



Leadership Hui Review

Gathering together in Wellington on an early Spring afternoon, regional representatives joined the Rural Women New Zealand Board and National Office staff for a mix of personal development, strategic thinking and practical problem-solving discussions.

The Hui began with a workshop on our different preferences and working styles. Participants had all completed a pre-Hui questionnaire and had some valuable time with an external facilitator guiding us through how an understanding of our own, and others', preferred styles could help us all in the ways we worked with each other. There was a few raised eyebrows and giggles as we all had “aha” moments both for ourselves and each other as we took our place on the continuums we formed.

This workshop set us up well for an afternoon of discussion about the proposals from the Membership Working Group who have been investigating options to help us achieve our membership growth goals. The group is made up of a mix of Board, Regional Leader and National Office representatives who shared their work to date for feedback and input from those present. An informal gathering followed in the evening with the opportunity for some socialising with both familiar and new faces.

An early start the next morning saw the group focused on discussion of a revamped approach to our Policy Hubs followed by sharing ideas for leadership development offerings.

Interspersed throughout the time we were together we also had an opportunity to celebrate what is going well in each Region, discuss niggles and gripes, come up with some practical solutions to help us improve communication and share our thoughts on the RWNZ “elevator pitch” (i.e. explaining what we do to someone who knows nothing about us on your way up the elevator).

At the beginning of the Hui, our President, Gill Naylor shared a very apt Whakatauki (proverb): *Waiho i te toipoto, kau i te toiroa* – Let us keep together, not wider apart.

There was certainly a sense over the course of the two days of working together with energy and commitment. This may have been assisted by some rather delicious Roses chocolates!

The feedback from this workshop will now inform next steps in the three strategic projects mentioned and we look forward to updating Members further at the AGM in November.

Editorial



Kia ora tātou,

Spring is definitely here with calves, lambs, fruit blossom, and all the wonderful things that Mother Nature delivers at this time of the year to make us feel positive after a long winter, and keep our food producers extremely busy! I hope our farmers and growers are all taking some time to find something each day to warm their hearts and make them smile - it all helps to relieve the stress at this busy time.

We have also been very busy here at Rural Women New Zealand with the membership renewals in full swing, compiling and completing annual financial and charities information for the Annual Reports and auditors, hosting the final round of judging for this year's Business Awards and running a two day Leadership Hui.

Thankfully, the connectivity issues at National Office (arising from the move in July) have been largely resolved but these issues did mean that the membership renewal process was not as smooth as we would have wished. The team has identified where and why these occurred and are amending the process for next year.

The team are making themselves at home in the new office space, which is very light, bright and airy with good views from the 10th floor windows and a great coffee shop on the ground floor of the building.

The Category Winners in this year's NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards will have been announced by the time you receive this Express. We have another totally amazing and very diverse group of rural businesswomen to celebrate and be truly inspired by. We are looking forward to celebrating their achievements and successes at the Awards Dinner and Ceremony in Wellington on Friday, 18 November.

Our Annual General Meeting, which will be held during the day, will be interesting and thought provoking and we do hope you will join us for both events.

Black Heels and Tractor Wheels is now in its 4th season. You can find out more on our website or on any of the other platforms on which it is available.

The Leadership Hui, which was postponed in February because of Covid-19, finally took place in September. We had a fantastic group of women from our Leadership Team join the Board and National Office staff for two days of personal development and valuable discussion on a range of topics relevant to our Strategic Plan.

Our policy work continues. We have recently been working with Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry of Health, and the Independent Electoral Review Panel. We have also engaged with other stakeholders around issues arising in the Health and Education Portfolios.

RWNZ has had two Resolutions accepted for presentation at the ACWW Triennial World Conference, which will be held in Malaysia in May next year. RWNZ has nominated one of our Members, Claire Mahon, for the position of Chairman of the Communications and Marketing Committee. We are looking forward to a strong delegation from RWNZ attending the Conference.

In the recent Board election process, Claire Williamson and Emma Higgins were returned as North and South Island Board members respectively. There was one nomination for the vacant National Finance Chair role. At the AGM, we will welcome Annette Marr as our new National Finance Chair and thank Jenny McDonald for her outstanding contribution during her tenure in that role.

Sincere congratulations were offered to Sandra Matthews, our North Island Board Member and National Chair, on winning the Rural Champion Award at the recent Beef and Lamb NZ Awards. It's a fantastic acknowledgement of Sandra's abilities, contribution to, and passion for, rural New Zealand. We are so very fortunate to have Sandra on our team.

As you can see, there is plenty happening and you can read all about it in more detail here in the Express!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the AGM and Business Awards in November.

Ka kite āno,

Gill

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Dates for the Diary

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

Friday, 25 November: White Ribbon Day

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

Friday, 9 December: Region 5 Country of Study – Kiwiana
Day, Katokati

Thursday, 22 December: National Office closes for 2022

Monday, 9 January 2023: National Office opens for 2023

Thursday, 2 – Saturday, 4 March: Golden Shears, Masterton

Friday, 17 – Sunday, 19 February 2023: The Shepherdess
Muster, Motu, Te Tairāwhiti

Friday, 28 – Sunday, 29 April 2023: Triple F, Taupo

Welcome to New Members

Helene Fourie, Region 6 Taranaki	Janelle Hocking, Region 3
Anna Pulley, Region 1	Leanne Matthews, Region 6GW
Rebecca Hyde, Region 2	Laura Hancock, Region 4
Gabrielle Seator, Region 1	Ingrid McConochie, Region 3
Joy Paton, Region 3	Nola Roeske, Region 3
Vanessa McCluskie, Region 6GW	Karen Feary, Region 1
Elizabeth Della Bosca, Region 3	Vivienne Lawrence, Region 4
Annette Marr, Region 2	Kate Cullwick, Region 4
Janet Mangin, Region 2	Sarah Neilson, Region 1
Mary-Ann Robertson, Region 2	Maureen Buchan, Region 7
Carol Diack, Region 1	Summer Priest, Region 4
Hollie Adams, Region 6GW	Bex Green, Region 2
Sarah Kimber, Region 7	Jan Miller, Region 1
Talei Russek, Region 5	Alison Griffin, Region 6GW
Rowena Whale, Region 1	Janice Viles, Region 4
Sarah Donaldson, Region 4	Alice Trevelyan, Region 6GW
Alicia Rossiter, Region 4	Johanna Olsen, Region 4
Mary Pullar, Region 1	Irene Brady, Region 1
Rachael Prout, Region 4	Andrea Clemens, Region 2
Philippa Bates, Region 4	Lesley McFarlane, Region 6GW
Megan Bates, Region 4	Susanne Sheehan, Region 3



From the Board Table

Kia ora tātou – Hello everyone

Board Members and Chief Executive Gabe have had the great pleasure of attending Regional Conferences over the past few months. Meeting our hard working Members who contribute to the vision and mission of Rural Women New Zealand has been a highlight for me as your Board Chair.

Our new Strategic Plan was presented at the conferences and it was heartening to receive mostly positive responses and feedback. This renewed plan has enabled us to work on building an action plan to ensure we gain results. As the saying goes, ‘the proof of the pudding is in the eating’. Be assured the Board is fully committed to delivering on the Strategic Plan. Ensuring RWNZ’s growth and continuing to support our communities into the future is essential.

Your Board has developed priorities for us to focus on and how we can gain the greatest momentum to get us moving forward. I must say the Board team have become very accomplished at whiteboard brainstorming!

Building membership is one action at the forefront of the plan. The Board has established a Membership Working Group (MWG) consisting of Board Members, Regional Leaders, newly joined Members, a young Member and a National Office staff member. The MWG are formulating how to add value for existing Members, how we attract new Members, and what initiatives will build our Membership while ensuring the options align with RWNZ Strategic Goals.

One thing the pandemic has taught us is that supporting and connecting our communities has never been more important. The isolation we all felt during the pandemic was a challenge, and more than ever, coming together in person is something to be cherished.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the AGM in November to celebrate our past and join in the excitement of working towards our future.

Ngā mihi, Sandra

News from our Connectors

From Marianne, the South Island Connector’s desk:

The highlight since the last Express was meeting our wonderful Regional Leaders & Committee Chairs, fellow Connector Kylie and the National Office team face-to-face at the Leadership Hui in Wellington. The room was filled with enthusiastic teamwork, honest feedback and introspection and discussions on how to preserve RW’s history, broadcast its services to (potential) members and strengthen our future through careful planning.

The spring energy has brought new events to promote so I enjoyed creating flyers and (online) announcements for anniversary celebrations, a wine and cheese platter tasting evening, a garden tour and lunch, meet and greet events and a new mums’ gift campaign.

The diversity of these initiatives shows the many roads that connect (to) RWNZ. Exchanging ‘success recipes’ remains a great tool to learn from each other and promote our unique organisation among ‘seasoned’ and ‘newcomer’ rural women. What valuable experience or idea would you love to share?



From Kylie:

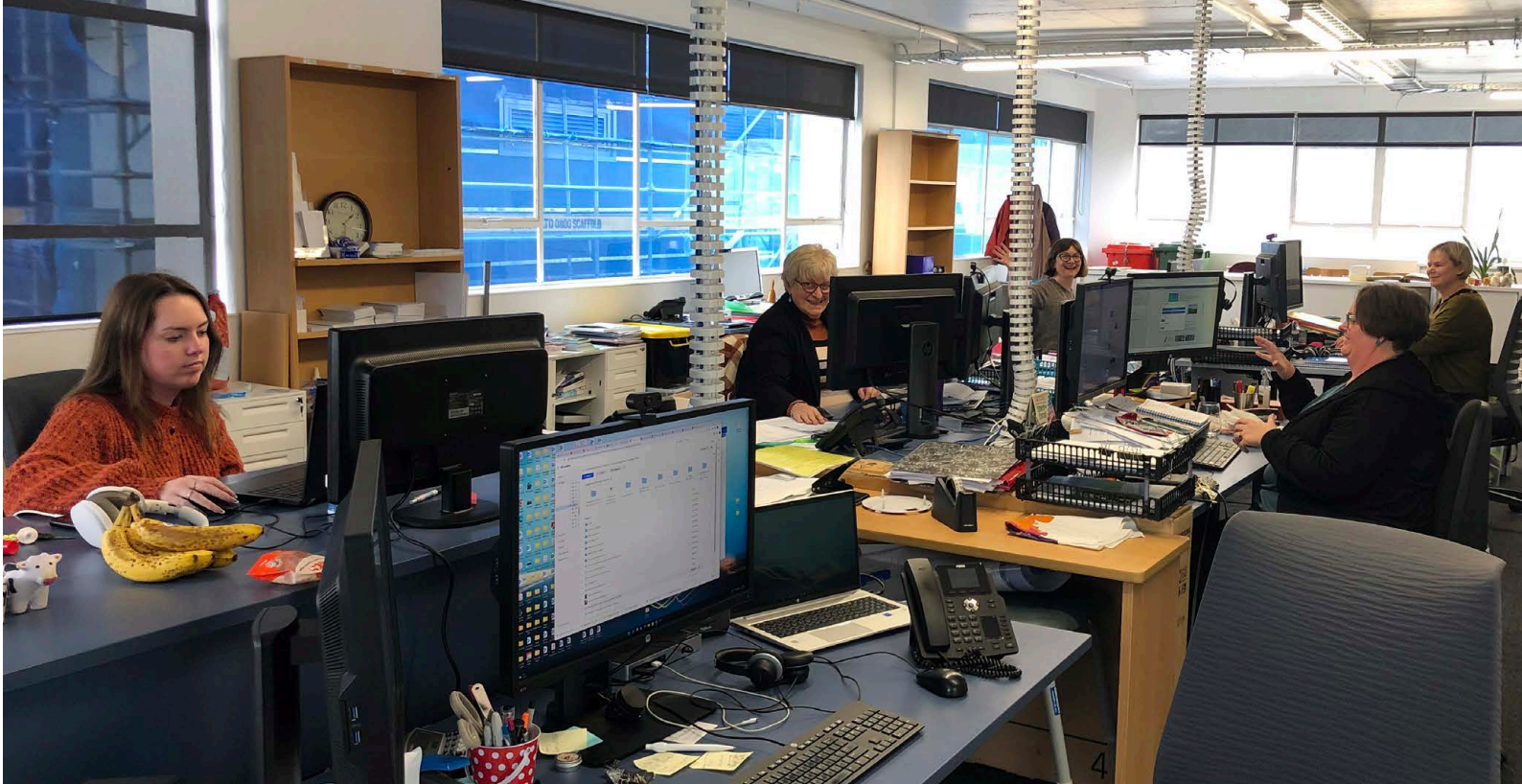
Can you believe it’s already well into Spring! I’ve been busy helping with promotional material for the Spring Flings happening across our Regions and some other exciting upcoming events. I’m also working on gathering content and feedback for the new regional flyers - watch this space.

My recent highlight was meeting the Leadership Team in Wellington in September. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet face-to-face, hear about the history and talk about the future of RWNZ.

If there’s anything your Region needs help with, feel free to reach out.



Please don’t hesitate to contact Marianne and Kylie by email if you are working on a project or event and would like their help.
Marianne: marianne.korten@ruralwomennz.nz
Kylie: kylie.bensemman@ruralwomennz.nz



National Office Update

The National Office team is now settled into our new space at 175 Victoria Street with connectivity woes resolved and unpacking completed (almost!). It has been lovely to welcome Members to the new space and we do encourage you to pop in if you are in Wellington to say hello.

This time of year is always particularly busy with the annual audit process, preparation for the AGM and the judging and preparation for the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards. When this is combined with a year of disruption, it makes for an extremely busy few months and we thank you for your patience and understanding particularly as we have worked to resolve the glitches with membership renewals.

Our thanks to the wonderful volunteers who completed their Statements of Financial Performance and their Statements of Service Performance for their respective groups. This is a very important part of the audit process and we appreciate the efforts made to assist us with reporting on our consolidated financial position required as part of our charitable status.

A highlight for us all in the office was the Leadership Hui in September. Given we had not been able to meet in person as a group since February 2020, this was a very valuable opportunity. Although we have all appreciated the wonder of Zoom meetings to connect us when we couldn't meet face to face, it was certainly great to be able to connect in person and build on that previous engagement. The laughter and energy in the room over the two days was wonderful to be part of with brains and funny bones all fully engaged!

On the policy front, the webinar on the Resource Management Act was well received and we will keep

working to add to these types of opportunities for Members. We have also been involved in early engagement on how consultation might work for the development of the Women's Health Strategy and Rural Health Strategy as part of the health reforms. We are working to maximise opportunities for Members to engage with this very important consultation which is likely to happen in the first quarter of next year.

Gabe also attended Flourish – a one day women's health conference hosted by the Royal New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and which included participation from a range of medical professionals, NGOs and consumer groups and Government representatives. This is a valuable network for us to continue to engage with as this work continues.

By the time you receive this Express you will also have received one of our Policy e-newsletters highlighting other policy work including ongoing engagement on changes to the registration and licencing of firearms, consultation on electoral reforms and information on how you can participate in the Backbone Collective's research into police response to family violence.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM in November – don't forget to register for the AGM even if you are not coming to the Awards dinner. There is no charge for the AGM but we do need to have your registration for logistics and catering purposes. Although we like to think we can channel the rural woman's ability to rustle up hospitality for unexpected guests at a moment's notice, our collective blood pressures will thank you for the prior notice!

NZI RURAL WOMEN BUSINESS AWARDS 2022



We have our Category Award Winners for this year's NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards.

Once again, we received our largest ever number of entries from the most diverse array of enterprises and businesses yet.

Following last year's Awards review and feedback from the Award sponsors, previous entrants and the judging panel, this year's Awards entry criteria was refreshed and reframed to recognise the many ways that women own and operate enterprises in Aotearoa New Zealand.

As a result, this year's entrants included registered companies, partnerships, an iwi organisation and sole traders. They were spread across the country - the furthest north from Kaitaia and the furthest south from Invercargill.

This year's judging panel faced a huge task as the calibre of the entrants was incredibly high across all categories. There were no easy decisions and more than once, the judges commented on how humbling it was to meet such inspirational, innovative and entrepreneurial women.

The final round of judging took place in early October. Each finalist had an interview with the judging panel. By the time they reach the interview stage, our finalists have completed a raft of material and tasks for the judges' consideration including detailed written responses, preparing a video and obtaining references. Many of the finalists often tell the judges how incredibly helpful taking part in this process is for them. It provides an opportunity to review their business journeys, celebrate their achievements and assess their goals.

You will meet our seven Category Winners at this year's Awards Dinner and Ceremony in Wellington during which one will be named our Supreme Award Winner for 2022. As always, this will provide an opportunity to thank our Sponsors who help make these Awards possible.

Emerging Business:

Foxtrot Home – Kate Cullwick, Waipukurau

Proudly sponsored by *the Manatū Wāhine, Ministry for Women.*



Love of the Land:

The Limery – Dianne Downey, Wairoa

Proudly sponsored by *the Ministry for Primary Industries - Manatū Abu Matua.*



Innovation:

Hopefield Hemp - Jody Drysdale, Gore

Proudly sponsored by *Hynds Rural.*



Rural Champion:

Whānau Consultancy Services – Serena Lyders, Invercargill

Proudly sponsored by *Jarden*



Creative Arts:

The Bitches' Box and Amelia Guild Art – Amelia Dunbar, Windwhistle

Proudly sponsored by the *Public Trust Hall.*



Rural Health and Wellness Excellence

Strong Woman – Sarah Martelli, Reporoa

Proudly sponsored by *Access Community Health*



Bountiful Table

The Craypot – Dayna and Nicole Buchanan, Jacksons Bay

Proudly sponsored by *Havana Coffee Works*



Rural Women New Zealand would like to thank:

Premier Partner:



Partners:



Supporters:





Annual General Meeting 2022

We will be returning to the beautiful Public Trust Hall in Wellington for this year's Annual General Meeting.

This edition of the Express accompanies this year's Annual Reports booklet and the Annual General Meeting provides the opportunity for us to review the organisations achievements and challenges over the past year while turning to consider future initiatives and policy areas.

Registration will open at 9.30 a.m. Tea, coffee and Nosh's famous cheese scones will be available while we catch up with old friends before the start of the Meeting at 10 a.m.

In addition to the formalities required at all Annual General Meetings, we will have opportunities to hear from our guest speakers, including our Investment Bankers Angus Marks and Andrew Austin from Jarden.

Jenny McDonald will address us for the final time as our National Finance Chair as she completes her second term in that role. We will also take the opportunity to welcome Annette Marr into the role.

One of the highlights of the day will be the Speech Competition. This year's topic is **A Modern Rural Women's Guide to Etiquette** which is sure to produce some little-known gems to help us navigate the modern world.

The Reports Booklet contains this year's Remit and Bylaw changes for consideration by the meeting.

We are planning policy matters in the afternoon with a session on the current Health Reforms. The health and wellbeing of rural women and access to resources and services is one of the foundations upon which Rural Women NZ was founded. These concerns remain as important today as they were nearly a century ago.

There will also be an opportunity for a Question and Answer session with National Board Members.

The Meeting will conclude at approximately 4 p.m. to allow everyone to refresh before the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2022 event at 6 p.m.

MEET OUR NEW NATIONAL FINANCE CHAIR

ANNETTE MARR

2000 Omihi Road, Greta Valley, North Canterbury

Phone: 021 743 750

Email: annette.marr@ruralwomennz.nz

Occupation: Chartered Accountant, Deer Farmer

Personal Background: Raised on dairy and deer farm in Maruia, attended Christchurch Girls' High School (including a Womens Division FF bursary for my seventh form year), completed a BAgCom (Farm Management) and Post Graduate Diploma of Commerce (Financial Management) at Lincoln University. Worked as a rural accountant in Ashburton for 13 years, was a partner in an accounting firm in Greta Valley, then own firm Arawata Chartered Accountants for last 14 years. Dairy, beef and deer farmed in Maruia since 1989 and deer farmed in Greta Valley since 2000. Two adult sons both involved in farming.

Community involvement: 20+ years Treasurer of Maruia Community Hall, 15 years Treasurer of Hurunui Rugby Club, 18 years Board member/Trustee of Special Olympics Canterbury, past President of Amberley A&P Assn, Hurunui 3E Charitable Trust, Amuri Womens Farm Discussion Group facilitator, 14 years scout leader, Vestry Warden for Glenmark-Waikari Parish, P2P Deer Advance Party.



Rural Women experience: Past Member of Maruia RW (mother and grandmother both members as well) and Amuri Farm Group, attended Amuri Dinner Group evenings.

Other Rural Community experience: Maruia Play School committee, Maruia Primary School PTA, Greta Valley Primary School Friends of the School, Hurunui College parent involvement with school activities, camps and trips. Played sport and rode with a ladies trekking group and Mounted Rifles. Scargill book club.

Governance experience: Past director of CRT/Greenfields prior to Farmlands amalgamation, current Director of Knewe Biosystems Ltd, Trustee Special Olympics Canterbury, Hurunui Rugby and Amberley A&P Executive.

ACWW Triennial

The ACWW 30th Triennial World Conference will be taking place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 17- 25 May 2023.

The registration process is different this year and all registrants must do so directly through the ACWW website. Attendees will also need to arrange their own travel to and from the Conference. If you are planning to go to Kuala Lumpur, please let the National Office know and we can put you all in touch with each other so you may co-ordinate your travel arrangements if you wish.

This will be especially important for managing the voting process during the Conference.

RWNZ has two Resolutions for presentation at the Conference. The first is a combination of two Resolutions presented at the South Pacific Area Conference in Melbourne. This combined Resolution addresses Rural and Gender proofing. Our second Resolution recommends Rural Women's Employment Action Plans.



ACWW BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINEE: CLAIRE MAHON

Rural Women New Zealand has nominated our Member Claire Mahon for a position on the ACWW Board of Trustees. The elections for the Trustee roles will be held during the 30th Triennial World Conference in Kuala Lumpur in May 2023. Claire is nominated for the position of Chairman of the Communications and Marketing Committee.

Here is Claire's biography:

I am an international human rights lawyer and global expert on socioeconomic development. I work as a consultant on issues related to women and gender equality, the right to food and food security, agricultural production systems, the environment, access to education, global health, and housing.

I have worked as a Special Advisor to world leaders including the former President of Ireland Mrs Mary Robinson, and the first UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. I've run a global consulting practice for over 20 years, offering advocacy, policy, legal and communications advice to businesses, governments, civil society, nongovernmental organisations, advocacy movements, and international experts. I've worked in the non-profit sector for organisations such as Amnesty International, and in academia as a law professor at some of the world's top academic institutions. I've also worked as the Senior Advisor on Human Rights and Inclusive Development for the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

I am passionate about women's empowerment, the role of women in agriculture and the environment, rural women's health and education, and communicating about these issues. I have written and edited books on the right to food, the right to health, women and the environment, and housing rights and homelessness. I have written speeches, designed and managed websites, written social media

content, drafted grant proposals, and authored advocacy guides and legal correspondence. I have been Board member/Trustee of organisations in New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland.

After two decades living in Geneva, Switzerland, and working around the world, in 2018 I returned to one of my homelands, Aotearoa New Zealand, to the regional community of Rotorua, where my family have farmed (dry stock - sheep, deer, bull beef - and dairy) for four generations. I now divide my time between New Zealand and my other homeland, Australia.

Other positions of note:

- Experience in managing the communications, marketing, and media of numerous organisations, including the Global Human Rights Group, an international NGO, and I have worked in volunteer and paid roles in communications for member-led movements including Amnesty International.
- Senior Advisor to the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Special Advisor to the first UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Organised for the New Zealand Equal Opportunity Commissioner to meet with members of Dairy Women NZ and Rural Women NZ to learn about the issues affecting women working in rural communities and on farms. Co-author of the book "The Fight for the Right to Food", with Jean Ziegler
- Co-editor of the book "Realizing the Right to Health"
- Keynote speaker at the NZ Foreign Policy School in the year the theme was the Global Food Crises
- Editor for Oxford University Press.
- I work fluently in French, and passably in Spanish, and I have a basic knowledge of Te Reo Māori.

Cool Wool News



Here is a photo of Jenni Purdon and Faye Carver who continually create the most fabulous and beautifully knitted garments for premature babies born at our local DHB Hospital. These garments also carry our RWNZ branded label.

Photo and caption supplied by Margaret Vickers, Region 6 Taranaki.

And this from Region 1: this is a fabulous initiative to contact and support new mums across Otago and Southland.

Black and Coloured Sheep Breeders' Association

Members of the Black and Coloured Sheep Breeders' Association of New Zealand all have one thing in common – they all love wool and naturally coloured sheep and live somewhere in New Zealand! The only differences are in the flock size (from zero to thousands), purpose and location (small lifestyle blocks to large commercial farms).

Some produce wool for use in their own handcrafts such as spinning, felting and weaving, or to sell to craftspeople. Others are involved in the commercial production of naturally coloured wool products, or breed for high quality sheepskins. Some do not own sheep, or are unable to be crafty, but they are interested in and wear or own something made from naturally coloured wool.

The Association offers a wide range of activities with members participating in events such as displays, field days and shows.

We also hold a National Fleece Competition where non-members can purchase top quality hand craft fleeces. Only members can enter in the fleece, handcraft, sheep skin and photography competitions so whether you're crafty, own sheep or just love natural fibre there's something for everyone. New members are also given the option to be

partnered with a mentor who can offer help and advice on everything from animal health to showing their sheep or crafts if they would like. There will soon be instructional videos added to our members section of the website (under construction) and all members receive a quarterly magazine and a copy of the annual breeders' flock book.

We encourage all members to attend our annual conference and AGM which is hosted by a different branch each year. Here you can not only enter the crafty competitions, but purchase some of the entries and more importantly meet the Committee and play an active role in what you want the Association and Branches to do more (or less) of!

We have a range of membership options including one for Junior members. At our last conference our youngest Junior Member to attend was 3 years old decked out from head to toe in hand spun, hand knitted clothing his mom made from the wool off his own pet sheep!

There are now twelve branches throughout New Zealand, and if you are interested in finding out more, please visit our website www.colouredsheep.org.nz or contact the National Secretary, Shirley Wallace: secretary@colouredsheep.org.nz Phone: (03) 526 7022



National Project Update - COUNTRY OF STUDY

This year's country of study is **Aotearoa New Zealand – Know your local Community**. Taranaki Area celebrated this by looking back over 100 years of Farmer's Union, Women's Division of Federated Farmers, and Rural Women New Zealand.

The occasion was celebrated with furs, hats, pearls, gloves and memorabilia from Branches and Provincials, for display as well as to be spoken about. This included an embroidered version of our Creed, a wooden shield of the Oakura Branch with 1925 on it (the first Branch created in New Zealand), along with banners, tablecloths, histories and photos of the many Branches in Taranaki. In typical COVID fashion, the planned speaker Emily was unable to come on the day. So as an impromptu, running with 'the meeting of people from different cultures', two members present, gave their experiences to settling into life in New Zealand. Jennie came from Rhodesia in 1979, settling in Ararata, and Alma came from England in 1952 settling in Taranaki. There was a mixed quiz of RWNZ and general questions and a hilarious skit from the Stratford Branch Members – running a WDFE meeting, written back in 1985 with one of those members still included.



We are looking forward to seeing all the other fantastic events to celebrate this year's country of study.

Centennial Committee

The Committee met again via Zoom at the end of August. This had provided the opportunity for Committee members to discuss and collect ideas from their Regional Conferences and we opened the meeting with a round the Regions review and report back.

It was really heartening to hear the range of ideas offered by Members as to how we could mark our centennial year.

Building on our earlier discussions regarding the need to create a co-ordinated timetable for local, regional and national events and projects so they could be mapped out over the year, the Committee discussed a methodology by which we could use to assess all the suggested proposals and projects. We decided that the overarching goal is to showcase the organisation throughout our centennial year. To achieve this, each proposal will be considered as to how it reflects the Past/Present/Future of the organisation and whether it will have a Local/Regional/National impact.

Using this framework, we considered the proposals received so far. There were some proposals that received unanimous support including the publication of a centennial book, a

formal function, a garden party and the commemorative rose project initiated by Region 4. We decided that a number of ideas required further research and investigation while some proposals should be put to the wider membership for feedback.

An action list was prepared based on our discussions. One of the key actions was the formation of a sub-committee to further refine the proposal for the centennial book. Its mandate is to consider the costs, content and timeline to produce a book that celebrates the many aspects of the WDFU, WDFE and RWNZ. This sub-committee has already met once and work is underway on the identified tasks.

The next meeting of the Centennial Committee will take place in early November. If you have a fabulous idea for a way to celebrate our centennial year, please don't hesitate to contact the Centennial Committee.

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

Branch News

REGION 6GW - WAIPA KING COUNTRY PROVINCIAL

75th Celebration

When Covid lockdowns scuttle your plans to celebrate important milestones, as they did in for the Waipa King Country Provincial in 2021, you just rearrange those plans to accommodate.

Members were finally able to come together on Saturday 27 August 2022 – one year later than originally planned - for a wonderful celebration of 75 years of service to their rural communities.

In August 1946, the first meeting of Waipa Provincial Women's Division Federated Farmers (WDFP) was held to "further the work of the organisation." With 19 Branches it was one of the largest in the country.

Waipa was the first Provincial to employ a paid co-ordinator for the Homecare Scheme – a valuable service that provided assistance to rural women who were in need of help in their homes after serious illness, the birth of children, especially mums who had multiple births and large families to cope with, and mums who had to go out on the farm when their husbands had farm accidents. Even today there are women around who still talk about the wonderful assistance they received during these difficult times.

In 1998, North and Central King Country joined Waipa thus becoming Waipa King Country as it is known today.

Just over 50 women attended the celebration at Rosenvale. Some had driven some distance to be part of the day. Memories were shared, history revisited and friendships refreshed. Past and present Members enjoyed the various items of memorabilia, wonderful food, and entertainment by Te Awamutu's own 'Woolshed Warblers'.

Barbara Kuriger (MP Taranaki King Country) spoke about the importance of our rural land and congratulated everyone on the contributions made to rural communities.

We were reminded of the fund-raising events over the years and Treasurer Raewyn Marwood detailed the distribution of over \$350,000 to individuals and organisations since the year 2000.

The celebration cake was cut by Mrs Justine Baxter (President 1978 – 1980) and the current President, Sue Hall.

Sue Hall reminded those present that over the last 75 years the Provincial has seen many strong, innovative women – some had been recognised with national awards but many more have quietly got on with service to their communities, not seeking accolades or recognition, but simply recognising the importance of taking care of our rural women and families as they journey through their time on the land. The 75th celebration was to honour them and thank them for 75 years of Service Simply Given.

Thanks to Sue Hall (Provincial President) for this report.



REGION 6 - TARANAKI

Conference 2022

Held in Stratford on Friday 29th July 2022, the Regional Committee had created an interesting programme that took in firstly the Region 6 Taranaki AGM, followed by several speakers covering off different topics.

Our first speaker, Nelson Polutu from Stratford's Tutaki Youth Inc – who is working with vulnerable youth in our local communities – opened the eyes of many present in the room as to how many youth have not got the basics in life such as 'cooking toast, boiling an egg'.

As a policeman, Nelson has seen and worked with many vulnerable communities who need guidance in their lives going forward. His passion shone through in his delivery of sharing some examples relating to social issues such as education, health and well being, fitness, mentoring, truancy, housing, employment to name some. Tutaki Youth Inc has a drop-in centre, and has an association with a local gym which is very supportive of programmes for these youth in need.

Our second speaker, Juliet Vickers spoke about the changes in education over her 28 years of teaching. Yesterday's education was the 3 Rs and "one fits all". Today we know that doesn't work across the board, so students are being taught the skills of the 4Cs. (Collaboration, Communication, to be Creative, and Critical thinking) along with the 3Rs so as to develop life long skills to take them into the work space of tomorrow.

Again as with our first speaker, there are many gaps in many childrens' lives due to lack of parenting support in their lives as preschool and young children – so teachers have a lot to deal with on a daily basis, over and above teaching the curriculum required of them.

Changing tack, we had Jenny McDonald, National Finance Chair and Angela McLeod, RWNZ Policy Manager with us too. Jenny talked us through the RWNZ Strategic

Plan going forward. She talked about funding to grow the RWNZ organisation, of the Contestable Fund for supporting initiatives and projects with the ultimate goal to grow RWNZ membership, the educational podcasts "Black Heels and Tractor Wheels", and employing the skills of the 2 Connectors Kylie and Marianne for helping run events.

Angela stressed the importance of the RWNZ Members providing 'real' stories when she sends out survey questions to back up her when pushing a RWNZ policy such as firearms legislation, impact of school bus usage, Three Waters, midwives shortage, M. Bovis to name some issues.

A big thank you to both Jenny and Angela for giving us more insight to the workings of RWNZ at national level.

The day rounded off with a thank you to all in attendance, and some went home with some goodies from the raffles.

Tributes

In Memory Of Nola Grace Smith

17 September 1940 - 27 May 2022

*Life Member of Kauru Hill Branch –
Region One*



In May this year we lost a faithful member always ready to help out. Nola however, preferred to work behind the scenes so only begrudgingly did she take on the role of Branch Secretary in 1988 and only then as a shared position with another long-time member Daphne Roger.

Nola was always there cleaning the hall before and after functions, along with preparing and serving supper at the Annual Kauru Hill Hall Fundraiser Ball. She was a talented member, especially when it came to RW A&P Show Days – her neatness often gaining awards for the branch.

In 1990 Nola received the Bar of Honour and in 1996 on the branch's 50th birthday Nola was presented with life membership.

Right up until the deteriorating use of her arm, she was still bringing along suppers and taking part as social hostess at the monthly meetings. It was only due to her illness that she resigned her membership two years ago. Our district and our Branch will miss her and her contributions dearly.

In Memory Of Marjorie Martyn

Branch Life Member of Tutaenui Branch

Tutaenui Branch has lost another wonderful Member. Marj Martyn was a valuable Member who joined in everything. Her daughter, Jacky Stafford, talked her into joining in the late 80s and she never looked back.

She was a Branch Life Member and stood by the Women's Creed in all things. Unfortunately for Marj and her family, they lost her husband Tom just 7 weeks beforehand. It was a very sad time and as a Branch our hearts go out to the family. Marj will be very much missed.

In Memory Of Nicola Bavin

Member of St Arnaud Branch

Nicky Bavin, a very active and valued Member of the St Arnaud branch, died in September after a short illness. In November 2021, Nicky held a fundraising event in her amazing garden. She was very important part of the wider community as she and husband Paul are significant dairy farmers in that area.

Nicky was the type of person who could cater for 100 people without blinking her eye. She was a great friend to Marg Anderson and all the ladies in St Arnaud.

Farewell to Old Friends

Linley (Minty) Henderson - Pakawau Branch -
Branch Honours

Fay Hamilton (Catherine Ferguson) – Hokonui Branch - BLM
Vera Davis - Galatea Branch - BLM
Carol Vari - Galatea Branch
Brenda Douglas - Clifden Branch

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



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.

Members' Giveaway

Members who attended the Summit in 2018 might recall hearing from well known author Kate De Goldi. You might also recall that Kate spoke about the Annual 2 book which she had edited and published with Susan Paris.

Annual 2 was the sequel to Annual 1 (obviously) and these are the kind of books that everyone loved getting a child. They are a delicious assortment of stories, comics, poems, art, crafts – a veritable chocolate box of incredible illustrations and good times that, although written for 9-13 year olds, would entertain any reader.

Good news: Kate and Susan have just published Annual 3 and it is fantastic. How do we know? Susan dropped off a copy for us to give away to a lucky Member and, of course, we had to take a peek to check it out and make sure it was okay... Amongst our favourites are *Gone Girls – The ones we almost forgot* by Melinda Arkle which features three very intrepid rural women and *Invalid Words* by Renata Hopkins.

But wait there's more - Kate and Susan have released a companion tea towel to the famous Common Household Biscuits and Slices of New Zealand. The new Traditional Big Spread of Aotearoa NZ looks like it has been based on



a Rural Women NZ catered event. So...we have combined the Annual and the tea towel into one excellent giveaway. To enter the competition for this fabulous prize, please send your name and address to competitions@ruralwomennz.nz or phone National Office on 0800 256 467.

Of course, you might want to start your Christmas shopping now! If you wish to purchase Annual 3 or the tea towel (or both), visit the Annual Annual shop at www.annualannual.com/shop

REGIONAL LEADERS & REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Region 1 Lower South Island	Position	Contact Email
Raewyn van Vugt	Regional Leader	whitegold@rivernet.co.nz
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