

SHE SHEARS DOCUMENTARY FILM

This year, Rural Women New Zealand has sponsored the film documentary *She Shears*, which premiered in Masterton to the general public on Wednesday, 10 October.

Members have also organised screenings of the film as a way to fundraise and provide a social event in their area. The film has received immense positive reception - it is not one to miss. (Read more on page 4.)



When a Kiwi girl sets her heart on becoming a shearer there's not a lot that's going to stop her, as the five women profiled in this lively doco happily testify. Central Otago's **Pagan Karauria** admits it was tough getting a gig at the start, but with her champion dad staunchly behind her, she's made the shearing shed the focus of her career, not just as a competitive shearer, but as an ace wool sorter and mentor to other young women. **Catherine Mullooly**, from the King Country, packs her skills for some enterprising OE. With whānau solidly backing them, each of these women strive, more than anything, to better themselves.

For legends **Jills Angus Burney** and **Emily Welch**, personal bests have been world records. Encouraged to quit in her 50s by her orthopaedist, Angus Burney found a second career as a High Court barrister and solicitor, but you can't keep her away from the Golden Shears, the world's top shearing competition.

There's no special category for women in this sport. For Ruawai's **Hazel Wood**, busting to escape the world of dairy conversion, the competition represents a first foot on the ladder. Pagan's student Anne Maree makes good on her promise to look good and have fun on the competition floor. Pagan herself claims she's bent on placing 'first or second', though her true determination lies in beating the terrible internal injuries suffered in a road accident.

While the Golden Shears compères freestyle with verbal flair on a flying fleece or a kicky ewe, director Jack Nicol applies camera poetry to the agility, strength, skill and rhythmic grace of women wielding blades of steel.

- New Zealand International Film Festival (NZIFF)

EDITORIAL

by Fiona Gower, National President

Dear Members,

It is a pleasure to bring you this Express of our Annual Reports. It is not easy to put a year's worth of work into a few words, however, it showcases what Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) has been involved with over the past year. Writing these reports is always a good time to reflect on the past year – and what a busy time it has been.

We are working toward the Summit and NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards on Tuesday, 20 November at Parliament and the Breakfast and Workshops on the following day. I look forward to seeing many of you there for some or all of the time.

We are celebrating Suffrage 125 this year which is a time to celebrate the women who worked hard to win the right to vote and the progress women have made over the last 125 years. We celebrate our own Members who have shown great leadership in their communities, in their businesses and in governance roles.

RWNZ Members have worked tirelessly to be the voice for rural women and the

communities they live in. This enables them to be part of an organisation that has supported women's journeys to become more empowered, self-confident and have a range of skills to take into other opportunities.

We have worked for the rights of our rural women for financial, land, and job security. We have worked for raising awareness of the need for equity in health, education, technological and social needs for those living rurally. We have spoken about the isolation through distance, lack of infrastructure, and other hardships for our women for close to 100 years and we are working to improve the quality of life for all living rurally.

Are we there yet? Have we achieved what our founding members set out to do? The answer is not yet, so we will keep on working to support and strengthen our rural communities. Together we can make a difference.

Ngā mihi, *Fiona Gower*



Photo supplied: What Women Want project

Special Offer

Tannacrieff Wines is a boutique winery in the heart of Bannockburn Central Otago and home of Central Otago's finest Ruby Port, Tannacrieff 'Hunters Collection'.

In 2017, Debra Cruickshank, owner/winemaker of Tannacrieff Wines won the Emerging Enterprise Award and also the Supreme Award at the Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards. Since then, she has expanded her product range and her business has flourished.

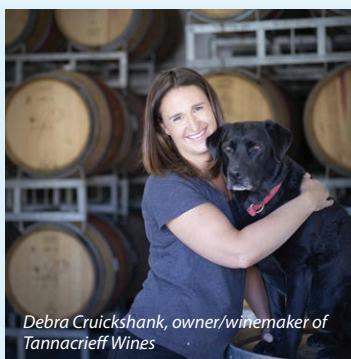
Debra is kindly offering an exclusive Rural Women New Zealand Christmas Special for Members.

	Usual Price	Special Price
Tannacrieff Rose	\$300	\$240 (case of 12)
Tannacrieff Riesling	\$300	\$240 (case of 12)
Tannacrieff Pinot Gris	\$300	\$240 (case of 12)
Tannacrieff Pinot Noir	\$360	\$288 (case of 12)
Ruby Port*	\$252	\$220 (case of 6)

Orders need to be placed before Friday, 14 December.

Contact dcwines@hotmail.com and refer to the code: *Rural Women New Zealand Christmas Special*

* Note: Ruby port comes in 4 different labels, however they are all the same port – Red Stag, Duckhunters, Matatua the Tui or the original Tannacrieff Label. Please specify which one you would like.



Debra Cruickshank, owner/winemaker of Tannacrieff Wines



www.tannacrieff.co.nz

NATIONAL BOARD OF RWNZ

National President

Fiona Gower
Tuakau
Ph: 09 232 9711
Mobile: 0274 283 884
Fiona.Gower@ruralwomennz.nz

National Finance Chair, Business Portfolio & Technology Portfolio

Rachael Dean
Cambridge
Ph: 021 665 965
Rachael.Dean@ruralwomen.org.nz

National Chair & Social Portfolio

Penny Mudford
Wellington
Ph: 027 246 1936
Penny.Mudford@ruralwomennz.nz

Board Member & Environment Portfolio

Janet Williams
Hamilton
Ph: 07 847 6191
Mobile: 027 272 4981
Janet.Williams@ruralwomen.org.nz

Board Member & Health Portfolio

Margaret Pittaway
Cromwell
Ph: 03 445 1201
Mobile: 021 024 89 569
Margaret.Pittaway@ruralwomennz.nz

Board Member, Business Portfolio & Education Portfolio

Sue Higgins
Nelson
Ph: 03 541 9292
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

Communications, Marketing & Events Assistant

Catherine Stabb
Catherine.Stabb@ruralwomennz.nz

Assistant to the RWNZ Board and Chief Executive Officer

Maree Myers
maree.myers@ruralwomennz.nz

Dates for the diary

Rural Women New Zealand Summit 2018

Day One:

RWNZ AGM and NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards
Tuesday, 20 November, Wellington

Day Two:

Breakfast of Champions, Policy Workshops and Business Workshop
Wednesday, 21 November, Wellington

The Golden Shears

Thursday, 28 February – Saturday, 2 March 2019, Masterton

Wool Week

Monday, 18 – Saturday, 23 March 2018, Marlborough

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) – World Conference

Thursday, 4 – Wednesday, 10 April, Melbourne

National Fieldays 2019

Wednesday, 12 – Saturday, 15 June, Hamilton

RWNZ National Conference

Friday, 7 – Sunday, 9 June, Whangarei

Regional Conferences 2019

Region 3

Monday, 25 – Tuesday, 26 March - Golden Bay

Welcome to New Members

Frances Beeston

Nicola Oakley

Anne Marie Roux

Kathy Whyte

Lynette Hunter

Jacqueline Chartrand-Glenn

Tina Harkness

Priscilla Brightwell

Erika Lottermoser

Brooke Trenwith

Gaye Maley

Jill Strang

Liz Watkinson

Pam Kennewell

Lynette Lovett

Patricia Marshall

Sharon Aitken

Abbi Ayre

Phillippa Glasgow

Diane Rawlinson

Wendy Mclellan

Malisa Millar

Jocelyn Pepperell

Abby France

Aileen Long

Antionette Lawrence

Frances Coles

Wendy Copeland

Lynne Sheridan

Annabel Harold

Jean Evans

Mary (Barbara) Cusdin

Jan Cook

Anita Greem

Farewell to Old Friends

Anne Jennings – Darfield Branch

Freda Wilson – Mahoe Branch – BLM

Beverley Downing – Individual and BLM (Upper Hutt)

Barbara Sextus – Toko Branch

Agnes Robb – Lumsden Branch – BLM

Joyce Smart – Crossroads Branch

Jean Ramsay – Individual and BLM (Gore Branch)

Shirlene Packard – Doubtless Bay Branch

Agnes (Nessie) McKenzie – Moa Flat Branch

Deb Dillon – Individual Member – Region 1

Val Tarrant – Individual Member – OBE and NLM

Dulcie Whyte – Swannanoa Branch

Maureen Mulcahy – Individual Member

Jean McGinity – Omokoroa Branch

Helen Hill – Tryphena Branch – BLM

Kaye Graham – Individual – NMH and BLM

Phyllis Proffit – Pokuru Branch



SHE SHEARS DOCUMENTARY FILM

(continued from page 1)

The film is about sheep shearing, which has traditionally been a male dominated industry. In the 1980's there were over 15,000 fulltime sheep shearers in New Zealand, only five of those were women. *She Shears* follows four women shearers in the build-up to the Golden Shears. For these women, competing requires enormous tenacity and much back breaking work but driven by passion and a competitive spirit, they love taking their beloved occupation to the next level.

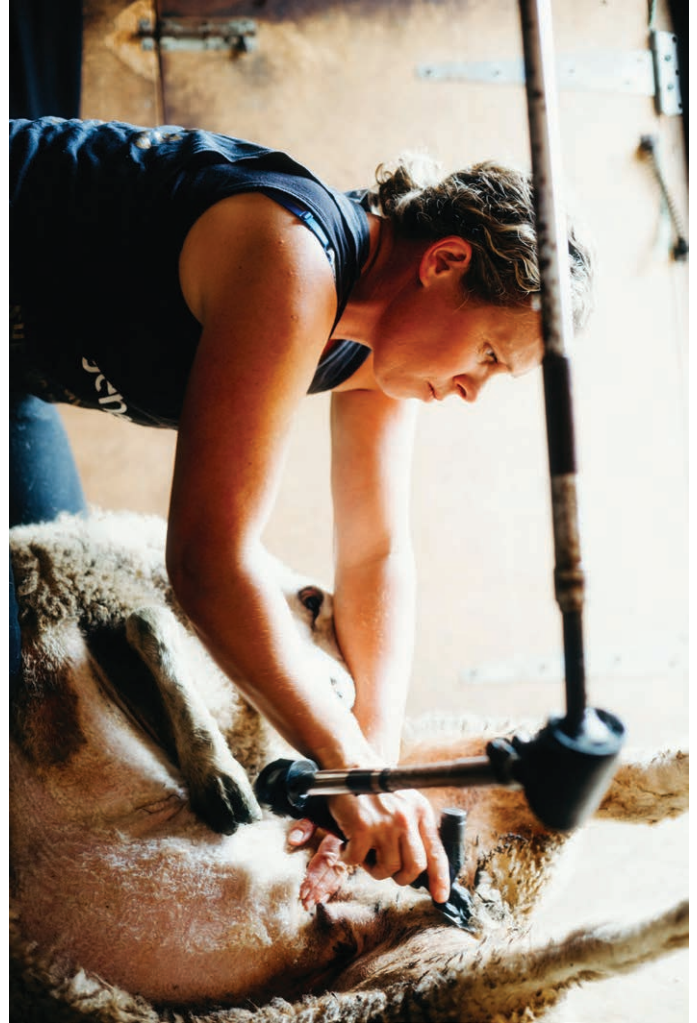
To win the Golden Shears is every shearer's dream, but for our shearers, it's also a chance to demonstrate their skills and determination. As the competition draws nearer, the women must contend with exhaustion, injury and self-doubt - and for them, family obligations are an ever-present demand. Win or lose, heartbreak or joy, what persists is their passion for what they love to do most - shearing.

A screening of She Shears can be a great way to organise a get-together in your area and fundraise. If any Members wish to host a fundraising or private group screening of the film in their area, please contact sheshearsfilm@gmail.com. If you do plan on hosting a screening, please also send your information to National Office.

"*She Shears* couldn't have been made with the assistance of Rural Women New Zealand and for this we are very thankful. We made this film for all the strong rural communities throughout New Zealand, and especially for the women who lead, support and generally do everything to keep these communities working. The women we met during filming and continue to meet through the release of our film are inspirational. With the support of RWNZ nationwide we will be bringing our film to over 70 theatres in the hope that our stars (five strong, passionate and determined female shearers) can be role models to girls and women everywhere. From young girls who dream of shearing to those women trying to break into the industry or already in the industry but facing challenges being a woman in the woolsheds."

Georgina Conder

Producer, *She Shears*



Emily Welch, She Shears.



*Pictured from left:
She Shears Director, Jack Nicol;
She Shears' Emily Welch;
Communications, Marketing &
Events Assistant, Catherine Stabb;
National Chair, Penny Mudford.*

NZI RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND BUSINESS AWARDS

We are nearing the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards and the judges are thrilled with the high calibre and diversity of all the entrants this year.

The Awards evening will be held at Parliament on the evening of Tuesday, 20 November and will include a fantastic line-up of presenters, finalists, and entertainment.

If you have not yet registered for the Awards, you can find registration forms at www.ruralwomen.org.nz, or email catherine.stabb@ruralwomennz.nz.

The categories for the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards 2018 are:

- Emerging Business
- Love of the Land
- Creative Arts
- Innovation
- Rural Champion
- A Supreme winner who has shown excellence and outstanding achievement across all entry criteria will be selected from all category finalists.

NZI and Rural Women New Zealand launched the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards at this year's National Fielddays.

There was no better forum than Fielddays to launch the Awards. Based inside the Health and Wellbeing hub, the stand encouraged rural business women to learn more about the Awards and potentially enter. With a prize wheel and branded giveaways, the stand attracted a lot of attention and was a popular feature within the hub.

NZI recognises and celebrates the considerable role that women play in the rural sector and this year we have proudly come on board as the first naming rights partner. The Awards continue to celebrate rural women and business excellence and we are delighted to support the introduction of two new award categories this year - Creative Arts and Rural Champion:

Creative Arts acknowledges businesses specialising in creative arts working in rural environments or using rural materials.

Rural Champion is targeted at people or business who go above and beyond in supporting the rural sector or rural enterprises.

There are fantastic benefits on offer, including exposure for

your business through PR opportunities with local and social media. There is a range of prizes and very valuable access, input and support from other business leaders, influencers and their networks to help a business grow and thrive.

During our 159 years in business, NZI has been quietly helping our clients restore homes, farms and livelihoods when the worst happens. We are committed to supporting New Zealand farmers and our team of rural insurance specialists across the country are knowledgeable and passionate about the rural sector and understand what matters most to farmers.

The refreshed awards are a fantastic way to demonstrate NZI's support of rural people and communities and cement our ongoing partnership with Rural Women New Zealand recognising leadership and enterprise in Kiwi rural women.

NZI Rural Manager, Jon Watson



RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND SUMMIT 2019

Tuesday, 20 & Wednesday, 21 November 2019

This year the Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) AGM is being hosted in Wellington as part of the RWNZ Summit and National Office have organised Day Two of Workshops to add value to the event for Members.

Day One of the Summit includes AGM and the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards. The Awards will be hosted by Jenny Marcroft MP with guest speaker, US Ambassador to New Zealand, Scott Brown.

The Policy Workshops held on Day Two of the Summit will follow breakfast at the Rydges and run concurrently from 9:30am - 12:30pm.



Read below the list of impressive speakers and facilitators who will contribute to policy and business discussions held at these workshops.

We look forward to hosting you in Wellington.

Final Remits

There have been no amendments for the Remits which will be voted on at the RWNZ Summit in November.

The final Remits are published in the latest copy of the Express Magazine and can be downloaded from the Member's Zone of the website.

Business Workshop

If you run a business or are thinking about starting a business, register to join the NZI RWNZ Business Award winners and finalists at our Business Workshop Session. Hear from NZI, the MBIE Small Business Team and other industry experts on finances, strategy, social media, recruiting and retaining good staff, governance and more.

Policy Workshops

If you wish to contribute on building our authoritative voice by advancing RWNZ policy and creating outcomes, then join us at one of our Policy Workshops.

Social

Wrap-around support – what does it look like and mean, and how do we do it? With input from the MPI M.bovis recovery and welfare teams, HortNZ Chief Executive, Mike Chapman on PSA recovery, and Te Puni Kōkiri Chief Advisor, Nancy Tuaine speaking on Whanau Ora.

Technology

TUANZ CEO, Craig Young will facilitate discussion on the issues and solutions with Crown Infrastructure Partners Chief Executive Officer, Graham Mitchell, WIZ Wireless Bridget Canning, and MBIE.

Business

KPMG Farm Enterprise Specialist, Julia Jones will facilitate a discussion on factors affecting farming along with input from Rabobank's Emma Higgins, and the MBIE Economic Policy team.

International

National President, Fiona Gower will facilitate this workshop with support from Beryl Anderson (former President of the National Council of Women) who has extensive experience in the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of

Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Barbara Williams immediate past President of UN Women National Committee Aotearoa New Zealand, and former Director Pacific Bilateral MFAT (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade).

Education

Join National Board Member and Education Portfolio Convenor, Sue Higgins, an MBIE future-of-work team member and a local rural school principal to work on new policies for the education portfolio.

Health

National Board Member and Health Portfolio Convenor, Margaret Pittaway will facilitate discussion on rural health issues with the support of NZ College of Midwives CEO Karen Guilliland, Skylight Trust Chief Executive, Heather Henare, and Age Concern Chief Executive, Stephanie Clare.

Environment

The environment workshop will include discussion with Landcare Trust Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Nick Edgar, and Interim Climate Change Commission Chair, Dr. David Prentice and Tipu Whenua Director and Landcorp Environment Chair, Alison Dewes.

SPEAKERS & HOSTS AT THE RWNZ SUMMIT 2018

Hon Tracey Martin

Parliament Host

Tracey Martin will be hosting at Day One of the Summit.

Tracey Martin was first elected to Parliament as a New Zealand First list MP based in Warkworth, in 2011. A great believer in giving back to the community, Tracey spent the majority of her pre-parliament time on parent-based fundraising and volunteer committees, while she raised three children with her husband Ben. Tracey is the Minister of Children, Seniors, and Internal Affairs, and is the Associate Minister of Education.



Jenny Marcroft MP

Parliament Host

Jenny Marcroft will be hosting the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards

New Zealand First List MP living in Matakana. Spokesperson for Health, Broadcasting, Human Rights, ACC, Conservation and Environment.

Ms Marcroft was elected to Parliament in September 2017, as a New Zealand First list MP based at Matakana, in Rodney district. She stood in the Tamaki electorate and was placed ninth on New Zealand First's party list.



Ambassador Scott Brown

NZI RWNZ Business Awards Guest Speaker

Ambassador Scott Brown presented credentials to the Governor-General of New Zealand to become U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand on June 28, 2017.

Ambassador Brown is a prominent U.S. political leader, attorney, and National Guardsman with a long history of public service.



Sarah Trotman ONZM

Breakfast of Champions Guest Speaker

Sarah Trotman will be speaking at the Breakfast of Champions held at the Rydges on Day Two of the RWNZ Summit.

Founder of Women's Voices, Sarah has run her own businesses for 18 years and been the driving force behind many major initiatives for New Zealand's business sector. She was Chief Executive of Business Mentors New Zealand, supervising the mentoring of almost 5000 small businesses annually. She is a former Trustee of the Sir Peter Blake Trust and Leadership New Zealand, and is a member of Be. Accessible's Fab 50 Network. Sarah helped establish the Lifewise Big Sleepout fundraising event to support people out of homelessness, and has mentored young women under the YWCA Future Leaders Programme.

Sarah will speak on her leadership experience with a particular focus on being a strong advocate for the advancement of women and girls. Sarah Trotman ONZM is a respected business and community leader, a Trustee and Director and a celebrant.



Find more speakers on our website, and in our regular e-Newsletters.

This has been another busy, exciting and fulfilling year for me as National President; representing Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) regionally, nationally and internationally; collaborating with Members, Board, Staff and Stakeholders to achieve our vision of strong rural communities and; communicating on behalf of our Members, rural women and children, and rural communities.

I attended the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) in New York as the RWNZ representative on the Pacific Women's Watch delegation. The theme was "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls" which provided the opportunity to represent RWNZ on panel discussions both within and outside the United Nations complex. Alongside these opportunities to showcase the experiences of New Zealand's rural women and how RWNZ supports and empowers them, there were also opportunities to network, share and learn with women from all around the globe. There were many discussions at CSW62 where I learned about the experiences of our international rural sisters, the Sustainable Development Goals and the CSW62 agreed outcomes that now help inform our work at RWNZ.

Being at the table with other industry leaders over issues such as Mycoplasma bovis has been a privilege, and working with decision makers to ensure good outcomes for our rural communities has been a large part of my work, always highlighting the need for gender and rural impact analyses at policy development level.

RWNZ has continued to build on our high profile using our strong voice for rural communities, whilst attending National Fielddays and associated events such as the launch of the Government's Rural Proofing Policy and Service Delivery Guide which we helped formulate, the KMPG Breakfast and being a judge for the Rural Catch competition. Other events where we influenced using our authoritative voice included the Sika Show, International Leptospirosis Forum and Golden

Shears as well as attending numerous workshops and meetings, including with Government Ministers and Ministry staff.

Connecting regularly with the leadership team of Leadership Councillors and Area Committee Chairs has been an important aspect of my year. We held a two-day Board/Leadership workshop in February and a teleconference after each Board meeting to discuss RWNZ Strategy and Plans; encouraging them to share this information with the Members in their areas and to share ideas, issues and information with each other.

Engaging with Members around the country is always a pleasure, and I have enjoyed attending Branch birthdays at Forest Reserve, near Wellsford, and Awana on Aotea Great Barrier Island. The National, Region and Area Conferences have been a great opportunity to meet and talk with many of you. Thank you for your kind hospitality and your willingness to share your thoughts.

Being involved with the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards as a judge was incredibly rewarding, especially getting to know the entrants and their businesses then seeing the positive outcomes for them that entering the awards provides. These are empowered women leading rural business – the backbone of our country.

Throughout the year, RWNZ took advantage of the many opportunities to work with and speak to the media promoting RWNZ, the issues and solutions for rural communities, including using social media to tell our story.

Much of what I did in this past year would not have happened without the support of the National Office staff and I would like this opportunity to thank them for the incredibly hard work they do for all of us in RWNZ.

Fiona Gower
National President



Fiona Gower with NZI team Donna Williams and Katherine Speller

This was the second year of the current National Board and Board Members have been focussed on governance and ensuring that RWNZ has a solid and principled management and operational base on which to conduct its activities.

The Board held six board meetings during the year in August, September, November, February, April and June. Most board meetings were held at National Office in Wellington and ran over one and a half days.

The strategic plan was approved by the Board in February after full consultation with the Leadership Council and the Membership. The Board is now in the practice of ensuring that our activities fit within the organisation's strategic direction and goals.

The Board approved and completed the sale of our commercial property at Level 8, 57 Willis Street, Wellington. The property had been available for sale since its tenants Access Homehealth vacated the offices. The National Office was located on the same premises and following the departure of Access the space became in excess of our needs. A search for a tenant resulted in the full floor being leased and the National Office moved to rented accommodation at Level 5, 86 Victoria Street, Wellington. Subsequently the floor was sold to a suitable buyer.

The Board has continued its work to ensure we have good governance policies in place which are appropriate and fit-for-purpose. The policy covering the nominations and elections for Board members has been extended to cover the elections for Area Committees and can also be adopted by Area Committees as the selection process for appointing Leadership Councillors. The Board Roles and Responsibilities policy has been updated along with the policies for Conflicts of Interest, Returning Officer, and various other activities the Board undertakes relating to its financial obligations and risk.

Terms of Reference for the Education Bursaries Committee, Scotlands Te Kiteroa Community Fund, and Community Fund Grant have been reviewed and updated. Terms of Reference were also drafted and approved for the Adverse Events Relief Fund. All of these policies are available for members to view, either on the website or by request from the National Office.

I extend my gratitude to fellow Board Members Fiona Gower, Rachael Dean, Margaret Pittaway, Janet Williams and Sue Higgins for their commitment and dedication throughout the past year. We have worked well together as a board and I am confident that the foundation that has been set by the efforts and professionalism of the current board will carry us forward. At this year's AGM three Board members will finish their time on the Board. South Island Board Member Margaret Pittaway and North Island Board Member Janet Williams did not seek re-election for board positions and National Finance Chair Rachael Dean opted to complete her time on the Board at this year's AGM.

I also express my appreciation to our Chief Executive Officer Penelope England and her team at the National Office in Wellington. The National Office team works constantly to ensure that the organisation is well supported by its secretariat. They deserve to feel very proud of the high quality submissions to Government, efficient administration, and extensive communications channels it delivers on. Without the very professional team in Wellington our organisation would not be able to maintain its good reputation to be able to influence and lead on issues that are important to RWNZ and our rural communities.

Penny Mudford ONZM
National Chair



"Dairy Women's Network and RWNZ continue to strive to ensure their members are served well in their districts. Often collaboration happens when there is an adverse event, like the Edgumbe floods or Mycoplasma Bovis, when we can each bring our strengths to the table."

Dairy Women's Network –
Chief Executive Officer, Jules Benton



Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Marie Appleton for the incredible amount of work she has done as the International Officer over the last few years, it has been really appreciated by all those involved.

I was appointed the International Convenor by the Board at the post conference meeting in November, to align with our strategic structure which has portfolios convened by the Board.

As part of the role, I am attending the International Women's Caucus, where women's organisations such as National Council of Women, New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women, and Pacific Women's Watch meet together with the Ministry for Women staff to discuss issues both in New Zealand and globally. They work together to provide information for a number of United Nations pieces of work, including CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women), UPR (Universal Periodic Review) SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals) and of course CSW62 (62nd session of Commission on the Status of Women), which National Chair Penny Mudford and I attended in March. The Priority Theme was "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls."

Meeting and working with these other organisations on issues has given RWNZ opportunities to showcase its place as the authoritative voice for rural women and the communities

in which they live. This means we have been able to ensure that the needs, issues and opportunities for women and girls living rurally in New Zealand are brought to the fore, and shared globally.

The conclusion from forums such as CSW62 has reinforced the need for all decision makers to use both a gender impact analysis as well as a rural impact analysis to prevent any detrimentally intersectional effects for our rural women and their communities.

At CSW62, ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) launched the International Forum on Rural Women's Global Survey of the Living Conditions of Rural Women, which they are encouraging all women living rurally to complete. The survey will provide data and information on the impact of issues facing women globally. RWNZ are a partner organisation for this by promoting the survey and will receive the data once it is collated for us to use.

The first information for the ACWW World Conference in Melbourne arrived for member societies to begin the build-up, including the call for resolutions and for nominations for World Committee roles.

The International Day for Rural Women was celebrated on 15 October, and International Day for Women on 8 March, with Members holding events or attending events throughout the country.

ACWW Women Walk the World was held again on or around April 29, with groups taking part, and sharing their photos.

A Portfolio Hub has been set up for International, to support the work of the Convenor and the work carried out by the National Office staff around policy and communications.

This Hub presently consists of: Marie Appleton, Melva Robb, Noeline Quedley-Price, Parmindar Singh and Sharron Davie-Martin, with Angela McLeod (staff).

Fiona Gower
International Portfolio Convenor



"It was a privilege to facilitate at the United Nations a panel about the "Empowerment of Rural Women through economic opportunity".

I learnt from Rural Women New Zealand about the challenges for women living in rural areas, as well as their resilience and innovation, running their own businesses whilst also running farms, raising families and volunteering in their communities. Rural women are the true backbone of our rural communities and our economy."

**Equal Employment Opportunities
Commissioner, Dr Jackie Blue**

Participating in the Commission on the Status of Women meeting at the United Nations in March 2018, highlighted that social issues affect all rural women. It is clear that many of the problems and concerns we have in New Zealand are the same for rural women in many other countries. At the UN meeting the topic of empowerment of rural women and girls was much discussed. This simply means the process of becoming stronger as a person, being more confident, and having control or autonomy over our own decisions and lives. We are mindful of this when we prioritise our work under the social portfolio.

Family and whānau violence continues to be of concern especially for rural women and children who live in isolated rural areas and who are not able to access support services easily. Last year, Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) appeared before a Select Committee on the Domestic Violence Victims' Protection Bill and put forward the rural perspective on difficulties for people who live rurally. Since then the Government announced more funding for social services to help families affected by violence. This will help some people but we also highlight the need for our local communities to recognise and support our own families, neighbours, and friends who are affected by family violence.

RWNZ participated in a research forum run by the Primary Industry Capability Alliance (PICA), Dairy NZ, and the Ministry for Primary Industry. There is a recognised labour and skills shortage in the primary industry which the Government and rural industries are trying to address. The forum discussed the workforce needs for primary industries and in particular asked the question of what kind of workforce do we need to meet our future needs. Research done shows that we need a more qualified workforce with more technical skills needed because of more automation being used by farmers and growers.

The development of a new Positive Ageing Strategy was announced in April by Seniors Minister Hon Tracey Martin. The strategy is intended to shape the policies needed to help older persons in New Zealand live well. As part of the early

discussion on the strategy I presented at a forum put on by the University of Otago, Collaboration of Ageing Research Excellence (CARE), where I spoke about the lives of older people who live in rural areas.

Last summer, RWNZ released a media release on freedom camping at a time when some of New Zealand's rural tourist spots were overflowing with freedom campers. We highlighted our concerns about disease outbreak, such as E. coli, and the impact of large numbers of campers on rural lifestyles and the environment. We called on policy makers to ensure that laws and regulations were appropriate and education and enforcement were carried out by central and local government.

RWNZ made submissions to the Justice Select Committee on the Trusts Bill which will replace the Trustee Act of 1956. We pointed out that rural properties owned by Trusts can often have major decisions about the farm made by appointed Trustees with those most affected by the decisions often not being part of the decision making process. Also, our research showed that women can be shut out of a share of the family farm through old trusts that fail to acknowledge them as beneficiaries. We called for the Government to ensure that the new Trusts Bill did not discriminate against women, especially rural women.

Last year the Ministry of Health proposed a new framework for suicide prevention and RWNZ submitted on the draft strategy. We are currently waiting for the release of the updated strategy which is part of the work being undertaken by the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction.

Social issues are at the heart of our rural communities and we need good social infrastructure to ensure that our families and communities can be independent and strong. RWNZ will continue to speak out on social issues that affect our rural communities.

Penny Mudford ONZM
Social Portfolio Convenor



The change of Government in 2017 has signalled many changes to Education Policy. The Government is committed to wide consultation with education stakeholders for a vision into the future for education.

On behalf of Rural Women New Zealand, I was one of eight hundred attendees at the Education Summit in Auckland and I was able to share my perspective on rural education which is “to value rural education as an investment by providing appropriate staffing, transport and the environment to foster the wellbeing of healthy rural communities, promoting rural areas as a desirable place to live”.

I have also attended the Digital Inclusion Advisory Workshop looking at ways to advance digital accessibility for all in New Zealand. Digital disruption is a reality and the challenge will be to ensure equality alongside reliable and affordable connectivity.

The formation of an Education Hub will provide specialist perspectives and add to the opinions of our members and the RWNZ Rapid Response team for the various consultations undertaken.

The issues around school transport continue. RWNZ has

supported efforts in our communities to ensure continuation of bus services and thus prevent a school closure.

Our membership of RERG – Rural Education Reference Group – enables insight to the commonalities of issues affecting our rural schools with the release of the Government’s rural proofing guidelines.

It is an honour to be part of the Education Bursaries Committee awarding bursaries through the charitable efforts of our members.

Rural Women New Zealand will continue to seek assurance that policy makers will recognise the unique factors that affect rural education. The safety of our students and accessibility to schools directly impacts the wellbeing and success of our rural community.

Sue Higgins
Education Portfolio Convenor



SCOTLANDS TE KITEROA COMMUNITY FUND

Annual REPORT

The Fund originated from proceeds from the sale of the Scotlands (Auckland) and Te Kiteroa (Waimate) Rest Homes. Each year interest from the Fund is disbursed to the community.

Eligibility for grants:

The Trust is open to application by any individual or group for charitable purposes in the following categories:

- i. The welfare of children and the elderly
- ii. Community
- iii. Conservation
- iv. Education

The maximum for each grant considered is \$1,500.00

Applications close on 31 December each year.

The Committee for the Fund for this financial year was Fiona Gower, Rachael Dean, Sharron Davie-Martin, Gill Naylor, Marie Appleton and Helen Jones.

As Helen has completed 6 years, she has stood down and a new North Island member will be required.

On Wednesday 7 February, the Scotlands Te Kiteroa Committee met by teleconference to discuss the grant applications received.

The statistics from the grants were as follows:

Finance available: \$15,039.98

Grants applied for: 14

Grants approved: 11

Total granted: \$14,540.00

Grants declined: 3

Reasons for decline: not meeting criteria, or having applied in the past 2 years.

Six approved were from the North Island, five from the South Island, and they were all community groups.

I would like to thank the Committee for their time - and a special thank you to Helen Jones for her six years of involvement.

Fiona Gower
National President & Chair of Scotlands Te Kiteroa
Community Fund

I attended a NZ Landcare Trust Board meeting in Christchurch which was followed by a field trip with Trustees and staff from around New Zealand – all excellent ambassadors for our environment. It was an opportunity to see the inspiring environmental work being done including a water recharge aquifer project that Chris Allen from Federated Farmers is testing. This was followed by a presentation from Methven farmer Craige Mackenzie about Internet of Things (IOT) analyses data collection. Then a visit to former trustee, Ian McKenzie's property, he showed us his riparian planting and the Canterbury mud fish that he is protecting and increasing the numbers. A brilliant day, showcasing how an environmental difference, can be made from passionate rural people.

What the field trip told me is that while there are environmental issues facing our rural communities, there is also positive action on the ground. Unfortunately, this comes with increased compliance and related costs. It is changing how we use the land and manage the business of agriculture, viticulture and horticulture. Many are rising to this challenge with innovative ideas such as I saw being demonstrated. It would be great to hear more good work stories in the media instead of the negative reporting that goes on.

Working smarter, innovatively and in an environmentally responsible way benefits all New Zealanders. Our good work stories must be told.

Throughout the year, I was involved in a range of events

representing RWNZ a Board Member and as the Environment Portfolio Convenor. I was a key note speaker at Future Farms Conference in Palmerston North in Agri-food Week and also spoke at the Waikato Primary Industries Adverse Event Cluster meeting about 120 people. I am involved as a Core group (committee) member of Waikato Primary Industries Adverse Events Cluster. I attended the Fieldays 50 years Celebration Dinner, received on behalf of the Waikato Rural Women New Zealand Members an Award for 40 years of Fieldays catering. I worked with June and Isobel two original Rural Women New Zealand Fieldays catering ladies, for a very special celebration of 50 years morning tea at Fieldays. I was the Chief Judge for North Island Young Farmers Debating Competition at the National Fieldays.

I received an invitation from MPI to attend M.Bovis meeting with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Minister Damien O'Connor and farmers on a Te Awamutu farm. Attended other meetings on M.Bovis.

Earlier this year, I attended Dairy Women's Network Conference in Rotorua, and had the opportunity to speak at a retreat for Church Leaders about our rural communities. I also attended the International Tri-Conference for Precision Agriculture in Hamilton and the 10th International Leptospirosis Society Conference in Palmerston North.

Janet Williams

Environment Portfolio Convenor



Pictured left to right: Isobel Kelly, June Smith - PA to National Fieldays CEO - Beth Jobin, Board Member and Environment Portfolio Convenor - Janet Williams; Fieldays medal.



BUSINESS PORTFOLIO

Annual
REPORT

During the year ended 30 June 2018 RWNZ added a new portfolio, Business, with Rachael Dean, National Finance Chair, given the role of Convenor. Written submissions made during the year included:

- the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill (No 2)
- the Open Government Partnership (OGP) New Zealand National Action Plan 2016-18
- the Accident Compensation Amendment Bill
- the Sentencing (Livestock Rustling) Amendment Bill.

Verbal submissions were also presented on the Sentencing (Livestock Rustling) Amendment Bill and the Accident Compensation Amendment Bill, however this latter was in August 2018.

A media release was issued on the Sentencing (Livestock Rustling) Amendment Bill which was followed up with a radio interview.

A Member survey was carried out for the Sentencing (Livestock Rustling) Amendment Bill and provided invaluable information for both the written and verbal submissions.

A submission was also made to the Tax Working Group.

Federated Farmers provided some background information to assist in the preparation of parts of this submission. The Tax Working group submission was further informed by both a member survey and by feedback from Members present at the Region 3 Regional Conference when the National Finance Chair added an informal survey and discussion as part of her workshop.

A key issue raised was connectivity and the incorrect presumption that everyone has access to fast, reliable, affordable internet and mobile network access. This was raised as a specific issue in the RWNZ submission and supported by data.

Air New Zealand continued to disappoint in its lack of support for the regions and a strongly worded media release was issued, drawing attention amongst other things to the contrast between the rhetoric around service and price from the Air New Zealand Chief Executive, Christopher Luxon and the reality of price increases coupled with the poor service in the regions.

Rachael Dean
Business Portfolio Convenor

TECHNOLOGY PORTFOLIO

Annual
REPORT

While RWNZ has had a strong focus on connectivity, that is to say the lack thereof, for many years, technology had not been a separate portfolio but was included in other portfolios depending on the particular focus at the time. One of the outcomes of reviewing the strategic plan during the year ended 30 June 2018 was to create a separate portfolio for technology. Rachael Dean, National Finance Chair, was given the role of Convenor.

Although a separate portfolio, the issues with lack of access to robust, reliable, affordable and fast digital infrastructure and mobile phone coverage was also included as a key issue in other portfolios. For example, the Education Portfolio convenor attended a Digital Inclusion Advisory Workshop whose objective was to look at ways to improve digital accessibility for all in New Zealand. In early 2018 the IRD stated at a recent workshop which a RWNZ member attended, that everything would have to be done on-line by 2019. This and other feedback was used to inform the connectivity issues included in the submission to the Tax Working Group.

While no submissions were prepared for Select Committees on purely technology matters two press releases were issued. One of these related to the 2018 Census with concerns being raised yet again regarding the assumption that everyone has the capability or capacity to fill out their census forms online

and the detrimental effect on the provision of complete and accurate census data, data that is used by many for decision making.

The other press release was in reaction to excitement around the roll out of the 5G network prompted a media release drawing attention to those that do not yet have any internet or cell phone access, let alone that of a high quality standard. Disappointment was expressed at what appeared to be the easy option of 5G for some but at the expense of rural New Zealand.

Rachael Dean
Technology Portfolio Convenor

"TUANZ and Rural Women New Zealand have worked closely together for many years on issues where we share common goals. The two organisations have often spoken with one voice on the issues around improving communications and connectivity in rural New Zealand especially in the areas of improving educational outcomes for our rural children. We look forward to continuing the collaborative approach and excellent working relationship between the two organisations."

TUANZ - Chief Executive Officer, Craig Young

The delivery of health services to rural New Zealand is not equal to the services provided to the urban population and we must keep the needs and the wellbeing of our rural communities to the fore. The main focus of work this year has been on the provision of midwifery services, however other areas of concern have not been forgotten.

Maternity services in rural have been under the spotlight. The Government failed to address the problems of financial reimbursement for travel time and costs, and an unrealistic pay scale. Effectively, this has meant that midwives have been leaving their profession and leaving a greater workload on their colleagues, particularly in rural areas.

A number of smaller units have closed or been downgraded, leaving rural families with few choices and many uncertainties. There is a real risk of increased numbers of roadside births with no emergency services to assist. It has too often been the case that post-natal care has been inadequate, mainly due to the time and distances that need to be travelled. Some progress has been made but maternity services still deserve more recognition.

A presentation given at the Rural Health Conference this year on 'Rural Maternal and Child Care' gave rise to good discussion and revealed that GPs are no longer interested in maternity care because of the conditions the midwives are experiencing.

In August last year RWNZ presented at the Otago Medical School, Wellington, speaking about the inequities of care for rural and the ongoing problems of provision of services and personnel. The presentation created robust discussion and led to a number of media opportunities.

Other speaking opportunities during the year have included taking part in a panel discussion on 'Technology and the

Older Person' at the Age Care Concern Conference and at the Rural Nurse's Conference I spoke on Rural Women New Zealand's role in health.

We met with Plunket to voice our concerns over their consolidation process, the transfer of funds raised in rural communities to support work in the local areas and the effect on volunteers.

We were saddened to hear that Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand (RHAANZ) has gone into hibernation because of insufficient funds and the Government's unwillingness to help. RHAANZ has been a very strong voice for rural communities and has worked hard on the problems of mental health and rural suicide. The diversity of their membership meant strong representation of the rural voice and their work in the area of mental health has been outstanding.

Attempts to establish a Health Hub representative of Members throughout the country to enable balanced feedback have so far resulted in only two people putting their names forward and I am grateful to Ruth Panelli, Region 1, and Malvina Dick, Region 6 Greater Waikato for offering their expertise. Any further offers will be gratefully considered.

We rely on feedback from the Regions to give a balanced view of the provision of health services and continue to be grateful for information received.

A number of media releases have been made, highlighting the continual need for improved health services to rural communities.

Margaret Pittaway
Health Portfolio Convenor

"Plunket was thrilled to have the opportunity to collaborate with Rural Women New Zealand at the National Fieldday's earlier this year. It was great to share space and be able to support mums attending the field days with their little ones.

Plunket works closely with Rural Women New Zealand in other areas as well, particularly around ensuring women who live in remote rural locations are able to access Plunket services.

We are excited to announce that we will be trialling video conferencing options through PlunketLine - with an initial focus on breastfeeding support. Several PlunketLine staff have trained as lactation consultants. We hope this will be one more option for rural mums to get support when they need it.

This referral-based service will be available at the end of October in targeted areas while we test the service."

Plunket - Chief Executive, Amanda Malu

"We see many opportunities to work together with Rural Women New Zealand to further enhance the work that both organizations do to support our rural communities and expand learning and nurture talent. We share a similar vision and guiding principles and we look forward to further collaboration that will see our respective sectors succeed."

**Access Community Health -
Chief Executive Officer, Alison Van Wyk**

Age Concern New Zealand and RWNZ have formed a strong alliance working together for rural communities. The invitation and opportunity to be part of Fieldays 2018 meant Age Concern New Zealand was able to have conversations that raised awareness about elder abuse and social isolation and to show ways of connecting our older rural New Zealanders with activities and services provided by local Age Concerns

Age Concern - Chief Executive, Stephanie Clare

We are pleased to advise Members that the property has been sold at a price above current market valuation and all aspects of the sale have now been completed. The gain, after marketing expenses, of \$141,000 will be included in the annual accounts for the year ended 30 June 2018. National Office is currently located in rental premises at Level 5, 86 Victoria Street, Wellington.

Authoritative rural voice

Our policy work gives us the building blocks of influence to decision makers and seek their support to achieve better living conditions for New Zealand's rural women, families and communities.

Submissions

- July 2017 – Marriage (Court Consent August 2017 - Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill
- August 2017 - Water Conservation Order on Ngaruroro River and Clive River
- August 2017 – Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill (No. 2)
- August 2017 – Digital Technologies Submission
- February 2018 - Property (Relationships) Act review by the Law Commission
- February 2018 – Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Bill to NCW
- March 2018 - Fair Insurance Code Review
- March 2018 - Trusts Bill
- March 2018 – Tax Working Group Submission
- March 2018 – Sentencing (Livestock Rustling) Bill
- June 2018 – Organic Production Regulation Submission
- June 2018 – Mental Health and Addiction Inquiry

Media

Throughout the year, 104 of the media articles published have referenced Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) and/or its Members. These articles shine light on the efforts and contribution of RWNZ within, and for New Zealand's rural communities. The articles cover a divergence of social issues including health, education, technology, environment, business, and international. These articles encourage the work of RWNZ, raise concerns and make strong statements in support of our rural communities.

The National Board; Manager of Government, Public Sector and Academic Relationships, Angela McLeod; and Communications, Marketing and Events Assistant, Catherine Stabb attended media training led by Sue Kedgley – a Greater Wellington Regional Councillor, and former Green Party MP, Parliament's Health Select Committee Chair, and former television broadcaster with TVNZ. The media training included interviewing skills, tips to writing and

producing strong media releases, and collaboration with journalists. All those in attendance gained insights and skills which they have applied when working with the media following this session.

RWNZ have produced 43 media releases over the year, raising concerns on rural issues, celebrating empowered rural women, and showcasing the achievements of our Members. All media releases are sent to Members via email following their release.

Stakeholder/partner/relationship meetings

RWNZ has a broad range of stakeholders who are important to the work of the organisation and in this past year we have built on the relationships already in place. Our priorities have been to grow the portfolio of connections with those who are in a position to support us in our work, with those decision-makers we need to influence and engage with those who need our knowledge and experience in rural communities at a strategic planning and policy level. One objective now being met is that stakeholders seek advice from RWNZ. The lists of meetings and workshops RWNZ has attended and contributed to are included in e-newsletters and Express magazine.

People connected

Mycoplasma bovis

It is unfortunate that this year, the cattle disease Mycoplasma bovis has been found in New Zealand and has spread to a number of regions. RWNZ was involved in the consultation with the Government and industry leaders reaching the decision of phased eradication, and have been paramount in supporting those affected around the country.

Members across the country played an active role in organising community meetings, providing updated information and support. These regular meetings, in which Dairy NZ, Federated Farmers, Beef + Lamb NZ, and Rural Support Trust were also vital in, are essential not only for managing the spread of the disease and keeping people updated, they also provide a place for people to communicate and support each other through what can be life changing for those affected.

Social media

We continue to engage with Members and the wider rural community through our various social media platforms. As social media activity remains constant, engagement has continued to increase on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Regional Facebook pages continue to draw in new followers and show increasing activity. The re-launch of the Rural Women New Zealand Instagram account has seen an influx of followers viewing the profile. Instagram is a platform of social media which offers a visual display of updates through the use of photographs and videos.

Our social media presence has increased by:

- Facebook – 12.5%
- Twitter – 16.9%
- Instagram – 646.8%

With the increase of information coming from Members and National Office, e-Newsletters are now being sent three-weekly. These e-Newsletters share what is happening from Board level, and at National Office.

Membership that matters

National Conference 2017

The National Conference 2017 was a successful event showcasing inspirational rural women and their dedication to building dynamic communities through communication, connections and collaboration. The conference began with a video greeting from the Governor-General of New Zealand, Dame Patsy Reddy, who is the Patron of RWNZ.

Guest speakers included the Minister for Women, Hon Julie Anne Genter who spoke about the importance of what rural women do, and the challenges for the new government. Speeches were also presented by Invercargill National MP Sarah Dowie MP and Mayor of Southland District Gary Tong. Keynote speaker Professor Paul Spoonley spoke about the implications and challenges of New Zealand's changing demography.

Special guests attended the conference sessions and delegates participated in workshops covering health, rural environment, education and social issues.

National Office received positive and constructive feedback from Members, and look forward to the next National Conference in Whangarei in 2019.

Surveys

Through surveys we are able to gain insights and stories directly from Members. It is these stories that build strong submissions, relationships, and ability to improve the living conditions and wellbeing for New Zealand's rural communities.

RWNZ has conducted the following surveys throughout the year:

- Cervical Cancer is a Women's Health Priority
- Maternity Services in Rural Areas
- School Transport in Rural Areas
- National conference 2017
- Sentencing (Livestock Rustling) Amendment Bill
- RWNZ Tax Working Group Submission
- RWNZ Census Data Collection Survey
- RWNZ Decision Making When Purchasing for your Rural Business

RWNZ support other organisations by hosting surveys asking

for response from New Zealand's rural communities, through sharing surveys with Members and on social media.

Empowered rural communities

New Zealander of the Year Awards

RWNZ's contribution to rural communities was recognised with a Certificate of Achievement in the 2018 New Zealander of the Year Awards.

Enterprising Rural Women Awards 2017

The Enterprising Rural Women Awards 2017 were hosted in conjunction with the National Conference in Invercargill. Both finalists and award winners showcased the talent, innovation and entrepreneurship that is prevalent within New Zealand's rural communities. The 2017 Awards were supported by industry partners Agrisea New Zealand, Homeopathic Farm Support, NZI, and SWAZI New Zealand.

Enterprising Rural Women Awards Winners

- **NZI Innovative Enterprising Rural Women Award winner:** Kylie Davidson and Emma Hammond – Hammond and Davidson Accountants, Riversdale.
- **AgriSea New Zealand Love of the Land winner:** Kiri Elworthy and Jenny Bargh - Tora Coastal Walk, Martinborough
- **Homeopathic Farm Support Emerging Enterprising Rural Women Award winner:** Jo Kempton – Happy Belly Ferments, Greytown.
- **SWAZI New Zealand Entrepreneurial Enterprising Rural Women Award winner and NZI Supreme Award winner:** Debra Cruikshank - Tannacrieff Wines, Cromwell.

NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards 2018

RWNZ and NZI have launched the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards which will be held on the evening of Tuesday, 20 November 2018 in Wellington in the Banquet Hall at Parliament.

A review of the Enterprising Rural Women Awards has been completed by the RWNZ Board with feedback from Members and participants, external advice, and the awards partners. The awards have been renamed the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards and NZI is the Premier Partner. The categories have been broadened, the application process has been updated and the judging criteria strengthened.

NZ Guild of New Zealand Agricultural Journalists and Communicators

RWNZ continues to support the New Zealand Guild of Agricultural Journalists and Communicators. The Awards sponsored by RWNZ are; the Rural Women New Zealand Journalism Award which recognises the important contribution women make (and have always made) in the rural

community, either through their role in the farming sector or to the general rural environment, and; the Rural Connectivity Award which recognises the importance of connectivity to rural communities and agri-businesses in rural areas. It celebrates journalism that helps raise awareness about the issues and benefits of rural connectivity.

RWNZ also sponsored the Rural Connectivity Award which recognises the importance of connectivity to rural communities and agri-businesses in rural areas. It celebrates journalism that helps raise awareness about the issues and benefits of rural connectivity.

- **Rural Women New Zealand Journalism Award 2017 winner** - Sally Rae from Otago Daily Times.
- **Rural Connectivity Award 2017 winner** - Alexa Cook from Radio NZ (also won the Supreme award - the Ministry for Primary Industries Rongo Award).

Organisational excellence

New staff

Two staff joined RWNZ National Office in January this year, including Manager of Government, Public Sector, and Academic Relationship; Angela McLeod, and Communications, Marketing and Events Assistant; Catherine Stabb.

We were fortunate to have two interns join us from the United States, Mehreen Usman and Katie Fell who assisted in building the policy register which will be used in future to aid the direction of Rural Women New Zealand submissions and media statements.

The National Office has had an incredibly busy year, with an increase and strengthening of relationships with industry leaders, decision makers and other associate organisations. We look forward to continuing to foster these relationships in working for New Zealand's rural communities.

Growing rural leaders

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

RWNZ was involved in the NGO alternative report to CEDAW, and in doing so was invited to be involved with oral presentation to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva.

The United Nation's 62nd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62)

In March 2017 Rural Women New Zealand was involved in an international event examining the issues and challenges faced by rural women and girls. The Commission on the Status of Women is an event hosted by the United Nations every year in New York with the 2018 priority theme being 'Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender quality and the empowerment of rural women and girls'.

RWNZ National President, Fiona Gower attended the event

represented RWNZ as part of the Pacific Women's Watch, and National Chair Penny Mudford ONZM travelled as the Civil Society Representative on the New Zealand Government Delegation. The event brought with it opportunities to share stories, learn from others, and collaborate with prospective leaders and representatives from across the world to provide solutions that will ultimately improve the wellbeing of our rural communities.

The event also shone a light on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and the agreed outcomes of CSW62.

These events add to the professional and personal development of our rural leaders.

Charitable giving status

RWNZ Bursaries and Grants are available each year to assist with education, learning and personal development; for community projects and activities and for the purchase of resources; all which benefits the rural community.

RWNZ Board Members, Members and staff continue to promote the sale of Aftersocks™ at events across the country and online.

Celebrated culture

Golden Shears 2018

Golden Shears is an annual, international event which symbolises both quality and excellence in the art of shearing and wool handling. The event was held from Thursday, 1 March – Saturday, 3 March in Masterton. RWNZ is a proud sponsor of the event and was excited to present the Women's Shearing Quality Award to Sarah Higgins from Martinborough, and Ngaira Puha from Kimbolton the Junior Woolhandling Award.

National Fieldays 2018

National Fieldays always provides opportunities to connect with the wider New Zealand rural community, build on relationships and showcase the fantastic work of Rural Women New Zealand – and this year was no exception.

RWNZ was a part of the Health and Wellbeing Hub at the National Fieldays this year, alongside and working with Plunket, NZI and Age Concern. The event also marked the launch of the Rural Proofing Guide for policy development and service planning delivery by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor and Associate Minister Hon Meka Whaitiri.

I would like to thank the Board for their ongoing support and leadership and acknowledge the National Office staff for their commitment to the organisation through 2018. We look forward to being of service and support to the members and regional executive teams in 2019.

Penelope England

Chief Executive Officer

It has been a very busy past year here in the Lower South Island Region, Southland and Otago.

I am proud of our members for the way they have planned and hosted events throughout the year that cover all three areas under our Statement of Service Performance – Charitable give back, Collaboration and Community relationships and Advocacy work.

Firstly; the awesome bake up by members from all over the Region for the Flood victims of last July's weather bomb. Farmers, their families and workers on the Taieri and the Strath Taieri areas all received some lovely home-made baking in their mail boxes. I can assure you all that our efforts as RWNZ members were most appreciated, given the phone calls, emails and text messages I received as the Co-ordinator for the Otago Rural Support Trust. Southland's Mid East Provincial followed up with a donation to the Otago Rural Support Trust to use for an event for the women post flood. In late November, 'That Blind Woman', Julie Woods of Dunedin gave an enlightening presentation on managing to remain strong through adversity for the Taieri women. It was a great night.

In November, Southland Provincial and their wider committee hosted our National Conference at Invercargill. What an amazing two days with great speakers, workshops and social interaction. The Region did very well in ERWA with Emma Hammond and Kylie Davidson, Accountants from Riversdale, taking out the NZI Innovative Award. The Supreme Award went to Debra Cruickshank, wine maker at Tannacrieff Wines in Cromwell. Leona Trimble of Hampden Branch won the Tutaenui Bell in the speech contest. Kerry France from Moa Flat Branch won the Marlborough Short Story Competition.

Our Regional Conference was held in Gore in early June and hosted by Mid East Provincial; this included an overnight stay which gave members time to socialise and get to know our National President, Fiona, and Finance Chair, Rachael. We were again treated to an amazing variety of speakers on many different subjects. Our regular Rowley Brooch speech contest was a highlight as always with the title 'Are we there yet?' Gloria McHutchon of Moa Flat Branch was the winner.

Branches and Individual Members have been very busy this past year making 'our'

now famous breast cushions for the Cancer Society, and we have now extended our product range to include beanies, scarves and bead bags.

The Pat Evans Funding has been used to help and support young mothers and their families, a young family after their home was destroyed by fire, travel assistance for young rural women to attend an International Conference in Italy and materials for breast cushions.

Sadly through the year we have lost many members and in particular I wish to acknowledge Val Whyte, Woodlands Branch; Lorna Anderson, Drummond Branch; Lola Glassford, Cromwell, who was member for over 55 years and their Treasurer for 35 years and Joyce Roy of Macraes/Dunback, all were true rural women in their communities. We thank them for their 'service simply given'. They will be remembered fondly as we move forward.

SOUTHLAND: Southland Forestry Investments continue to be very profitable and rewarding for members with communities and groups having benefitted from donations.

Some activities during the year have been – WRWD event at Awarua Museum, Forestry Field Trip, Garden Party, visit to The Pantry venture in South Invercargill, Chalk painting, Adult Learning Week, Festival of Talent, REAP Computer Sessions, ACWW Walk the World, Meals on Wheels, Dressmaking Classes and Look and Learn Days.

Donations have been made to numerous organisations; Riverton Coast Guard, St John First Aid Classes at a local College, Health Shuttle, Ronald McDonald House, Women's Refuge, a Local Maternity Unit, Life Education Trust and supporting local families.

OTAGO: Some events and activities during the year are – Pink Ribbon Events, Village Fete, steps installed at a local cemetery, Christmas functions for local children, local community newsletters, welcome packs for new residents to the community, picnic furniture at a local park, Steady as You Go classes, Quiz Nights, Anzac Day Commemorations, Edwardian Parlour Games and a Bee Keeping session.

Donations have been made to numerous organisations: - Routeburn Dart Wildlife Trust, NZ Breast Cancer Foundation, College Diligence Awards, Health Foundation,

Palliative Care Unit and Life Education Trust.

I have continued to represent RWNZ on the CDEM Otago Rural Advisory Group this past year as we establish plans within each of the five local government authorities. All five now seem to have templates in place to activate in an emergency, be it earthquake, drought, flooding or snow etc. I have been able to keep RWNZ's name out there as a resource to assist where required.

CONCLUSION

Our membership has remained steady at around 513, with 203 members in Southland and 310 in Otago, this includes 43 Individual members. Wendonside and Fairfax Branches closed during the year, these two Branches had an older mature membership. Also, the Central Otago Provincial closed and the Branches and Groups continue to meet twice yearly for a networking day of learning and socialising.

The Area Committee has operated very well this year with a good geographic spread of members, Jill Graham, Gill Naylor, Leona Trimble, Judy Kingan, Raewyn van Vugt and Gloria McHutchon from Otago area. Heather Smith, Patsy Gordon, Ann Irving, Sally Hammond and Yvonne Tweedie from Southland area. My sincere thanks to you all for your support and assistance during the year.

I was elected your NLC for a further two-year term at the Regional Conference in June and look forward to continually working with you all, our members.

The Area Committee members have been keeping a close watch on rural communities with the outbreak of M. Bovis in many parts of our Region.

It is with sadness that we acknowledge Margaret Pittaway's decision to stand down from the RWNZ Board. We record our sincere thanks to Margaret, as she has served our region extremely well as National Councillor prior to being elected to the inaugural Board. Margaret was a part of the National Council during the recent restructure and the sale of Access Homehealth. Her work with the Health Portfolio and input into health issues within rural communities during her tenure has been outstanding and appreciated by all members at the grass roots.

Pat Macaulay

Leadership Councillor and Area Committee Chair



Another busy year for RWNZ members throughout the region. The caring and support shown for those affected by disaster or misfortune is truly an example of what the organisation is all about. We are the glue that holds so many rural communities together.

Sympathy

Miss Jean Smith, BEM, DLM, former Dominion President WDFP (1972-75). Jean will be remembered by the wider membership as 'The RWNZ Stamp Lady', a role she held for 17 years and raised over \$40,000.00 for ACWW. Also Florence Dunbar, Hurunui PLM.

The Area Committee welcomed Beverley Forrester, Marg Verrall and Mary Watson on to the Area Committee this year. Five committee meetings have been held. Topics discussed at these meetings have been wide-ranging, but always focused on how we can support the strategic goals of RWNZ and our rural communities. Five Canterbury newsletters have been sent out to members keeping them informed of regional activities as well as national news. The only Regional event was the Regional Conference, however the Provincials and branches have been very active.

Activities around the Region Collaboration and Community Relationships

- A 'Meet the Candidates' Meeting – organised by Darfield Branch. 120 attended.
- Farm Skills Day – Hurunui – 50 attended.
- Winchmore Women's Dinner – 55 attended.
- Amuri Dinner Group in collaboration with Dairy Women's Network held a dinner with health speakers; a Pink ribbon event and a calf rearing event.
- Post-Harvest Men's Dinner – organised by Winchmore Branch.
- Mid Canterbury School Holiday Cook and Eat programme was held for the third year. 28 children participated with 14 RWNZ tutors.

- Amuri Newcomers Dinner – a well-supported annual event.
- Amuri Dinner Group donated high visibility vests to the Rotherham School and Waiiau Pre-School.
- A Filipino Women's Health Event in Hurunui.
- Darfield Branch instigated a Public Meeting on "The Changing Face of the Plains". Over 60 people attended to discuss alternatives to dairying on the Canterbury Plains.
- Mid Canterbury Provincial RWNZ working with other women's' groups in Mid Canterbury to jointly organise an event to celebrate Suffrage 125.
- A "Boobs, Bellies, Buttocks, and Batwings" event organised by Glenmark Rural Women New Zealand Group.
- Mid Canterbury responded to a request from Christchurch Women's Hospital for Hats, Booties, Singlets supplies for new born babies.
- Mycoplasma bovis: RWNZ members have been providing much needed support for those affected by MB through the provision of meals and baking. A handwritten note accompanies each delivery.
- South Canterbury Provincial have organised Coffee mornings in collaboration with Farming Mums NZ.

Charitable Giveback

Glenmark RW Group provides morning tea to the staff on the Mobile Surgical Bus every six weeks.

Mid Canterbury Provincial donated "How to Keep Kids Safe with Dogs" books to local Primary Schools, Doctor, Dentist and Hospital receptions in Mid Canterbury.

Meals on Wheels delivery; Christmas baking for Cancer Society; Relay for Life participation; Christmas treats, toiletries and non-perishable food to Women's Refuge; donations to Food Banks; Hospice; Ronald McDonald House; Life Education Trust and Mauia Health provided by RWNZ members.

Authoritative Rural Voice

RWNZ members are an integral part of the three Canterbury Rural Support Trusts. They have provided invaluable support throughout the last year as the area has dealt with *Mycoplasma bovis*.

Kate Boyd, Hurunui, is the RWNZ representative on the Rural Advisory Group for adverse events in Canterbury

RWNZ is represented at the Together Hurunui Network; working closely with Hurunui District Council to keep the Council informed on the health and well-being of residents.

Life Education Trust support is ongoing. Marion Dent continues as the RWNZ Trustee on the LET Board for Mid and South Canterbury.

National Council of Women – Canterbury RWNZ members provide an important rural perspective to this group.

The Canterbury Facebook page continues to have an increasing number of followers and hits. This is the medium to connect with younger rural women and interest them in some of the issues pertinent to rural families and their communities. It is how they connect and engage so we need to embrace this means of communication if we want young women to be interested and participate in our organisation.

A huge thank you to Sandra Curd, Area Secretary/Treasurer. Sandra's attention to detail is unsurpassed.

Finally, we thank all Canterbury members for their continued commitment to RWNZ. We continue to play an essential role in the varied fabric of rural life. This past year has shown we need strong resilient rural communities, communities that are connected and where residents care and look out for each other. This is where RWNZ plays such a vital role.

Margaret Chapman
Area Committee Chair

It was another tough year for many of our Region 3 Members, however we all know Rural Women New Zealand bounce back and get on with rebuilding their communities. This is well demonstrated when reading branch and provincial minutes and reports. Members deserve hearty thanks for offering cooking, financial help or in many other ways, when they themselves needed help.

Congratulations to past Member Joy Cowley, who was made a Member of the Order of New Zealand, Penny Mudford, who was named an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, Bobbie Poll for her National Service Award.

My congratulations go to other Members who have received awards or won competitions throughout the year. Let us remember those who have passed away, my deepest sympathy to members and families who have lost loved ones. Also members who have been sick or had operations, I wish you a speedy recovery.

A successful conference was hosted by Nelson Provincial at Brightwater in 2017. National Board Chair, Penny Mudford gave an interesting speech on her life and on how she saw the Board working.

Two presentations were made, Bobbie Poll was awarded a Nelson Provincial

Life Member and Joy Warren a Service Simply Given certificate.

A speaker from Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter spoke about their work and told us that funding came mostly from donations. The conference presented cheques to the value of \$3,542.50 to them.

Blenheim hosted our regional conference in April, National President Fiona Gower, National Finance Chair Rachael Deans and Sue Higgins Board Member addressed members with thought-provoking information. The Master Chef Cook Off was very successful, representatives from Federated Farmers, The New Zealand Federation of Women's Institutes, Top of the South Rural Support Trust, Marlborough District Council and Past Provincial Presidents all took part.

Presentations of Service Simply Given certificates were awarded to Helen Godsiff, Mary Neal, and Carol Wells.

The Area Committee work well, with four meetings plus an overnighter at Tahuna Motor camp, open to any Members. These are beneficial as it brings new ideas and discussion on many varied topics.

Donations from the Pat Evans fund were

granted for Hall hire, arranging our region conferences, to a family whose son spent six weeks in Starship hospital, (the mother could not work while she was staying with him), members to attend National Conference, plus seeding money for the Wool weeks.

Heather Sorenson and I went to Wellington in February to meet with other Area Committee Chairs and Leadership Councillors, plus took part in teleconference calls.

Thank you everyone for all your help, support and encouragement while I have been your Leadership Councillor and your Area Committee Chair. I have enjoyed serving you all.

Congratulations to Heather Sorenson our new Leadership Councillor and to the Area Committee.

Nelson and Marlborough Provincials are now working hard towards the 101 Ways with Wool week in March 2019. With good support already from the public it will lift RWNZ's profile in Marlborough as well as promote wool.

Melva Robb
Leadership Councillor
and Area Committee Chair

"RWNZ became one of our team at Golden Shears 2018 by sponsoring two of our events. Following an initiation to Golden Shears Executive, RWNZ were a very positive team to discuss their involvement and outline specific outcomes they wanted to achieve.

With a majority of women who work with wool in the industry, it became the focus in recognising those women as competitors striving to excel at competition level. In keeping in contact with RWNZ I certainly enjoy being hosted at HQ."

Golden Shears - Executive Committee Member, Philip Morrison



Leadership Councillor and Area Committee Chair Melva Robb and Member Glenda Robb celebrating all things wool

Leadership Councillor Actions

Liz Hancock contributed in a "Worksafe" 13 December 2017 workshop held in Wellington to discuss different ways of approaching the part vehicles play in workplace fatalities in agriculture. There emerged an aspirational timeline of changes to reduce farm vehicle harm around culture change, technology, vehicle standards, education and leadership.

Liz and Janice Mills represented RWNZ at the Agrifood Week Opening at Te Manawa, 13 March 2018 in Palmerston North to network and share the innovations and philosophies for the future of New Zealand food production both with encouraging employment and technological development in the sector.

RWNZ sponsored Golden Shears awards this year and Wairarapa members, Janice Mills and Liz Hancock supported this event and the RWNZ promotion in Masterton 2-3 March 2018.

Also in March 2018, Liz Hancock met with Tuturumuri district residents and engaged National Office support with submissions on the threatened closure of the remote Tuturumuri School. This is still an ongoing issue, however progress is being made and hopefully this will assist with the development of better policies around remote rural school operations in the Ministry of Education.

"Connecting Rural New Zealand", the TUANZ 2018 Rural Connectivity Symposium" was held 26 June 2018 in Wellington attended by Liz and RWNZ Board members. The three key messages that came through from the day were:

Everyone has a right to connectivity, regardless of geography or social status, how do we make it so?

Technology, such as Internet of Things, is here to stay and innovation is happening all the time, how can it be used to improve your rural lifestyle?

Collaboration is key. Engage with Government and provide ideas and solutions for what rural New Zealand needs. To get connected they need to hear

from you.

Area Committee and Regional Member activities this year included:

A Regional Luncheon in Masterton at which our local ERWA section winner spoke on her fermenting business was attended by a good number of members from throughout the region.

A cheesemaking day organised by Tutaenui branch.

A stand promoting Rural Women New Zealand for the three days of the Central District Field days in March was staffed by Members from different parts of the region, special thanks to Muhunua East and Fordell-Mangamahu branches.

A "Summer Celebration" weekend in March 2018 at "White Rock Station" on the eastern Wairarapa coast. A weekend of fun, team and confidence building exercises thanks to Janice Mills and Jean Coleman, the taskmasters.

Regional Conference held in Levin in May 2018. Members explored the district looking at local business and social ventures on the Saturday and in the business session on Sunday there were presentations from National Chair, Penny Mudford and discussions on various matters moving the organisation forward in the region.

Branch activities

At the request of Korokipo Branch RWNZ submitted on the Ngaruroro and Clive Water Conservation Order. The Branch felt that it was something that could become a nationwide issue and have major impacts on businesses and communities. Anne Finnie took the RWNZ press release to Hawkes Bay Today and it was subsequently published.

There have been many charitable events and donations by members in the regions. Some varied examples are:

Martinborough Branch donated \$1000 from fundraising to local aged care home "Wharekaka" for an all-terrain wheelchair.

Scotts Ferry Branch planted up the Scotts Ferry barge as part of its restoration, donated to the local Women's Refuge, donated books for the Rangitikei Youth Awards, organised a Rangitikei "Meet the Candidates" public meeting, donated for catering the ANZAC day morning tea, several funerals and golf club events.

Tutaenui Rural Women held their Monster Plant Sale and Auction in the Tutaenui Hall in November. Plants are sourced from amazing old Rangitikei gardens with funds going towards their Agricultural Bursary which is open to anyone in the Rangitikei/Oroua province, wanting to pursue any Tertiary study pertaining to Agriculture.

Korokipo branch collected wine stalvins and ring tabs to support Hawkes Bay Special Olympics; donation of jams, milo and vegemite for the Red Cross Breakfast Club at Te Awa School; collection of fabric shopping bags for the Red Cross who cover these with remnant fabrics from curtain bank and on-sell them for \$5 as an environmentally friendly option to the one-use plastic bag; supplied over 100 bras to the Waikato Uplift Project for recycling to women in need in the Pacific; supplied 34 pairs of glasses/spectacles to both Papakura Lions and to Visique Optometrists for recycling to the Pacific; 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 they would consider making this an ongoing project.

There are many diverse ways Members supported and contributed to their communities. Members have gained strength of community and individual from getting together and sharing skills and knowledge over the year.

Liz Hancock, Leadership Councillor
Janice Mills, Area Committee Chair

Another year has come to an end for me as Leadership Councillor for Region 5. The year has certainly presented its challenges as I continue to represent Rural Women New Zealand.

This past year Region 5 has been working on three projects and in doing so has also been fulfilling the strategic plan that we set up earlier this year.

Project One is supporting migrant women. My thanks to Jo Gravit and Mary McTavish for the work that they have done in collaboration with Dale Snell from Plunket and Rupal from Shakti. After some discussion a Migrant Woman's lunch was held in Te Puke. This was very successful and many connections were made. It was good to meet with women from many other cultures. More is to happen in the future. Region 5 is an area with a large number of migrant women.

Project Two is related to Suffrage125. It was felt, as this is a special year for recognising the attaining of the vote

for women in New Zealand, that our organisation should get involved in doing something. Again Jo Gravit was the person to get talking. We both got together with the curator from the Western Bay of Plenty Museum and a local historian and, after discussion felt that our organisation could help fund a researcher to research women land owners in the Bay of Plenty. I am pleased to say that this project is making good progress. It is expected that a document will be published in the near future. We expect, as a region, to be able to obtain a copy of the research.

Project Three is related to the flooding which occurred in the Eastern Bay of Plenty last year. My concern was that there must still be many families who need help and support. I have had conversations with women who have good knowledge about the area. I learnt that there are many families who live in remote areas that need help. During the last month a group of women have got together and are formulating a plan of

what to do from here on in. I am looking forward to what is going to happen in the future.

Scholarships

I am pleased to say that a student in Tauranga area was very excited to receive an Education Fund grant this year.

While Region 5 is small in number, the Members are working hard to keep Rural Women New Zealand out in the community and my thanks go to all the members for the hard work that they have done this year. We have lost some members during this past year and to the families we offer our sympathy.

Thanks also for the support that we have received from the National Office staff. Sometimes we want things yesterday and you have done well to help out.

Margaret Scrimgeour

Leadership Councillor

REGION 6 TARANAKI

Taranaki Area Committee, continues to hold open bi-monthly meetings, on the last Friday of the month at Inglewood, in the Farm Source meeting room. The AGM takes place at the July meeting. The venue provides tea and coffee, and there is no cost. The meetings are supported by members from the three geographical areas that make up the three Provincials that exist in Taranaki. Numbers attending have ranged from only 10 at the March meeting, to 18 attending in September, with 16 being the norm.

International Portfolio has had a lot of emphasis following on from last years ACWW South Pacific Conference. Fundraising to support an ACWW project has been ongoing through the year, beginning with an International Day in July where special efforts raised \$760.72. We have since catered a Conference luncheon, creating more funds, and

will close the fundraising effort after the September 2018 International Day event.

RWNZ members collaborated with Stratford Positive Aging and the District Council, to celebrate International Day of the Older Person, with "Hip Hop" presentation by Billie Jordon. This was a successful community effort with over 200 people attending.

Five Taranaki members attended the Invercargill 2017 RWNZ Conference, with one, Trish Jones entering the speech competition.

At all meetings we have an agenda to discuss RWNZ business, and we also raise each of the Portfolio areas to allow emerging issues to be discussed. Leadership conference call minutes are circulated to the Executive and a report is given at the meetings. The minutes record an overview for all members.

Outcomes can involve research and reporting at the next meeting, or letters to the National Leaders. Branch happenings are reported and shared via the minutes. Guest speakers may attend, and the Taranaki District Health Board, Portfolio Manager for Older People came seeking insight into shortfalls in transport, and difficulties that may exist in getting to appointments.

Women Walk the World is always supported, and this year we included lunch and a speaker. This format was very popular so a Health Information Day including the Stroke Foundation and St Johns was planned for July 4th.

Shirley Read

Leadership Councillor
and Area Committee Chair

A very successful year for Region 6 Greater Waikato Area Committee.

Having completed the second year, the Committee is now more understanding of its role. The knowledge and confidence gained by Committee Members is evident with three very successful events "run" through the year. Assisting in this success was the cooperation of two Individual Members on to the Committee – Susan Black and at a later date - Parminder Singh. Area Committee Meetings are held regularly with topics of discussion being taken seriously so as to improve, enhance and assist all members of the Greater Waikato. The Leadership Councillor (LC) and Area Committee Chair (AC Chair) can take this a step further with communication with other Regions. The meeting in February at National Office (NO) with all Regions LC's and AC Chairs was more than beneficial. Being able to attend meetings within your own Region with the gained knowledge and confidence to pass on relevant information, is extremely important. This in turn gives all members confidence in the Area Committee and Rural Women New Zealand.

The Mid-Winter Luncheon held at the Cambridge Cosmopolitan Club in Cambridge on 1 July 2017 was a very well organised day and all whom attended enjoyed the day. Great fellowship, great food.

The Pamper Day held at the Te Awamutu Bible Chapel on 14 October 2017 was a huge success. This event is to be held again in 2018 at the same venue on

Saturday 13 October. Many different ways of pampering for many different members and women from the Community. There will be new activities at the next Pamper Day. Once again great fellowship and great food.

The Region 6 Greater Waikato Regional Event was held at The Bible Chapel in Matamata on April 28 2018. Another huge success with amazing guest speakers. So much so, that members have given donations to very good causes. To have in attendance and speak – National President, Fiona Gower, Finance Chair, Rachael Dean and Board Member, Janet Williams, was very beneficial to members present, with clarification on many aspects of Rural Women New Zealand. And, I have to repeat, great fellowship and great food. Well done everyone.

There are three Provincials in the Greater Waikato – Waipa King Country, Piako East Waikato and Waikato. All three are functioning very efficiently. As AC and the LC I have attended as many Provincial Meetings as possible. This has been a pleasure and I have thoroughly enjoyed the fact that each Provincial has its own way of functioning. Not only that, listening to Branch Reports and realising that Rural Women New Zealand members achieve at a very high level whether it is financial assistance or volunteering time within their community. Volunteering time and resources in the respective communities gives all the "Sense" of the "value" of the Rural Women Organisation. Well done ladies, you deserve a large pat on the

back.

I have also attended Branch functions and wish to thank the Branches for the invitations to attend. The activities of Branches vary and I am always amazed at this variety and the extent our members go to to achieve their goals.

"Charitable" Yes our members know and understand the meaning of being charitable and carry out their "voluntary" work with due diligence.

Once again well done to our Members. You are inspiring. Keep up the good work.

Region 6 has had the election of Officers for the Area Committee and the Committee is moving into the new Financial Year with great enthusiasm.

Malvina Dick is now the Area Committee Chair and has all the criteria needed to take on this role. All the best Malvina and as your Leadership Councillor (LC) I look forward to working with you and your committee.

I have moved into the position of Leadership Councillor and also not only look forward to working with the Area Committee but with National Office, other Regions/Provincials/Branches and Individual Members.

Many thanks to everyone for ensuring that the past year was a very successful year and all the best for the new year.

Judy Board

Leadership Councillor
and Area Committee Chair

I was asked last year if I would be willing to help be part of the Collaboration Dinners that were planned for our area of Dargaville. With the help of my local Aoroa Branch of Rural Women New Zealand, we helped by baking and going along to the dinner to help keep the children entertained.

The premise for the dinner was for the local farming community to come along and have a meal together with their neighbours; it was a great evening enjoyed by all. Due to the success of the first one, in the months that followed, the Collaboration Dinners were held all over Northland for the wider farming community to socialise and support one another.

As Area Committee Chair, I did attend a few of these dinners making good connections with the communities and other farming groups. These included Dairy NZ, Beef and Lamb NZ, Federated Farmers Northland, Fonterra, FMG Insurance, Northland Rural Support

Trust, Primary ITO, Dairy Women's Network, NZ Police and Worksafe. I do believe the communities enjoyed and benefited from them.

We are lucky to have Libby Jones, a Rural Women New Zealand Individual Member, as part of the Northland Rural Support Trust (NRST) Team. NRST continues to work closely with the local farming community, assisting any rural person and their families to restore their livelihood in the wake of adverse events. The Trust works alongside the dairy, beef and lamb industry to ensure that farmers get access to relevant and timely information from mental health and wellbeing programmes as well as assistance with animal welfare support through times of financial stress.

With the advent of Mycoplasma bovis arriving in Northland, Dairy NZ, Beef and Lamb NZ, Fonterra and Federated Farmers have an active role to play. Various meetings were held all over Northland giving farmers the advice and

support needed, also the steps to take regarding what, why and how the whole community can help to eradicate this disease from New Zealand. Hygiene and cleaning are of utmost importance; for example, disinfecting calf pens, calf feeders and farm clothes.

Fonterra also held workshops all over Northland, informing the dairy farmers in the area of the milk testing that would take place.

This disease has opened an ugly door for the farming world. It has changed so much in the farming industry in a very short period of time. The next generation of farming children have been told their Calf Club events for school have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

Pauline Hilliam-Olsen
Leadership Councillor
and Area Committee Chair

"Winning the Emerging Enterprising Rural Women Award in 2017 has been an extremely valuable experience for both myself as a business person and my business Happy Belly Ferments. The knowledgeable and supportive Head Office Team and Local Members of Rural Women New Zealand have provided me with opportunities for business growth and growth as an individual as well as invaluable support. Happy Belly Ferments is in planned expansion mode and with the assistance of a recently hired business mentor is working toward gaining further transformational customers during the next year."

Happy Belly Ferments - Jo Kempton

"Even entering competitions like the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business awards has been hugely beneficial. It made us focus, and get clarity on our business goals. It gave us the opportunity to get external, objective feedback on our plan to achieve them. Just as importantly, feeling the warmth and support from other women in business has been validating and empowering for us."

Dove River Peonies - Dot Kettle

"RWNZ and Rural Support Trust have a close relationship and collaborate often to support our rural people and communities. We have similar attitudes and aspirations so working together comes naturally. Both organisations have a high level of understanding and empathy with our rural people. Those involved have a can-do attitude, are like-minded and understand the challenges that are experienced by farmers and those connected to the farming lifestyle."

Rural Support Trust - Wanda Leadbeater

NZ Landcare Trust is an independent charitable organisation first established in 1996. It is the only national, non-government organisation working with the land-user community to encourage and support sustainable land and water management. The organisation has flourished thanks to its practical, community-based approach. Head Office is based in Hamilton. Although the Landcare message extends from Northland to Southland, thanks to a dedicated team of experienced Regional and Project Coordinators. A key feature of NZ Landcare Trust is the way it unifies diverse interest groups, such as production, environment and recreation. This is achieved by including representatives from these groups on our Board of Trustees: Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Federated Mountain Clubs, Federation of Maori Authorities, Fish and Game New Zealand, Ecologic Foundation, Royal Forest and Bird Society and Rural Women New Zealand

Over the last year, there have been a few changes of Trustees. Kevin Hague, CEO of Forest and Bird; Martin Taylor, CEO of Fish & Game and; Katie Milne President of Federated Farmers NZ have joined us to represent their respective organisations. This means that there is now good representation to report back to the Trustee Organisations.

NZ Landcare Trust CEO, Nick Edgar travelled to Japan to represent NZLC at the International Landcare Meeting where he presented a paper about the Aorere River Project.

A successful National Citizen Science Symposium was held in Wellington in April with workshops & training opportunities as well as a number of speakers engaged in citizen science initiatives in New Zealand and overseas, with over 100 attendees.

Funding for the Trust always remains a hot topic, and this year has been no different, ensuring that the Trust can keep operating; working with farmers and community groups to improve the land and water quality in their areas and catchments. Ministry for the Environment base funding is vital to ensure ongoing viability of the Trust, along with contestable funds for projects, and partnerships with DOC, Regional and District Councils and the likes of Fonterra, Beef + Lamb and of course the Trustee organisations.

This is necessary to ensure there is sufficient staffing to begin new projects and support ongoing projects throughout the country, as well as support the other work the Trust does.

A new Communications staff member has been employed and has begun work promoting the Trust including to Trust Organisations.

Most meetings this year have been held in Wellington - two at the RWNZ offices - thank you to the team for their hospitality. The March meeting was held in Christchurch over two days, to meet the staff and do a field trip. I could not attend, so Janet Williams attended on my behalf.

More information can be found on the NZ Landcare Trust website at <http://www.landcare.org.nz/>

Fiona Gower
NZ Landcare Trust, Trustee



RURAL HEALTH ALLIANCE AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND



Rural Women New Zealand has been a member of Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand (RHAANZ) since it was formed in 2012.

RHAANZ provides a strong effective national voice for rural New Zealand health concerns. Membership is diverse and has representatives from organisations with strong interest in rural well-being.

Government funding in other countries has supported Rural Health Alliance Groups, but this has not happened in New Zealand.

RHAANZ has struggled to remain financially intact and this year, a delegation sought Government funding to continue to

allow the group to function as a strong rural health voice. The request was declined and RHAANZ has been forced to hibernate. It has continued though, to comment on various health matters in the media and has not entirely disappeared. Attempts are being made to draw the plight of RHAANZ to the Government's attention although its future has not yet been finalised.

Rural Women New Zealand has supported RHAANZ and will continue to do so in the belief that the work RHAANZ does is vital for the health of rural communities.

Margaret Pittaway
RWNZ Representative for RHAANZ

The Rural Communities Trust was established in 1982 to provide financial assistance to groups, families and individuals in rural areas, who due to their location may otherwise be disadvantaged. It is based on the concept of “helping people to help themselves”.

Since its inception more than \$700,000 has been approved to individuals, groups, families and communities providing assistance for health, welfare, education, craft, sporting and community needs

As at 30 June 2018, the Council Trustees included a representative of the Federated Farmers Board, a representative from Federated Farmers, a representative from Rural Women New Zealand, and two positions for Principal Members. There are two Federated Farmers staff who administer the Trust. The Rural Women New Zealand representative position is held by the National President.

There is much discussion that has gone on this year regarding the structure of the Trust, who the members are, how to become a member and levels of membership.

The Trustee organisations are encouraged to promote the Trust through their connections to raise its profile and look for potential financial members.

Like all contestable funds, there are more applications for the funds than there is money available for so many worthy applicants. This is not an easy task to do, although the Council Trustees make the decisions with empathy and understanding.

Community Groups tend to have preference over individual grant applications and students, unless there is a special case.

The question of what is “rural” was again raised at the funding rounds.

There have been three funding rounds in this annual year; July, November and March.

July: 11 applications, 7 granted, a total of \$4610

Nov: 32 applications, 10 granted, a total of \$8000

March: 20 applications. 8 granted, a total of \$6000

Each funding round is dependent on the return of the invested funds.

It was decided to only have two funding rounds per year, (September and March) until further notice, to cut operational costs and to let the funds build up.

Fiona Gower

RWNZ Representative for Rural Communities Trust

NATIONAL ADVERSE EVENTS COMMITTEE

The National Adverse Events Committee (NAEC) meets quarterly and as required to discuss national disasters and bio-security. The Committee is chaired by the Ministry for Primary Industries and representatives from diverse organisations representing rural interests. Discussions are wide-ranging and aimed at achieving the best possible outcome for those affected.

Work has been done during the year on establishing new policies to ensure that NAEC is providing the best possible responses to adverse events. A Needs Assessment Tool, a comprehensive document which aims to cover all aspects of assistance, recovery and needs in the event of a natural disaster has also been created.

The major on-going concern is the management of *Mycoplasma bovis* and the sub-committee has convened regularly to discuss progress and management. Other bio-security events being managed currently are:

- Velvet Leaf – now under a long term management plan.
- *Bonamia Ostrae* – oyster beds had been cleaned by the end of December and the work is now with mussel farms.
- Myrtle Rust had reached Wellington at the time it was last reported on.

Rural Support Trust reported that they were receiving more calls on mental wellness, and seeing an increase in the despondency in farmers – a result of media activity mainly on the subject of ‘dirty dairying.’

Rural Women New Zealand’s presence on this committee provides access to information and allows awareness of the practical help that we are able to offer. Our Adverse Events funding has been greatly appreciated by the agencies working with victims of natural disaster.

Margaret Pittaway

RWNZ representative for NAEC

RWNZ has continued our strong focus on safe use of firearms pushing to ensure reasonable access to firearms safety training and theory testing. As with so many other services to rural, reasonable access means reasonable in terms of time and distance of travel, being affordable, and training and testing courses are run with reasonable frequency.

From 1 July 2018, a new firearms safety programme is in place, which involves passing a theory test and undergoing practical training. This programme is currently being run by Mountain Safety Council on a two year trial. In addition, the Whakatūpato programme was intended to provide firearms safety training in remote and isolated communities. However, the locations as advised plus the very limited number of Whakatūpato programmes allowed for in the police budget (no programmes were allowed for the South Island), has resulted in RWNZ, Federated Farmers and the Game Animal Council all expressing concerns on availability of courses. Police are aware of these concerns and will be meeting with RWNZ's firearms' spokesperson later in the year to discuss these.

National Finance Chair, Rachael Dean is RWNZ's firearms spokesperson and represents RWNZ on the Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF). FCAF was established by New Zealand Police to act in a consultative and advisory capacity to Police and to provide a formal mechanism for representatives from the firearms community to input to Police on policy relating to the Arms Act 1983 or the Arms Regulations 1992; and to review and make recommendations for consideration by Police on firearms related matters.

The involvement of the RWNZ firearms spokesperson as one of the only three non-Police members on the sun-

committee updating the Safe Storage: Police Policy and Practice guidelines, enabled the rural perspective to be kept at the forefront of the discussions. At an FCAF meeting attended by Minister of Police, Hon Stuart Nash, the RWNZ firearms spokesperson was able to make a strong statement about rural proofing on a range of matters. She also had a separate meeting with one of her local MPs, Tim van de Molen on firearms safety training concerns.

As the RWNZ firearms spokesperson, Rachael Dean was also involved in the development of the Ministry of Education's guidelines on Firearms in schools and associated tools and resources. In recognition of RWNZ's contribution a third Ministry of Education Firearms in Schools resource, a two-page summary carries the RWNZ logo along with the logo of the New Zealand Area Schools Association and New Zealand School Trustees Association.

Firearms safety messages have been promoted both through RWNZ press releases and through connecting to Police safety messages. RWNZ is also a member of the Firearms Safety Council of Aotearoa and the AGM was attended by the RWNZ firearms spokesperson.

In February 2018, a seminar entitled Firearms and Public Health was hosted by the Wellington Campus of Otago University. The RWNZ firearms spokesperson, Rachael Dean attended the seminar and was able to ensure rural relevant issues were not overlooked.

Rachael Dean
Firearms Safety Spokesperson

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At the beginning of the year the Adverse Events Committee was established to provide \$1,000 grants to applicants from rural residents affected by the November 2016 earthquake. The catalyst for this decision was the very generous \$50,000 donation from the New South Wales Country Women's Association, and the money donated by our own members.

Board Member, Margaret Pittaway was appointed as Chair, President Fiona Gower and Finance Chair Rachael Dean were appointed as ex-officio members and Melva Robb, Region Three and Sarron Davie-Martin, Region Two were appointed as Committee Members.

Information and application forms were distributed to the Ministry for Primary Industries, Rural Support Trusts, District Councils and key community workers. Applicants for the fund are required to demonstrate that they have genuinely been affected by the adverse event and nominate a referee of local standing to support their claim.

Funding is from the Community Fund, donations from members, and importantly, from the sales of Aftersocks™.

Following the earthquake, the Bay of Plenty area suffered severe flooding, and we quickly came to realise that we had a second major adverse event to deal with.

Over the last few months we have dealt with fifty two applications. Twenty-seven of these have been earthquake related which includes five community related grants. Twenty four grants have been made to flood victims in the Bay of Plenty area. One application has been declined.

The work of this Committee has allowed us to work closely with Rural Support Trust members, and in some cases we have been able to offer alternative funding where the application has not met Adverse Funding criteria, by seeking regional Pat Evans funding to meet short term needs. We have welcomed this opportunity to work more closely with Rural Support Trusts, made easier with the setting up of a RST National body.

The formation of the Adverse Events Committee has proved to be an enormous relief and morale booster for people who have suffered so much devastation in their lives, and I believe that this use of funding has been very positive for Rural Women New Zealand.

We have received a number of letters written by the applicants and some of the following statements have been taken from their letters:

"Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to Rural Women New Zealand for their generous contribution to our wellbeing. Although this flood has been devastating for our farm and business, it has restored our faith in human kindness."

"I was totally overwhelmed when I went to go and purchase some groceries for our household and saw that I had been granted the financial assistance by the Rural Women's association."

"I cannot express how much this means to my family and I. We are amongst a lot of people in our community who were lucky to escape with our lives and are now facing the reality of having to replace essential items in our house."

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the blessing that you have given us."

There have been so many stories from people who have experienced so much loss, and it has been a humbling experience to read them, and to be in the position to respond to their time of need.

Thank you all for your donations, for the purchase of Aftersocks™, and for the kindnesses and gifts that have been given from so many Branches throughout the country.

I wish to thank the Committee for their support and advice throughout the last few months, and for their prompt replies to emails, enabling us to give help as quickly as possible.

Margaret Pittaway
Adverse Events Committee Chair

"I am thoroughly enjoying having the wider reaching platform of Rural Exchange on RadioLIVE broadcast not only around the regions but also into Auckland to share the stories of rural women achieving great success and doing inspiring work. Producing the show I was told to have a 'rural women' segment which I refused as I feel that representation of female voices as farmers/growers, executives and service professionals within the show's content provides the representation equally in context. I am often approached by females in the sector thanking me for representing them simply by having a strong voice on rural issues weekly on the AM Show (TV3) as well and it's a privilege and responsibility I take with great care."

Rural Exchange on RadioLIVE - Co-Host and Producer, and finalist in the 2018 Westpac Women of Influence Awards, Sarah Perriam

Report to Members on the Remits passed at the 2017 Rural Women New Zealand National Conference.

BREAST SCREENING AGE

“That Rural Women New Zealand encourage the Ministry of Health to raise the age of free breast screening beyond the age of seventy years.”

The remit was presented by Joan Black and Jean Coleman of Tutaenui Branch Region 4. The remit was passed at the AGM by a majority vote.

In support of the remit the presenters commented that anecdotal evidence and case studies demonstrate a need to raise the age of free breast screening for the reasons that: women are living longer; rural women continue to support their families on farms into their seventies and play a pivotal role in these families and communities; women are currently removed from the National Register once they turn seventy and are left to their own devices; and often younger women are proactive and pre-emptive in addressing familial histories of breast cancer but older women (who are familiar with and utilise the current breast screening programme and procedure) are not.

Currently eligible women aged between 45 and 69 can get a free mammogram every 2 years as part of the programme run by BreastScreen Aotearoa. There has been some public discussion of the upper limit of the free breast screening age being raised but RWNZ was not able to find any confirmation of this. RWNZ then sought clarification from the Office of the Minister of Health. The Associate Minister of Health James Shaw replied and confirmed that expanding the programme to include women from 70-74 is a priority for the current Government. A timeline is yet to be confirmed.

RWNZ ARCHIVES

“That Rural Women New Zealand preserves the past for the future.”

This remit was presented by Olive Stokes of Orini-Netherby Branch Region 6 and Diane Alston Rukuhia Branch Region 6. The remit was also supported by Waikato Provincial and Branches. The remit was passed at the AGM by majority vote.

In introducing the remit the presenters commented that members of the Orini-Netherby Branch were concerned that many repositories throughout the country, for example, country halls, libraries, museums, and individual homes which are holding material of many of the original branches have either closed down or were now closing and are divesting themselves of surplus material. The branch was concerned that records such as minute books, memorabilia, and early histories would be lost for the future if these materials were not captured and looked after. The proposers of the remit saw it as our collective duty to protect the history of the organisation, especially since our centenary is approaching.

RWNZ has looked into effective and affordable ways that we can archive our historical records and materials including digitisation, preservation, and records storage. Most archival methods investigated involve set-up costs and ongoing costs.

Enquiries with the Alexander Turnbull Library shows that they will receive donations of archival records from national significant organisations. The Library already holds significant records from Women’s Division Federated Farmers. The types of materials that are within the scope of what the Library will take includes: minutes, reports (not already held in published output), correspondence (that can be made available in the public domain), outreach and networking activities, and records of business and organisation social functions. In the case of RWNZ the Library would require the National Office to be aware of the content coming into the Library to ensure that no confidentiality or privacy is breached and the material does not duplicate other material already held. Once a collection transfers to the Library the ownership transfers from the organisation to the Library and becomes a Crown asset for the nation.

RURAL SCHOOL BUS ELIGIBILITY

“That Rural Women New Zealand seeks an amendment to the rules regarding free school bus travel for students.”

The remit was presented by Carolyn McLellan and Joyce Wylie of Golden Bay Branch Region 3. The remit was passed at the AGM by majority vote.

This remit puts members’ concerns over the Ministry of Education’s rules in regard to the eligibility of some students to travel on the free school bus. The current rules only allow students from Years 1-8 and who live at least 3.2km from their school and students from Year 9 or over and who live at least 4.8km from their school to use the free school bus service. The proposers say the distance is calculated over the shortest public road or pedestrian route from the student’s home roadside gate to their school’s front gate. The remit sought an amendment to the Ministry of Education policy to state – “that where the roads are unsuitable and or unsafe for walking or biking, then those distance criteria will not apply, and students may access free school bus transport to their nearest public school.”

RWNZ has been active in discussing this issue with the relevant Ministers and Government Departments, the Associate Ministers of Education Tracy Martin and Jenny Salesa. The matter has also been raised with the Rural Education Reference Group. Our position is that the criteria needs to be amended to ensure safety, especially for rural students, is made a more prominent factor in determining eligibility and that schools could be given more flexibility around their adherence to the criteria to ensure that all students are getting to and from school in the safest way. To date, we are not able to report on a satisfactory outcome to the remit, however the National Board and Education Portfolio convenor Sue Higgins continue to raise the issue with Government.

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
Leona Trimble	Facebook assistant	trimblesplace@xtra.co.nz
Sally Hammond		irsjhammond@netspeed.net.nz
Ann Irving		ann.irving@outlook.co.nz
Jill Graham		jill-graham@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 Sorenson	Leadership Councillor	eh.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		ljnajsipark@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		jyotijora@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		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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Nga Wāhine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa

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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