

CSW62 NEW YORK

Each year, the United Nations (UN) holds the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW). This year will be the 62nd event and is being hosted in New York on Saturday, 10 – Friday, 23 March, and will be attended by over 5000 women from across the world.

‘Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls’ is this year’s theme. Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) has been recognised as a leading authoritative voice for rural women and their communities, and consequently we were recommended to attend by the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

In collaboration between the HRC and RWNZ, a side event has been applied for and approved. The New Zealand Government is sponsoring this event in conjunction with the Argentinian Government and Australian Government, and is being held inside the UN. The subject for the presentation is Case Studies for Economic Empowerment of Rural Women from New Zealand.

This panel includes Minister for Women - Hon Julie Anne Genter, Ministry for Women Chief Executive – Renee Graham, RWNZ National President Fiona Gower, Fonterra’s General Manager NZ Industry Affairs - Joanne Finer, and representatives from Argentina and Australia. The panel is being moderated by Human Rights Commissioner - Dr Jackie Blue, and also attended by ACWW World President - Ruth Shanks.

A side event is held within the UN complex, and a parallel event

is one in various venues outside of the UN complex - organised through the NGO CSW Committee.

Fiona is attending CSW62 as a member of the Pacific Women’s Watch (NZ) delegation, and our National Chair, Penny Mudford, is attending as the Civil Society Representative on the New Zealand Government Delegation. Both Fiona and Penny are attending the NGO Consultation Day, as well as other CSW62 side and parallel events over the 12 days that they are in New York.

Fiona and Penny are supporting the launch of the ACWW “Rural Women’s Survey” which is to take place in New York on Thursday, 15 March.

This is an exciting opportunity for RWNZ, especially being part of an international forum which will be highlighting the issues rural women face. It will also showcase the ingenuity, enterprise and abilities of our rural women to succeed, how they have overcome challenges to run successful enterprise in rural and remote areas, and how they have become empowered to become leaders in rural New Zealand. They will be able to discuss other challenges facing those living rurally and look for answers which will enable more of our women and girls to reach their potential.

The networking is well underway, connecting with other NGO’s and delegates attending CSW62, with a number of opportunities to give presentations and advice as a leading voice for rural women. This includes Fiona speaking to the Aotearoa Youth Leadership Institute who are sending a team of extremely talented young women.

With RWNZ’s links to ACWW, we have been able to connect the other NGO’s to ACWW so they can work together on areas such as the South Pacific.

Fiona and Penny will take every opportunity to report back on happenings over there to keep members well informed of progress, which we will publish on our Facebook, Twitter, website and will send out to members. We wish them all the best for their travels to New York.



EDITORIAL

by Fiona Gower, National President



Hello all,

It has been another busy and exciting start to 2018, with a lot to look forward to in the year ahead .

The big news is the presence of Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) at the 62nd Commission of the Status of Women (CSW62) events being held in New York this month. This is thanks to the huge amount of work that has gone in to lift recognition of RWNZ as the leading authoritative voice for rural women and communities in New Zealand. Our thanks to all those members and staff who have worked so hard to get us to where we are now.

RWNZ theme this year is "Women of the Land - Ngā Wāhine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa". We feel strongly about raising our voice, particularly so this year as the theme for CSW62 is "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls", also timely, as this year we celebrate 125 years of Women's Suffrage in New Zealand. We wish to celebrate the achievements of women, especially in the rural sector, and recognise the contribution rural women make in our businesses, in their families and communities. Often the value of this is overlooked and undervalued, which is something we want to change. We need to be supporting, empowering and championing our rural women and girls to ensure that they receive the recognition and equity they deserve.

Our project for the year is the RWNZ Adverse Events Relief Fund. As we have seen recently, adverse events are happening more frequently as of late, which results in an ongoing need for support and assistance. We look forward to seeing and sharing the diverse ways members can raise awareness

and funds for this, so we are in a position to help those at their time of need. Remember that one way we can raise funds is through the sale of Aftersocks at local and regional events. Contact National Office to organise the socks you need.

The first Board meeting of the year was held in mid-February, where both the new Strategy and the Portfolio Hub proposal were passed, and both are already ready to implement by the Board, staff and regional leadership.

In conjunction with this, we work with our Leadership Team in a workshop where areas discuss a wide range of topics. Topics came from around the regions through to the national initiatives, and the team discussed how best to implement and share these. It was a very worthwhile time with lots of sharing and connecting together - thank you all for coming. A big thanks to the office team for the huge effort to pull it together and make it a great couple of days.

There are so many great events happening that we are involved in – Golden Shears, International Women's Day, CSW62, Central Districts and National Fielddays, Women Walk the World, Suffrage 125, and there are all the Regional events such as your Conferences, A&P Shows, and of course the AGM and ERWA.

I look forward to catching up with many of you during the year and reporting back on CSW62 and the many other events we are involved with.

Fiona Gower
National President

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Dates for the diary

If you have important dates to share with the National Office, e.g. events or conferences, please contact catherine.stabb@ruralwomennz.nz so that we can share these with members.

REGION CONFERENCES

Region 1: Thursday, 7 – Friday, 8 June

Region 2: Thursday, 2 August

Region 3: Friday, 20 – Saturday, 21 April

Region 4: Dates to be confirmed

Region 5: Thursday, 9 - Friday, 10 August

Region 6 (Taranaki): Dates to be confirmed

Region 6 (Greater Waikato): Saturday, 28 April

Region 7: Dates to be confirmed

AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held in Wellington in November - dates are yet to be confirmed.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019

Next year's conference will be held in Whangarei (hosted by Region 7) in May/June. Dates are yet to be confirmed.

THEME OF THE YEAR

The theme for Rural Women New Zealand for 2018 is *Women of the Land - Ngā Wāhine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa*.

We are excited for the new theme, which is now incorporated in the Rural Women New Zealand Logo.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Our project for this year is the Adverse Events Relief Fund. Members can raise money for the Adverse Events Relief Fund through the sale of Aftersocks™. Order them at www.aftersocks.nz

Instagram

We have revived our Instagram account. If you are a user of Instagram, please follow us @[ruralwomen_nz](https://www.instagram.com/ruralwomen_nz)

Remember to follow our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts for regular updates, stories and photographs.



Welcome to New Members

Michelle Lovelock	Corina Teague
Sara-Jane Raleigh	Christel Hamer
Cassandra Massey	Linda Campbell
Jayne Fletcher	Tanya Arthur

Farewell to friends

Marilyn Hutchings – Puketi Branch NMH BLM PLM
Jean A Smith (Bem) – Swannanoa Branch NLM
Martha Hosking – Midhirst Branch BLM
Agnes Hudson – Dunedin Branch
Anita Burke – Tokoroa Inaha Branch
Florence Dunbar – Individual – BLM PLM
Irene Fergusson – Skinner Road Branch
Julie Cook – Toko Branch PLM
Ngairie Ericksen – Omokoroa Branch
Nancy Nix – Omokoroa Branch BLM
Val Wade – Franklin Branch
Betty Sullivan – Franklin Branch
Isla Heaphy – Carters Beach Branch
Lorna Anderson – Drummond Branch NSA BLM
Joyce Roy – Macraes Dunback BLM
Winnie Livingstone – Thornbury Branch

GOLDEN SHEARS 2018

Golden Shears is an annual, international event which symbolises both quality and excellence in the art of shearing and wool handling. The event was held from Thursday, 1 March – Saturday, 3 March in Masterton.

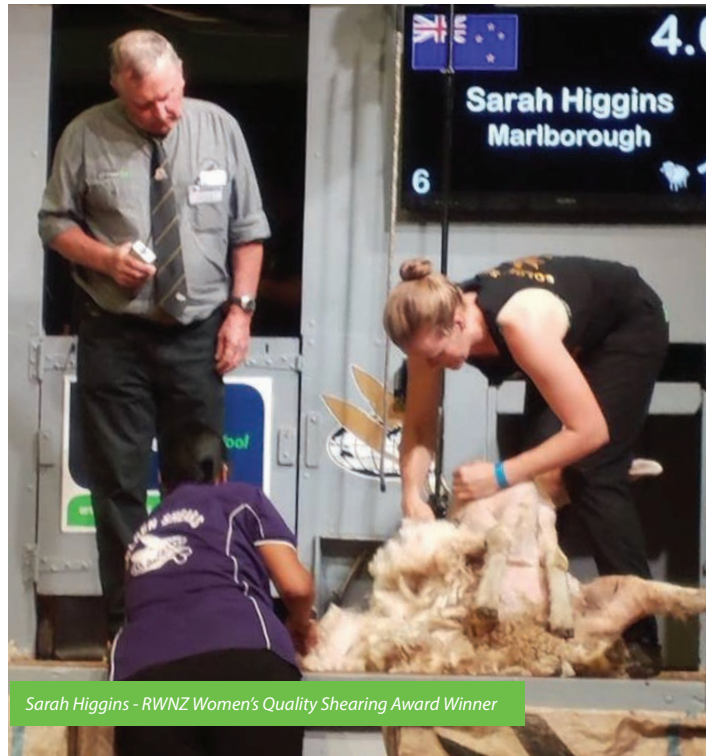


National Office - Office Manager Felicity Bunny and National President Fiona Gower at Golden Shears



Ngaira Puna - RWNZ Junior Woolhandling Award Winner

RWNZ was excited to present the Women's Shearing Quality Award to Sarah Higgins from Martinborough, and Ngaira Puna from Kimbolton the Junior Woolhandling Award.



Sarah Higgins - RWNZ Women's Quality Shearing Award Winner

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Dairy Women's Network Conference

Rotorua: Thursday, 22nd – Friday, 23rd March

The conference has a focus on informative practical learning on all aspects of dairy farming. We would like to congratulate RWNZ Member Loshni Manikam for being named a finalist in the 2018 Fonterra Dairy Woman of the Year award.

Visit www.dwn.co.nz/dwn18-conference

MobileTECH 2018

Rotorua: Tuesday, 27th – Wednesday, 28th March

MobileTECH 2018 is an event connecting the technology industry with the agricultural, horticultural and forestry sectors. Use the discount code '-xRWNZ' when registering for the event.

Visit www.mobiletech.events

National Rural Health Conference

Auckland: Thursday, 5th – Sunday, 8th April

The theme for this year's National Health Conference is "Healthy Rural Communities – Mauri Ora, Whanau Ora, Wai Ora".

Visit www.nationalruralhealthconference.org.nz

Age Concern New Zealand Conference

Wellington: Monday, 16th – Wednesday, 18th April

Growing and ageing population means we need to have vital conversations now to plan for all of our futures. Board Member, and Health Portfolio Convenor, Margaret Pittaway will be speaking at Day Two of the Conference in a panel discussing 'Rural Health and Technology'.

Visit www.ageconcern.org.nz/conference2018

National Fieldays

Hamilton: Wednesday, 13th – Saturday, 16th June

Fieldays is the Southern Hemisphere's largest agricultural event and the ultimate launch platform for cutting edge technology and innovation.

Visit www.fieldays.co.nz

If you have important dates to share with the National Office including events or conferences, please contact catherine.stabb@ruralwomennz.nz so that we can share these with members.

STRATEGIC GOALS 2018-2020

Our vision: Strong rural communities

Our purpose: Supporting and strengthening rural communities

Goal 1

EMPOWERED RURAL COMMUNITIES

Communities that are strong and independent

Our aims are:

Empowering women and children

Advancing social and economic wellbeing of rural communities

Good health and wellbeing for all ages

Quality education and lifelong learning opportunities

Viable and sustainable rural environments

Excellent rural services and infrastructure

Goal 2

CHARITABLE GIVING BACK

Charitable giving back that makes a difference to peoples' lives

Our aims are:

Undertaking charitable activities that benefit rural people

Supporting those in need

Being a great example of a charitable organisation

Goal 3

AUTHORITATIVE VOICE

Being an authoritative voice for rural people

Our aims are:

Influencing positive change for people and communities

Speaking up for those who are not able to speak for themselves

Being visible on issues that are important to rural people

Building trust and a good reputation

Goal 4

MEMBERSHIP THAT MATTERS

Members who are engaged with the organisation and who feel valued

Our aims are:

Members who are engaged in the organisations activities

Members who are recognised and valued

Attracting people to our organisation

Building an inclusive and diverse membership

Goal 5

PEOPLE CONNECTED

People connected to the world

Our aims are:

Connecting communities

Collaborating with others to support our communities

Digital equality in access to the internet and mobile telecommunications

Communities that are inclusive and diverse

Goal 6

CELEBRATED CULTURE

Celebrating our culture and heritage

Our aims are:

Caring about our people and communities

Celebrating our history
Being proud and generous
Celebrating our champions

Goal 7

GROWING RURAL LEADERS

Leadership to ensure a dynamic organisation

Our aims are:

Growing a dynamic organisation for the future

Supporting the development of leadership at every level of our organisation

Building and supporting leaders for the future

Goal 8

ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Continually improving our organisational performance

Our aims are:

Be professional in our approach to all work we do

Demonstrate competence in our organisational and fiduciary duties

Work at a best practice standard in management and governance

Planning for succession for key roles in the organisation

Have engaged employees and provide our employees with equal employment opportunities; fair and just employment; and development opportunities

Strategic Goals 2018-2020 can be viewed on the 'Members Zone' on our website.

125 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE



125 years ago, New Zealand women were vigorously campaigning to achieve the right to vote and finally won that right in September of 1893. This year, the Ministry for Women will be coordinating activities and events to remember this significant milestone - RWNZ encourages members to get involved in events, hosting Suffrage-related events and sharing them with friends and family. These celebrations will recognise New Zealanders from diverse cultural backgrounds that have contributed to progressing women's rights.

National and Regional activities are being collated and to celebrate the anniversary. There is a vast range of celebrations being hosted already for the event including: film screenings, ballet, exhibitions, publications, gala evenings and small gatherings.

Get in touch for more information on Suffrage 125 and how to get involved or follow the Suffrage 125 Facebook page. All of this information can be found on the Ministry for Women's website at www.women.govt.nz. Please contact the National Office if you wish to host an event or to share your celebrations.

The launch of Suffrage125 celebrations was held at Government House on Wednesday, 7 March. By invitation of The Rt Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy and Sir David Gascoigne, RWNZ representatives attended the event. Please read more on the back page about International Women's Day on Thursday, 8 March.



Executive Officer Women's Institute - Colleen Dryden, National Board Chair - Penny Mudford ONZM, National President Women's Institute - Kay Hart, RWNZ Chief Executive Officer - Penelope England



National Board Chair, Penny Mudford ONZM, and National Council of Women National President, Vanisa Dhiru

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD 2018

This is an annual event, where women's groups in many countries organise walks in their communities along local tracks and trails, to raise funds for the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). It is a great way to come together, catch up with friends and have some fun and healthy exercise along the way.

The date for the event is Sunday, 29 April - ACWW Day - although walks can take place at other dates around that time if more convenient. Please let the National Office know if you are hosting any events, so that we can get the word out for you.

To read more about ACWW, visit their website at www.acww.org.uk

What To Do:

1. Decide on a walk for your group. It can range from a stroll around the park, a hike through the bush, an amble around a neighbourhood or along a walkway.
2. Invite others. This is a great way to reach out to new potential members, and include families and friends.
3. Go to the registration form found on our website, fill it in and email enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz or post to National Office before your walk, so the members know what walks are taking place and can promote them.
4. Fundraise through sponsorship, a gold coin donation, or perhaps an afternoon tea or sausage sizzle afterwards.
5. Tally up the number of people who attend and the distance walked.
6. Take photos and send to National Office so we can publicise your walks and use on our website and Facebook pages. Email enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz
7. Send your funds raised, and details of kilometres walked to National Office.



NEW YEAR HONOURS FOR RWNZ MEMBERS

Rural Women New Zealand congratulates our members who have received remarkable recognition for their extensive and positive contributions to the rural sector and their communities.



PENNY MUDFORD

RWNZ Board Chair and Region 3-member Penny Mudford has been named an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for her services to arbitration and the primary industries sector.



Source: Northern Advocate

ISOBEL GREENWOOD

Isobel Greenwood Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for community service. She has supported the people of Tomarata and surrounding districts in a multitude of volunteer roles for the past 50 years.

She is a member of the Forest Reserve Branch in Region 7, and has been an active member of RWNZ for more than 40 years.



Source: stuff.co.nz

THELMA LUXTON

Thelma Margaret Luxton Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for her services to the community and cricket.

She is a member of the RWNZ Motunui branch in Region 6.



Source: stuff.co.nz

JOY COWLEY

Joy Cowley also known as (Mrs) Joy Coles, DCNZM, OBE and has been named as Member of the Order of New Zealand. She is one of New Zealand's most prolific and successful writers since the 1960s and has made a strong contribution to both literature and literacy.

Ms Cowley was a former judge of the RWNZ Olive Burdekin Advance Writers Competition and a member of the Kenepuru branch. She was very generous to RWNZ and the community while living in the Marlborough Sounds.



Source: NZ Herald

JOAN HOWSE

Joan Howse Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for services to women and the community.

Mrs Howse is a RWNZ National Member of Honour, Provincial Life Member and a Branch Life Member. She was a member of the Whangarei Branch of the National Council of Women for more than 40 years, serving as Treasurer for six years and President for four years. She has also received a New Zealand Suffrage Centennial Medal in 1993.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017 SURVEY RESPONSE

We are very happy with the overall feedback from the survey regarding last year's National Conference. Although the quantity of feedback was not large, the quality provided gave insights to what people were pleased with and things they would like to see in future National Conferences.

We found that the majority of people are motivated to register for the National Conference to meet other RWNZ members. The Conference is a great place to network, meet like-minded women and form friendships. Others signified that they came as they were members of the Southland Community or wished to attend the AGM.

90% of those who completed the survey were very satisfied with the Ascot Park Hotel as the venue, and 76.67% were very satisfied with the catering and ERWA Awards dinner.

In response to the Opening Ceremony, people placed positive feedback on the guest speakers, particularly Professor Paul Spoonley. Respondents said that they were challenged and fascinated by his speech.

During the ERWA presentations and ceremony, people most enjoyed hearing different rural women's stories regarding their businesses and gaining insights into their success.

At the Celebration Dinner, people found that the top highlight was the band – 'The Contractors', followed by the Guest Speaker Shona Richardson, and the buffet dinner.

Many felt as though the AGM was rushed, and that it should be moved to a day earlier in the conference. The presence of sponsors promotional stands and the NZI coffee cart was widely appreciated.

Respondents made many positive comments about what they enjoyed most about the National Conference 2017, including the chance to network, guest speakers, learning from other women and catching up with old friends.

We would like to thank those who participated in the survey. We will persevere to take all feedback on board in preparation for the National Conference 2019 and encourage other members to forward recommendations to enquires@ruralwomen.org.nz.

Thanks to our partners:



AFTERSOCKS™ Rural Women New Zealand

Aftersocks™ sales support rural people, groups and communities following an adverse event or natural disaster that disrupts their lives, leaving them in need of financial assistance.

Proceeds from the sale of each pair of Aftersocks™ contributes to the RWNZ Adverse Events Relief Fund. Buy your pair today.

Freephone 0800 256 467 or apply online www.aftersocks.nz   



Support Agencies & Helplines:

Doug Avery's Resilient Farmer www.resilientfarmer.co.nz

Farmstrong www.farmstrong.co.nz

Federated Farmers www.fedfarm.org.nz 0800 327 646
or drought feedline 0800 376 844

MPI Adverse Events www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/adverse-events/

The Rural Support Trust www.rural-support.org.nz 0800 787 254

SPCA www.rnzspca.org.nz

Free counselling, if you just want to talk, or know someone at risk:

www.depression.org.nz 0800 111 757

Lifeline 0800 543 354

Samaritans 0800 726 666

Shakti New Zealand 0800SHAKTI (0800 742 584)
24-hour crisis line with multi-lingual counsellors

Women's Refuge 0800 REFUGE (733 843)

Youthline 0800 376 633 or free text 234

1737 Need to talk? Freephone or text 1737 for 24/7 assistance

GRANTS & BURSARIES

Rural Women New Zealand Bursaries and Grants are available each year to assist with education, learning and personal development; for community projects and activities and for the purchase of resources; all which benefits the rural community. We congratulate all recipients of this year's bursaries and scholarships.

Boarding Bursary

- Dan Patterson (Region 1)
- Gareth Foote (Region 3).

Year 12/13 Boarding Bursary

- Bella Sharp (Region 7).

Florence Polson One Year Secondary Bursary

- Kelly Rowland (Region 1)
- Ella Gray (Region 7).

Community Fund gave a grant to support a family in Region 4.

The following received Scotland Te Kiteroa Grants

- Scotland Te Kiteroa Grant
- Alzheimers Taranaki
- Anglican Family Care
- Children 1st Charitable Trust
- Forest & Bird
- Murchison Kindergarten
- New Zealand Conservation Trust
- Parent Line Manawatu
- West Coast Penguin Trust
- Living Wood Fair.

MEDIA RELEASES & SURVEYS

Rural Women New Zealand has raised its authoritative rural voice through recent media statements on issues concerning rural women and our rural communities. Through media releases, we are able to speak up, voice our clear stance on issues, build a strong reputation and influence positive change.

Media Releases

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 23 January | Freedom Camping – 'Freedom Camping Out of Sorts' |
| 24 January | Equal Pay – 'Rural Women Deserve Equal Pay Too' |
| 2 February | Quad Bike Safety – 'Another Preventable Rural Tragedy' |
| 7 February | Road Safety – 'Rural Women Renew Call for Bus Signs' |
| 15 February | Midwifery Crisis – 'Rural Women Need Access to Midwifery Care' |
| 21 February | Closure of Newspapers – 'Fairfax Decision Will Damage Rural Communities' |
| 26 February | Census Data Collection – 'Census Data Collection Integrity Questioned' |

Surveys

- RWNZ National Conference 2017 Survey
- RWNZ Sentencing (Livestock Rustling) Amendment Bill Survey
- Lauren Harrigan CSW62 'Case studies for Economic Empowerment of Rural Women from New Zealand' Survey
- Southern Institute of Technology Chham Pun 'Farm Management and Technology' Survey
- Department of Conservation 'The Future of Molesworth Station' Survey
- Federated Farmers Tax Survey.

We encourage members to contact the National Office at media@ruralwomennz.nz, for any information regarding media releases or to share your thoughts and/or experiences. You can find all of our media releases under 'news' on our website at www.ruralwomen.org.nz.

NEW TEAM MEMBERS AT NATIONAL OFFICE



ANGELA MCLEOD

Manager: Government, Public Sector & Academic Relationships

Bachelor of Agriculture, Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies

Angela comes to us from Parliament where she was a Policy, Research and Communications Advisor, primarily in Primary Industries, Outdoor Recreation and Corrections. Previously she worked from home as the Executive & Communications Manager for BPW International after spending four years as an Executive Assistant in Parliament.

She is a current Upper Hutt City Councillor and is Chair of the Council's Community Grants Committee, Deputy Chair of Policy Committee and sits on the Chief Executive; Audit, Risk and Finance; Legislation; Hearings and District Licencing Committees. Angela is the Chair of the Wellington Region Waste Forum and holds a current RMA 'Making Good Decisions' certificate.

Angela grew up on a farm, has a Bachelor of Agriculture and a Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies. She is passionate about healthy and sustainable living along with her husband Mac, where they enjoy living on a lifestyle block in Whiteman's Valley, Upper Hutt. She is a strong advocate for the empowerment of women, community development and sensible agriculture. Angela will be known to some of you for her work on equal pay, quality flexible work legislation, country of origin labeling of food, alcohol law reform, and reducing the rates of violence against women.

Her civil society experience includes being on the board of YWCA Aotearoa New Zealand, Immediate Past President of UN Women National Committee Aotearoa New Zealand and a Past President of BPW New Zealand. Angela is excited to bring her experience and skills to RWNZ where she can assist in projecting our authoritative rural voice.

If you wish to contact Angela, you can contact the National Office, or email her at angela.mcleod@ruralwomennz.nz



CATHERINE STABB

Communications, Marketing and Events Assistant

Bachelor of Commerce (Public Policy, Management)

Catherine is a recent Graduate, born and raised in Tauranga and has now been living in Wellington Central for four years. She completed her Bachelor of Commerce (majoring in Management and Public Policy) in July 2017, and spent five months traveling Europe and the U.K. She is passionate for her community, equality, and having a voice in today's fast moving society.

Although a city girl, her family have owned and managed a dairy farm in the Waikato for three generations, where she has spent many holidays helping out around the farm. She is the great-niece of June Haultain, an active member of RWNZ who was once National Vice President of WDFP, a PLM, and honorary Vice President of the National Fieldays Society. Her husband Rex, was long-standing director of the Dairy Group.

In her spare time, Catherine plays football, and volunteers at local-events in the Wellington region and beach-clean-ups in her home town. She is a fresh minded, tech savvy young woman who hopes to broaden our engagement platform through our social media and events.

If you wish for anything to be published in the Express Magazine or monthly e-Newsletter, or have any other queries for Catherine, you can contact the National Office, or email her at catherine.stabb@ruralwomennz.nz

ADVERSE EVENTS RELIEF FUND

Our project for this year is to raise money for the Adverse Events Relief Fund.

This summer has brought adverse events in the form of severe weather, which seems to be happening more frequently. The Adverse Events Relief Fund supports rural people, groups and communities, following an adverse event or natural disaster that

disrupts their lives, leaving them in need of financial assistance.

Members can raise money for the Adverse Events Relief Fund through the sale of Aftersocks™. You can order Aftersocks™ through the website at www.aftersocks.nz.

We look forward to seeing and sharing the diverse ways members can raise awareness and funds for the Adverse Events Relief Fund.

RWNZ FUNDS NZ YOUNG FARMERS' GOODYARN WORKSHOPS

A partnership between Rural Women New Zealand and NZ Young Farmers is helping to get young people talking about mental health.

RWNZ has funded NZ Young Farmers to facilitate 13 'GoodYarn' workshops across the country in November last year.

The workshops help equip people with the tools to recognise the signs of stress and mental illness and seek appropriate support. Taranaki/Manawatu territory manager Megan Bates was one of the NZ Young Farmers members trained to run the workshops.

"The workshops were extremely timely given the challenges created by this season's erratic weather conditions," she said. "Record-breaking spring rainfall ended almost overnight and within weeks, parts of New Zealand were in drought."

"It is important people have the skills to recognise family members, farm staff or customers who may be struggling," she said.

The workshops are one of several initiatives NZ Young Farmers is using to help tackle the country's rural mental health crisis. Suicide rates are higher in rural areas at 16 per 100,000 people, compared

with 11.2 for every 100,000 people living in cities, according to Statistics New Zealand. It was reported that six young men living in rural areas in Canterbury and the Waikato took their own lives late last year.

"As an organisation, we want to help make the community more aware of the risks," said NZ Young Farmers chief executive Terry Copeland. "The workshops are one way we can empower young people to identify those at risk and get them help."

Mr Copeland said NZ Young Farmers was extremely grateful to RWNZ for the funding.

"The support we received from Rural Women New Zealand to run the GoodYarn workshops was invaluable," he said. "This partnership has enabled us to expand our reach. Anything we can do to reduce the number of suicides in rural New Zealand is of benefit to the entire country."

Brad Markham
Communications Manager
New Zealand Young Farmers



TUANZ RURAL CONNECTIVITY SYMPOSIUM



Since 2015, Telecommunications Users Association of New Zealand (TUANZ) and Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand (RHANZ) and NZ Young Farmers have hosted the annual Rural Connectivity Symposium in the belief that working together is the best way to gather a strong and unified rural voice. This year we welcome our new supporting partners, Rural Women New Zealand and Dairy Women's Network to this important event.

We believe that it is crucial to keep a focus on continuing to improve rural connectivity - until it is an equivalent experience to that available in urban centres. In 2018, the Rural Connectivity Symposium will be in late May to hear from the Government and

the RBI2 contracted parties their plans to deliver to our goals. It is your chance to have a voice, share experiences and aspirations for your business and your community with decision makers at the event. You will also have the chance to hear from a range of speakers on how connectivity is helping improve outcomes in rural New Zealand, and case study innovative approaches to improving rural health outcomes. Watch out for more information on the Symposium over the coming month - specifics will be posted on the TUANZ website and through the event partners as they are finalised.

Craig Young
CEO TUANZ

RAPID RESPONSE - NEW PORTFOLIOS ANNOUNCED

With the introduction of new portfolios to our strategic goals, we have established new categories for Rapid Response.

These are the topic areas which are important to rural communities and puts RWNZ in the position of being the go-to organisation on rural issues of importance. Rapid Response, media releases, and submissions allow for us to quickly respond to pressing matters, issues which are of our concern through.

Portfolios already established are Health, International, Social, and Rural Environment. We are introducing Technology, and Business to now also be included.

If you are wanting to join a Rapid Response team, or be a part of a specific Rapid Response team or all the Rapid Response teams, please contact the National Office at enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz

RWNZ has put forward a submission to the Law Commission regarding the amendment of the Property (Relationships) Act 1976.

Rural Women New Zealand Submission on the Property (Relationships) Act 1976

About Rural Women New Zealand

1. Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation that reaches into all rural communities and has an authoritative voice on rural environment, health, education and social issues. RWNZ strives to ensure that all rural residents, workers and families have equitable access to services, inequalities are addressed by Government, and the wellbeing of rural communities is considered from the beginning of all policy and legislative development
2. RWNZ is affiliated to the Associated Country Women of the World and as such upholds all United Nations, ILO and WHO conventions and outcome statements as they relate to women and rural women in particular

Introduction

3. RWNZ welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Law Commission's Review of the Property (Relationships) Act.

Specific Comments

4. Many farms, agricultural contractors and agribusinesses are owned as Partnerships, Family Trusts, or Companies and when a relationship ends, the complexities of these add to the grief and confusion often associated with relationship dissolution
5. Many women work on the farm in an unpaid capacity due to the nature of seasonal peaks at work, because they tend to be the primary caregiver and because opportunities for work off farm are limited by distance and/or infrastructure
6. Rural women are disadvantaged in a relationship separation where those acting for them show a lack of understanding in the value of this unpaid work and the contribution it makes to the running of the farm business, whether the business is successful or not in an income sense. Women who need their partners or spouses can be left with no income at all
7. Where the separation is due to violence – either physical, or psychological – women can be further discriminated by a controlling estranged partner through the unequal sharing of relationship property, lack of adherence to court decisions and/or orders, and lack of understanding of the value of unpaid work, especially with inexperienced lawyers, lawyers with no financial knowledge and those who practice unprofessional behaviour.

Solutions

8. Resolution of relationship property matters should include financial expertise which understands farm accounting and the value of in-kind or unpaid work
9. There needs to be education of lawyers involved in such resolutions to understand the nature of controlling relationships and that the circumstance is likely to be far more complex in a farming situation
10. Courts need to have the ability, and use it, to follow up on orders made to ensure that they are honoured by both parties in a resolution.

We ask that:

11. A separate clause be included in the legislation which ensures rural expertise, both financial and legal, is included in any resolution of relationship property matters when the property is rural
12. Any changes to legislation be subject to both gender impact analysis and rural impact analysis before being presented to the House of Representatives
13. All United Nations conventions¹ and outcome statements² from United Nations Commissions and agencies³ that relate to the empowerment of rural women be considered when drafting any changes to the Property (Relationships) Act.

Conclusion

14. RWNZ would like the Law Commission to understand that women who live and work in our farming sector are often disadvantaged in the resolution of relationship property matters and that the current legislation is not working for all situations.
15. RWNZ are available to discuss this further to clarify our concerns and solutions, particularly sharing examples, and would like to take up any oral opportunity offered.

Kind regards



Angela McLeod

Manager, Government, Public Sector and Academic Relationships
Rural Women New Zealand

REMITTS

The following remits were passed at the recent Leadership Council and Area Committee Workshop in Wellington on Wednesday 14 – Thursday, 15 February.

Remit 1: Breast Screening

That the remit: "Rural Women New Zealand encourage the Ministry of Health to raise the age of breast screening beyond the age of seventy years.", be amended to: "Rural Women New Zealand encourage the Ministry of Health to raise the age of free breast screening beyond the age of seventy years."

Remit 3: Preserving the Past

"Rural Women New Zealand preserves the past for the future."

Remit 4: Road Safety for Children

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

The following remit was not passed.

Remit 2: Vehicle Hire Firm Accountability

"Rural Women New Zealand encourage the Ministry of Transport to make motor vehicle hire firms accountable for accidents by their clients on New Zealand roads."

ENGAGING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are many policies and issues that face rural families and communities where territorial authorities (Boards, Councils, District Councils & Regional Councils) have the power to make the changes the rural sector needs.

The next available avenue for community engagement is the long term planning process. Many territorial authorities (TAs) are discussing these at the moment and they will be releasing their Long Term Plans (LTP) for consultation shortly. With Councils being more constrained in their funding, if a project is not budgeted for in the LTP then it is not likely to happen. The LTP runs for at least ten

years and reviewed every three. Get in contact with your local board member or councillor, keep an eye out for them on the website of your TA, or in the local paper (if you still have one), and take the time to read through the document carefully then consider making a submission on the projects presented or better still, submit a new one.

Rural Women New Zealand is particularly interested in safety around school buses and Board Member Sue Higgins is working with staff on how we can all engage with the LTP process. As information comes through, we will ensure it is communicated to members.

RURAL CRIME PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) have been identified by New Zealand Police as a stakeholder in the prevention of rural crime and as such were invited to be part of their Rural Stakeholders Crime Prevention Partnership (RSCPP) in 2016.

A meeting was held recently at Police HQ and Angela McLeod attended on behalf of RWNZ. The meeting elected a Chair (Community Patrol New Zealand) and discussed ways to work together, given that the partnership had been inactive for close

to six months due to the election period. One of the outcomes of the meeting was based on the concern from members regarding rustling and the opportunity to submit on the Sentencing (Livestock Rustling) Bill. The outcome: RWNZ is co-ordinating a submission based on the organisation of RSCPP. This is a great example of collaboration and living up to the purpose of the partnership – **Uplifting Communities, Preventing Crime Together - Āwhina ngā hapori, hei whakaruruhau te iwi whānui.**

A GOOD SPREAD

Recipes from the kitchens of Rural Women New Zealand

It's a Kiwi tradition to lay on a good spread to welcome family, friends and guests and to celebrate special occasions. This collection of tried and true recipes brings together classics drawn from the bestselling 1965 WDFB cookbook with newer favourites contributed by current members of Rural Women New Zealand.

It includes delicious home baking, hearty meals and vegetable dishes using fresh produce, and traditional desserts, sweets, sauces and preserves.

We only have 16 copies left, so get in quick to have your own copy. Please contact the National Office at enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz to purchase one. Selling books is a great way to raise funds for RWNZ. Books are \$25.00 + \$5.00 for postage.



World's Best Chocolate Chip Cookies

Maria Dickie, Kauru Hill Branch, North Otago

Ingredients

- 220g butter
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ teaspoon baking soda
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 3 cups chocolate chips



Method

Preheat oven to 180°C.

Cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla and eggs, mix well. In a separate bowl, sift flour, baking soda and salt together. Add dry ingredients to the creamed mixture and mix well. Add the chocolate chips.

Line cookie sheets with baking paper and place spoonfuls on to the sheets.

Bake 10-12 minutes. Remove from oven and cool on wire racks.

Nutty Brown Rice Salad

Liz Chapman, Kakahu Branch, South Canterbury

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 cups brown rice, cooked | ½ cup chopped red and green capsicum and/or spring onions |
| 4 tablespoons soy sauce | |
| 1/4 cup roasted peanuts or cashew nuts, or a mixture | ½ onion, finely diced |
| ½ cup sunflower seeds | ½ cup sultanas |
| ½ cup pumpkin seeds | |

Method

Cook rice the day before (should take about 15-20 minutes). Drain and add soy sauce, then leave overnight. The next day add remaining ingredients and mix well. For the dressing, heat 1 tablespoon honey and 2 tablespoons oil. Mix in blender with a whole lemon and 3 tablespoons white vinegar. Pour over salad.

Cheese Scones

Pauline Wardle, Pongaroa Branch, Eketahuna

Ingredients

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 cups flour | ½ teaspoon salt and celery salt |
| 1 teaspoon icing sugar | 1 tablespoon butter |
| Pinch of cayenne pepper | 1 cup grated cheese |
| 2 teaspoons baking powder | 1 cup milk |
| 2 teaspoons cornflour | |

Method

Preheat oven to 220°C.

Mix dry ingredients together, rub in butter and cheese, mix to soft dough with milk. Knead into squares about 2.5cm thick. Brush top with a little extra milk and cover with extra grated cheese.

Bake for 10 minutes.

SheEO

RWNZ would like to congratulate past Enterprising Rural Women Award (ERWA) winners, Shear Warmth and Dove River Peonies for being announced as two of SheEO's Top Ten Ventures. The final five will receive funding once they are announced this month.

SheEO is an initiative which has seen hundreds of women pitch their businesses with the hope of securing investment. Their model brings 500 women from each cohort (Activators) who each contribute \$1000NZD as an Act of Radical Generosity. The money is pooled together and loaned out at a low interest to five women-led Ventures selected by Activators. All Ventures are revenue generating with export potential and creating a better world through their business model or their product and/or service.

Loans are paid back into the fund over five years and then loaned out again, which creates a perpetual fund that will be passed on through generations.

Ventures are provided with a guided development program and supported to accelerate their success in an environment of radical generosity, designed by women for women.

Activators are corporate executives, entrepreneurs, emerging women leaders, students, mothers, grandmothers, and daughters, ranging in age from 14-92. Their diversity of age, stage, culture and experience make SheEO a highly coveted and unique community. To become an Activator or to learn about SheEO, visit their website at www.sheeo.world



Shear Warmth

Shear Warmth is owned and operated by farmers Lyn and Monique Neeson, who produce quality blankets made from wool specially selected from fleeces off their farm at Tokirima, King Country. Shear Warmth received the Emerging Enterprising Rural Women Award sponsored by SWAZI New Zealand at RWNZ's ERWA event in 2016.

For Shear Warmth, competitions such as ERWA and SheEO are "invaluable to enter. While they put us out of our comfort zone, they enable us to meet a whole another world and network that we would not otherwise meet like-minded people.

"It's the connectivity that's invaluable for businesses like us." – Lyn Neeson, Director Shear Warmth.

Visit www.shearwarmth.co.nz



RWNZ Chief Executive Officer, Penelope England and Shear Warmth Director, Lyn Neeson at ERWA 2016

Dove River Peonies

Dove River Peonies produce natural, safe products including soaps and creams from the peony root for eczema, psoriasis, dry and itchy, and/or sensitive skin. They have also developed a range of special blend teas for simple relaxation, rejuvenation or other specific ailments and conditions.



Dove Rive Peonies are committed to supporting local communities and have donated to a range of support worthy causes. In 2014 they received a Special Merit Award in the "Making It Rural" section sponsored by Spark in the RWNZ's ERWA event.

"For us, just entering competitions like the Enterprising Rural Women Awards (ERWA) and applying for funding from SheEO, has been hugely beneficial. It made us focus and get clarity on our business goals and gave us the opportunity to get



external, objective feedback on our plan to achieve them. Just as importantly, feeling the warmth and support from other women in business has been validating and empowering for us. Every time we have been brave enough and bold enough to enter, we have been rewarded and felt even more passionate about what we are doing. Winning ERWA also exposed our Pure Peony range of skincare to a huge number of people who suffer from eczema, psoriasis and other skin irritations so it's been great for business too! SheEO is a fantastic way women can support other women in business – providing access to funds and advice that will help take our business to the next level and help hundreds of thousands more people." – Dot Kettle, Director Dove River Peonies.

Visit www.purepeony.com

LEAVING POSTS

Significant people from organisations RWNZ works closely with are stepping down from their leadership positions.

Zelda De Villiers has announced in January, her leaving her role as Chief Executive Officer of Dairy Women's Network.



Zelda De Villiers

source: ruralnewsgroup.co.nz

Zelda commented that she has "enjoyed getting to know and understand the important role RWNZ plays in rural areas, collaborating with RWNZ representatives at forums and meetings to ensure we get the best possible support for rural women and getting to know your inspiring leaders."

Simon Lipscombe also recently announced that he will be stepping down from his position as Chief Executive Officer of Access Community Health.



Simon Lipscombe

"In my time as Chief Executive Officer at Access Community Health I have very much enjoyed the partnership we have with the team at Rural Women New Zealand. In particular, our annual sponsorship of the Rural Women New Zealand Scholarship has been a highlight of that partnership – it is a very rewarding programme to be involved with. I wish Penelope and her great team the very best wishes for their future endeavours," says Simon.

Graham Smith has announced that he will be stepping down from his position as Chief Executive of Federated Farmers. After four years heading the lobby group, Graham plans to leave mid-year.

Graham says that he "always enjoyed working with Rural Women New Zealand."

He "considers the relationship between Federated Farmers and RWNZ to be particularly important, because of the very close history the two organisations share, the good relationships both organisations have between their elected representatives and staff, and perhaps most importantly, because of the fundamental role RWNZ plays in making sure the voice of women working in rural New Zealand is heard."



Graham Smith, wearing his Aftersocks in support of our Adverse Events Relief Fund

We wish all the best to Zelda, Simon and Graham for their future endeavours.

LOWER SOUTH ISLAND BAKE-UP

Awesome, is the only word to describe the Lower South Island's NLC Pat Macaulay's reaction to the baking that arrived at her place after a plead to RWNZ members in the area from the Otago Rural Support Trust following the devastating flooding in late July on the Taieri Plain and in the Strath Taieri.

"This was members doing what we do best – looking after our people in our rural communities."

As the Co-ordinator for the Otago Rural Support Trust, Pat delivered over 80 packages to farmers who were just starting calving or pre-lamb shearing. She received many lovely thank you notes from many families.

"Thank you members for the 'Service simply given' in time of need."

Please let the National Office know and spread the word of branches or members assisting those in need.



Pictured: Otago's contribution – Southland's the following week was just as much.

CAMBRIAN ST BATHANS VILLAGE FETE

St Bathans Village Fete has been run by Cambrian St Bathans branch on the second Sunday in January for the last 14 years. It is timed to make the most of the huge holiday making population in the wider Central Otago area at that time. The branch has 8 - 10 members, so this is a major annual undertaking for this small group of ladies.

St Bathans is a tiny historic settlement in the remote heart of Central Otago, between Alexandra and Ranfurly. It is famous for its Goldmining history, the picture post card Vulcan Hotel, its ghosts and the Blue Lake, which was created by hydraulic sluicing in search of gold in the late 19th and early 20th century.

The Fete originated when the Cambrian St Bathans branch members wanted to create an event to bring people into the town and the area to celebrate its unique history, the amazing scenery, and provide opportunities for locals to raise funds and promote local cottage industries and businesses.

It began with 6 stalls on the Village Green in 2005, and has grown to host over 50 quality stallholders on the Village Green, along the main street and on any spare flat land available. It is estimated that the crowds attending have grown close to 1,000 people on the day. This number of people travelling to St Bathans has obvious benefits for all businesses in the wider area, as through traffic stops off for shopping, food and socialising opportunities along the way.

There is always an Exhibition in the historic hall, which reflects either facets of local history, or local creative arts. Numerous community groups have benefited over the years by donations from the Exhibitions, donations following the event or by running stalls themselves.

This is a family friendly event, with the Cambrian St Bathans members running children's activities during the day. One of the iconic activities for the kids is a Ghost Hunt, where 'ghosts' are hidden around the village and the children are asked to complete a map, like a 'treasure map', by marking the ghosts' locations on it. Correct entries go into a draw for a prize. This encourages kids and parents alike to wander along the village main street, and soak up the history around them while looking for the 'ghosts'. Live Entertainment has been another feature in recent years, adding to the ambience of the event.

A St Bathans Village Fete Facebook page was set up around 3 years ago and now has over 500 followers.

Cambrian St Bathans members are proud of their efforts to promote and invigorate their community. Skills gained include event management, communication, compliance in health and safety and traffic management and much more. "We must be doing something right because the stallholders and the public keep coming back year after year" says Brenda Hore, Branch President.



Pictured (from left): Historic hall and patchwork exhibition; Main street with stalls

EXPRESS & e-NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

It's important that we share stories and information between members. Please find below the deadline dates for the upcoming Express Magazines to ensure we can publish your stories and photos.

Friday, 22 June (for July Express, to ensure your stories and photos are published)

Friday, 21 September (for October Express)

Friday, 30 November (for December Express)

If you wish for anything to be published in the monthly e-Newsletter, these are sent out in the middle of each month.

Deadline for e-Newsletter content - 14th each month.

Please send all content to Catherine at catherine.stabb@ruralwomennz.nz

COMPETITIONS 2018

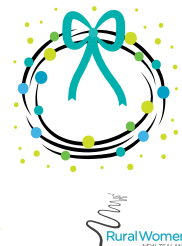
Christmas Card Contest

We invite all members to send in your photographs, one will be chosen to be the cover of this year's Christmas Card. Please send your photographs to competitions@ruralwomennz.nz with a caption and your details.

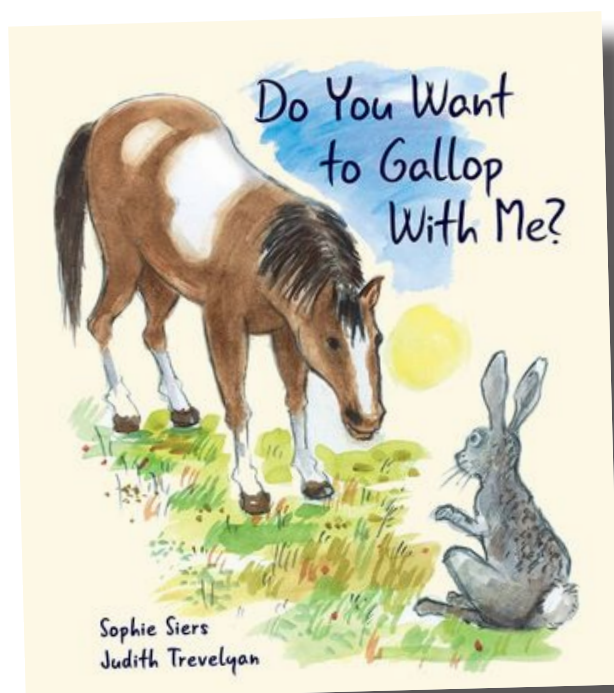
Tarrant Bell Public Speaking Contest

This year's Tarrant Bell Public Speaking Contest topic is 'Are We There Yet?' Contact National Office or your Leadership Councillor for more information.

Happy holidays from Rural Women New Zealand



BOOK COMPETITIONS



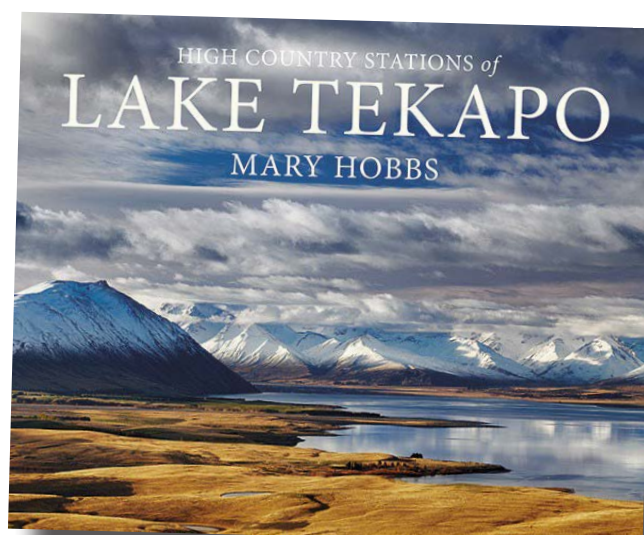
Do You Want to Gallop With Me?

by Sophie Siers, illustrated by Judith Trevelyan

The pony from *Allis the Little Tractor*, Nibbles, is the star of this own book! He loves to gallop and prance. But who will play with him? Hedgehog is busy and his friend Princess is eating sweet grass. But who is coming across the paddock? Maybe he will have someone to play with after all...

With playful watercolour paintings, this story from Region 4 member Sophie Siers explores friendship and fun for children aged 2 – 6 years.

To enter the draw to win a copy of *Do You Want To Gallop With Me*, send your details to competitions@ruralwomennz.nz



High Country Stations of Lake Tekapo

by Mary Hobbs

With dazzling blue glacial water, and the backdrop of the beautifully carved Southern Alps, Lake Tekapo is an obvious focal point of the South Island's Mackenzie Country. This stunning book tells the stories of courageous farming families, who choose to live and work in this spectacular, but unforgiving country with extremes of all varieties of weather.

Heavily illustrated with both contemporary images and many old, previously unpublished photographs, this is a fascinating and beautiful book. It is a sister volume to Hobbs's bestselling *The High Country Stations of the Mackenzie*, and will be another much-loved addition to the legacy of New Zealand writing about the high country.

To enter the draw to win a copy of *High Country Stations of Lake Tekapo*, send your details to competitions@ruralwomennz.nz

CONTACT LIST - LEADERSHIP COUNCILLORS & AREA COMMITTEES

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018

Thursday, 8 March celebrated International Women's Day. A breakfast event at Parliament was jointly organised by the UN Women National Committee Aotearoa New Zealand, and the Zonta Club of Wellington.

The event saw 400 people attend to hear speakers including the Governor General, Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, Rt Hon Helen Clark, and Minister for Women, Hon Julie Anne Genter. Topics of discussion at the breakfast included celebrating the progress that has been made for women in New Zealand and around the world, challenges

faced today and in the future for women in leadership, the impact of social movements including the #metoo campaign and how movements such as these which start off small, can eventuate into a real drive for change.

RWNZ was lucky enough to be present at the event and meet such inspirational leaders. We look forward to participating in more events celebrating the successes of women and discussing our future direction in finding full equality.



Rt Hon Helen Clark with RWNZ Communications, Marketing and Events Assistant Catherine Stabb



Rt Hon Helen Clark in discussion with Dr Gill Greer



The line-up of speakers at the event



MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES

Please go to the 'Members Zone' on our website for Membership Incentive business directory - www.ruralwomen.org.nz



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