



Activator Programme from strength to strength

Activator is a joint programme funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries and managed by Rural Women New Zealand. This is the third year the programme has been offered. Activator focusses on rural women at the outset of their business journey. It is open to entrepreneurs with a business idea they want to test out. Alternatively, they have a new business and are wondering what the next steps are, or they may be encountering challenges and obstacles in their business and need to focus on adapting to changed circumstances.

Activator has grown each year it has been run. The first session was held in 2019 with five rurally based entrepreneurial women travelling to Wellington to take part in the programme. In 2021, we offered two sessions – one in Christchurch and one in Wellington – during which we hosted 10 participants. This year, we decided we really wanted to take the show on the road, leave the main centres and reach further out into rural and regional Aotearoa New Zealand. So, in addition to growing the programme and offering 3 sessions, this year's sessions took place in Waikato, Wellington and Dunedin.

So, how does Activator work? Each entrepreneur is offered a 45 minute session with a panel of experts or mentors who help them look at their businesses, talk through possible next steps and offer advice and connections to networks that may be able to support them. We are extremely privileged to have Christchurch-based Marian Johnson, Chief Executive of the Ministry of Awesome, as our lead panelist again this year. Our other panelists are selected for their expertise and experience and come from across the country. The

Back row from left: Sarah Martelli (Strong Woman), Kim Tatham (Piopio Dental), Kirsten Evans (Activator, Te Punga Nursery; Tui Ridge Homestay, Walking Tour), Mary Michelson (Activator, Walking Tour), Sian Noble-Campbell (Activator, Walking Tour), Claire Williamson (RWNZ Board Member), Kerryn Dallow (Activator, NZ made handbags). Front: Kate Torrens (Activator, The Innocent Ant), Lisa Thompson, Eljay Anderson (Activator, Eljay for Fitness), Carrie Andrews (Wholly Cow).

panelists' mandate is to advise, empower and support the entrepreneurs; the experience for the entrepreneurs is a collaborative, option-generating friendly Dragon's Den.

Based on the success of the previous programmes and the decision to further expand it again this year, we had asked North Island Connector Kylie to design an awesome online advertising campaign. She came up with some fabulous ideas but we immediately had to put them aside. Within one week of the first Facebook post, all 15 available places in this year's programme had been snapped up.

As part of RWNZ's contribution to the programme, each of the Activator participants is given a membership to RWNZ. A highlight this year was the opportunity for the Activators to attend RWNZ events. In Region 6 the Greater Waikato Area Committee hosted an excellent evening with food and drinks. Claire Williamson led a fantastic panel of Waikato-based entrepreneurial women who shared some excellent business and life advice. In Dunedin, the Activators joined Members at the Region 1 Conference for an evening meal and to hear guest speaker, Irene Mosley.

In Wellington, the Activators enjoyed a lively panel discussion with entrepreneurs Kiri Elworthy, Kristy McGregor and Alex Matthews sharing their experience and insights.

Editorial



As we roll on through winter I hope you are all keeping safe, warm and well.

It's a busy time of year with Regional Conferences taking place and the Activator Programme underway as well.

This year we have worked hard to ensure Board and National Office representation at each Conference so we can meet with Members in person to encourage and grow the links between our Members in the Regions and our national Team. This creates opportunities to share information on the future strategic direction of the organisation directly with Members. We really enjoy getting out to the various parts of the country to meet you all.

Entries for this year's NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards have opened and I encourage you to recommend them to businesswomen, including those in primary production (farming/horticulture), who own and operate businesses in rural and small towns in New Zealand. There is a wide range of categories which reflects the amazing diversity of business operators in the regions.

I now have a regular monthly spot to chat about all things RWNZ on The Muster, a farming show on Radio Hokonui which is mainly based in the Southern region but available on Spotify through NZME Media.

We are already seeing great results from the work that our Connectors, Marianne and Kylie, are doing in assisting the regions to promote events around the country.

The new Contestable Fund is also generating interest and we are enjoying hearing about the innovative opportunities that Members are promoting with assistance from this Fund.

We are starting to receive news from groups who have started on the Country of Study – Aotearoa/New Zealand: Know Your Local Community project. It's wonderful to hear how much people are learning about those in their communities. Please remember to send in the information that you gather as this will be a valuable resource about the

composition of our rural communities now and into the future.

By the time you receive this Express, our "O is for..." National Project will have officially ended. My sincere thanks to everyone for embracing this project and running events that raise awareness and much need funds for our three charities of choice enabling them to continue in their work to improve outcomes for women. You can continue to support this work if you choose to, however it will be on an individual group basis rather than as part of our RWNZ National Project which concluded at the end of June. There will be a full summary of events that took place and the funds donated in due course.

In the policy space, we have been working with Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Authority) around school bus safety. Health issues are also at the forefront of our minds as more information on the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) legislation becomes available, particularly in relation to the Women's Health Strategy and recently announced Rural Health Strategy.

The newly formed Centennial Committee has held its first meeting. You will be hearing more about this at the regional conferences. With our Centennial coming up in 2025, we are keen to hear about your ideas for Centennial celebrations and projects. Send them to Lisa at the National Office by Friday, 19 August so that the Centennial Committee can start planning in earnest at its next meeting.

In amongst all this, we have the end of our financial year reporting functions to complete, and a round of RWNZ National Elections to consider.

And last but by no means least, we are excited to announce that the National Office team has moved to a new office space at the beginning of July.

As you can see, there has been plenty going on so there's lots of interesting information in this issue of the Express. Happy reading!

Gill

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Dates for the Diary

Monday, 25 July: Region 2 Conference and AGM, Ashburton

Friday, 29 July: Region 6 Taranaki Conference, Stratford

Friday, 29 July: Entries close for the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2022

Friday, 29 - Sunday, 31 July: Region 5 Conference, Whakatane

Friday, 13 August: End of year Financial Forms due

Tuesday, 23 August: Nominations close for Board Elections close.

Wednesday, 31 August: Entries close for Writing Competitions: Honora O'Neill Trophy (Best Provincial President's Report); Best Branch President's Report

Week commencing Monday, 12 September: Te Wiki o Te Reo (Māori Language Week)

Saturday, 17 September: Region 7 Spring Fling, Dargaville

Monday, 19 September: NZ Suffrage Day

Friday, 18 November: RWNZ Annual General Meeting and NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards, Wellington

Wednesday, 30 November – Saturday, 3 December: National Fielddays, Mystery Creek

Welcome to New Members

Kelly Lewis - Region 2
Nadia Lim - Region 1
Helen Harris - Region 7
Rachel Callaghan - Region 2
Ann Findlay - Region 1
Claire Burgess - Region 1
Karen Roper - Region 4
Bridgette Smith - Region 1
Jo Hall - Region 1
Leanne Eloff - Region 7
Helen Clayson - Region 4
Evalyne Lusty - Region 3
Jacqui Randall - Region 2
Jude Alfeld - Region 3
Rachael Handy - Region 2
Lynette Clarkson - Region 3
Caroline Coop - Region 4
Teresa Lusty - Region 3
Anna Dakila - Region 1
Danielle May - Region 2
Jackie Halford - Region 6 GW
Lisa Anderson - Region 1
Heather Kinzett - Region 3
Carolyn Eyre - Region 6 GW
Zoe Reece - Region 6 GW
Cara Tipping Smith - Region 1
Frances Williamson - Region 6 GW
Chrystal Boyd - Region 3
Amanda McMillan - Region 1
Michalle Hagan - Region 1
Louise Gibson - Region 6 GW
Claire Mahon - Region 5
Krystal Alsop-Coleman - Region 3
Bronwyn Stevenson - Region 1
Liz Pennington - Region 5
Carrie Andrews - Region 6 GW
Vicki Armer - Region 6 GW
Heather Gilbert - Region 6 GW
Keri Moore - Region 2
Anna Hart - Region 3

Checking your contact details

How quickly a year rolls around. It doesn't seem like a year since we were working on end of year reporting and Statement of Service Performance preparations and yet here we are.

A new financial year heralds the start of membership renewals for the year and there are some end of year tasks to complete as we embark on this year. The most important of these is making sure we have your most up to date information so that we can be in touch. We do this in conjunction with the membership renewal process.

This year, we have sent membership renewal information by email to Members who have an email address on file already. Members who do not have an email address will receive membership renewal advice with this Express magazine.

As we have experienced some technical issues with delivering emails to Outlook and Hotmail addresses, we are also including invoices with the Express for Members with affected addresses. All other members information will continue to be sent through a "work-around" whilst this issue is resolved.

We are asking everyone to please check your contact details. If you receive your membership renewal by email, you will be able to check your details through that process. Please let us know if there are any changes to your details by emailing Felicity at enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz or calling National Office on 0800 256 467. If you have an email address but have not received your membership renewal information, here's what you should do:

Check your Junk, Spam and Promotions Folders: Internet Service Providers are constantly updating their security and privacy settings and this means that, from time to time, bulk generated emails are blocked. Have a look for emails from Rural Women New Zealand or RWNZ. If you save these as contacts to your address book or contact list, our messages will go to your Primary Inbox in the future.

If you cannot see any messages from us, please call National Office on 0800 256 467 so that we can check that we have your current email address.



National Office Report

It has been a busy three months here in Wellington with not only the usual round of activity but also the added excitement of the inaugural RWNZ online quiz, an office move to plan and execute and a round of Regional Conferences to support and attend. We have also seen a pickup in the number of other events happening as the easing of COVID-19 restrictions has allowed for bigger gatherings. Although it has been wonderful to have these opportunities for face-to-face engagement, we have also experienced the downside of everyone mixing more freely. The majority of the team have been off with COVID-19 at some stage, though thankfully not all at once!

The online quiz was a great opportunity to engage with members and some of our supporting organisations in a different way. A mix of general knowledge, specialist RWNZ knowledge and some light-hearted questions gave everyone a chance to shine with the ultimate winners, the Korokipo Caperers, awarded the very impressive Quizzing Cup (and Saucer). We look forward to making this an annual event and encourage anyone who didn't participate this time around to join us next year.

Connection is a big part of who we are as Rural Women New Zealand and we hope you enjoy getting some flavour of the various events that have been happening around the country that are highlighted in this Express. Whether it is the Triple F event in Te Anau or one of the regional conferences, there's been a lot of laughter, discussion and learning happening around the country.

We have also had RWNZ representation at some wider industry events. E Tipu – the Agri-summit was two days of future thinking and a look at some of the technology and approaches both in New Zealand and internationally that are likely to shape and inform solutions and responses

for primary industry. The TUANZ Conference was a great opportunity to share some of the frustrations but also, solutions that we know will make a difference to those who experience poor or no connectivity on an ongoing basis. An RWNZ working group drawing on expertise and experience from within RWNZ membership and wider networks continues to work with both government officials and providers on fit for purpose options to improve connectivity.

It has been great to see the interest in our Activator workshops for women entrepreneurs with three workshops around the country quickly fully subscribed. This year with the help of enthusiastic members in the regions, we have been able to run these events in conjunction with regional RWNZ events to build connections with existing member networks. We also encourage you to spread the news far and wide about the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards. A chance to showcase the talents of wonderful women making a difference in our regions and rural communities, the Awards provide the opportunity to celebrate success and put the spotlight on those quiet achievers who just need that little bit of encouragement to put their name forward.

Earlier this month we farewelled Lucy Tayler, our Finance Manager who many of you will know as the friendly voice on the end of the phone for all of your financial queries. We also welcomed Alison Lyall who is working with us on a contract basis whilst we recruit for the permanent role. Our thanks to Lucy for her wonderful contribution and a welcome to Alison who has not only been coming up to speed on all things financial but has been a key player in organising our office move.

We are currently settling into our new home just a little further up the road in Wellington. We look forward to welcoming members and encourage you to visit when you

are in town (though maybe wait a few weeks if you don't want to be commandeered to unpack boxes!).

On the policy front, we have made submissions on the proposed changes to the forestry settings within the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme settings, participated in the launch of the Women's Employment Action Plan (which includes input from rural women) and made both a written and oral submission on the Firearms Prohibition Orders Legislation Bill.

There has also been a strong focus on health in meetings with officials and Government Ministers particularly regarding the issues facing women and their families outside the main centres and the proposed changes with the health reforms. A media release on the key issues resulted in rural press coverage as well as an interview for President, Gill Naylor on Nine to Noon on Radio New Zealand.

The combined advocacy and representation efforts of many organisations with an interest in rural health resulted in a last-minute decision to include a rural strategy in the new legislation. Although this is only the first step, it means there is now a legislative focus on rural communities and their health.

You will also have received a recent request from us to provide information on any issues with school bus transport and safety. You will all be aware that this is an ongoing issue and we are collecting information to inform an update of policy by Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency).

Finally, we hope you are all managing to stay warm and well, and like us, are looking forward to the days gradually getting longer and the first signs of spring!

Podcast update

The Black Heels and Tractor Wheels podcast is currently heading into its fourth season. We have interviewed over 30 incredible New Zealand women, from all around the country, who have graciously shared their journeys and experiences with our listeners.

A new addition to the podcast in Season Three was our sponsorship with Affco through NZME. This was a great opportunity to extend the reach of the podcast.

We have now received over 15,000 listens throughout our three seasons and have listeners from 42 countries around the world. You can listen to the podcast on our website, or on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and iHeartRadio.

Communications survey

We will shortly be undertaking a communications survey to improve and update how we communicate with you. We are looking for feedback and suggestions on what has/hasn't worked for you, as well as what forms of communication you use the most, or would like us to use. There will be some giveaways for survey participants so keep an eye out.

Media Releases

RWNZ has released three media releases since the last Express, with all three being featured in the media, including Rural News Group, Stuff and Otago Daily times.

These releases are:

- NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2022 open
- RWNZ celebrates women's health strategy but says don't forget rural
- Rural Women NZ welcome rural as a priority group in health reforms.

Update from Connectors

Since March we have been connecting with many Members across the country both via Zoom and face-to-face, which was fantastic. What a wide range of backgrounds our Members represent! I attended the Triple F Challenge event in Te Anau, Southland and the Region 1 Conference & Self-Development Day in Mosgiel, Otago. They proved to be excellent opportunities to be involved with the promotion of these events and experience the outcome of an actual event as well. The North Otago Provincial Meeting in Oamaru strengthened some local connections. Next on my agenda is the Region 2 Conference in Ashburton, Canterbury on 25 July. We are also working with Lisa from National Office to promote the Activators' programme and NZI/RWNZ Business Awards, these are great ways to raise rural women's profiles nationally and regionally. Although it is not always possible to attend a RWNZ event, we can assist with your activities wherever you are located and are happy to learn about your needs.

Let us know if you are keen to discuss support regarding event or member recruitment campaigns, press releases, flyers, advertising, online registration forms and surveys, among other services, just ask!

Marianne

How time flies! It's already been nearly 5-months since I began my journey with RWNZ. I've really enjoyed getting to know everyone and what makes each region unique.

So far, I've managed the design work and social media campaigns for Lower South, Canterbury and Greater Waikato conferences, Triple F, Waikato Auction, Activator and most recently the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards and Spring Fling for Region 7.

After writing this I'm off to pack my bags and head down to Wellington for the Activator evening event and social media training with National Office in their new offices!

I'm looking forward to promoting future events and activities and supporting your region, reach out if you need help with anything.

Kylie

CONTESTABLE FUND

Applications opened for the new Contestable Fund on 19 April.

The National Board has allocated a total of \$90,000 to be dispersed over a three-year period. The purpose of this Fund is to fulfil RWNZ's strategic intent of strengthening, supporting and connecting rural people and communities by encouraging and supporting initiatives and projects that will support and grow RWNZ's membership.

Grants are to be considered as sponsorship, rather than seed funding. The intended use of grants is to enable quality events run by RWNZ with quality presenters at a reasonable cost, and encourage subsidised registration fees for RWNZ members.

The total fund pool is split over 3 years with any surplus and unallocated funds carried over from one year to the next. This means that the unallocated funds from Year 1 can be carried over for projects in the current financial year.

Year 1: To financial EOY 2022 (30 June 2022) - \$20,000

Year 2: 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 Financial Year - \$35,000

Year 3: 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024 Financial Year - \$35,000

An application may be made using the RWNZ Contestable Funding Application Form which can be found on our website or a copy can be obtained by calling National Office on 0800 256 467.

HERE'S HOW TO MAKE AN APPLICATION:

An application may be made for a new project or initiative to a maximum amount of \$5,000. Each project or initiative should be applied for on a separate application form. Applicants must be Members of Rural Women New Zealand.

An application may be made by a Member; a Branch or Group; a Provincial; or a Region. Where an application is made by a Member; Branch or Group; or Provincial, the Leadership team of the relevant Region will be part of the discussions and consultation regarding the application.

In the case of an Individual Member (or a Group that does not hold an RWNZ bank account) applying for funding, that funding is to be managed through a registered RWNZ bank account, either Regionally or out of National Office.

Applications will be considered for new projects and initiatives that offer positive experiences for current and potential Members of RWNZ and builds the profile of RWNZ as a vibrant, relevant, progressive organisation.

First out of the gate!

The first grant from the Contestable Fund has been awarded. Region 6 Greater Waikato successfully applied for funds to support their inaugural RWNZ Waikato Women's Business Hub event. The organisers took advantage of the Activator Programme running in Hamilton during the day and held an evening panel discussion led by Board Member Claire Williamson which featured local businesswomen discussing their business journeys. There was also plenty of time for discussion and enjoying drinks and delicious food platters. This new Hub Group will bring together women who own and operate rural businesses, women in agri-business, previous Activators and Award Winners.

Do you have a great idea for a project or initiative to increase the profile of RWNZ and attract new Members? Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the application process, please do not hesitate to contact Gabe or Lisa at National Office on 0800 256 467.

NZI RURAL WOMEN BUSINESS AWARDS 2022



Do you know an entrepreneurial woman who owns and operates an enterprise in rural and regional New Zealand?

The search is on for this year's NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2022 entrants. RWNZ is delighted that NZI will join us for the sixth year as our Premier Partner in presenting the Awards.

The Awards are a great opportunity to showcase rural women entrepreneurs and the contributions and support their enterprises provide to our rural communities. Last year's Awards had the highest number of entrants ever and we were especially pleased with the diversity of the entrants'

enterprises and the range of their locations across the country with half from the North Island and half from the South Island.

Entries for this year's Awards close on Friday, 29 July at 5pm.

For details on how to enter visit: <https://ruralwomennz.nz/nzi-rural-women-nz-business-awards-2022/>

As Gill Naylor says, "If you are a rural woman in business, enter; if you know a rural woman in business, encourage her to enter."

NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2022

- provide support for entrepreneurial rural women
- recognise and celebrate the achievements of rural women
- showcase and promote rural enterprises by lifting profiles in business networks and media
- provide an opportunity for review and clarity of business objectives, achievements and plans
- offer supportive professional appraisal and feedback
- are open to rural women's enterprises' in all occupations and professions.



Our 2021 Supreme Award Winner Amber Forrest (centre), owner and operator of Beauty Antix in Wairoa, with her team.

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) has been an integral part of Aotearoa New Zealand's rural landscape for nearly a century. It is a nationwide, membership-based organisation which promotes and supports the interests of rural communities with a credible and sought after voice. It also encourages and celebrates the entrepreneurship of rural women and the businesses they create.

In 2018, RWNZ welcomed NZI as the Premier Partner in the freshly revamped NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards. Since then, the Awards have grown and diversified with the introduction of new Award categories and an increase in the number of entries each year.

There are seven Award Categories. The winner from each category becomes a finalist for the Supreme Award which is determined by the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards' judging panel.

Here are the Award Categories:



EMERGING BUSINESS

Enterprises starting out on their journey and achieving exceptional results.



LOVE OF THE LAND

Harnessing the potential of New Zealand's land, environment or products of the land in creating successful enterprises.



CREATIVE ARTS

Acknowledging enterprises specialising in creative arts working in rural environments or using rural materials.



RURAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Recognising an enterprise that makes an outstanding contribution to supporting the health and wellness of our rural communities in New Zealand.



RURAL CHAMPION

People or businesses who go above and beyond in supporting the rural sector or rural enterprises.



INNOVATION

Enterprises that challenge the status quo or utilise rural resources to bring something new and innovative to market.



BOUNTIFUL TABLE

A rural enterprise that embraces diverse and unique natural resources to deliver exceptional food and/or beverage.



SUPREME

The overall winner with outstanding achievement across all entry criteria.

Entry criteria

To be eligible to enter the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2022, you must:

- Be the owner/s and operator/s of a enterprise based in rural New Zealand employing less than 30 full-time equivalent staff
- Take an active role in the day-to-day operation and management of your enterprise
- Your enterprise must have at least 50% ownership by women
- Previous winners of the Supreme Award at the Enterprising Rural Women Awards or the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards may not enter again.
- Have owned or operated your business/enterprise for at least two years as at the date of entry

Entries are now open for the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2022.

The closing date for entries is 5pm on Friday, 29 July 2022.



The Category Award Winners will be announced in early October and the Supreme Award Winner will be announced at the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards Presentation on Friday, 18 November 2022 in Wellington.

RWNZ acknowledges that COVID-19 has the potential to significantly impact the running of these Awards and it reserves the right to postpone or cancel the Awards and vary the Conditions of Entry.



From the Board Table

Kia ora all

The Board has now finalised the revised Strategic Plan, and at the time of writing, Board members are attending Regional Conferences to provide a presentation to members and answer questions that may arise. The aim is to refocus RWNZ resources and time available on areas that will have the most impact for members and our communities. We, your Governance Board, have collated previous research undertaken and have listened to members concerns and suggestions.

There are so many opportunities RWNZ can embrace to grow membership and meet the growing need within our communities, although this may be in a variety of ways different from our past. Looking back on our nearly 100 years, Rural Women have reviewed and adjusted as needed to remain a strong and vibrant membership-based voice and support network for rural communities. We as a Board are committed to an exciting and sustainable future. As such, we do need to review and adjust what and how we work to meet

the needs of current and our future members expectations. WIIFM (What's in it for me) and creating FOMO (Fear of missing out) is all part of our evolving society, whether we agree or not. The Board is mindful of this when working on future strategies. As women we find ourselves working both in paid work and a variety of volunteer roles. Each of these roles contributes to strengthening our communities. The Board recognises where we decide to put our volunteering time is different for everyone.

Thanks to the Board team who have worked really hard around the Board table for our members. Thanks also must go to our dedicated team at National Office working through some difficult Covid illnesses and challenges, as without their commitment and 'can do' attitude the work would just not get done!

Ngā mihi

Sandra

National Board Chair



Rural Women New Zealand would like to thank:

Premier Partner:



Partners:



Supporters:



News from Government House

We were delighted to receive advice from Government House recently that The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, Governor-General of New Zealand, DNZM, QSO has accepted our invitation to be our Patron.

This continues a long history of Vice-regal patronage for Rural Women New Zealand. As our Patron, Her Excellency will consider any proposals we make regarding her participation in, and support of, our organisation and its activities subject to other commitments.

We look forward to working with Dame Cindy during her term in office.



Three RWNZ Members were presented with their Honours by Her Excellency the Governor-General at Government House in early May. Congratulations once again to Gloria McHutchon QSM, Irene Mosley QSM and Fiona Gower ONZM.

RWNZ National Board Elections 2022

Pursuant to the Rules and Bylaws of Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated, elections will be held for the following National Board positions this year:

- National President
- National Finance Chair
- North Island Board Representative x 1
- South Island Board Representative x 1

The timetable for the election process has been confirmed by the Board and formal notification sent to the Members of Rural Women New Zealand of these arrangements.

Nomination forms for the available positions, together with advice on the nomination process, a description of the skills and qualities sought in candidates and information on the relevant terms of reference have been sent to members either by email or by post. Additional nomination forms and background information is available on the Members Zone on the website, or by contacting National Office.

The closing time and date for nominations for all positions will be 5pm on Friday, 19 August 2022. Nominations can be made by email to elections22@ruralwomennz.nz or post to PO Box 12-021, Thorndon, Wellington 6144.

Triple F Challenge 2022

Over 40 participants descended on Te Anau to enjoy 3 days of Fun, Fitness and Friendship in the Triple F Challenge at the end of April.

The weekend was superbly organised by Lynley Whyte, Eunice Roberts, Pat Macaulay and Raewyn van Vugt. Even when faced with a last minute programme change, which required completely re-jigging one of the feature events, the Organising Committee kept it's cool and re-arranged the entire event and it turned out to one of the highlights of the whole weekend.

The Programme was an excellent mix of shared events and individual choices. On Friday evening we were treated to nibbles and drinks at The Black Dog Bar which was followed by two short films (which featured Southland) in the adjoining Fiordland Cinema.

The Organising Committee had drawn together a huge range of options in a 'Day of Choices' menu for Saturday. Each attendee could create their own itinerary from over a dozen options with something for everyone's taste including walking and hiking, biking, cruising and sailing, a Station visit and day trips – all of which featured the incredible beauty of Te Anau and its environs. It was really enjoyable to come together for dinner at the end of the day and hear about each other's adventures.

After dinner at the Te Anau Club, a very satisfied audience heard from two marvelous speakers, Kylie Krippner and Harriet Bremner. Kylie is the first New Zealand woman to ski to the South Pole and her presentation was absolutely fascinating. Harriet Bremer is our incumbent NZI Rural



Women NZ Business Award Rural Champion. She is a champion for change as to how rural New Zealanders think about farm safety, health and mental wellbeing following her own experience of loss. Both these brave and compassionate women are incredibly inspiring.

Although there are only three Fs in the title, every Triple F Programme has another F - a fundraising component. The Organising Committee had selected the Te Anau Food Bank and St John Te Anau as the recipients of this year's charitable donations. Funds were raised from the sale of raffles, proceeds from the auction of three fabulous trips by Real NZ and a generous donation from Rob Hall-Jones. Thanks also to all the sponsors who provided donations for raffles and prizes. As a result, each charity received over \$1,000 from the weekend's activities.

Thank goodness that indoor activities were scheduled for Sunday. Following a glass of bubbles to start the day, two further speakers entertained the group as the rain poured down outside. Jane Maxwell took us through her European travels by bike in a slide presentation while Rob Hall-



Jones spoke about his journey to become a highly regarded helicopter pilot and his work in deer capture, search and rescue and tourism. Rob's adventures are detailed in his self-published book, 'You'll Never Make It' which was available for sale following his talk. Rob very generously donated copies of his book to Triple F and an additional \$5 from every book sold on the day.

Triple F Te Anau was a massive success and everyone left looking forward to the next one. Thank you to the Organising Committee for your excellent event.

Clockwise from top right: Organisers Extraordinaire: Eunice Roberts and Lynley White; The Station Tour Crew; Beautiful Fiordland; From left: Kylie Krippner, Lynley White, Gill Naylor, Juanita Palmer (Real NZ), Harriet Bremner and Poppy, Kate McDonald; Getting soggy in the Sound: Margaret Pittaway, Fiona Gower, Lisa Thompson.

Rural Women NZ is grateful for the generosity of the following Triple F Challenge sponsors:





RWNZ AGM & NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2022

This year's Rural Women New Zealand Annual General Meeting and the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2022 will be held in Wellington on Friday, 18 November. We will be returning to the beautiful Public Trust Hall.

The AGM will be held during the day with the Awards taking place in the evening. Registration details and forms will be available shortly.

TUANZ WISPA Rural Connectivity Symposium

Rural Women New Zealand had the pleasure of presenting at the TUANZ WISPA Rural Connectivity Symposium in June. RWNZ partnered with the Tech Users Association (TUANZ) and Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPA) in holding this face-to-face event and it was great to see so many RWNZ Members attending the two-day Symposium.

The event was held in conjunction with the WISPA AGM and presentations during the two days ranged from the very technical to the very practical. The Symposium was very well organised and alongside panel discussions there were several opportunities for networking across the industry.

Many possible solutions which would provide connectivity for rural communities were canvassed over the course of the Symposium. A challenge was presented to decision-makers at the event: that they work together on ensuring that every rural household has the connectivity it deserves.

The excellent media coverage of this forum was, and will continue to be, invaluable in our quest for better rural connectivity.

*Left: RWNZ Members with Craig Young from TUANZ.
Below: RWNZ's Angela McLeod addressing the Symposium.*



ADVERSE EVENTS RELIEF FUND

The Rural Women New Zealand Adverse Events Relief Fund (AERF) was established to provide assistance to individuals, groups and communities in need after adverse events and natural disasters.

To help grow this fund, we are selling RWNZ's pure wool, New Zealand-made **Aftersocks**, the proceeds of which go directly to the AERF. These are available online at www.aftersocks.nz or from the National Office.

Alternatively, donations can be made directly into the Adverse Events Relief Fund by bank deposit to the following account:

Account Name: Rural Women New Zealand
Bank Account: 06-0501-0778590-00
Ref: AERF



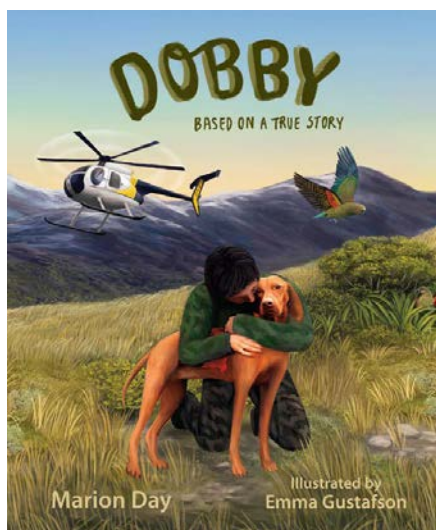
MEMBER GIVEAWAY WINNER

Congratulations to Caroline Burnell who has won a copy of *Dobby*, Marion Day's latest book. *Dobby* is on the way to you and we are sure your grandchildren will be thrilled.

Dobby is based on a true story of remarkable survival in the Southern Alps / Kā Tiritiri o te Moana. While hunting with his master in the mountains, *Dobby* is trapped and unable to free himself. With the help of two kea, *Dobby* finds the strength to survive until he is rescued seven days later.

This beautiful children's picture book and is illustrated by Emma Gustafson and is suitable for 5-7 year old readers.

Marion would like to offer RWNZ Members the opportunity to purchase copies of *Dobby* from her website at a discounted price. If you would like to take advantage of this wonderful offer, visit www.marionday.nz for information on the membership discount price.



RWNZ Brooch

Have you seen our stunning RWNZ brooch? It is the perfect gift for your favourite RWNZ Member or a special treat for yourself.

This little beauty draws its inspiration from the RWNZ squiggle logo and is made from sterling silver. It looks fabulous on a dress, on the lapel of a blazer, on a scarf, even on a beanie.

The cost per brooch is \$120 + delivery and there are only a limited number available. Call National Office and ask for Lisa if you would like to purchase one.





National Competitions - Entries open now

As we find ourselves at the time of year for indoor pursuits, what could be better than crafting an entry for this year's competitions?

Writing Competitions

Entries are now open for the Marlborough Short Story Competition and the Olive Burdekin Prize for Advanced Writers 2022. The title and theme for this year's competitions is "**Gardens/Gardening.**" Entrants may include a subtitle.

Here are the entry criteria for both competitions:

Marlborough Short Story Competition

This competition is open to all amateur writers who are Rural Women New Zealand Members and who have not won this competition in the previous two years or had their writing published - apart from contributions to newspapers or in the RWNZ Express magazine.

- The story should not contain more than 1000 words, with a minimum of 600 words.
- The number of words must be written in the top left corner of the first page.
- The entrant must state that their entry is for the Marlborough Short Story Competition on the first page.
- If the number of words in the entry is not printed on the first page or the category entered is not specified, the entry will be disqualified.
- Stories must be written or typed on one side of the paper only
- Envelopes or emails clearly marked "Marlborough Short Story".
- Please do not put your name on the entry itself.

The winner will be announced during the Annual General Meeting in Wellington in November where they will be presented with the Marlborough Tray and a book voucher. Rural Women New Zealand thanks the Marlborough Provincial for sponsoring this award and managing the competition.

Olive Burdekin Prize for Advanced Writers

This section is for Rural Women New Zealand Members who are not eligible to enter the Marlborough Short Story Competition. They are either previous first place winners in the past two years or have had articles or books published.

- The story should not contain more than 1500 words, with a minimum of 1000 words.
- The number of words must be written in the top left corner of the first page.
- The entrant must state that their entry is for the Olive Burdekin Prize on the first page.
- If the number of words in the entry is not printed on the first page or the category entered is not specified, the entry will be disqualified.
- Stories must be written or typed on one side of the paper only
- Envelopes or emails clearly marked "Olive Burdekin Prize for Advanced Writers".
- Please do not put your name on the entry itself.
- Judging will be based on 'Short Story' form but may be based on historical memories.

The winner will be announced during the Annual General Meeting in Wellington in November where they will be presented with the Olive Burdekin Prize. Prize money for this award is a legacy of the late Olive Burdekin of Region 3 and Rural Women New Zealand thanks Region 3 for the management of this competition.

The closing date for entries for both competitions is **Wednesday, 31 August 2022**. Entries should be posted to Mrs Jennifer Wiese, 25 Tirimoana Terrace, RD1, Picton 7281 or sent by email to: jen.wiese@icloud.com

Speech Competition

The topic for this year's Speech Competition is: **"A Modern Rural Woman's Guide to Etiquette"**.

This year's competitions for the Tarrant Bell and Tutaenui Bell will take place as part of the Annual General Meeting programme in Wellington on Friday, 18 November.

We have adapted this year's competition to embrace those who were unable to compete last year and welcome new entrants from this year's regional competitions. There were three entrants last year and they are deemed to have automatically qualified for the competition this year. They will be joined by this year's regional winners or nominees at the National Speech Competition in Wellington.

For more information on both competitions and judging criteria, please visit the RWNZ website or call National Office on 0800 256 467.

Lady Blundell Tray

This competition is for the **most innovative project** completed by a Branch, Group, Provincial or an individual during one financial year period, and is awarded annually.

The project can be a one-off event or project, or an ongoing activity that is in addition to the usual members' range of RWNZ activities.

The details of the project must be clearly handwritten or typed, on one side of the paper only. Display and other supporting material may also be submitted. Entries may be presented in a digital format. Please also include a copy of the Branch details and the number of members in the Branch.

All entries are returned after judging. The closing date for entries for the Lady Blundell Tray Competition must reach National Office by 5pm on Friday, 30 September 2022.

Honora O'Neill Gong

The Honora O'Neill Trophy is for the **Best Provincial President's Report**.

The report must be a well presented document summarising the activities of the Branch, Provincial or Group. The activities should promote the objects and goals of Rural Women New Zealand.

Points will be awarded for: involvement of Members; support by RWNZ Members; community service; liaising with the community; good public relations and presentation, ease of reading.

Entries may be submitted by post or email to National Office and should arrive no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 31 August 2022.

Talbot Trophy

The Talbot Trophy was presented in 1987 by Mrs A D (Ginny) Talbot CBE, a National Life Member and National President from 1981–84. It is awarded annually for the **Best International Report**.

Reports in this category will display and record the international work of Rural Women New Zealand in the entrant's area, including the Country of Study and Women Walk the World events.

Reports must be submitted by post or email to National Office and should arrive no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 31 August 2022.

Best Branch President's Report

All of the **Branch Presidents' Reports** are automatically entered into this category.

Reports must be submitted by post or email to National Office and should arrive no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 31 August 2022.



National Project Update



It's no secret that the National Office team are keen quizzers so when the opportunity arose to take part in the Soroptimist International Rangatahi's Teal Ribbon Morning Tea and Quiz Fundraiser on World Ovarian Cancer Day (8th May), the team warmly embraced the opportunity to enjoy morning tea and raise funds for Cure Our Ovarian Cancer (one of the O is for National Project charities) all at the same time.

This was a wonderfully well organised and run event. The room was fabulously decorated in shades of teal, the morning tea was delicious, the prizes and raffles were very desirable and the quizzing very competitive. There was a lot up for grabs – not just the warm glow of winning but plenty of chocolate and lovely drinks for the winning team.

We were thrilled when our team, Florence's Nightingales, were announced as the winners. After divvying up the spoils, we had our team photo taken under the teal balloon banner.



Region 5

Region 5's plan's for a Women's Health Day featuring Tash Crosby from Talk Peach had also fallen victim to COVID-19 enforced rescheduling. The wait was worth it though when the event was finally held on Friday, 6 May.

The Women's Health Day was partly funded by Region 5, Tauranga Provincial and the Te Puke/Rotoehu Branch. What a tremendous turn-out of women of all ages, queuing at the door to be let in and filling all the chairs so there must have been well over 50 attending this special day. Thanks must go to all who assisted in getting this day together. When the event was postponed earlier in the year it seemed a huge task to re-ignite people's interest, but with such an

Region 3

Here is a photo of a group of Marlborough Provincial Rural Women NZ ladies holding up copies of their hugely successful fundraiser, Calendar Girls, together with two posters with the amounts raised from sales.

Approximately 500 calendars were sold with each page featuring our lovely ladies in rural scenes from the sea to the sky. Some of the ladies are holding the calendar open on "their page."

A total of \$3,308.60 was raised and donations of \$1,654.30 were made to the Marlborough Cancer Society and the O is for National Project. The ladies had great support from the public and those that participated had a lot of laughs for a great cause - some light relief during COVID affected times.

From left to right (back): Liz Evans, Jocelyn Cresswell, Colleen Robbins, Bev Foote, Pam Macdonald, Mary Neal. Front: Melva Robb, Joan Climo, Dot Dixon, Margaret Marfell, Jennifer Wiese



important topic at its heart, some strategic advertising and articles in the local papers the visitors came. A monumental vote of thanks to the ladies who spoke – Tash Crosby the Founder of Talk Peach Gynaecological Foundation, as well as local women Debbie Robins and Sjaan Fahey and a young woman called Miracle Marsh from Whakatane who was an additional speaker and very welcome. It was an emotional day, filled with tears and laughter from both the speakers and audience, some valuable information for us all and lots to pass on to our female friends and relatives. I would encourage other RWNZ groups around the region to hold one of these days.

Thanks to Mary McTavish for this report.

Region 6 Greater Waikato

After COVID-19 lockdowns foiled Region 6 Greater Waikato's attempts to arrange an in-person O is for fundraising event, the Waikato Wonder Women decided to take their auction online.

It was a huge undertaking by the Area Committee. There were very real benefits to taking a giant leap by going online. What would have been a largely local event was transformed into a nationwide fundraiser as bidders could join from all Regions.

What really made this auction such a huge success was the amazing array of donated items for auction. There was literally something for everyone: clothing, accessories, plants, accommodation, food, coffee, helicopter rides – you name it was up for grabs. The other essential component for an auction is a platform and an auctioneer! Massive thanks to auctioneer Cam Heggie and to the team at Bidr who hosted the auction at no cost so that all the funds raised could go straight to Cure Our Ovarian Cancer, Talk Peach and K9 Medical Detection.

The auction, together with financial donations raised a staggering \$27,000 for the O is for National Project. Congratulations to Bronwyn, Liz, Fiona, Claire and the Region 6 Greater Waikato Area Committee on hosting this fabulous event and for fearlessly thinking outside the square to achieve great things.

Thanks, once again, to all the wonderful sponsors for your donations of goods and services for auction. Last but not least, thank you to all those who bid for and won items at the auction.



Top: the magnificent Region 6 Greater Waikato Wonder Women.
Bottom: Jess from Bidr with Cam Heggie and Claire Williamson.

Centennial Committee

The Committee met for the first time on Friday, 1 April via Zoom. After the introductions were made, the Committee turned its attention to the business at hand: the process of planning an epic centenary celebration in 2025.

The Committee agreed that there was a need to create a co-ordinated timetable for local, regional and national events and projects so it could map out the year to take advantage of possible economies of scale. We look forward to a variety of projects with something for all Members where we celebrate our past while looking to our future.

There are already some projects underway and research on other ideas has started. Committee Members have undertaken to go back to their Regions to seek out a range of ideas and initiatives to incorporate into the timetable for the year commencing July 2025 through to July 2026.

The Committee will meet again in mid-August to discuss all the ideas received and start to outline a project plan for the year.

The Centennial Committee Members are: Gill Naylor, Pat Macaulay, Bev Bagrie, Emma Higgins, Julie Perkins, Bronwyn Main, Margaret Vickers and Lisa Thompson.

Do you have an idea for a special way to mark RWNZ's 100th birthday? All suggestions, concepts and ideas are warmly welcomed. The Centennial Committee wants to support local, provincial, regional and national celebrations during the centenary year. If you would like to discuss your idea, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Centennial Committee or call Lisa at National Office.

Regional Conferences

Region 1 Conference

Despite being 2 colleagues down no thanks to COVID and the threat of fog delaying my flight from Wellington, I made it to Dunedin and then onto Mosgiel uninterrupted.

The Conference team had created an interesting and lively programme that took in the important business of the AGM while appealing to attendees and Members looking for some time to gather and catch up with each other. The inclusion of 2 opportunities to spend time filling our self development cups was ideal for that once the AGM was squared away.

A thought provoking presentation from Jenny Malcolm on managing stress and overwhelm produced lightbulb moments for us all. "You are your own thoughts" was the key takeaway message along with a few neat tricks to relieve worrying thinking when it arises. Day two's self development session with Irene Mosely QSM was excellent. She encouraged us to have the confidence to push boundaries and contribute to change in our communities or to affect change for the better with our personal aspirations. Some group exercises helped cement the art of collaboration and delivery. It really opened my eyes to the real power in volunteer groups to drive change and eliminate powerlessness.

A special thank you to Pat who was my chauffeur extraordinaire and caffeinated me before my return flight to Wellington and to Raewyn and Judy who mastered the running of the Conference backroom and out front. I had a wonderful time putting faces to familiar names and meeting the inspiring people who work so hard for our organisation. Until next time!

Thanks to Felicity Bunny for this report.

Region 3 Conference

Although the journey from Nelson to Murchison is less than 2 hours, it felt like the journey to the Region 3 conference had been a lot longer given the impact of COVID-19 and wild weather postponing best efforts to gather over the last year. Consequently there was a great sense of joy at the chance to finally meet together in person in June. As always the local hospitality was warm and welcoming and the delegates enjoyed hearing from several local speakers on their first evening. The next day, the meeting discussed some of the issues impacting on their region. These included concerns regarding mental health and wellbeing and access to services, maternity care and support for new parents and issues with school bus services. In addition to discussing how these issues were being raised at a national level, the group shared some success stories such as the new mother's group established in St Arnaud which is now self-organising and a valuable community support.



From top: RWNZ Member and guest speaker Jenny Malcolm with Judy Kingan. Middle: "Working out" at Self-Development Day. Bottom: Day 1 pre-dinner drinks - Virginia Broughton, Liz Hutton, Kerry Shields and Heather Smith.



Region 4 Conference

Held in Martinborough this year, the Region 4 conference included a tour of the southern Wairarapa, including a visit to Ngawi. A wonderful evening meal was accompanied by a talk from award winning director, producer and editor, Celia Jaspers. Currently one of the team of Directors for Country Calendar, Celia shared some insights into the work that goes into each episode as well as sharing some of her highlights working in the television and film industry. We were also lucky enough to watch a screening of her award winning short film, Milk, filmed in Martinborough.

The next day, more local talent was showcased with a presentation from Claire Edwards, winner of the Innovation category at the 2021 NZI RWNZ Business Awards. Claire shared not just her success story but also some of the challenges along the way and left us all impressed with her tenacity and foresight.

Thanks to all the conference organisers from National President, Gill Naylor, Board Chair, Sandra Matthews and CE, Gabrielle O'Brien for the warm welcomes and the opportunity to present an update on national activity and strategic direction.

Region 6 Greater Waikato Conference

Gathering in Putaruru this year, Region 6 Greater Waikato members had the opportunity to hear from a range of speakers, including Wanda Leadbetter, the Regional Coordinator from the Rural Support Trust and Caroline Bately, an AGMARDT scholarship recipient, and participant in the Kellogg's Rural Leadership programme who shared insights and recommendations from her research report, The Decline of Rural Community Services.

There was also some quickfire presentations from a range of rural women entrepreneurs in the Waikato region who not only shared their stories but even better, had their products available. After a RWNZ national overview, the group spent time discussing what they felt was working well both regionally and nationally, what they would like to work better and their hopes for the future. The combination of activities, not to mention the delicious food, made for a very satisfying day.



A promotional graphic for 'The Muster' featuring a group of women in a kitchen or market setting, surrounded by fresh produce like tomatoes, cucumbers, and leafy greens. The text is centered and reads: '— THE — MUSTER Spotlight on Rural Women segment. Brought to you by'. Below the text are logos for 'JJ LTD SOUTHLAND • OTAGO', 'Rural Women NEW ZEALAND Nga Wāhine Takahēhua o Aotearoa', and 'iHeartRADIO RADIO • MUSIC • PODCASTS'. The entire graphic is set against a dark green background.

Branch News

THORNBURY

There was a regal presence at the June meeting of the Thornbury Branch recently.

Together with Members of the Clifdon Branch, they celebrated the Queens Jubilee with a High Afternoon Tea. After the meeting attendees enjoyed a visit from Her Majesty The Queen (Janice) and her Lady-in-Waiting Edith (Wendy) who chatted to us and then quizzed us on how much we knew about the Royal Family. In keeping with the dress code for the day, special hats were worn which made for a right Royal occasion.

Thank you to Linda Templeton for this item.



ST ARNAUD

Sixteen Members from Blenheim, Nelson, Murchison and St Arnaud met at St Arnaud Alpine Lodge for a mid-winter Beat the Blues Christmassy celebration on Tuesday 5th July.

Much fun was had with guessing games (How many buttons in the jar? How many Coffee Beans in the other jar?), anagrams of festive words, and a fifteen minute craft challenge to construct something from the contents of an envelope. You can see some of the artistic creations in the montage attached. We warmly welcomed six of our new Murchison Members to the celebration. Much fun was had by all.

Thanks to Lorna Crane for this item.

REGION 4

Region 4 Members have been showing their support for rural communities impacted by adverse events over the last few months.

Members made fruit cakes for the Connecting Rural Wairoa initiative which delivered care parcels to 400 affected rural households tackling the big clean up after the devastating floods in April.

As we all know, the weather continues to be fierce and it wasn't long before the super baking skills of Region 4 Members were called for again.

Martinborough Branch Members baked cakes for the people affected by the hail in the Papaitonga, Horowhenua area recently. Cakes were distributed to local businesses and residents who have had damage. They were very appreciative of the support.



Above: Emma Clarke, Director of Woodhaven Gardens with Muhunoo East Member Margaret Morgan. Below: Michelle Sue and Choppy Sue of BS Young Market Gardens with Margaret Morgan.



TOKAORA/INAHA

Branch 90th Birthday

Members and past Members of the Tokaora/Inaha Branch were greeted at the door of the Hawera Women's Club with a choice of drinks and soon relaxed to mingle and chat with each other at our Branch's 90th birthday celebration. The creed was recited to remind us all of the way we should run our lives and Grace was said by Nancy Riddick. After lunch, Ross Dunlop, our ex-Mayor from a pioneering family member of the district, gave us a comprehensive history of the Tokaora area including paintings done by early settlers and early photos taken by his father - many of our Members also joined in with family stories from the district.

The 90th birthday cake was cut by our current President, Francie Lavery and our longest standing member Beth Johnson, and was served with tea or coffee. To close the afternoon, we sang the NZRW song which was accompanied by Jill Saxton on the piano.



Members from left to right: Back row - Shirley Smith, Myron Bent, Betty Tarrant, Fiona Duffy, Glenda Ord, Norine Muller. Front row. Jill Saxton, Glyn Wren, Julie Williamson, Francie Lavery (president), Beth Johnson (longest serving member), Jennie Purdon, Olga Robinson, Nancy Riddick, Dorothy Malcolm and Ava Baker.

Tributes

In Memory Of Margaret Thompson

*Branch Life Member of Lumsden –
Region One*



It is a privilege to write these words on behalf of the Members of Lumsden Branch.

Margaret joined the then Women's Division of Federated Farmers in the early 1980's. She had a way of getting people to help whatever the task was. She undertook door to door collections for the Blind Foundation (both her assigned route and any other Member who was unable to complete theirs) and the Street Day appeal for Alzheimer's Southland.

In 1986, Margaret took over as Catering Convenor for the Castlerock sale yards, a job that entailed getting all the bread, fillings etc. required for the cuppas and ringing and asking Members if they were helping on the day or making soup? This was not a five minute job but the President of the day had not a worry as she knew that it was in Margaret's capable hands. With her car's boot full of goodies, off she went to the sale yards, being there by 8:45am ready for a 9am start. (Margaret's vegetable soup and scones were a treat. Margaret had a little secret to making her scones – it was to melt the butter and heat the milk, what a difference this made to getting soft 'spongy' scones. Thank you Margaret for sharing your secret.) This was not just a once or twice a year thing but more like seven or eight times. Margaret filled this role until 2012 when she retired. This was dedication at its highest.

Margaret was also the first to offer soup, time and energy for another RWNZ project – the Live-a-lone meals.

In 2005 the Lumsden Branch celebrated its 76th birthday with afternoon tea and honouring Margaret and Doreen Millar with Branch Life Memberships - honours well deserved for their service to Rural Women but also their time to their communities.

If every person in a community gave half as much as Margaret did to their community, what a wonderful community they would have. Margaret was an inspiration to many people and lived by the RWNZ motto of "Service Simply Given."

Thank you to Cheryl Clearwater, President of the Lumsden Branch for this item.

In Memory Of Lorna Baird

1st August 1939 - 9th May 2022

*Branch Life Member of Inch Clutha –
Region One*



It is of great sadness that we have lost one of our loveliest, kindest, most well respected members of our branch.

Over Lorna's time as a Member of Inch Clutha she held many positions which included President but in her later years was happy to let others take on the roles. Lorna was always very encouraging to those who took on these positions. Lorna was also involved with the South Otago Co-ordinating Committee where she also held the role of President, South Otago Provincial delegate, and a member of Otago Linking Committee.

Lorna was a financial member of Rural Women for nearly 50 years but her association with Rural Women went further back than that as she attended meetings and outings as a teenager with her mother.

Lorna was a very supportive and a hands-on member and always had a story or two on how she coped being a young wife and mother in the rural sector. She was one of the first to put her hand up to help whenever needed.

Lorna was an exceptional sewer, knitter and baker. Over the years winning the monthly Branch competitions many times and also won prizes at the Balclutha A&P show.

Lorna was a lady who always put others first. She always had a smile on her face and later in life added a bit of colour in her hair, pink, blue or purple. When asked about the colour she would say "why not?"

We have lost a most loyal member who will be long remembered by those she has left behind. It was a privilege to be asked to be part of her guard of honour at her Memorial service.

Farewell to Old Friends

Pauline Wardle – Individual member Region 4

Lorna Baird – Inch Clutha Branch BLM

Judith Hoch – Individual member – Region 3

Betty Geary – Wyndham Branch

Heather Lomas - Kourawhero Branch

Mary Miles - Lynnford Branch

Margaret Thompson - Lumsden Branch

REGIONAL LEADERS & REGIONAL COMMITTEES

| Region 1 Lower South Island | Position | Contact Email |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Raewyn van Vugt | Regional Leader | whitegold@rivernet.co.nz |
| Judy Kingan | Regional Committee Chair | jaydeekgn@gmail.com |
| Lynley White | | whyte.5@farmside.co.nz |
| Eunice Roberts | | ebroberts51@gmail.com |
| Alison McLeary-Moore | | mooretterritory2017@gmail.com |
| Jean Hamilton | | jeansh@yrless.nz |
| Margaret Jones | | mjomakau@gmail.com |
| Pat Macaulay | Minute Secretary | pat.macaulay@outlook.com |

| Region 2 Canterbury | Position | Contact Email |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sandra Curd | Regional Leader | curd@xtra.co.nz |
| Beverly Forrester | | forrester@amuri.net |
| Mary Watson | Vice Chair | mmf.wats@gmail.com |
| Frances Beeston | | francesbeeston@gmail.com |
| Margaret Chapman | Regional Committee Chair | mgchapman@xtra.co.nz |
| Margaret Chapman [Hook] | | royandmargchapman@hotmail.com |
| Elsa Hydes | | esurya@hotmail.com |
| Cheyenne Wilson | | ctkwilson@hotmail.co.nz |
| Lyn Zuppich | | goathills@amuri.net |

| Region 3 Top of the South | Position | Contact Email |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dot Dixon | Regional Leader | dotsf9@gmail.com |
| Melva Robb | Regional 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 |

| Region 4 Lower North Island | Position | Contact Email |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tamzin Coull | Regional Leader | tamzin.coull@xtra.co.nz |
| Pauline Masters | Regional Committee Chair | paulinemasters@xtra.co.nz |
| Jean Coleman | | ngaios@farmside.co.nz |
| Joan Black | | joanblack@inspire.net.nz |
| Janice Mills | Secretary | white.rock@farmside.co.nz |
| Caroline Ross | Treasurer | cross@wise.net.nz |
| Shona Field | | mtwilliam@inspire.net.nz |

| Region 5 BOP / Coromandel | Position | Contact Email |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Mary McTavish | Regional Leader & Regional Committee Chair | jhmemcts@gmail.com |
| Sue Vowell | Deputy Chair | tepudeer@xtra.co.nz |
| Chris Paterson | | chrisjam@xtra.co.nz |
| Jo Gravit | Secretary | pandjgravit@xtra.co.nz |
| Lyn Staples | | urwinfarms@xtra.co.nz |
| Wendy McGowan | | rusty_wendy@xtra.co.nz |
| Maureen Champion | | sparkysark@kinect.co.nz |

| Region 6 Greater Waikato | Position | Contact Email |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bronwyn Main | Regional Leader | bronwynmain45@gmail.com |
| Liz Morgan | Regional Committee Chair & Treasurer | lizziemorgan36@gmail.com |
| Karen Attwood | | theattwoods@actrix.co.nz |
| Eileen Barker | Secretary | efbarker74@gmail.com |
| Jenni Torrens | | torrensfarms@xtra.co.nz |
| Fiona Gower | | fionagower@hotmail.com |

| Region 6 Taranaki | Position | Contact Email |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Shirley Read | Regional Leader & Committee Chair | sdread@xtra.co.nz |
| Joyce Lawrence | Treasurer | niaruo@inspire.net.nz |
| Margaret Vickers | | r.m.vickers@xtra.co.nz |
| Jennie Purdon | | chrisjen1@orcon.net.nz |
| Helen Bayliss | Secretary | harrybayliss@xtra.co.nz |
| Jo Morgan | | morgl@xtra.co.nz |
| Sue Brophy | | t.sbrophy@icloud.com |

| Region 7 Top of the North | Position | Contact Email |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Heather Sorenson | Regional Leader | heathersorensen55@gmail.com |
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