

RWNZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & NZI RURAL WOMEN NZ BUSINESS AWARDS 2020

Suddenly, we find ourselves in October and there is only a month or so until the Rural Women New Zealand Annual General Meeting and the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2020. We are looking forward to welcoming members to Wellington in November and the tantalizing opportunity of meeting together.

Like so many aspects of our lives this year, the AGM and Business Awards have been reconfigured to accommodate changing circumstances. It feels like a very long time ago that we were scoping venues and planning a two day event – it was in fact, only February. Plans have undergone several incarnations before we settled our arrangements.

As they say, “things have a way of working out all right in the end” and we are very happy with our plans for Friday, 20 November. Registrations are now open for the AGM and the Business Awards and you can do so online by visiting www.ruralwomennz.nz; by emailing your registration form to conference@ruralwomennz.nz or by posting your form to National Office.

Both the AGM and the Business Awards will be held at the Public Trust Hall which is centrally located at 131-135 Lambton Quay and an easily accessible location.

Here is an outline of the day:

Part One: Rural Women New Zealand Annual General Meeting

- 9 am Registration opens and refreshments will be available
- 10 am Opening Ceremony commences
- 11 am AGM commences
- 12.30 pm Lunch
- 1 pm AGM resumes
- 3.30 pm AGM concludes

Part Two: NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2020

- 6 pm Arrival and refreshments
- 6.30 pm Awards Dinner and Ceremony commences
- 7.30 pm Dinner served
- 9.30 pm Awards Dinner and Ceremony concludes



The closing date for registrations is Friday, 30 October.

Editorial

Kia ora tātou

As I write my last editorial as National President of RWNZ, I am reflecting on the past four years. I am incredibly thankful for the amazing range of experiences and opportunities that have come my way, and there have been many highlights during this time. One that will always stand out for me is the recent Mighty Morning Tea Shout. I want to thank all the Members who took part in this event across the country. For me, it was a real expression of our values, and the recognition of how food plays a vital role in connecting people. The last line of our Creed reminds us “let us not to forget to be kind” and I think that in recognising our essential workers and those who supported their communities through lockdown, we displayed gratitude and kindness through a service simply given. You can see the photos from around the country in this issue.

It has been a very intense few months in re-establishing connections, re-organising plans and re-scheduling meetings and events. Many plans were interrupted by lockdown as a result of Covid-19 and my diary has been filled with new appointments as we move to a new “normal”. We have seen many opportunities come out of the challenges of this Covid-19 pandemic.

The lifting of travel restrictions has meant that the Board has been able to meet face to face again and we have had two meetings since June. Zoom has been incredibly useful in keeping us connected but I still prefer the energy of meeting in person.

As President, I have quite a bit of reporting to complete for year-end, which shows how much work has gone on in the past 12 months, and the great opportunities to represent RWNZ that have happened.

One of the meetings conducted remotely was the first round of judging for this year's NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards. I am very proud that we have been able to run the Awards this year as there has never been a better time to celebrate, support and encourage rural women in business. The calibre of the entrants this year is outstanding. The second round of judging to determine our Category Winners will be very competitive and the judges are meeting in mid-October to interview the candidates.



I want to make a special mention of our Premier Partner, NZI.

In particular, thank you to Jon Watson and Christina Chellew for all your support and help in re-invigorating these Awards and especially for your leap of faith in deciding that we could hold the Awards this year.

It was an honour to be selected as a panelist on the Ministry of Women's Covid-19 Community Fund and to have the opportunity to ensure that rural community projects and organisations had a voice on the panel.

I have also been a panelist on the first two of the new RWNZ Policy Summit Series webinars. This series is another by-product of Covid-19. Given that we must plan for all contingencies in a Covid-19 environment, RWNZ has introduced these policy-based webinars so that Members can continue to participate in RWNZ policy development. Our first session was held in late August and focused on rural maternal health and our second session was entitled “Why Vote?” I want to thank the exceptional panelists that have joined us in considering these topics and I look forward to the upcoming sessions.

My four years as President have been challenging and incredibly fulfilling with opportunities and experiences that I will carry with me forever. Thank you to everyone who has supported, challenged and helped me through. I step down, knowing the organisation is in good hands.

Lastly, this editorial would not be complete without my sincere thanks to you, our Members, for all the work that you do. We carry a proud heritage and will continue to do so into the future. I want to thank my fellow Board Members and the Leadership Team for your commitment to advancing our wonderful organisation. Thank you also to the Office team who punch way above their weight in the quality and quantity of the work they produce on our behalf.

Ngā mihi nui

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NATIONAL BOARD OF RWNZ

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Dates for the Diary

Wednesday, 21 October:

St Arnaud Branch Dessert Evening

Wednesday, 21 October:

Sweet Louise Breast Cancer Awareness Morning Tea,
National Office, Wellington

Sunday, 1 November:

Region 4 Luncheon event, Bulls

Friday, 20 November:

RWNZ AGM and the NZI Rural Women NZ Business
Awards, Wellington

Monday, 23 and Tuesday, 24 November:

Primary Industries Summit, Wellington

THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES NEW ZEALAND SUMMIT

To be held at Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington on 23 & 24 November 2020, the summit will bring together world class, global and local experts.

Speakers will deliver powerful insights to support and enable the sector to plan and prepare for its transition and adaptation to a sustainable and profitable future.

Themes include:

- Hear about the implementation of the vision of the Primary Sector Council by Food and Fibre Aotearoa
- Analysing the global trade and export environment and markets for New Zealand produce
- Exploring global food trends - developing high value products aimed at international consumers that care
- Achieving sustainable land use and identifying practical actions to address agricultural emissions
- Exploring the latest technology led food disruption trends and assessing the potential risks and opportunities presented by alternative proteins.

Key speakers include:

- Vangelis Vitalis, Chief Trade Negotiator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Lain Jager, Chairman of the Establishment Leadership Group, Food and Fibre Aotearoa
- Bruce Cameron, Chair, Zespri International Ltd

TAKING TIME TO THRIVE

(without feeling guilty)

Are you a farming woman who wants to thrive?

Need the time to do what you want to do, but often feel too guilty and selfish? Investing in yourself is important for both yourself and your family, and now more than ever, your wellness is crucial - both personally and as farmers.

Don't miss this **free** workshop where you will learn:

Why it's critical to you and your family that you learn how to take the time to thrive.

The practical things you can do to help you thrive.

How to overcome the guilt that stops you from making yourself a priority.

Join Loshni Manikam and other farming women just like you for an honest and humorous talk to inspire and motivate you to start taking action.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MANATU HAUORA

RuralWomen
NEW ZEALAND
Ngā Wahine Taumatawhiri o Aotearoa

RuralSupport

THRIVING FARMING WOMEN
family, farming & happiness

Spaces are limited so do not delay.
Register at [TryBooking.com/nz](https://www.trybooking.com/nz) or clicking [here](#)

- Matt Cullen, GM Sustainable Dairying, Fonterra
- Andre Gargiulo, Chief Customer Officer, Sanford
- Scottie Chapman, Chief Executive Officer, Spring Sheep
- Nadine Tunley, Chief Executive Officer, Oha Honey Limited Partnership
- Dr Harry Clark, Director, NZ Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre and Climate Change Commissioner
- Jenny Zegler, Associate Director of Mintel Food and Drink, Mintel (USA).

There is a Primary Industries Awards Dinner Ceremony as well on November 23rd.

For all the details visit: www.primaryindustries.co.nz



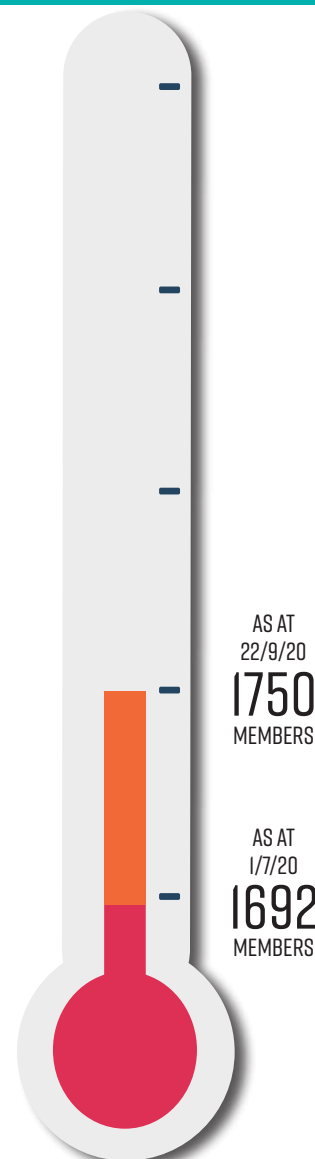
**PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
NEW ZEALAND
SUMMIT & AWARDS**
23 & 24 November 2020

On Wednesday, 1 July, RWNZ launched the Rural Women New Zealand Plus One campaign. This campaign aims to double RWNZ's membership through each and every one of our current Members this year. The challenge is for each Member to find one new Member.

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?

Give the gift of a RWNZ membership to someone you know who cares about the future and wellbeing of rural New Zealanders and carries a little bit of rural in their heart. When you think about the incredible legacy that RWNZ continues to create, who do you think of? Perhaps you may think of someone who knows how important it is to have a say about how decisions and policies affect rural women and their families. Or maybe you know a woman who owns and operates a rural business who would benefit from being part of a bigger network. What about a woman who could learn new skills as a RWNZ Member? There are so many reasons why the women you know should be Members of RWNZ.

Help us find the next generation of incredible rural women leaders by adding your +1.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Kim Oakly | Sophia Powell | Jenny Nettlingham | Sjaan Field | Lianne Bickley |
| Sandy Sim | Cheryl Richardson | Kay Jones | Sandra Vibert | Duncan Beckwith |
| Jenny Garrett | Caroline Haack | Colleen Dodd | Sue Nicholls | Beverley Ross |
| Sharon Austen | Sheree Espin | Jenny Horn | Maree Goodwin | Annette Byres |
| Fiona Bolden | Kelsey Espin | Jane Weekes | Lynda Watson | E E Geary (Betty) |
| Heide du Toit | Robin Richan | Bonnie Fogarty | Esther McIntosh | Diana Hansen |
| Heather Warneford | Trina Marriott | Esther Smith | Colleen Robbins | Annette Alexander |
| Collleen Drury | Darryl Fausett | Linda Hughes | Pamela Weston | Sara McCunnie |
| Donna Wardlaw | Carolyn Jones | Sharlyne Caldwell | Pip Baker | Shelley Harrison |
| Sharon McKandry | Colleen Sheldon | Caroline Batley | Carol Andrews | Rachel Roadley |
| Chloe Belfield | Ann McClelland | Stephanie Kelly | Wendy Black | Adele Butterworth |
| Cecilia Milne | Alexis Hanson | Wendy O'Connell | Alison Woodcock | Lorna Sulzberger |
| Sally Conroy | Nicola Tennent | Cate Ross | Joanne Moriarty | Kerry Nalder |
| Glenys Gillanders | Jan Harris | Lisa Taylor | Amelia Campbell | Keren Eastwood |
| Marian Allen | Sandra Matthews | Jackie Hale | Fiona Elworthy | Judith Hoch |
| | | Faye Thomas | Maria Muilwky | |
| | | Pam Dovey | Jan White | |

SPEECH COMPETITIONS 2020

The topic for this year's Speech Competition has been announced and is: *"Life during lockdown"*.

The competition will be held in Wellington in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting on Friday, 20 November.

This contest is open to one contestant only from each region. Details of each regional representative entrant must be provided by email (competitions@ruralwomennz.nz) or post to the RWNZ National Office no later than Monday, 2 November. The contestant must be a current financial RWNZ member.

Each speech shall be no less than four minutes and no more than five minutes in duration. If a contestant speaks for longer than the five minutes allowed, one (1) penalty point will be deducted for every 10 seconds overtime.

Two prizes will be presented. The first is the Tarrant Bell which will be awarded to the best speech as judged according to the contest rules. The second is the Tutaenui Bell which will be awarded to the best first time entrant.

RWNZ AGM

We look forward to welcoming members to the AGM this year. Our venue is a beautifully restored 1908 building that combines all the best of its beautiful heritage while integrating modern amenities and facilities. It seems like a nice parallel to draw with RWNZ. The AGM will embrace RWNZ's history and traditions and offer new initiatives and perspectives.

Following the Opening Ceremony, the business of the AGM will begin. The Annual Reports and Finances will

be reviewed. These have been circulated in advance and we encourage Members to bring their copies with them to the AGM in the interests of our environment.

After lunch this year's Remits will be considered and determined. We will also declare the results of the National Elections as we welcome our new President and Board Members. The AGM will close at 3.30pm.

There is no fee for Members to attend the AGM but please do register for catering purposes.

NZI RURAL WOMEN NZ BUSINESS AWARDS

Once the decision was made to proceed with the Awards this year, it was clear that there has never been a better time to support and celebrate rural women in business. The calibre of the candidates is incredibly high and it will be a privilege to share these women's stories at the Awards Dinner and Ceremony.

There are seven categories again this year and the winners of these will be announced mid-October and the Supreme Award will be announced at the Awards Dinner and Ceremony.

After the Public Trust Hall has been reset for dinner, we will be welcoming Members and guests from 6pm and the event will start at 6.30pm.

We intend to make full use of the venue's fantastic facilities and hope that you will be joining us for this fabulous occasion. Tickets to the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards cost \$120 per person.



MIGHTY MORNING TEA SHOUT

BRIGHTWATER



COLLINGWOOD



GOLDEN BAY



MID-CANTERBURY



RAI VALLEY



OAMARU



METHVEN



WASHDYKE &



PLEASANT POINT

WAITAKI



ASHBURTON



INVERCARGILL



MOSGIEL



MOA FLAT



WHAREPAPA SOUTH



WHANGAREI



TE AKAU



WAIKATO



PUKEARUHE



MORRINSVILLE



TUAKAU



STRATFORD



WAIKATO



ONEWHERO



TARANAKI



NAPIER



MUHUNOA EAST



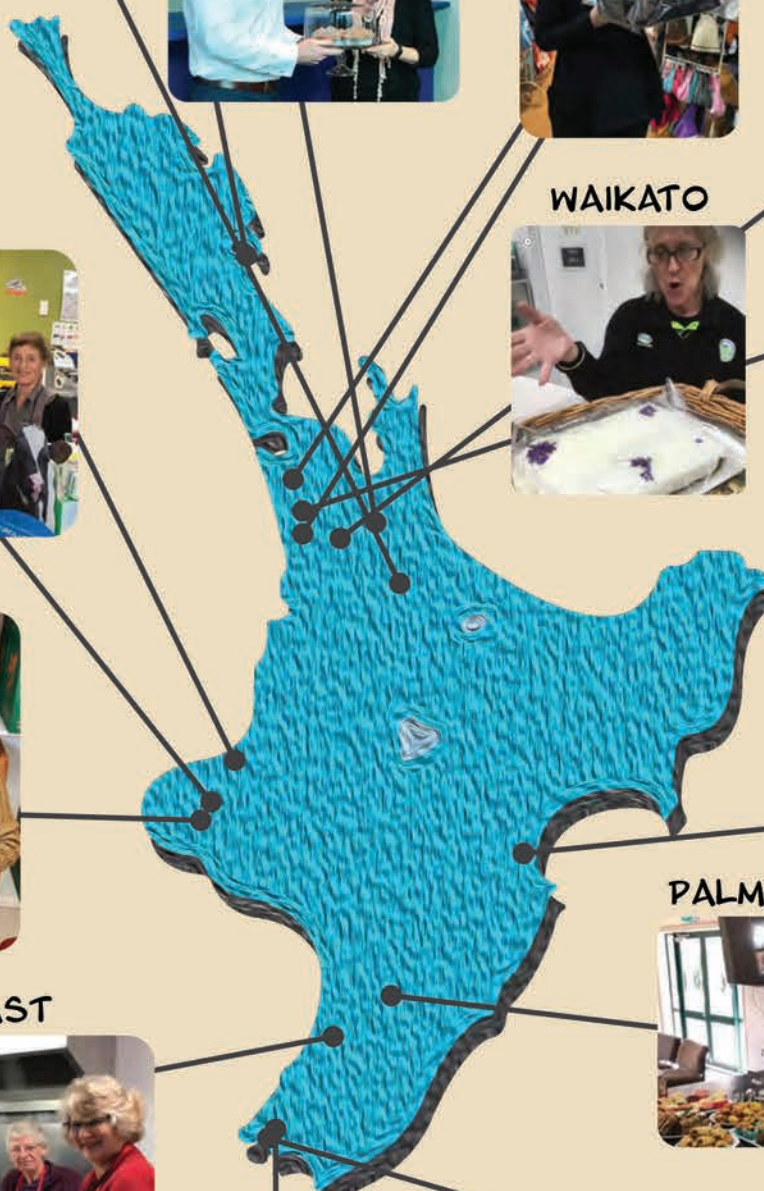
PALMERSTON NORTH



WELLINGTON



JOHNSONVILLE



National Office Report

July to November is the busiest part of the year for National Office and this year has been especially complicated as almost all aspects of our carefully thought out workplan (which we developed in January) have been turned upside down and inside out as a result of Covid-19. With equal parts tenacity, practicality, patience and creativity, we have managed our way through this most interesting of times.

The Mighty Morning Tea Shout, the brainchild of our President Fiona Gower, was an outstanding success. It was so incredibly heartening to receive photos and updates from all over the country. Thank you so much to all our Members who took part and made MMTS day so special for people who really deserved it.

A new financial year dawned on 1 July so this meant membership renewals, end of year accounting and Statement of Service Performance reporting. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into the co-ordination of each of these tasks to ensure that RWNZ meets its legal and charitable obligations in the most efficient way possible. After the accounts were finalised, the auditors came and joined us at National Office to go through everything with a very fine toothed comb. On several occasions our on-site auditors were able to contribute to the morning quiz and upped our results.

Probably the aspect of our work that was most affected by lockdown was the plans for this year's Summit and NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards. Over the last few

months we have reshaped the event to account for as many different possibilities as we can. We are now looking forward to announcing the Category Winners and seeing you all in Wellington on Friday, 20 November for the AGM and Awards.

National Office has also organised this year's RWNZ National Board Elections. Votes are arriving on a daily basis by mail and email. With our new Zoom skills and capability, National Office was able to offer an online Meet the Candidates webinar on Thursday, 1 October. Thank you to all the candidates for taking part and to Members for joining the webinar.

We have had some personnel changes at National Office in recent months. Maree Myers left us in July and her departure has seriously diminished the number of rugby related questions we can answer in the morning quiz. We welcomed Lucy Tayler back to the team and Nora Maarleveld worked on a short term contract basis to develop and organise our communications strategy. Every Friday, our intern Mia Cohen joins us for the day. Mia has been working with Angela on policy development and analysis, updating the RWNZ website and social media.

As we power towards the end of the year, we can see the AGM and Business Awards on the horizon. We continue to aspire to a perfect 10 from 10 in the daily quiz and drink vast amounts of tea. We look forward to seeing you in November.

- from Liz and the National Office team (Felicity, Angela, Lucy, Linda, Mia and Lisa)

Webinars

We have adapted to the new opportunities that Covid-19 has presented us by taking our Policy Summit discussions online. The inaugural Policy Summit Webinar Series launched on Thursday, 27 August with **Rural Maternal Health Hauora**.

We were joined by the New Zealand College of Midwives to talk about solutions and challenges facing rural women with their maternal health. The panel was moderated by RWNZ Policy Manager Angela McLeod and included Alison Eddy, Chief Executive of the New Zealand College of Midwives, rural midwives Kendra Short and Morgan Weathington, and RWNZ President Fiona Gower as panellists.

Our **second webinar** in our Policy Summit Series was **Why vote?** Held on Wednesday, 23 September, we discussed why

it is important to vote in a democracy, patterns of voting and representation of women around the world.

In the spirit of Kate Sheppard and her team of suffragists that fought for our right to vote, we enjoyed hearing from Fiona Gower, President RWNZ; Charles Chauvel, UNDP Global Lead on Inclusive Institutions and Processes; Agata Walczak, UNDP Parliament Development Expert; Alicia Wright, Chief Electoral Officer and Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission and; Prof Jennifer Curtin, Professor of Politics and Director of the Public Policy Institute at the University of Auckland as our panellists.

The next webinar, 'Women in Leadership' will be at 2 pm on Thursday 29 October – save the date in your diary.

Branch & Regional News

As lockdown restrictions lifted, RWNZ Members have been keen to resume meeting in person again. Here are some recent events.

DRUMMOND BRANCH *Elspeth's 80th*

In August, Drummond Branch Members went out for lunch for their August Branch meeting to celebrate long standing Member Elspeth McDonald's 80th birthday. The Branch has lots to look forward to – it will be celebrating its 90th anniversary next year.

- Thank you to Eunice Roberts for this report and photo.



Pictured from left: Lindy Dobson, Elspeth McDonald (birthday girl), Moira Dodds, Pam Booth, Wendy Joy, Eunice Roberts.

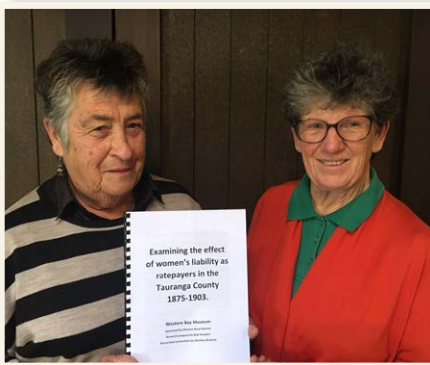
TOKAORA INAHA BRANCH *Crafty Crew*

The crafty Members of Tokaora Branch have been very busy over the past year. Here are some photos of their work, which includes a range of baby singlets, breast cushions for the Cancer Society and tiny vests for the neo natal ward at Base Hospital, and dresses made to send to India.

- Thank you to Jennie Purdon for the report and photos.



REGION 5 *Remembering Women's Suffrage*



This photo was taken at the Region Five AGM in July just after Sue Vowell (left) and Margaret Scrimgeour (right) had been presented with a copy of the Suffrage 125 celebration Research Project Paper.

This research was challenging due to incomplete records, but showed the strong determination of the local women in an area only served by harbour transport and mud tracks to get to the central enrolling and voting points, often with children in tow and cows to get home to milk.

In partnership with Western Bay of Plenty Museum in Katikati, Region Five initiated an investigation of how named women land holders enrolled initially as ratepayer voters on the local government roll. Later these local women including some Māori, again showed their strong commitment to get on the General Election roll after 1893.

The researcher, Sharlene Rumney from Waihi Beach, had a

background in archive work before full time young family commitments, and this was her stepping stone to then do overseas post graduate study in England assisted by a Region Five Norma Evans Charitable Grant.

She has since been able to build on this experience by returning to her career with Hauraki District Council. We are very proud of Sharon and of our Suffrage Year project which received significant local attention Including a Museum feature display around Suffrage Day and is now widely available for future reference.

A local former Board Member, NMH Jenny Turner and her 1993 Suffrage Year Commemoration Medal was also featured. A number of New Zealand's prominent women were honoured with these special awards that year for their services to women. Unfortunately twenty five years later many of those strong women leaders have gone but their influence remains in the change of social attitudes to the roles of women since the mid 1970s.

May we never forget those involved in the Suffrage movement and the barriers that they broke down.

NĀ TE WĀHINE, MŌ TE WHENUA
FROM THE WOMEN, FOR THE LAND

Shepherdess

Shepherdess is a new quarterly magazine, which launched in March 2020. Rural Women New Zealand has been following *Shepherdess* since its inception, and is proud to partner with the magazine in connecting, empowering and inspiring women across rural New Zealand.

We sat down with publisher and editor, Kristy McGregor, to hear about how the concept came about, and how the first year is going.



Where did the idea for *Shepherdess* come from?

I moved to my partner's family dairy and beef farm in the Horowhenua in early 2014, from far western Queensland. New Zealand is a lot less geographically isolated compared with parts of outback Australia, however social isolation is still a real thing in rural communities here. The concept for *Shepherdess* has come from wanting to connect women living in rural and regional communities, and create a place for their stories to be shared. I wouldn't say I set out determined to create a magazine, it's just that's the form it has taken!

They say print is going out of fashion. Why did you decide to go for print?

There's nothing like holding a magazine in your hands and being able to flick through the pages. Even for those of us who are very much working in a digital world, there's still something special about taking the time to sit down and read a hard copy. We have chosen to create a quality product, from the design to the paper stock, which has been a significant investment, but one I think is well worth it and doesn't come close to comparing to digital.

How do you create the magazine from the farm?

As the publisher and editor, I'm co-ordinating a whole team of writers and photographers who are based all over the country, so it's well and truly a team effort. It's mainly work from a home office, with big whiteboards for planning our next editions, which happens about six months in advance. The magazines are printed in Auckland and arrive on a truck each quarter, and my partner unloads them by tractor at the cowshed. We have converted the sunroom at home to a packing room, and my nearly two-year-old attempts to

help in packing magazines. Our Rural Delivery postie is on standby for my texts when there is a stash of magazines to collect.

What sort of stories is *Shepherdess* telling?

Relatable stories, about real life happenings. I hope that the stories will resonate with women living rurally, or with their heart in rural New Zealand, whether through shared journeys, feelings or experiences. We've got our regular features – Woman of the Land, Homestead, Entrepreneur, Going Against the Grain – and a lot of stories that come in from our readers. Women writing about their town for My Town, a Rural Weddings section, In Her Own Words column, and Farm Life story in each edition. It's a rural lifestyle magazine, for women, but not skipping over some fairly gritty and raw stories too.

What's been the biggest learning so far from your venture into publishing?

What I'm continually amazed by is how you can create something very special when a whole lot of people come together with a shared purpose. It's very powerful. And I'm amazed at the depth of talent, resourcefulness and courage in rural communities across New Zealand.

Pick up your copy today! *Shepherdess* is now available at major retailers around New Zealand, including Farmlands, Whitcoulls and Paper Plus nationally, and New World and Pak'n Save North Island, plus independent bookstores and some boutique stockists. Subscriptions and single copies are available on the *Shepherdess* website.

Shepherdess are offering a discount for RWNZ members on annual subscriptions.
Visit: www.shepherdess.co.nz/subscribe and enter RWNZMEMBER at checkout.

NZ LANDCARE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



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

This has been my first full year as Chair of the Trust, and I feel honoured to hold this role.

It has been a big year for the Trust with Ministry of Environment funding approved and an additional funding

stream from the Ministry for Primary Industries to become involved in more catchment projects, especially priority catchment areas. The net result has effectively been that a doubling of funding has resulted in doubling the capacity in the Trust.

This year's combined Trustee and staff meeting took place in Whanganui where we looked at issues around the Whanganui River and other catchments.

NZLCT and RWNZ collaborated successfully in two separate programmes over the Covid-19 period. One was a series of webinars which discussed Farm Environment plans, the other was online workshops on Biosecurity, especially around Field Horsetail in the Upper South Island.

Strong relationships between the Trust and the Trustee organisations are imperative to the excellent work of the Trust and I encourage Members to support the Trust where possible.

Fiona Gower
Trust Chair



BAY OF PLENTY RURAL SUPPORT TRUST ANNUAL REPORT - AUGUST 2020

This year had been busy, with “business as usual” for the BoP RST until the operating environment of the last 6 months caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and severe drought conditions have impacted our region.

During Covid-19 lockdown on a day to day basis, most farming operations remained relatively unchanged. However, it was noted that many rural women and families faced added stress with children at home and the closure of their normal social outlets.

Under Level 4 RST was deemed an essential service in an emergency or life threatening situation which fortunately did not occur. Also our 0800 number remained relatively quiet.

Covid-19 overshadowed and complicated the worsening drought situation with annual rain fall throughout the area being as low as 25% of the norm. By January Northland and Waikato were officially in drought with a medium scale event being declared in those areas. In March the

Government classified the whole of the North Island and the top of the South in drought.

Covid-19, the lockdown and distancing protocols have made our normal face to face approach assisting farmers with drought issues difficult so weekly Skype meetings were established and a “BOP Rural Connect” newsletter went out during April and May.

The Primary Sector Coordination Group (PSCG) has proved to be an integral part of the strategy to connect and integrate the network of farming and grower organisations, service and businesses that can prepare, respond to and recover from adverse events. Excellent support has been received from Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) and the group consists of Federated Farmers, MPI, CDEM, DairyNZ, Fonterra, NZKGI, Te Puke Fruitgrowers, Beef & Lamb, Forestry (Timberlands) Young Farmers, Rural Women NZ and Dairy Women's Network.

Mary McTavish



From the Mailbag

Occasionally, National Office receives correspondence from Members asking that some information is shared via the Express. Here is an item we received recently:

'LISTEN UP'

I am an 84 year old female and have been a staunch member of WDFW, latterly RWNZ since the 1960s, This^{week} I have been diagnosed with cervical cancer and at this stage I am unaware whether I will live or die. I am of course devastated as I still have so many years I was expecting to enjoy. I put up with a cervical cancer scan ~~for years~~ religiously for many years but have not bothered since being told we now have to pay \$70, \$80, \$90 for the "pleasure?"

Please girls "be bothered" no matter what the cost!

I do not want to give any indication of my personal details at the moment because as yet, none of my family or friends are aware of what I am experiencing. Tests have been done and I am anxiously awaiting the results of these at the moment.

This is written from the heart and I am hoping you will see fit to display it prominently in the next issue of the Express.

We acknowledge the courage it took for this Member to give voice to her story and we wish to express our sadness and offer our support for the challenging times she faces.

HILDE & DEB FROM GOOD HEAVENS

In November last year, RWNZ partnered with the Ministry for Primary Industries to run an Activator session for rural women at the outset of their business journey. The Activator sessions were like a friendly *Dragon's Den*. Each participant introduced her business and spoke about her aspirations and challenges with a panel of mentors. One of the participants was Hilde Hoven from Great Barrier Island.

Great Barrier Island is one of a few Dark Sky Sanctuaries in the world. Away from city lights and as an off-the-grid island, light pollution on the island is minimal so its dark skies are amazing for stargazing. But stargazing is so much more fun when you know what you are looking at.

This gave Hilde and Deborah Kilgallon a great idea. They wanted to offer visitors to beautiful Great Barrier Island the opportunity to go on an entertaining, astronomical journey. They studied hard over the next few years to find the most interesting and entertaining astronomical objects, facts and stories to share. Good Heavens was born.

They believe this story is best absorbed in comfort so they provide their customers with comfy chairs, blankets and even a hot water bottle in winter. "We want our clients to be warm and comfortable as they look up at the sky," says Deb.

Small group sizes ensure a personalised experience. Hilde says that, "there is opportunity for questions and to have a giggle. People remember things best when they're having a laugh, so we keep things light-hearted. The myths and legends we share helped our ancestors make sense of this magical world throughout the ages."

"And we find stunning locations, often with sea and sky views" says Deb. "We need a wide view of the sky. And on Great Barrier Island, where 60% of the island is park and covered in trees, this is usually best achieved close to the sea."

Deborah grew up in by the sea in Kerikeri, riding horses and looking up at the stars before heading off for an extended OE. After an international corporate career, Deb and husband Andy, decided they wanted to live in a place they truly loved, to create an active, sustainable life for themselves and their imminent baby. So they went to live on the stunningly beautiful Great Barrier Island, in 2014.

Hilde, born in the Netherlands, has a background in hospitality management. She moved to New Zealand and Great Barrier Island in 1999 after meeting her husband Roger on the island. Growing up in the light-polluted Netherlands, becoming a starguide was a revelation.

Creating Good Heavens has been life changing for both of them. "It's heart-warming to see the enjoyment our clients experience



when they see planets and star clusters through our telescopes and binoculars for the first time."

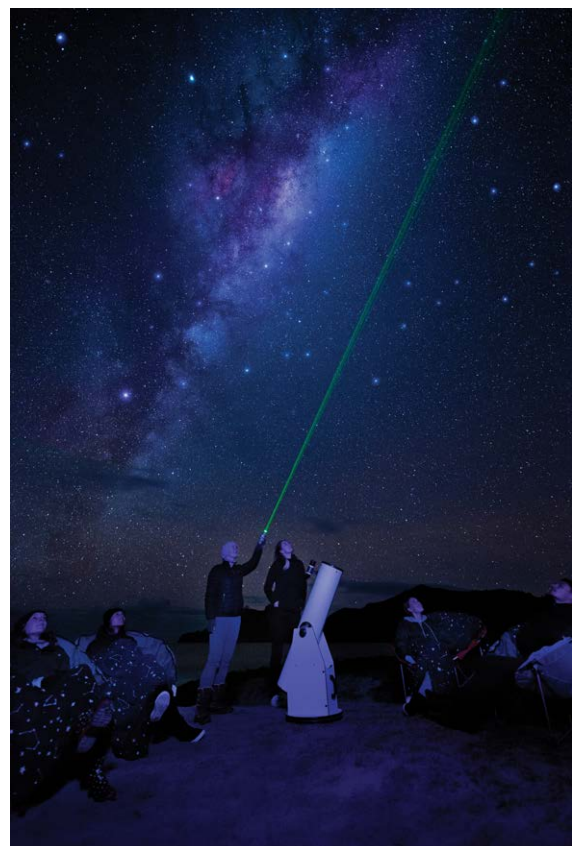
"Our Dark Sky Experience for groups runs whenever the stars are out, usually at Medlands Beach. For about a week each month, when the moon is bright in the sky and the Milky Way recedes into the background, our Moon Walk replaces this Dark Sky Experience."

Clients can also choose a private Dark Sky Experience, which is perfect for honeymooners, proposers, family groups with small children, corporate groups or a touring group of RWNZ Members.

Good Heavens are mindful of their fragile island. They consciously use products that generate limited waste and laser pointers that are charged by the sun. During their experiences, they touch on the effects of light pollution. After each tour, only footprints are left behind.

As overseas adventures are off our collective agendas at present, New Zealanders looking for amazing places to visit should definitely consider a trip to Great Barrier Island and a night time adventure with Good Heavens.

For more information and make a booking visit Good Heavens at: www.goodheavens.co.nz



Obituaries

During lockdown the Brightwater Branch learned of the deaths of four past and present Members:

- Jeanette Palmer who was a current Member
- Pat Wright – former Member
- June Palmer – joined Brightwater in 1982 from Waimea West Branch of WDFE
- Margaret Palmer – joined Brightwater in 1982 from Waimea West Branch of WDFE

Sadly, we were not able to say farewell to them as we were in lockdown.

- Diane Higgins

Jeanette Palmer

Jeanette joined the Brightwater Branch of Women's Division Federated Farmers (as it was then) in 1974. She was a much loved, active member ever since then - following in the footsteps of her mother-in-law Myra Palmer. Jeanette took part in all Branch activities including helping with the sale yard lunches, entertainment items, outings and fundraising.

Jeanette was on the Committee from 1987 until recently and was Branch representative on Nelson Provincial for many years starting and often attended Regional conferences.

A quiet person, she was always there behind the scenes to help whenever help was needed and was a strong supporter of the flower shows, especially the flower section, and often won awards. In 2013 we had much pleasure in recommending her for a "Service Simply Given" Award.

It was with much sorrow that we read of her passing in May and we will miss her very much.



Patricia Wright

Pat Wright joined the Waimea West Branch of Women's Division Federated Farmers in 1974. She transferred to Brightwater in 1982 and almost immediately became President. She worked tirelessly for the Branch taking part in all activities including becoming Treasurer at one time. In spite of failing health she was Branch President again in 2005.

Pat represented the branch on Nelson Provincial for many years during which time she held the offices of Treasurer, Secretary and President.

She was on the Co-ord Committee for 6 years holding the position of President and Treasurer.

Pat was Home Care Chair for three years and was Safety Officer. She also represented Rural Women NZ on other organisations.

She was awarded Branch Honours in 1994, a National Service Award in 2001, a Branch Life Membership in 2006 and a Provincial Life Membership in 2012.

She was active in the community and an outgoing, friendly, energetic person. Because of her husband Keith's failing health they moved to Blenheim and in latter years she had been in care in Nelson and passed away in June 2020.

She will be remembered very fondly by many people.





Catherine Stewart

28th July 1922 - 7th May 2020

Born on 28 July 1922, Catherine was only 14 in 1936 when she started attending the Waihou Branch of Women's Division Federated Farmers' meetings with her mother (a founding member of the Branch) before, in 1942, she became a financial member in her own right.

The first role she accepted was as local agent for "Country Women". The Branch had around 40 women at the time. At the April 1944 meeting it was reported that 45 copies of Country Women be ordered and the cost be covered by the Branch. It is also interesting to note that at that time subscriptions were two shillings and sixpence - the shillings were to go to Headquarters and the pence towards Branch funds.

Cath always attended meetings regularly. In 1959 she was nominated President, an office she held over three separate terms over the years. On one occasion she made a presentation to the Dominion President Mrs Muriel Eastwood on her imminent departure to an international conference in Scotland.

Over the years she had always enjoyed attending Provincial meetings and in her younger days embraced National Conferences with enthusiasm.

In 2013 Cath received one of RWNZ's most prestigious honours, a National Service Award to honour her 70 years of "service simply given." She went on to serve another seven years right up until March 2020 when she attended her last Branch meeting before Covid-19 lockdown.

We will miss her words of encouragement and her memories of the early days. She was indeed a loyal WDFU, WDFE, RWNZ Member.



Farewell to Old Friends

Colleen Porteous – Rukuhia Branch and Orini-Netherby Branch – Past Provincial President Waikato

Catherine Stewart – Te Aroha Waihou Branch – National Service Award and BLM

Elaine Rushton – Anama Branch – BLM

Lorna Paterson – Hokonui Branch – BLM and prior to that Tussock Creek WDFE

Valmae Banks – Franklin District – National Service Award and BLM

Kath Gillespie – Aoroa Branch

Jeanette Palmer – Brightwater Branch

June Palmer – Brightwater Branch

Margaret Palmer – Brightwater Branch

Gladys Miller – Awana Branch – BLM

Eileen Smith – Oamaru Evening Group

Claire Boys – Hillsborough Branch

Ruth Mander – Individual

Cathrine Malloch – Individual (past Member of Dunedin Branch)

Jo Boyle – Ashley Clinton Branch

June Strong – Mahakipawa Branch PLM

Patsy Smith – Mahakipawa Branch PLM

Dorothy Davies – Hawera Branch – Founding President of the Ahi Ahi Branch

Beverley Blanche – West Melton Branch (closed)

Muriel Juno – Oparure Branch BLM

Lesley McKinlay – Oparure Branch BLM

Rosalie Bosnyak – Te Rahu Branch BLM

Alice McColgan – East Invercargill Branch (and Waikawa prior)

Carol Coard – Thornbury Branch



8 September 2020

Dear Members,

I have just had an on-line meeting with the World President, our CEO and our Policy & Communication's Manager.

The GOOD NEWS is that The South Pacific Area Conference will now be an **ONLINE FORUM**. Even better news is that **it will start on International Women's Day 8th March 2021**.

At this stage the conference will be held for a few hours over two consecutive days – 8th & 9th March 2021, with other information and video clips on the ACWW website.

COVID-19 is unpredictable and I had to make the call now rather than later. The next face to face Area Conference will still be in Port Moresby PNG and will be chaired by the next Area President.

This email is to let you know about the change and there will be more information going out to you all as I work it out with Central Office, London. For now, please be assured that I have not made this decision lightly. I have been agonising for weeks. COVID is in PNG as well as Australia and some of the Islands. Australians are being told that they will not be travelling overseas before the middle of next year, and as they are the highest number registered, I have to keep everyone safe as well as have a way to hold this conference so that everyone is able to participate.

The online Area Conference will be organised with technical support from ACWW Central Office in London, and they will be on hand to help throughout. As well as having our own webpage with videos from members around the area, we will have live online meetings which you will be able to dial into on any computer, tablet, or phone with a simple process and an internet or wifi signal. We will also have secure online voting for Resolutions, and a whole host of other exciting things which will be published in due course. Please be patient and all will be revealed! Please also look on this as a new method as one that everyone can benefit from.

I am pleased to include here a message from Magdie de Kock: *"As World President of ACWW, I am glad to be writing this message of congratulations to our members in the South Pacific Area who will be participating in our Association's very first online Area Conference. In 2010, ACWW used online voting to assist the Triennial World Conference in Hot Springs, USA when the erupting Icelandic volcano meant members could not travel to the Conference. In 2021, ACWW will use its resources and the initiative of its members to host the first Area Conference of this type, and I am very excited to be joining you for this adventure. I am grateful to Area President Gail Commens for her enthusiasm and passion for ensuring that members are able to come together for the Area Conference, and willingness to use newer methods to ensure success. I look forward to seeing you all next March, and joining your meetings."*

I will be sending an outline and time frame out over the coming weeks so keep this information as it arrives and share it with those who are not on email.

"To love what you do and feel that it matters – how could anything be more fun?" Katherine Graham

Gail Commens

South Pacific Area President
southpac@acww.org.uk

GROUP CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING

COMING
IN 2021

RWNZ is planning to hold a Group Crisis Intervention Training Course this year. The National Office is seeking indications of interest in participating in this programme. Please contact National Office to express your interest in taking part in this opportunity or with any questions about the content of the course.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY // TWO DAY TRAINING - DATE TBA HOME OF COMPASSION ISLAND BAY - 2 RHINE STREET, WELLINGTON

This two day International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) training provides a framework to provide acute emergency mental health intervention to help large and small groups of people cope with their reactions after experiencing a traumatic event. The program presents the core elements of the comprehensive, integrated, systematic and multi-component crisis management system known as Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM).



THIS TRAINING COVERS:

- Crisis Intervention and CISM terminology and background Introduction to Psychological First Aid
- Crisis communication skills
- Psychological and behavioural reactions to critical incidents and approaches to people in crisis
- Crisis Management Briefing (CMB)
- Rest, Information and Transition Services (RITS)
- Immediate Small Group Support (ISGS)/Defusing
- Powerful Event Group Support (PEGS)/Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Stress Stocktakes
- Resilience/wellbeing sessions and associated strategies
- Values, ethics and practice standards
- Post traumatic growth, and
- Wellbeing & Self care

Rural Women New Zealand would like to thank our sponsors

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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, there are two products for sale, the proceeds of which go directly to the AERF:

RWNZ's pure wool, New Zealand-made **Aftersocks**, available online at www.aftersocks.nz or from the National Office.

Our popular **peg bags**. Each peg bag is \$25.00 plus postage, available to purchase from the National Office, or visit www.ruralwomennz.nz

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**



Rātā tea towel

This beautifully designed tea towel has been created by textile designer, Nikki Walker of Walker & Bing exclusively for Rural Women New Zealand

It features the flowers of an iconic New Zealand tree, the rātā. These beautiful trees are found nationwide and tend to flower profusely every few years.

These tea towels are for sale from National Office.

- 1 x tea towel undelivered - \$11.50 (inc GST)
- 1 x tea towel including courier bag and delivery - \$15 (inc GST)
- 5 x tea towels including delivery - \$55 (inc GST)

For orders of more than 5 tea towels, please contact us to discuss pricing.

Tea towels will never go out of style and are a welcome addition to every kitchen. They are excellent practical gifts and a perfect thank for a guest at a RWNZ meeting. you can also use them as a fundraiser at your next event.

If you have any questions or would like to order tea towels, please contact Lisa at National Office on lisa.thompson@ruralwomennz.nz



LEADERSHIP COUNCILLORS & AREA COMMITTEES BY REGION

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

Region 2 Canterbury	Position	Contact Email
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Christine Anderson		jcandynz@gmail.com
Margaret Chapman	Area Committee Chair	mgchapman@xtra.co.nz
Margaret Chapman [Hook]		royandmargchapman@hotmail.com
Elsa Hydes		esurya@hotmail.com
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Region 3 Top of the South	Position	Contact Email
POSITION VACANT	Leadership Councillor	
Melva Robb	Area Committee Chair	melva@soundsreflection.co.nz
Diane Higgins	Secretary and secondary contact	dmhiggins@xtra.co.nz
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Jennifer Wiese		NO EMAIL
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Region 4 Lower North Island	Position	Contact Email
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Leonora Spark		ljnajsark@gmail.com
Janice Mills		white.rock@farmside.co.nz
Caroline Ross		cross@wise.net.nz
Helen Clark		trevorandhelen25@gmail.com
Shona Field		mtwilliam@inspire.net.nz

Region 5 BOP / Coromandel	Position	Contact Email
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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

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Karen Attwood		theattwoods@actrix.co.nz
Eileen Barker	Secretary	efbarker74@gmail.com
Bronwyn Main		bronwynmain45@gmail.com

Region 6 Taranaki	Position	Contact Email
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Joyce Lawrence	Treasurer	niaruo@inspire.net.nz
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Jennie Purdon		chrisjen1@orcon.net.nz
Helen Bayliss	Secretary	harrybayliss@xtra.co.nz
Patricia Jones		colinandtrish@xtra.co.nz
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Region 7 Top of the North	Position	Contact Email
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Carla Grant	Treasurer	crgrant70@gmail.com
Christine Pikett		NO EMAIL (contact via Carla)
Marie Alpe		mariealpe60@gmail.com
Margaret Smiley		margaretesmiley@gmail.com



LEADERSHIP COUNCILLORS

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3	POSITION VACANT			
4	POSITION VACANT			
5	Mary McTavish	07 543 2521	021 141 6432	jhmemcts@gmail.com
6	Shirley Read (Taranaki)	06 752 3698	027 665 9047	sdread@xtra.co.nz
6	Judy Board (Greater Waikato)	07 872 4828	027 365 0998	judy.board@xtra.co.nz
7	Heather Sorensen	09 401 6176	0274 724 485	heathersorensen55@gmail.com

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