalder – Bainham Branch

Gillian Neal – Kenepuru Branch

Kirsty Surynt – Region 1

Stella Davies – Region 1

Jenny Horn – Muhunoa East

Wanda Jaggard – Cambrian St Batham

Carolyn Thomas – Brightwater

Jude Patterson – Region 1

Hannah Jeans – Bainham

Renae Swan – Bainham

Robyn Mckenzie – Region 6 Taranaki

Sarah Bacon – Region 4

Maria Johnson – Maruia

Stacey Smith – Maruria

Rachel Scrimgeour – Region 6 Greater Waikato

Hannah O'Brien – Region 6 Greater Waikato

Michelle Burdett – Region 7

Sharon Butler – Region 7

Donna Gale – Region 1

Linda Kane – Region 6 Greater Waikato

Adrienne Madden – Region 6 Greater Waikato

Katherine Speller – Region 7

Jon Watson – Region 2

Farewell to Old Friends

Iris Ralph – Individual Member - NMH

Clara Avis Mitchell – Seafield Branch – PLM

Phyllis Isbister – Individual Member

Bernice Mather – Maheno Branch

Tania Wilson – Maheno Branch

Ruth Schriber – Hurford-Omato-Oakura Branch

Maureen Carswell – Hurford-Omato-Oakura Branch

Beryl Washer – Rahotu Branch

Merle Sattler – Lepperton Branch

Lorraine Whittle – Tumahu Branch

Rita Fox – Waimahaka Branch

NATIONAL SUMMIT WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Business Tips

The team from NZI, MBIE and Butler Pelvin & Associates provided a very helpful workshop for women who were business owners and those that were thinking about starting a business. The workshop was well-received and provided information on tools that will support rural women in business take their enterprises to the next level.

Business

Facilitator Julia Jones of KPMG led a lively discussion through three key areas: how will we be farming in ten years, what do we want people to be saying about food producing in ten years and what we need to do now to push food producing into the future. Many points made will now be drafted in to a policy paper for Members to consider.

Education

RWNZ had support from MBIE for the workshops and in this workshop the NZ Initiative was also included. The facilitator, Jenn Lawless from NZCTU led this discussion about the future of education and what it might look like given the Government's Future of Work programme, how the education system has worked for our children so far and other models of education we could consider. The workshop agreed that we need to draft some new policy and RWNZ Education Convenor, Sue Higgins

will lead this.

Environment

This high-powered workshop was led by four doctors! Facilitator Dr Catlin Powers and speakers Dr David Prentice, Chair of the Interim Climate Change Committee; Dr Nick Edgar, CEO of Landcare Trust and Dr Alison Dewes, Head of Environment at Pāmu. The workshop concluded with the following statement: "That RWNZ encourage good stewardship of the land using good science and a pragmatic approach to sustainability, water quality, and future generations with climate change in mind."

Health

Retiring RWNZ Board Member Margaret Pittaway facilitated a conversation with three speakers from Age Concern, Skylight and NZ Council of Midwives about the issues facing the rural health sector. There is still much to do to reduce inequalities and RWNZ will continue to push for funding and resources that support rural families and communities.

International

This small workshop learnt about the international human rights instruments New Zealand has ratified and how they support the empowerment of rural women and girls and therefore communities and also how RWNZ can use them in promoting the

strengthening of rural communities. It was a privilege to have Malu Fink from MPI as facilitator and experts in this field – Beryl Anderson, Bindu Armstrong and Barbara Bedeschi Lewando – sharing their knowledge and experience.

Social

RWNZ National Chair Penny Mudford led a discussion using both the Mycoplasma bovis response and PSA response as the basis of a conversation about community wrap around support and how RWNZ could continue to lead this, as they have been doing for over 90 years. The Whanau Ora model and experience was shared, which provided information that could be used in our future work supporting rural communities in an adverse event.

Technology

The lack of access to technology has been something that RWNZ has identified as an issue for rural communities in New Zealand and this workshop looked at the solutions that are on the horizon from Government and award-winning rural businesswoman Bridget Canning. Discussion led to a suggestion that RWNZ support the concept that every house should have access to a working telephone, whatever that is, and wherever they live, whilst also understanding that technology is also an enabler.

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO NATIONAL BOARD

We are pleased to announce the newly elected National Board consists of:

National President - Fiona Gower

National Finance Chair - Jenny McDonald

North Island Board Members - Zelda de Villiers, Penny Mudford

South Island Board Members - Sue Higgins, Gill Naylor

The new National Board held its first board meeting on Wednesday, 21 November 2018. At the meeting, the Board appointed Penny Mudford to the position of National Chair.

The Board also allocated each Board Member responsibilities for the various portfolios.

The portfolio convenors are as follows.

Business - Jenny McDonald

Education - Sue Higgins

Environment - Gill Naylor

Health - Penny Mudford

International - Fiona Gower

Social - Zelda de Villiers

Technology - Penny Mudford and Zelda de Villiers.

Thank you to the outgoing Board Members - Rachael Dean NLM, Margaret Pittaway NMH and Janet Williams NMH for your leadership and commitment to Rural Women New Zealand.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGE



*Government House
New Zealand*

Kia ora koutou katoa,

As patron of Rural Women New Zealand, I am delighted to send greetings to everyone attending the 2018 Rural Women New Zealand Summit.

Your organisation has an important role to play in the continued success of our rural communities and the events of the next few days will help shape activities for the coming year.

This summit is a vital opportunity for your membership to come together, learn new things, share new ideas, celebrate successes and discuss important issues. The digital age has made communicating over long distances easier, but nothing beats being together in the same room. I am sure there will be a lot of new friendships made and old ones rekindled.

2018, with its focus on Suffrage 125, has very much been about the value women bring to our communities. I am delighted to see rural business women's contribution acknowledged by the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards. The variety and range of rural enterprise is a tribute to the talent and energy of the women who run them. Congratulations to all the category winners. I look forward to hearing about the announcement of the Supreme Winner.

Best wishes for a successful event. I hope you enjoy your time together and return home inspired.

Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO

Governor-General of New Zealand



RWNZ BUSINESS AWARDS - WINNERS

RURAL CHAMPION AWARD

Sponsored by FNZC

Robyn McKenzie of Fly My Sky

Robyn was raised on a Taranaki dairy farm and became a registered nurse specializing in the operating room. At 23, she became the acting matron at the New Plymouth Boys High School and took up flying lessons. A short time later Robyn married her flying instructor propelling her into a world of helicopters, planes, remote area living, flying doctor, deer recovery, camp cook, caravan and commune living around Australia and New Zealand. They moved to Australia to buy a helicopter licence, which couldn't be done in NZ in 1970. Robyn worked in city and remote area hospitals around Australia during his training and helicopter jobs.



In 1980, Robyn and Keith set up a helicopter business in Taumarunui. They expanded as Mountain Air in 1989, conducting Tongariro National Park scenic flights, in 1998 added Fly My Sky with scheduled flight services between Auckland Airport and Great Barrier Island. They have provided an aircraft and pilot for military parachute training over many years.

"I believe the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards offer women encouragement, support and excellent networking opportunities. The Awards have skilled business judges and this endorses rural business profiles and provides New Zealanders with credible insight into rural business. Having a catalyst like the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards to bring women in rural business together is motivating and invigorating, and attracts investment and opportunity," says Robyn.

Judges' Comments:

'Airlines are a competitive and highly regulated sector and rural communities are often the first to lose their service when the economics don't make sense. Fly my Sky is the exception to this – it is focused on getting people to Great Barrier Island and back with a reliable and regular service, and just as importantly, its economics stack up and the business is in a strong financial position with a business plan focused on expansion.'

Sponsor Comment:

The benefit to a young or growing business of a champion or sponsor to help them evolve is significant. It is even more important, on what is still an uneven playing field that women in enterprise receive this support. Even though we are only in the very early stages of our partnership with Rural Women New Zealand, it is clear how active they are in this role, and we are thrilled to be supporting them.'

EMERGING BUSINESS AWARD

Sponsored by Treadwells Barristers and Solicitors

Hannah O'Brien of Hunt and Gather Bee Co.

Hannah was born and raised in Tairua on the Coromandel Peninsula. After meeting her now husband Rory at Thames High School, she trained as a primary school teacher and together they spent 10 years living in many different parts of rural New Zealand, where Rory worked as a dairy farmer. After having their first child, she and Rory worked as contract milkers, before leaving the dairy industry and trying out a change in career for Rory. As he worked for a commercial beekeeper, Hannah had their second child and shortly after, they began their own beekeeping business; Hunt and Gather Bee Co. What began in 2016 as a very small business with 24 beehives, has grown significantly into a very popular brand and expanding business. They now attend up to 9 markets every month, as well as trade shows and their honey is stocked in a number of stores throughout the country. Earlier in 2018 their honey won a silver medal at the New Zealand Farmers Market awards. Their range of 5 honeys is raw, local and of the highest quality.



"Being involved in the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards has been a really wonderful experience for me. It has given me a chance to look at our business and identify all of our strengths and achievements so far, and to re-evaluate our future goals. It has empowered me as a rural woman in business to recognise the part that I have played in the success of our business. This is something that isn't an easy thing to do, however I really appreciate the way that these awards shine a light on the hard working women that are behind so many great rural New Zealand businesses. You might not always see us, but you can be sure rural New Zealand wouldn't run as smoothly without us," says Hannah.

Judges' Comments:

'This successful business combines an innovative product and marketing strategy, with a true desire to care for our environment and our native bees, while working towards eradicating pests. This young business is already making a real mark on the rural map and we're looking forward to watching their next steps with interest.'

Sponsor Comment:

Treadwells Barristers and Solicitors was delighted to sponsor the Emerging Brand Award at the NZI Rural Women New Zealand 2018. As New Zealand's longest serving legal practice, it was a pleasure to present the Award to Hannah O'Brien of Hunt and Gather Bee Co. Hannah is at the beginning of her business journey and we wish her every success for the future.

INNOVATION AWARD

Sponsored by Hynds

Bridget Canning of WIZwireless

WIZwireless is a wireless ISP in Masterton, taking the Internet at fibre-like speed to subscribers across the Wairarapa.



Bridget came to computing early on. From a farming family in Tinui, she was sent to a local boarding school where a flair for maths led into programming. Those were the days before computers - Bridget wrote programs on cards that were sent to Canterbury University where it was converted into binary code. After finishing school, she went to Massey University then moved back to Masterton in 1982 to manage the family farm with husband John.

As she wanted to work from home, she found the lack of decent internet very frustrating, so Bridget and John decided to tackle this issue on their own, leading to WIZwireless being born in 2005. 13 years on, the company has a strong subscriber base and is growing every day.

“Thank you to Rural Women New Zealand for running these awards and to NZI and the other sponsors and supporters for being part of this great business event especially Hynds being the Sponsor for our Innovation Award. Isn't it amazing seeing so many fantastic businesses being recognised for their efforts and especially these women standing with me, also being category winners tonight. I feel we are already a special winner getting the Innovation award and I must thank NZI Rural Women New Zealand for recognising WIZwireless in this way.”

Judges' Comments:

‘Providing reliable internet and vast coverage to New Zealand's rural communities is no small feat. Wiz Wireless has embraced this challenge and has found robust solutions to service a geographical area where many larger providers have failed.’

Sponsor Comment:

CREATIVE ARTS AWARD

Sponsored by Shear Warmth Wool Blankets

Sophie Siers of Millwood Press Ltd.

Sophie and her family live on a 300ha coastal hill country sheep and beef farm. They have been farming organically since 2004 in Hawke's Bay and run a breeding herd of South Devon cows and a flock of Wiltshire sheep. In 2015 Sophie took over her parents publishing house, Millwood Press. Since that time she has written and published eight children's books which are mainly based around farming life in New Zealand. Her first book Allis the little tractor won at the New Zealand Book Awards for Children in 2016 and this year her book The Gift Horse was a finalist in the same awards. Her latest title Dear Donald Trump has now sold to 14 countries and has been on the New Zealand best seller list.



MILLWOOD PRESS
NEW ZEALAND



“Farmers play such a pivotal role in the New Zealand economy and farming life has always been close to many New Zealand families. One of the changing aspects of rural life is the growing amount of industry and secondary businesses run from the farm to try and support smaller family farms. Many of these are run by women and it's fantastic to see Rural Women New Zealand offering this award to showcase these amazing businesses from rural New Zealand. I'm delighted to be involved in an award that recognises the valuable contribution that these businesses are making to the New Zealand economy and proud to be recognised by an organisation that is advocating for rural families in such a meaningful way,” says Sophie. “The Awards were a fantastic night. Great speakers and inspiring women who make us think about what can be achieved when we put our minds to it. I loved being there and celebrating rural endeavour at its highest level.”

Judges' Comments:

Sophie's books for children have enjoyed international success, although it's New Zealand where her heart lies. Using farming as the backdrop, Sophie captures the essence of rural living, while creating exceptional stories that resonate with all children, whether they live in a rural or urban environment.

Sponsor Comment:

ShearWarmth is honoured to be in a position to be able to co-sponsor an award at the 2018 RWNZ Business Awards after winning ours' only 2 years ago. ShearWarmth has grown exponentially, not only enabling this growth but also giving us the confidence to enter other award opportunities and showcase our business. Recognition within New Zealand was instant and the mentoring offered enabled that growth to be planned and measured.

NATIONAL AWARDS WINNERS

“RWNZ Members have been supporting rural communities since 1925, and the National Awards are an essential part of rewarding our Members for their work,” says National President Fiona Gower. “Presenting our National Awards is an absolute pleasure for me as National President, because I get to thank the winners on behalf of the entire organisation.”

The winners are:

Best Branch President’s Report

Korokipo Branch, Hawkes Bay
President Tamzin Coull

Honora O’Neill Trophy – Best Provincial President’s Report

Mid-Canterbury Provincial
President Kerry Maw-Smith

Best International Officer’s Report


Marlborough Provincial
Submitted by Melva Robb

Lady Blundell Tray – Most Innovative Project

Waitanguru & Districts Branch, Waikato
Piopio and Districts ANZAC Day Ceremony of Remembrance

National Service Awards

June Smith - Te Kauwhata Branch, Waikato


 Margaret Brewerton - No Branch affiliation, Waikato

Olive Craig Member of Excellence

Stella Clouston
South Canterbury Provincial



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Thank you to the outgoing Board Members - Rachael Dean NLM, Margaret Pittaway NMH and Janet Williams NMH for your leadership and commitment to Rural Women New Zealand.

Rural Women's theme for 2017 was C to the power of 3 – Communication, Connection and Collaboration leading to the 4th C: Community. As a branch we have continued this theme in the ensuing year through our various projects:

- The wine stalvins and ring tabs we have collected to support the Hawkes Bay Special Olympics team now includes collection from other charity groups - Red Cross, U3A, Probus, the Anglican Parish of Taradale, branches throughout Region 4 and individuals from within our group and the wider community.
- Donation of jams, milo and vegemite for the Red Cross Breakfast Club at Te Awa School.
- We have continued to collect stamps. With Rural Women NZ no longer collecting stamps due to the administration costs outweighing returns we are now supplying these to Anglican Missions.
- We have collected fabric shopping bags for the Red Cross who cover these with remnant fabrics from their curtain bank and on-sell them for \$5 as an environmentally friendly option to the one-use plastic bag.
- Over 100 bras were supplied to the Waikato Uplift Project for recycling to women in need in the Pacific.
- 34 pairs of glasses/spectacles have been supplied to Papakura Lions and Visique Optometrists for recycling to the Pacific.
- We made toilet bags and members donated toiletries to go in them for people who arrive at the Emergency Department of Hawkes Bay Hospital unprepared for a stay. The hospital has asked if we consider making this an ongoing project.
- Following heavy rain from the remnants of Cyclone Debbie, the stop bank protecting Edgecumbe from the Rangataiki River breached on the morning of 6 April 2017. The town was rapidly flooded, giving residents barely minutes to escape from their homes. Our Christmas Cheer Project in 2017 was to support the Edgecumbe community with members generously donating \$700 towards the cost of Christmas gifts purchased and distributed by Whakatane District Council to the children in the community.

Having had a couple of busy years with organising events, the focus of our meetings this year has changed with business meetings being alternated with a speaker/fun evening where members are encouraged to bring a friend. We have enjoyed presentations from:

- Mary Anne Eyles (HB Red Cross President) and Joan Hayes (East Coast Area Chair) on Red Cross activities,
- Mary Reddington, Taradale Law on Power of Attorney,
- Sam Englebretsen, Napier Boys High School History/Geography teacher on his trip to South Africa and Namibia – a fantastic talk encompassing history, literature and travel, and
- Nigel Halpin, Bio Rich Limited on their composting business and processes they use to “divert organic matter (carbon) from ending up in places where it can do a lot of harm – in our atmosphere and water and putting it somewhere where it can do a lot of good – in our soils” (source: www.biorich.co.nz).

We have engaged with our community:

- With representation on the HB Rural Advisory Group. This group integrates primary industry representative groups and agencies with the Hawkes Bay Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group to prepare for and respond to adverse events in Hawkes Bay.
- We were able to secure a grant of \$1,000 from the RWNZ Community Fund for the White family whose cattle were infected with Mycoplasma Bovis.
- Attendance by Anne Finnie and Tamzin Coull at the M. bovis roadshow hosted by Beef+Lamb in June 2018 enabled us to learn more about the disease and create and strengthen networks with Federated Farmers, the Rural Support Trust and Beef+Lamb.
- A submission has been made by RWNZ against the proposed Water Conservation Order (WCO) on the lower reaches of the Ngarururo River and the Clive River. This will have both a social and economic impact on many of our members and our rural community. We are awaiting a date to speak to the Tribunal on our submission which is expected to be later in 2018.
- Anne Finnie and Tamzin Coull also

attended the “No to the WCO” Rally held in September 2017 with 400 tractors and thousands of other locals.

The balance Hawkes Bay Agricultural Bursary Fund at 30 June 2018 is \$74,043.82 (prior to the adjustment for interest earned for the year). One application was received this year and a \$1,500 bursary was awarded to Connie Mills completing her final year of a Masters of Planning specialising in environmental planning at Otago University.

We hosted the ladies from the Ashley Clinton branch on 28 October 2017 for a fun and fellowship day. This included visits to Archeus in Poraiti, Laurel Judd Designer Knitwear, the Gypsy Rose Tea Museum and a picnic lunch by the Rose Garden in Taradale Park. It was a great day and it is hoped that we can meet more regularly.

We have continued to support Regional Activities with attendance by members at the Regional Luncheon in October 2017, Summer Fun celebration weekend at White Rock Station at the end of March 2018 and the Region 4 conference hosted by Muhunua East Branch in Levin in May 2018.

Thank you to all of the members that have assisted with our monthly Meals on Wheels run during the year and to Margaret Taylor for the stellar job she does in maintaining a rota to ensure that we meet our monthly commitment.

Thank you to the branch members for your support of branch activities and for your friendship and fellowship during the year. Thanks also to Anne Finnie, Secretary and Doreen McPhail, Treasurer for the work they do in overseeing the branch communications and administration.

Rural Women New Zealand has existed for 90 years. Our biggest challenge as both a branch and as an organisation as a whole is to make ourselves attractive to new members so that Rural Women can continue to champion rural issues and grow dynamic communities for at least another 90 years.

In the coming year, I look forward to building on our friendships, developing further relationships in our community and building on the strength of the Korokipo branch.

Tamzin Coull 

On behalf of the members of RWNZ Mid-Canterbury Provincial I am both pleased and proud to report on activities and progress during the past 12 months. Apart from work within their own branches, our members have made significant contributions in the Ashburton districts throughout the year.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The provincial has been very active in supporting the community through a wide range of initiatives.

Cook and Eat Programme

With funding support from Ashburton District Council, we hosted a Cook & Eat Programme for children during the school holidays. Students worked in pairs, tutored and assisted by a RWNZ member, to prepare several dishes which they were then able to sample. They were able to take the recipes home at the end of the day. Encouraging children to develop their confidence in the kitchen, preparing and cooking food is an essential life skill and we are pleased that we were able to share our skills and food handling knowledge with young people in this way.

Age Concern: Positive Aging Expo

Several members again supported this important community event by catering morning/afternoon teas. As always, the catering was of a high standard and well received.

Hinds Ploughing Match

Lynnford branch has traditionally catered meals for this event however this year requested the help of the Provincial. All branches supported the event with food, supplied, and womanpower. There are significant challenges catering hot food on-farm with limited facilities, but members managed admirably and ensure all competitors, judges, and organisers were well fed. This proved to be a very successful event, both in terms of the goodwill created with organisers, and the funds raised.

Scholarships

One of the key objectives of RWNZ is

encouraging leadership and supporting education for rural people. In Mid-Canterbury, with support from the RWNZ Canterbury Charitable Fund, we have provided scholarships for a number of years and these always generate a lot of community interest and a wide range of applications. Applications are sought from students studying towards qualifications which will benefit the rural sector. Our Scholarship Committee, headed by Pauline Hewson, have a very difficult job assessing the different applications and this year we are pleased to award the following scholarships:

- \$1,000 Imogen Redpath – Veterinary Science at Massey University
- \$1,000 Alecks Small – Engineering, Canterbury University
- \$500 Aimee Elliott – Business Analysis in Economics & Agribusiness at Waikato University

Rural Support Trust – Mental Health

Health and wellbeing is another key focus and we are greatly concerned about the stresses faced by rural people. These ongoing pressures have had a huge effect on the mental health and particularly so since the increase in Mycoplasma Bovis in the district. RWNZ is well represented on the Mid-Canterbury Rural Support Trust and actively works to support people in distress. To inform people about ways to cope and support available, RWNZ worked with Rural Support Trust to host a "Good Yarn" workshop. The workshop was well supported by the community and we continue to work with the Trust supporting people wherever we can.

Charitable Work

Another key objective of RWNZ is our charitable work. Members in all branches have worked hard to support the community with a wide variety of activities such as: baking for families and the Cancer Society, hospital flowers, home & hospital visits, catering community dinner, Xmas parcels for Birthright families, donations to foodbank, knitting beanies and blankets for the Cancer Society,

children's craft days, and district social events. Members also gave their time twice a year to deliver Meals on Wheels. A particular project for the Provincial has been to answer the Chch Women's Hospital call for knitted items for newborn babies. Members have knitted many hats, singlets, and booties and these have been most welcome. Branches have also made significant financial donations, supporting organisations such as St John, rural fire brigades, Life Education Trust, toy library, Mid-Canterbury Hospice, the Cancer Society, St Vincent de Paul, RWNZ national Adverse Events fund, and the 13 Minute Appeal raising funds for a helipad in Chch Public Hospital. While we are proud of our contribution to the community, we do so humbly and without fanfare following the principle of "Service Simply Given".

85TH JUBILEE

A major highlight was the celebration of the Provincial's 85th Jubilee. That the Provincial has reached this milestone is a testament to the commitment of so many women dedicated to the ideals of RWNZ in supporting home, family and community, and the friendship and fellowship we all offer and enjoy. A Sub-Committee of branch representatives worked hard to organise a very successful event. We celebrated in November with a High Tea at the Ashburton Showgrounds. This was fully self-catered with members providing the delicious food and emptying their china cabinets to provide a wonderful collection of sherry glasses, china tea sets, silver teapots, and tiered cake plates. Members were very pleased to welcome out invited guests and former members where old ties were renewed, and favourite memories were shared. We were entertained with a parade of bridal gowns through the decades, which were modelled by members – some wearing their own gowns. It was truly fascinating to learn how things have changed, and yet remain the same. Jeanette Tarbotton had done much research and presented the Provincial

with an updated history book listing all Office Bearers and Honours recipients. This is a most valuable and treasured book. Many of the names listed are still present within today's membership taking RWNZ across the generations.

A particular highlight of the day was presenting Ngaire Brown with a National Service Award in recognition of her outstanding commitment and effort for RWNZ over many years in a number of different roles. An honour truly deserved. The Jubilee Cake was beautifully made by Jill Harris and cut by Aisla Lovett and Jeanette Tarbotton. Alison Shearer took many wonderful photographs of the day, serving to provide a great record of the occasion.

COMMUNICATION

The Provincial tries hard to ensure members are well-informed and our Secretary, Ngaire Brown, does an amazing job forwarding all communiques from National Office both via Email and hard copy where necessary. Branches also use ringing lists to share information and keep in touch with members between meetings. This is a valuable tool in ensuring no-one is left out and support can be provided where needed. Many members also follow the Facebook pages and Twitter accounts from National Office and the Canterbury Region. Monthly press reports are provided to the Ashburton Guardian and The Courier newspapers promoting our activities and encouraging other in the community to join in.

BRANCHES

Membership within the Provincial continues to climb slowly and we currently have 95 members, covering 4 branches, individual members, and local businesses which are part of the Membership Card reward scheme. Our branches meet regularly each month and the Provincial currently meets 4 times a year, with all branches coming together at a Link meeting 3 times a year. Branches rotate hosting the Link meetings. In October, Lynnford hosted the meeting and the guest speakers

was Jane Wright from hospice Mid-Canterbury who informed members of the services offered and plans for future growth. Winchmore hosted the March meeting and Lis Butterick gave a wonderful talk about her time in Iceland. Iceland was the national Country of Study for RWNZ during the year. And in May, Seafield hosted the gathering with Greg Roadley as guest speaker talking of the gruelling endurance race he participated in in the Yukon and Arctic Circle, coming 3rd overall. Our branches provide opportunities for members to take on leadership roles in a well supported and encouraging way. Over the year branches have provided a tremendously wide range of guest speakers, fun social times, personal and community support where it is most needed. Members have recently taken time to review our Provincial structure and meeting format, to ensure that we remain relevant to the changing needs of members and rural women in our district. We will shortly be trialling a new format and renew our efforts to reach out to young women.

FINANCE/FUNDRAISING

It is important to acknowledge the effort members have made to raise funds and make branch donations which have both kept the Provincial financially sound and able to continue our charitable work. There are ongoing fudge and foodwrap sales which keep money coming in. Members did a great job selling tickets for a movie night at the Ashburton Regent Cinema and thoroughly enjoyed the movie "Victoria & Abdul". The generosity and support of the proprietors is greatly appreciated. A Provincial project has been to sell Kate Shephard roses to celebrate Suffrage125. Fifty roses were ordered, and each branch sold their quota easily.

As mentioned earlier, branches and the Provincial have been able to make charitable donations to support a range of organisations. RWNZ was instrumental in the establishment of the Life Education Trust over 25 years ago

and continues to be a strong supporter. We were very pleased to win a \$500 voucher for a radio advertising at this year's Harold Club dinner. We originally planned to use this to promote our scholarship however as this was not required the voucher is now being used to support Suffrage125 activities. I wish to acknowledge the ongoing support of several businesses in Mid-Canterbury who support our members by providing discounts on purchases with our RWNZ membership card. This is a wonderful benefit we can offer our members and we are very grateful for the support we receive. We are also pleased this member-led scheme which originated here in Mid-Canterbury is now being established in other areas around the country.

AFFILIATIONS

In addition to RWNZ's role in leadership, education, and charitable work, members also contributed to several submissions prepared by our National Office on regulatory and legislative changes. Locally members have attended and made significant contributions to Federated Farmers NZ, Life Education Trust, Safer Ashburton, Age Concern, Rural Support Trust, Civil Defence, Families Without Violence Network, Birthright, and Newcomers Network.

National Conference

The RWNZ National Conference was held in Invercargill during November and was attended by me and a small number of members. As always this was a great event providing opportunities to network with members around the country, hear excellent guest speakers, deal with organisational business, and debate significant issues affecting rural communities. During the Conference the Enterprising Rural Women Awards were presented and the Supreme Winner was Debra Cruickshanks, a winemaker from the Clutha area. A national fundraising project was announced to increase funds in the National Adverse Events Fund. This fund

enables RWNZ to make emergency grants to assist families in need following events such as earthquakes, floods, fires, and the like. Members have supported this project where possible at branch level.

AREA CONFERENCE

Member again supported the Canterbury Area Conference in good numbers, taking the opportunity to catch up with neighbouring branches. The annual speech competition was held, and Alex Thompson from Glenmark Dinner Group gave an excellent speech about her experiences in the Kaikoura/Waiiau earthquake. We were thrilled to see her go on to win the National Speech Competition.

INTERNATIONAL

RWNZ have been affiliated to Associated Country Women of the World for many years and members have always taken an active interest in activities and supported with fundraising. Funds were sent to London in response to the annual "Women Walk the World" appeal. These funds are used to help run the organisation and support essential development and women's empowerment projects around the world. Members supported ACWW and "Orange the World" campaign in a small way at our December Provincial meeting, wearing orange with orange decorations, cupcakes and juice. "Orange the World" is an annual campaign from UN Women promoting 16 days of activism highlighting the fight to end violence against women. In March this year ACWW launched a global survey on the living conditions of rural women as part of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women. I encourage you all to participate in this online survey as the information gathered will be vital in informing government in the policy and decision-making process. Each year RWNZ nominates a Country of Study, encouraging members to learn about the lives and roles of women

around the world. This year, the Country was Iceland and members were well informed by Lis Butterick who spoke of her experiences in that country. The ACWW triennial World Conference will next be held in April 2019 in Melbourne Australia and, with it being so close to home, I do encourage you all to think about attending.

SUFFRAGE 125

In recent months, RWNZ has led a small sub-committee of representatives from RWNZ, WI, Zonta, County Lions, Inner Wheel, Age Concern, and Ashburton Museum as we plan activities in September to commemorate the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage exhibition, shop window displays, memorial walk and rose planting. A children's essay competition has already been held and the winning essay will be included at the celebration event. Publicity is well in-hand and we encourage you to participate where you can.

APPRECIATION

Clearly the Provincial has had an impressive year and I am proud of what you have achieved. I have been honoured to be your President and am truly grateful for the ongoing patience, support and friendship I received from you all, particularly in times when my journey was not so smooth. Each of you has made a significant contribution to RWNZ and your community and I thank you all for your effort, passion and commitment. I acknowledge those of you who have represented RWNZ in other organisations, and those who have co-ordinated projects, events, and activities. You have all done an outstanding job. I particularly want to thank Bev Bagrie our Leadership Councillor and Sandra Curd our Immediate Past President for your guidance and advice; and Trish Small our Treasurer for efficient and thorough management of our finances. I especially would like to thank Ngaire Brown our tireless Secretary who I could not have managed without. She

has been superb, managing numerous items of correspondence, minutes and agendas and helping me be up to date with everything and ready for meetings.

In CONCLUSION...

As I stand down from my role, it brings to an end of 12 years of continuous elected positions at different levels within RWNZ. When I first joined, looking for social connection and friendship after having children and being on a farm, I never imagined that it would take me to the UN and back. I never thought I would be a Branch and Provincial President, National Councillor, National Vice President, and Chair of ACWW's UN Committee. I have taken opportunities as they have come up and my experience has exemplified everything that RWNZ offers – learning, leadership opportunity, empowerment, and support. Whether I am closing now or simply turning a page I do not yet know. I will soon be moving to the north side of Rakaia River where there is no branch but will remain an Individual member. Individual membership seems to be increasingly the way of the future and we must be willing to reach out and engage with these people in new ways that meet their needs if we are to remain relevant. Change is ever present, and our rural community is not immune. I was recently told that "If you're not at the table, you're probably on the menu". RWNZ is unique in its focus on rural communities and we need to be "at the table". So you have a vital role to play in ensuring our community is strong, vibrant and sustainable. This year we have achieved a great deal; you all continue to meet the challenges ahead by being relevant to the needs of rural people, continuing to provide learning, leadership, support, and empowerment, so we achieve our aim of growing strong, dynamic rural community.

Thank you
Kerry Maw-Smith
President, Mid-Canterbury Provincial

This last year has been quiet on international matters for the Marlborough Provincial as many of our members were still rebuilding their homes and gardens after the Kaikoura Earthquake.

On our International afternoon we visited the Garlic shed owned by the Browns, which has been transformed into a film studio called the Garlic shed. To see some of the experiences the Browns have had on their overseas travel.

Here 18 members and husbands learnt first-hand of what it was like to be caught up in the Samoa tsunami. The Browns have been back each year since to help the village people rebuild their lives, homes and villages, in return for what they did for them at the time of the tsunami when they lost all their clothes, passports and personal items etc. No one could guarantee who they were for three days so they could not buy tickets etc. to come home. The video made you feel as if we were caught up in the moment as the footage shot at the time of the big waves coming in and going out made you feel like stepping backwards and getting up out of your lounge chairs to run to miss the sea pouring in.



Some of the devastation left behind after the tsunami.

After these experiences we then went travelling with them from Dubai where they caught a bus and travelled on their journey through to Oman then Saudi Arabia up to Jordan and Israel seeing what the national dishes were and what their little shops were like. Inside homes and what the country side was all about. One lovely green oasis in the desert which looked like paradise, where you could swim in the clearest sparkling blue water. Seeing the difference of what the very rich live like, to the very poor. From

huge places filled with magnificent décor to houses not much bigger than dog boxes so close together.

Everyone paid \$5 to attend the film, (a very cheap trip through the countries). We asked the Browns if they would like this money sent to the village in Samoa where they had been helping but they told us that plenty of help had been given and asked if there was somewhere else we would like it to go. Members told them about a little bush school that we have helped to start in Vanuatu and they said to please give the money to them.

The Browns then joined members to finish the afternoon with an around the world pot luck dinner. Some real yummy dishes were tasted.

The money was sent back with Neville Jones from Blenheim who working in Vanuatu helping with building etc. around the Island and his wife Gloria teaches English reading at the different schools. They went to a big warehouse and bought fifty maths exercise books.

Here are some helpers collecting the math exercise books for the Rongdale School.



Neville Jones receiving the cheque from Melva Robb on behalf of the Marlborough provincial RWNZ.

At our Christmas party 20 members collected up \$100 to be sent down to Roxburgh School in Otago who had a landslide and flooding through their school.

Members were disappointed that there is now no stamp lady in RWNZ to send

our stamps to. We have a couple of bags waiting if someone takes the job on again.

RWNZ Membership in the Provincial has dropped to sixty four and Provincial has a life member of ACWW along with one member and one branch as a member.

Due to bad weather no branches had their Walk the World day but hoping to hold one later in the year. Members have collected and paid thirty nine dollars 60 cents to Pennies for Friends plus ten dollars to each of these ACWW projects - Overseas Travel fund and International Funds.

The Olive Burdekin mail box was won by Mahakipawa branch with \$2-46 per member, second was Blenheim/Wairau with 71 cents per member.

Marlborough had one entry in the Coral wilding competition, an insulated Pot stand and was very surprised when it won at Invercargill conference.

This year's competition is going to be a scrap book to be given to the children staying at Ronald MacDonald houses. Can have pictures, jokes, colouring pages, puzzles also own art work in book.

The Provincial will be celebrated this year's country "Iceland" in October

What a chance for members to attend an ACWW World Conference in Melbourne in April next year. I do hope we have some members attend. The ACWW South Pacific President is calling on Rural Women NZ members to send zippers to help the South Pacific conference in PNG. Maybe we could get some to delegates going to the Melbourne Conference for them.

I would like to thank members who have supported ACWW this year and hope there are no major disasters in our region this next year so we can once again support more ACWW overseas projects.

I wish you all a successful new year and hope you will enjoy taking part in more ACWW activities.

Melva Robb
International officer
Marlborough Provincial

Waitanguru and Districts Branch of RWNZ was formed in 2004 and encompasses the rural areas that surround Piopio, our small village that services a large productive agricultural district. Waitanguru and Districts Branch currently has 15 members, many of whom travel over 50kms to attend meetings and events.

Up until 2014, the Piopio and Districts ANZAC Day Ceremony of Remembrance held annually on April 25th was a very small ceremony that had seen attendance decline over the years to around 30 locals. The ceremony was held in the main street of Piopio (State Highway 3) at the memorial cenotaph that recognises the service, bravery and loss of the men and women who fought for our district, our nation's freedom and world peace since WWI to the present day.

In 2015 the Waitanguru and Districts Branch, after being approached by the very small and rather worn out group of local volunteers, took over the organisation and running of this commemoration and we continue to do so annually. The thorough planning, organisation and dedication of the Waitanguru Branch to the people of Piopio, Aria, Mokauti and the smaller settlements within this enclave has seen this annual event grow and become recognised as a vibrant, sustainable and significant local, annual event. If you visit Piopio on ANZAC Day you will find yourself amidst several hundred present and past residents, a community united in honouring the fallen and celebrating our strength as a rural community.

Planning for each ANZAC Day Memorial service starts each year in October. To ensure the safety of the public and accommodate the huge crowds this event now attracts we now organise the closure of State Highway 3, which must be done through Transit NZ. This is a costly procedure and so between 2015 - 2018 our branch sought local funding to cover this cost. Closing the road has also enabled many more people, young and old, to participate in the March of Remembrance and Service which begins the ceremony and has had the added benefit of those attending being able to hear the service, rather than have it drowned out by passing traffic.

Consequently, with attendance so high now we need the road to accommodate everyone around the cenotaph area. In 2018 the dedication of Waitanguru Branch to this community event was recognised by the Waitomo District Council guaranteeing future funding for the State Highway closure for the event.

Waitanguru and Districts Rural Women New Zealand organisational contribution involves:

Confirming the attendance/involvement of the people who are crucial to the running of the service; the Master of Ceremonies, the local Clergy, guest speakers, dignitaries, the organist and the bugler.

Working with a local ex-serviceman one of our local RSA Members to coordinate the invitations to former and active servicemen and women of our district.

Inviting many community groups to be involved or represented including Te Kuiti, RSA, Piopio College, St John's,

Piopio Primary, Piopio Fire brigade, Piopio Scouts, Aria School, Pla ycentre, Te Kohanga Reo and the NZ Police.

Distributing and/or installing of the white memorial crosses in memory of WW1 and WW2 fallen at Piopio, Aria and Waitanguru.

Waitanguru and Districts Branch of Rural Women NZ are proud of their commitment to their rural community through their continued annual organisation of the Piopio and Districts ANZAC Day Remembrance Service.

The women of the Waitanguru and Districts Branch have enabled this community to safely and respectfully commemorate this special day of remembrance. Their vision has made the service more relevant and inclusive of the local community and they are involved at all levels both behind the scenes and actively at the ceremony. Many past residents are now returning for this event with their families and the next generation is growing in their understanding of the significance of ANZAC Day.

Friendship, shared memories, camaraderie and Rural Women hospitality are enjoyed by many after the service.

The growing attendance at the Piopio and Districts ANZAC Day Ceremony of Remembrance and the recognition from the Waitomo District Council to guarantee funding in the years to come, reflects the continued efforts and the commitment of the Waitanguru and Districts Branch of Rural Women NZ to the community of Piopio and its surrounding districts.



To come Friday



Rural Women New Zealand Summit 2018





MEETINGS AND SUBMISSIONS

MEETINGS

National Office staff have continued to represent RWNZ in meetings with stakeholders as we continue to lead discussions which support our strategy and policy work.

- Interim Climate Change Committee
- Institute of Directors
- Government Departments: Ministry of Education - Tomorrow's Schools Review; MPI, MBIE
- Māori Women's Welfare League
- Local Government New Zealand
- StatsNZ Census Manager
- NZ Council of Trade Unions
- Ministry of Transport Road Safety Strategy – Speed Reference Group Meetings (4)
- Federated Farmers.

SUBMISSIONS

- Equal Pay Amendment Bill
- Health Research Standards
- Trade for All
- NCEA Review
- Universal Periodic Review of NZ Human Rights.

MEDIA RELEASES

- Entries are closing for the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards
- Spending money on young Kiwis not the mental health silver bullet for rural communities
- Govt needs to do small business with us not for us
- Rural School Bus Service Review Needed
- She Shears Premieres in Masterton
- NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Award Winners Announced
- NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Supreme Award Winner Announced.

PORTFOLIO HUBS

Earlier this year, the Portfolio Hubs were established by the Board, for the intention of developing strong public policy, submissions on legislative consultation, review and changes. Each Hub is convened by a Board Member. The Portfolio Hubs include:

- Technology
- Business

- Health
- Education
- International
- Social
- Environment


Please contact National Office if you wish to indicate that you would like to be involved with a Portfolio Hub.

BURSARIES

Rural Women New Zealand and Access Community Health Scholarship

Won by  pla Cooper

This academic journey I'm currently on started in 2015 when I started my Primary Health and Well Child/Tamariki Ora post graduate certificate in Nursing. Since then I've completed my Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing in several other papers at Massey University including: long term conditions, pathophysiology, pharmacology, clinical assessment & decision making and research/evidence based practice.


I obtained A- &  grades for these and am hoping to complete my Clinical Master's Degree in Nursing next year with a 'Clinical Project', hoping to introduce telehealth/e-medicine portals into our rural area to enable virtual consultations so that the community won't need to commute 125km to see specialists in the tertiary hospital.

I have received some funding from HWNZ but only up to 50% of my courses were covered by this, so I have had to fund the others myself plus, study material, flights, transportation, food and accommodation.

The Rural Women New Zealand and Access Community Health Scholarship grant of \$3000 has paid for one course paper and helped towards two flights.

Thank you to Rural Women New Zealand and Access Community Health for this opportunity.

Miss Harris Nursing Bursary 2018

Won by  re Marara, Region 4, Whanganui

Education Fund July 2018

Won by  Dwyer, Region 1, Otago

Boarding Bursaries

Secondary School Boarding Bursary

Brooklynne Budge, Region 4, Whanganui

Year 12 or 13 Boarding Bursary



Pearl Cleland-Uea, Region 7, Bay of Islands

Florence Polsen Boarding Bursary

Jacob Pointon, Region 3, Murchison



WILD JEWELS RAFFLE WINNERS

Thank you to *Wild Jewels* who donated three pairs of  ings as raffle prizes at the NZI  al Women New Zealand Summit.

Tickets sold well and the proceeds were donated to the Adverse Events Relief Fund.

Congratulations to the winners who each receive a pair of earrings:

- Catherine McLellen
- Gill Naylor
- Alex Thompson.



VAL TARRANT OBITUARY

Rural Women New Zealand National Board and National Office wishes to extend their sympathies on the passing of Rural Women New Zealand National Life Member, Val Tarrant OBE.

Valerie Bessie Grant was born in Wellington in 1928. Her family initially moved to Auckland, where she spent most of her childhood, until the family settled on a small dairy farm in Ararata where Val helped her dad milk the cows and with work around the farm.

Val initially worked as a nurse aid in Hawera until she was called home to assist on the farm assisting with the milking and chores.

Val became engaged to Bill Tarrant in 1948 and after marrying they settled on their farm in Ngawhine Road. In between farm work and raising three children, Val found time to become deeply involved in many community organisations. Having joined the Ararata Branch of WDFW in 1946, Val served two terms as President of her branch and represented her branch at the South Taranaki Provincial, of which she also served as Provincial President for several years.

In 1981, Bill and Val joined the Hawera branch of the Women's Division of the Federated Farmers and later served two terms as President. She was nominated and elected to the National Council for six years and became National President from 1979 to 1982.

Val also served many other committees including as a foundation Member of Women in Agriculture, Rural Community Trust, Barbara Wood Memorial Trust, Dairy and Wool Board Promotions, Ministerial Appointments, National Consultant on Agriculture in Schools and NZ Consumer Council.

In 1998 Val was asked to join the Association of County Women of the World (ACWW). She was appointed to the world project committee as the South Pacific and South East Asia representative. After six years as a committee member, Val was elected as Chairwoman for a period of three years She retired at the world conference in Finland in 2007.

Val's life embodied the Rural Women New Zealand creed: Service Simply Given.

COMPETITIONS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Details for the competitions to be judged at the National Conference in Whangarei Friday, 7 - Sunday, 9 June 2019

Cora Wilding Scrap Book Competition

This is produced for children to look at while they are staying at the Ronald McDonald Houses. Books made from the entries will be given to the Houses. Please enter handmade drawings, puzzles, jokes, short stories, pictures and outline drawings for colouring-in.

Send your entries to the National Office by Friday 24th May or bring your entry with you to the National Conference in Whangarei.

Wool Competition

Make something out of pure fleece wool. The item can be washed only and not spun, felted or carded. Entrants may include accessories as long as they comprise no more than 10% of the item. Send entries to the National Office by Friday 24th May or bring your entry with you to the National Conference in Whangarei.

Speech Competition

The topic is: *Are We There Yet?*

International Hub Country of Study

Croatia

Marlborough Short Story and Olive Burdekin Advanced Writers Competitions

The theme for 2019 is: *Changes you have experienced through your life.*

Your story should focus on historical change during the course of your life rather than matters personal to the writer. The Marlborough Short Story must be between 1,000 and 1,500 words in length. The Olive Burdekin Advanced Writer's piece must be between 1,500 and 2,000 words. Please do not include your name, Branch or Provincial details on your entry. Please obtain an entry form from National Office which will have all the information required to accompany your story.

Entries are to be emailed or postmarked by Sunday, 31 March 2019. Email Lorraine Adams at jladam@actrix.co.nz, or post to Lorraine Adams at 3 Redwood Retirement Village, 25/18 North Street, Redwood, Blenheim 7201.

WOOLON AWARDS WRAP UP

This year's Rural Women New Zealand WoolOn Awards were held in Alexandra on 18 August. Determined to make this year's awards bigger and bolder than before, WoolOn was thrilled to have Rural Women New Zealand return as naming sponsor for the Award night and Supreme Award.

The WoolOn Committee is comprised of a team of dedicated volunteers who are passionate about producing a high quality, unique event. A limited budget means that the Awards, including production costs and category prizes, are funded by sponsorship, ticket sales, grants and donations.

Having such a reputable organisation as Rural Women NZ behind WoolOn has given confidence to other sponsors and provided significant credibility to the Awards.

The 2018 Rural Women Awards night

The Award night is a formal gala with guests enjoying local food, wine, and entertainment. Last year's success led to the Awards being sold out within three weeks with over 430 people attending. It was particularly great to see so many Rural Women New Zealand Members there on the night.

The event was officially opened by the Hon. Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, who urged the crowd to buy wool and help spread the word about New Zealand wool to the world. This sentiment was shared by Rural Women National President Fiona Gower when presenting the Supreme Award.

Entries

A total of eight categories were available this year with two new sections for Novices and Accessories. Special awards for entrants under 23 years of age; U23 and the overall Supreme winner were also presented.

A comprehensive campaign to canvas entries via industry related media and craft groups resulted in 41 designers and 55 garments entered; 17 more than in 2017. A total of 12 designers hadn't entered WoolOn before. Rural Women NZ Supreme Award winner Andre Johnston will use the \$5000 prize money for design materials and to help setup a studio.

This year's judging team saw the return of Simon Swale, Senior Design Lecturer at Otago Polytechnic, and new judges Cushla Reed from Minx and CR Design, and Kate Wilson from NZ Merino.

Publicity and Promotion

Following last year's success, the WoolOn team has been working hard to ensure we

are well positioned to showcase wool design in New Zealand. Key to this was the launch of a contemporary new brand and website, as well as a greater social media presence.

Since its launch our new website attracted over 2,500 visitors and Instagram achieved 200 followers. Facebook was used to share over 900 posts generated by mainstream media, our own newsletters, images from previous shows and photoshoots and relevant video clips. Posts averaged 1500 views with spikes close to 10,000.

This year WoolOn also achieved significant growth in publicity with 40 different articles or videos in mainstream media over the period. Highlights included the broadcast of the awards on Channel 39 and ODT online, pre-event coverage on Newshub, an article in The Guardian UK, and mentions in popular magazines North & South, NEXT and Kia Ora.

Education programme

A new event called 'Judges Insight' was held after the Awards for designers to learn from judges about what makes a winning garment. This was followed by an intimate public event called 'Up Close' where the public could mingle with the judges, designers and winning garments. Both events were well received and will be built upon in the future.

Next steps

WoolOn is becoming one of Central Otago's most iconic events, and the Committee will continue to focus on building WoolOn's profile and promoting wool design. In particular, more canvassing of entries, especially youth designers, is planned.

WoolOn would not be possible without our sponsors, partners and local community. The Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Rural Women New Zealand for their ongoing support and we look forward to growing this partnership in the future.

101 Ways With Wool Event

Activities shown in thought bubbles: Breeds of sheep, WOOL HANDLING, Art & Science, Food & Entertainment, Manufacturers, SHEARING, FASHION.

Marlborough A & P Showgrounds - Free event Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd March 2019

10am to 4.30pm

Rural Women NEW ZEALAND logo and Creative Fibre logo.

TUTAENUI BRANCH FIRST AID

Tutaenui Branch recently organised and held two First Aid days for local farmers and Rural Women New Zealand members.

Our Tutaenui district fundraised and purchased a defibrillator which is now located at the entrance to the Tutaenui Hall.

These First Aid courses were an excellent opportunity to inform people about to use the defibrillator but also how to manage and cope with home and farm accidents.

- Linda Welch, Tutaenui Secretary

Pictured: Tutaenui RWNZ member Maureen Smith learning how to use the defibrillator



WAIKOUAITI MEMORIAL TREE

The Waikouaiti Branch is the oldest branch in Otago and was established by the late Dr Frances Preston in 1926, making it 92 years old.

This tree in the town gardens was planted by the Dunedin City Council Mayor Peter Chin in September 2006 at their 80th birthday.



Pictured (left to right): Aileen Winmill, convenor of the Branch; Linda Begg, member of Waikouaiti; myself; and Ellen Ramsay NLM, who lived in the East Otago area.



LET'S CELEBRATE OUR LAND GIRLS



Much is currently being reported about Armistice Day and the horrific battles, losses and events surrounding the centenary of the end of the first World War. We have all enjoyed celebrating Suffrage125 in recent months and learning more about the determination of our early women to gain the vote despite wide opposition.

It is timely to also do a bit more research into the stories with their personal and economic impacts, of the women who gave up several years of their ordinary lives to work as Land Girls during the Second World War.

There is very little public acknowledgment of the way in which over 4000 women during the 1939-1946 period suffered much hardship and isolation doing long hours, with little equipment to make sure that rural production continued when the soldiers went to war. Official records detail the war time efforts and the increased food production but omit to attribute this largely to the calloused hands and worn out boots of the Land Girls. They replaced 23,000 men and well over half went to the farms of complete strangers and to a range of welcomes.

Many war histories have been written, and records of the WAAC and WAAF show that they were well supported during their service at home and abroad. In 1942 the Women's Land Service was formalised and given official uniforms, but were not included in official VE Parades or given post war training support. Their wartime service was not recognised by the RSA as they were not combatants.

Oral histories have been collected that tell incredible stories of young city women being dropped off a train at a deserted station at night to go to an unknown property where without training they were expected to undertake full duties and rely on horse power, as machines had been commandeered for defence purposes.

Farming daughters often picked up from their brothers and had less adjustment to make, but many after enjoying their new levels of responsibility were again relegated to a kitchen or an office job when the "men" came back and again took over. Unfortunately, it is recorded that our WDFU at times was less than welcoming to these young women. "Town hussies" were made to know their place, although a significant number actually came from boarding school backgrounds. Wartime stress caused many unhappy living environments.

Their best champions in Wellington for better conditions were Mary Grigg and Mary Dreaver, and their political actions are well recorded. Late in the war the Land Girls were better recognised with some features in the Free Lance and other papers. WDFU later celebrated them as the war Cinderellas whose work was invisible.

More can be read in "The Land Girls - In a Man's World" - Diane Bardsley 2000. Fortunately, she managed to capture a diversity of reminiscences, but we can now only search back through family archives to seek further personal stories of this period.

The author suggested that many went on to show great resilience and leadership qualities in their subsequent lives. In spite of the challenges, many welcomed the experience and spent the rest of their lives associated with the farming/growing sector. The khaki overalls and brown felt slouch hats were worn with pride for many years.

Members may wish to seek out your own Land Girl stories and make sure that these women are locally recognised for their efforts. How about a special project and associated publicity next year 2019, when it will be an eighty year anniversary?

Jo Gravit
Region Five Rimauui



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NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS

We wish to inform Members that Communications, Marketing and Events Assistant, **Catherine Stabb** is leaving her position at Rural Women New Zealand National Office. She is moving to a role in the Policy Team at Sport NZ where she will work for six months before moving over to the UK. During her time with Rural Women New Zealand, Catherine helped with running the social media accounts, organising the RWNZ Summit, and producing the Express magazines.

Catherine has thoroughly enjoyed working with the National Board, Members and the team in National Office, and has gained an invaluable set of skills throughout her time with RWNZ.

Abby Klugman is in her final year at Western Washington University in the United States, where she studies political science and economics. She recently finished a three-month policy internship at the Rural Women New Zealand National Office as the Policy Intern. During her internship, Abby worked hard creating surveys which provide factual and anecdotal information to build strong submissions, specifically supporting the policy team with surveys, submissions drafts, membership advisories and research, relating to the TB Free Consultation, the Equal Pay Amendment Bill, the ACC Business Report and more.

Abby is incredibly appreciative of the opportunity to work at Rural Women New Zealand, which has been invaluable in developing her professional and personal skills before going back to study. National Office wishes Abby well in all her future endeavours.

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SUFFRAGE 125

These photos were taken on Wednesday, 28 November at the Suffrage Day celebration organised by Waikato Provincial and held at Woodlands near Gordonton. This event commemorates 28 November 1893 which is the actual day on when New Zealand women exercised their votes for the first time.

Rural Women New Zealand National President, Fiona Gower, presented June Smith and Margaret Brewerton with their National Service Awards at the event.



With Fiona, June and Margaret are Trish Sanson, Waikato District Mayoress, and Olive Stokes from Orini Netherby Branch.

PEG BAGS TO FUND ADVERSE EVENTS

Over 5 years ago I was introduced to the 'Danzbagz' peg bags at a market. I soon discovered it was the best peg bag I had ever had. It has a mesh bottom so doesn't hold the rain and leaves/debris do not seem to end up in it. I still have that original 'Danzbagz' peg bag and these peg bags became my staple gift until I had exhausted my recipients.

These peg bags are designed and made in the King Country. I approached Dan, the owner of Danzbagz, about producing them in bulk for Rural Women New Zealand using our colours and include some form of reference to the organisation as I imagined this would be an excellent fundraiser for Rural Women NZ Adverse Events Relief Fund.

Rural Women New Zealand now have our own peg bags in blue with our website address woven into the webbing. They are available from the National Office at a cost of \$25 each plus postage and handling. However, we can courier a carton of 20 (or more) at a much more economical rate. Christmas presents solved. All proceeds from the sale of the peg bags go to the Adverse Events Relief Fund so contact National Office to order a supply for your Christmas gifts.



-  beth Morgan

95TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

In October, Members of the Moa Flats Branch celebrated the 95th birthdays of Member Betty Steel and former Tapanui W.D.F.F Member Jeune Rea. The group shared a meal to celebrate the occasion at Croydon Lodge.



NZRGPN NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2019

The New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's National Rural Health Conference will be held at the Marlborough Convention Centre and ASB Theatre from April 4 – 7 and will feature workshops, concurrent sessions and eight keynote speakers. A Gala Dinner and Awards Night, and Welcome Function will again be features of the conference. As part of the Welcome Function on Friday evening (April 5) the movie 'She Shears' will be screened as a fundraising event for the Pat Farry Rural Health Education Trust. Tickets will be available to members of the public as well as conference delegates.

Keynote speakers at the conference include Dr Hinemoa Elder, Dame Tariana Turia, Emeritus Professor Dr Paul Worley (Australia's first National Rural Health Commissioner),

American remote medicine specialist Michelle Boltz and a session on eradicating Mbovis and managing the impacts on our rural communities, presented by MPI.

There will be 40 concurrent session covering five streams – medical/nursing, research, student, management and community and a day of pre-conference workshops on Thursday, April 4.

WHAT: NZRGPN National Rural Health Conference

WHERE: Marlborough Convention Centre/ASB Theatre

WHEN: April 4 – 7, 2019.

www.rgpn.org.nz

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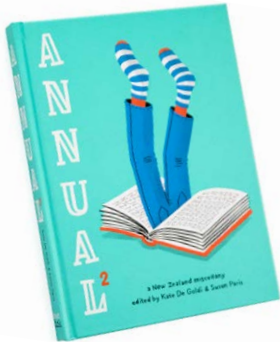
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SPECIALS FOR MEMBERS

Biscuits & Slices Teatowel

Kate De Goldi and Susan Paris, creators of New Zealand's very own Annual 2, never imagined that one of their Facebook posts would launch a national campaign, #biscuitoftheyear (run by TV3's The Project). One of the illustrations in their first Annual went viral, resulting in a flood of requests for a tea towel. That call has been answered in time for Christmas and tea towels and posters are on sale now.

The infamous biscuits & slices illustration was created by Wellington artist Giselle Clarkson and it's a take on traditional New Zealand baking, with a few bought biscuits thrown in for good measure, including Cameo Cremes and the contentious Sultana Pastie.



Annual 2

In addition to tea towels and posters, Kate and Susan have released Annual 2. You might like to consider the great value Annual family combo: a copy of Annual 2 and a tea towel for \$50. Annual 2 is an excellent book which can be enjoyed by the whole family. Xmas presents sorted!

Available online only: www.annualannual.com/shop

Book fundraising opportunities

Milwood Press' Sophie Siers, NZI Rural Women New Zealand Creative Arts Winner, would like to offer branches an opportunity to use her books as a fundraiser, with a percentage going back to the Rural Women New Zealand Adverse Events Relief Fund or for them to use as a branch fundraiser. Outlined below is some options below and while it's close to Christmas it might be a good time to offer this as a Christmas sale. It is possible to continue it for 2019 if the members find it an easy and profitable fundraiser.

Seven paperback titles: *Allis the Little Tractor*, *Allis Helps on the Farm*, *Rosie Joy - Here There and Everywhere*, *Arlo and the Ginkgo Tree*, *The Gift Horse*, and *Do You Want To Gallop With Me?*

The titles are paperbacks and retail at \$20.00 / \$14.00 cost to branches = \$6 per book profit

Hardback title: *Dear Donald Trump* retail \$28.00 / \$20.00 cost to branches = \$8 per book to profit

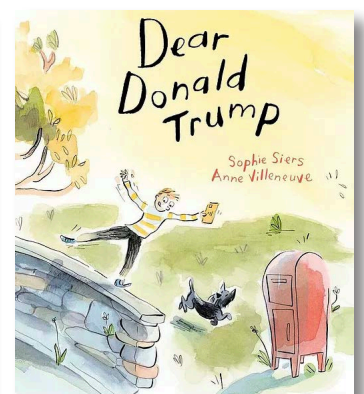
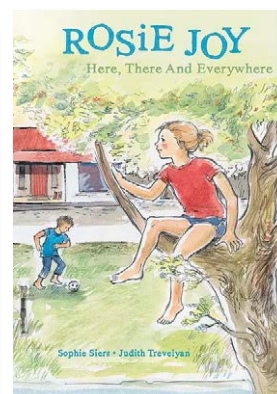
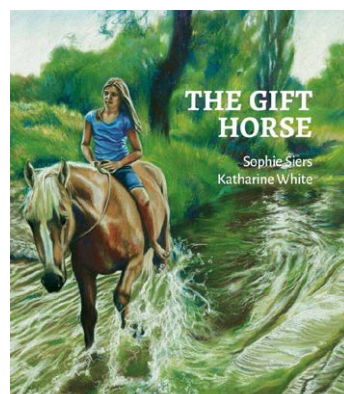
Option 1: Branches can have books for fundraisers. A box with 10 of each title for them to sell and to have a final invoice from Milwood Press once they determine final sale numbers. Unsold books can be returned.

Option 2: A set of 1 of each of the books for branches to use as samples to collect orders. These can be supplied to them when they know how many they would like.

Option 3: The code 'RURAL' is presented at the Milwood Press' website checkout and those who order from there using the code would automatically donate \$6 or \$8 to National Office.

Or a combination of all three! Branch members can look at the books on the website Millwood Press.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sophie at books@millwoodpress.net or by telephone on (06) 874 6664 or 021 082 00788.



AREA COMMITTEES BY REGION

Region 1 Lower South Island	Position	Contact Email
Pat Macaulay	Leadership Councillor	pat.macaulay@outlook.com
Gill Naylor	Area Committee Chair Newsletter & Facebook	naylordg@farmside.co.nz
Heather Smith		iahesmith@gmail.com
Virginia Broughton		broughtonvp@gmail.com
Sally Hammond		lrsjhammond@netspeed.net.nz
Elaine Sloan		sloanrimu1@xtra.co.nz
Margaret Pittaway		lochlea@xtra.co.nz
Gloria McHutchon		gloria_alexm@hotmail.com
Raewyn van Vugt		whitegold@rivernet.co.nz
Judy Kingan		jaydeekgn@gmail.com

Region 2 Canterbury	Position	Contact Email
Sharron Davie-Martin	Leadership Councillor	sdaviemartin@me.com
Beverley Forrester		info@blackhills.co.nz
Mary Watson		mmf.wats@gmail.com
Christine Anderson		jcandynz@gmail.com
Margaret Chapman	Area Committee Chair	mgchapman@xtra.co.nz
Margaret Chapman [Hook]		randmchapman@clear.net.nz
Sandra Curd	Administrator	curd@xtra.co.nz
Marg Verrall		r.m.verrall@ruralnet.co.nz

Region 3 Top of the South	Position	Contact Email
Heather Sorensen	Leadership Councillor	e.h.sorensen@xtra.co.nz
Melva Robb	Area Committee Chair	melva@soundsreflection.co.nz
Diane Higgins	Secretary and secondary contact	dmhiggins@xtra.co.nz
Margaret Faulkner		NO EMAIL
Jennifer Wiese		NO EMAIL
Carolyn McLellan		balmac@xtra.co.nz
Carol Wells		NO EMAIL
Margaret Milne		margarwpt@kinect.co.nz
Dot Dixon		dotsf9@gmail.com

Region 4 Lower North Island	Position	Contact Email
Liz Hancock	Leadership Councillor	liz.hancock@ruralwomennz.nz
Joan Black	Area Committee Chair	joanblack@inspire.net.nz
Jean Coleman	Secretary	ngaios@farmside.co.nz
Helen Clark	Treasurer	trevorandhelen25@gmail.com
Liz Monk		diane.mcgrigor@kintore.co.nz
Leonora Spark		ljnajsark@gmail.com
Pauline Masters		paulinemasters@xtra.co.nz
Shona Field		mtwilliam@inspire.net.nz

Region 5 BOP / Coromandel	Position	Contact Email
Margaret Scrimgeour	Leadership Councillor	margaret.scrimgeour@ruralwomen.org.nz
Sue Vowell	Area Committee Chair	tepudeer@xtra.co.nz
Chris Paterson		chrisjam@xtra.co.nz
Jo Gravit		pandjgravit@xtra.co.nz
Lyn Staples		urwinfarms@xtra.co.nz
Wendy McGowan		rusty_wendy@xtra.co.nz

Region 6 Greater Waikato	Position	Contact Email
Judy Board	Leadership Councillor	judy.board@xtra.co.nz
Malvina Dick	Area Committee Chair	malvinad@xtra.co.nz
Liz Morgan		lizziemorgan36@gmail.com
Karen Attwood		theattwoods@actrix.co.nz
Eileen Barker	Secretary/Treasurer	efbarker74@gmail.com
Susan Black		susblack@gmail.com
Parminder Singh		jyotjora@gmail.com

Region 6 Taranaki	Position	Contact Email
Shirley Read	Acting Leadership Councillor & Area Chair	sdread@xtra.co.nz
Joyce Lawrence	Treasurer	helen.toko@xtra.co.nz
Margaret Vickers		r.m.vickers@xtra.co.nz
Jennie Purdon		chrisjen1@orcon.net.nz
Helen Bayliss	Secretary	harrybayliss@xtra.co.nz
Angela Hammond		eledavid@xtra.co.nz
Vivienne (Viv) Grigg		evgrigg@hotmail.com

Region 7 Top of the North	Position	Contact Email
Pauline Hilliam-Olsen	Leadership Councillor & Area Chair; Facebook/Newsletter	pauline.hilliam@xtra.co.nz
Sherrill Dackers		sherrillmd@xtra.co.nz
Cynthia Williams		cynwilliams818@gmail.com
Mary Dale-Taylor	Treasurer	m.t.dale-taylor@xtra.co.nz
Shirlene Packard		NO EMAIL
Noelene Price-Quedley	Secretary and secondary contact	noeleneq@hotmail.com
Christine Pikett		NO EMAIL



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Region	Name	Contact Phone	Mobile	Contact Email
1	Pat Macaulay	03 484 7006	027 201 6921	pat.macaulay@outlook.com
2	Sharron Davie-Martin	03 315 8508	027 475 4129	sdaviemartin@me.com
3	Heather Sorensen	03 575 7034	027 472 4485	e.h.sorensen@xtra.co.nz
4	Liz Hancock	06 308 8812	027 486 0845	liz.hancock@ruralwomennz.nz
5	Margaret Scrimgeour	07 533 3681	027 533 3681	margaret.scrimgeour@ruralwomen.org.nz
6	Shirley Read (Taranaki)	06 752 3698	027 665 9047	sdread@xtra.co.nz
6	Judy Board (Greater Waikato)	07 872 4828	027 365 0998	judy.board@xtra.co.nz
7	Pauline Hilliam-Olsen	09 439 0006	027 270 5760	pauline.hilliam@xtra.co.nz



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Rural Women New Zealand National Office 04 473 5524
Level 5, 86 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011
PO Box 12-021, Thorndon, Wellington 6144
www.ruralwomen.org.nz 0800 256 467

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