

National Conference 2019

A TASTE OF NORTHLAND - FOOD, LAND, PEOPLE

The RWNZ Region 7 National Conference Organising Committee is pleased to present the 2019 Rural Women New Zealand National Conference in Whangarei, from Friday, 7 to Sunday, 9 June 2019.

The first RWNZ National Conference under the new system is inspired by the distinct beauty of Northland and welcomes Members to **A Taste of Northland - Food, Land and People**. The Organising Committee has created a stimulating and inspiring programme for the weekend which will share Northland's unique rural produce and enterprises with fellow RWNZ Members.

This issue of Express includes information about the conference programme with details of the key speakers on each day and the format of Saturday afternoon will include an interactive event where Members will hear from Northland entrepreneurs and enjoy the opportunity to sample their best local produce.

The theme of celebrating local produce will carry over to

the Conference Dinner on Saturday evening with a menu that incorporates the tastes and flavours of Northland.

A key part of any National Conference is enjoying the fellowship of our Membership while revelling in a little friendly competition. Details of the Competitions are included in this issue. Please note the criteria and deadlines for each event.

On Sunday morning, there will be an optional "Women Walk the World" event before taking part in Devotions and hearing from those who attended the ACWW Conference in Melbourne.

Information on accommodation and Fly My Sky's special offer for travel between Auckland and Whangarei are also inside.

There is a lot to look forward to at this first new concept National Conference. The Region 7 National Conference Organising Committee (pictured below) looks forward to welcoming you to Northland in June.



Editorial

Kia ora tātou

It certainly has been a busy start to the year for everyone. Our thoughts go out to all those caught up in the fires throughout the Tasman District. It has been a very tough time for those affected and involved. On behalf of Rural Women New Zealand, I offer our thanks to the emergency services and to those who are supporting these rural communities now and in the future. Thank you especially to a number of our Members who are doing great work and supporting those in need.

Penelope England left her role as CEO of RWNZ on Friday, 15 February to take a new role in the arts and philanthropy sector. We are sorry to see her go and wish her all the best with her new venture.

It was a real pleasure having the Leadership Team join the Board and the National Office staff for a two day workshop in Wellington recently. We will be picking up and developing some of the very positive discussions and great ideas that came out of our time together. Thank you to everyone who attended and shared their thoughts. I look forward to seeing the great initiatives we discussed turning into actions all around the country.

One of our main strategic goals for focus this year is 'Membership that Matters.' We discussed this in depth at the Leadership Team workshop and I would encourage all Members to think about these questions: How can we ensure that our Members feel valued and how do we ensure that our Members value the organisation? How do we communicate the benefits of being a Member of RWNZ to our existing Members and to potential Members and Stakeholders? How do we tell our story? Why do we do what we do? What can we do to celebrate that? The National Office has released a Members' survey which addresses these questions.

We did get to celebrate recently –



congratulations to Margaret Pittaway as a Finalist in the Senior Category at the New Zealander of the Year Awards 2019. Margaret has worked tirelessly in the rural health sector, has been a champion for rural health over many years and has gained huge respect for her work. Margaret deserves all the recognition this Award offers.

It was also a real honour to be invited to host the Prime Minister near Hamilton recently. A group of women, mainly RWNZ Members, enjoyed the opportunity to discuss issues that affect women living in rural areas with the Prime Minister and her team.

I joined the team at Golden Shears to celebrate excellence in the shearing and wool industry, and offer support to workers and their families who are affected by the issues that all our rural communities face.

We are looking forward to the launch of this year's NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards. It's time to start thinking about who you might know who could benefit from this wonderful experience and encourage them to enter.

I especially look forward to hearing about what is happening and planned this year in the rural communities in which we live, work and play. Please let the National Office and me know so we can promote upcoming events. Don't forget to send in photos and stories of your events so we can share them and celebrate your great work.

Ngā mihi,

Fiona Gower

National President

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Dates for the Diary

Monday, 18 to Saturday, 23 March: Wool Week, Marlborough

Saturday, 23 March: Pokuru Branch 70th Anniversary Luncheon, 11 am
Te Awamutu Club, 542 Alexandra St, Te Awamutu

Monday, 25 & Tuesday, 26 March: Region 3 Conference, Golden Bay

Wednesday, 27 to Friday, 29 March: South Island Field Days

Friday, 5 April: I Am Hope Gumboot Friday

Thursday, 4 April to Sunday, 7 April: NZRGPN National Rural Health Conference 2019
Marlborough Convention Centre/ASB Theatre

Thursday, 4 to Wednesday, 10 April: Associated Country Women of the World Conference
Melbourne, Australia

Monday, 29 April: ACWW Women Walk the World

Wednesday, 3 & Thursday, 4 April: MobilTECH, Rotorua

Tuesday, 7 to Thursday, 9 May: Region 1 Conference and Leadership Workshop, Oamaru

Friday, 7 to Sunday, 9 June: Rural Women New Zealand National Conference, Whangarei

Wednesday, 12 to Saturday, 15 June: National Fieldays, Mystery Creek

Thursday, 25 July: Region 2 Conference, Ashburton

Tuesday, 30 and Wednesday, 31 July: ProteinTECH, Auckland

Welcome to New Members

Corrinne O'Donnell – Individual Member

Ruth Paulsen – Individual Member

Bronwyn Main – Individual Member

Marie Daly – Individual Member

Ann Reed – Individual Member

Julie Kearney – Individual Member

Danielle Bergin – Onewhero Branch

Penelope England – Individual Member

Farewell to Old Friends

Kath McKenzie – Takaka Branch – BLM

Euryl Griffin – Tutaenui – Service Simply Given

Joan Marsh – Takaka Branch

Ruth Johnson – Mahoe Branch

Margaret Buckthought – Mahoe Branch – PLM

Valda Pratter – Takaka Branch

Dorothy Daysh – Carteron Branch (closed) – BLM and PLM

Ngaire Hancock – Rangiwahia Branch

Dorothy Rose – Rangiwahia Branch – BLM

Marion Frost – Te Rahu Branch

Leona Melvin – Tokanui Otara Wai Branch

National Conference 2019

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: FRIDAY 7 JUNE (DISTINCTION HOTEL)

- 1.30 – 2.45 p.m. Registration at the Distinction Hotel
- 3.00 – Welcome from the RWNZ National Conference Organising Committee
- 4.00 p.m. Welcome from RWNZ President, Fiona Gower
Welcome from Shane Reti, Member of Parliament for Whangarei
Welcome from the Mayor of Whangarei, Her Worship Sheryl Mai
Greeting via video/letter from the Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, Governor General of New Zealand
- 4.00 – 4.30 p.m. Afternoon tea
- 4.30 – 5.15 p.m. Key Speaker: Doctor Tanya Quin, GP and Farmer: “Health and the Northland community and an update on progress in controlling Leptospirosis in Northland”.
- 5.15 – 6.45 p.m. Speech Competition This year’s topic is, “Are we there yet?”
- 6.55 p.m. Speech Competition winners announced
- 7 p.m. Closing remarks for the end of Day 1.

Members will make their own arrangements for dinner. Bookings are recommended if you wish to dine at the restaurant at the Distinction. Alternatively, Members may choose to dine from a range of restaurants located in the Whangarei Town Basin.

DAY 2: SATURDAY 8 JUNE (TOLL STADIUM)

Please note that there will be no registrations at the door at Toll Stadium. Attendees are requested to pre-register for Saturday only attendance.

- 7.00 a.m. Breakfast will be available at the Distinction Hotel or Members may enjoy a walk to the Farmers’ Market to sample local fare.
- 8.30 a.m. (PROMPT) Buses depart from Distinction Hotel for the Northland Event Centre.
- 8.30 - 9.30 a.m. Competition entries will be accepted at the designated location and must be set up for display by 9.30
- 9.15 a.m. Welcome by the Organising Committee.
- 9.30 a.m. Key Speakers: Gillian and Kevin Adshead of the Kiwi Release Programme.
- 10.15 a.m. Morning Tea.
- 10.45 a.m. Key Speaker: Roberta Kiao, Rural Women Support Award and Far North Mental Health Service Co-ordinator. Roberta is a recipient of the RWNZ Access Community Health Scholarship.
- 11.35 a.m. Key Speaker: Gendie Somerville-Ryan, RWNZ Great Barrier Island Branch, Dark Sky Programme.
- 12.20 p.m. Lunch: National Life Members and Members of Honour will be invited to dine at dedicated tables.
- 1.15 p.m. A range of Northland entrepreneurs will introduce their work and products
- 3.00 p.m. An opportunity to sample a Taste of Northland at the stalls and displays of local produce.
- 3.30 p.m. Competition Results announced and Afternoon Tea.
- 4.00 - 4.15 p.m. Final opportunities to meet local entrepreneurs and enjoy samples before Closing remarks and returning to the buses for transport to the Distinction Hotel.
- 6.30 p.m. Pre-dinner socialising.
- 7.00 p.m. Conference dinner with a menu featuring local produce.
- 8.30 p.m. After dinner entertainment.

DAY 3: SUNDAY 9 JUNE (DISTINCTION HOTEL)

Please enjoy the ACWW Country of Study display in the Hotel foyer. This year's country is Croatia.

7.00 a.m.	Breakfast at the Distinction Hotel.
8.15 a.m.	Optional event: "Women Walk the World." Enjoy a scenic walk along Whangarei's spectacular harbour with historical commentary from local experts.
9.30 – 9.55 a.m.	Morning tea and Pennies for Friendship collection.
10.00 a.m.	Devotions, including the RWNZ Song and Creed.
10.30 a.m.	Key Speaker: Karlene Everitt, Federation of Maori Organisations, Not for Profit Organisations and Global Women in Management and CEO of Manaaki Solutions Limited.
11.15 a.m.	Report on the ACWW World Conference in Melbourne.
11.45 a.m.	RWNZ National Board update.
12.30 p.m.	RWNZ Members question time.
1.05 p.m.	End of Day 3: Farewells, raffle results and closing remarks
1.15 p.m.	Lunch

ACCOMMODATION

The Organising Committee has reserved a block booking at the Distinction Whangarei Hotel and Conference Centre.

The Distinction offers preferential rates to RWNZ Members and is also where the majority of the Conference activities will take place.

Should Members wish to take advantage of the preferential rates as part of the block booking, please contact the hotel directly by email: reservations@distinctionwhangarei.co.nz or by telephone on (09) 430 4080.

The block booking has been reserved under reference number 63568: RWNZ. Members should quote this reference number to ensure the preferential rate is applied.

Please note that bookings under this quote must be made by Tuesday, 7 May (one month prior to the conference).

The preferential rates offered to RWNZ Members are per room, per night and are GST inclusive. They are:

- Standard studio room (room only) - \$139.00
- Standard studio room (bed and breakfast, 1 person) - \$159.00
- Standard studio room (bed and breakfast, 2 people) - \$169.00
- Superior room (room only) - \$179.00
- Superior room (bed and breakfast, 1 person) - \$199.00
- Superior room (bed and breakfast, 2 people) - \$209.00

Please note that the Distinction Hotel has no lifts so Members who would prefer not to use stairs should request a room on the ground floor.

TRANSPORT

NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Award winner, **Fly My Sky**, is offering Members a **special fare for flights** between Auckland and Whangarei. The fare is \$99 each way and includes 23 kg of luggage. Please use the Promo Code **RWNZCONF19** when making a booking. Members can book this fare from now until the **Sunday, 9 June** (last day of Conference). Travel booked under this promotional offer may be completed until Wednesday, 31 July 2019, after which all travel booked on this offer expires. After Wednesday, 31st July an expired fare may be upgraded to a regular travel fare prior to 31st December 2019. Please refer to Fly My Sky's usual terms and conditions applying to special and other fares at: www.flymysky.co.nz.

To make a booking with Fly My Sky, please visit www.flymysky.co.nz or phone on 0800 222 123.

SIGHT-SEEING IN WHANGAREI

The Organising Committee advises Members who wish to see more of Whangarei outside of the Conference to contact Whangarei Information Centre for further information and bookings. Their website is: <http://whangareinz.com/holiday/visitor-information-1/visitor-information>

For more information, please contact RWNZ Projects and Events Manager, Lisa Thompson, at lisa.thompson@ruralwomennz.nz

COMPETITIONS

An important part of every Conference is the Competitions. Please note the description, conditions and due date for entries of each competitions. Judging will take place at the National Conference and the winners will be announced at 1pm on Saturday, 8 June.

Cora Wilding Scrapbook Competition: Produce a scrap book for children to enjoy while staying at Ronald McDonald Houses. The scrap itself can be bought and are available in a range of sizes and page numbers. Please make the scrap book as engaging as possible for the children by adding art work, puzzles, short stories, quizzes, jokes, pictures to colour in and anything else you can think of. Materials used in your scrap book can be sourced from elsewhere and the book may span up to 120 pages. The competition will be judged on the content of the scrapbook. Please send entries to the National Office by Friday, 24 May, or bring your entry with you to the National Conference in Whangarei.

Wool Competition: Make something out of pure fleece wool. The item can only be washed, not spun, felted or carded. Entrants may include accessories as long as they do not make up more than 10% of the item. Please send entries to the National Office by Friday, 24 May, or bring your entry with you to the National Conference in Whangarei.

Speech Competition: The topic is 'Are we there yet?' Speeches should be 4-5 minutes in duration. There are two prizes: The Tarrant Bell and the Tutaenui Bell. The latter is awarded to the best first time entrant.

International Hub Country of Study: Croatia

Marlborough Short Story and Olive Burdekin Advanced Writers Competitions:

The theme for 2019 is 'Changes you have experienced through your life'. Your story should focus on historical changes during the course of your life, rather than personal changes. The Marlborough short story must be between 1,000 and 1,500 words in length. The Olive Burdekin advanced writer's piece must be between 1,500 and 2,000 words. Please do not put your name or Branch or Provincial details on your entry. Please obtain an entry form from the RWNZ website which will have all the information to accompany your story. Entries are to be emailed or postmarked by Sunday, 31 March. Email Lorraine Adams at jladam@actrix.co.nz, or post to Lorraine Adams at: 3 Redwood Retirement Village, 25/18 North Street, Redwood, Blenheim 7201.

Entrants can expect to be notified when their entries are received. If you do not receive notification, please contact the National Office by emailing enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz

The Region 7 National Conference Organising Committee asks that Leadership Councillors and Area Committee Chairs from all Regions advise the Committee of Members who plan to attend the Conference. This would greatly assist with their preparations and planning.

Please advise m.t.daletaylor@xtra.co.nz and sherillmd@xtra.co.nz as soon as possible.



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Waitangi Day



Rural Women New Zealand National Chair, Penny Mudford, represented RWNZ at the Waitangi Day Bledisloe Garden Reception at Government House on Wednesday, 6 February.

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, Governor General of New Zealand, spoke to the importance of New Zealanders treasuring New Zealand's environment and acting on the threat of climate change.

Dame Patsy opened her speech with the words, "*Titiro whakamuri, haere whakamua*. Look back and reflect, so you can move forward."

She continued by saying, "The thread that runs through our nation's past, present and future is our Treaty of Waitangi. Te Tiriti ensures a place for all of us, while maintaining the interests of Māori, the tangata whenua of New Zealand.

"Our Treaty, our nation's unique model of partnership, demands principled action, respectful communication and commitment to high ideals. The responsibility to care for our environment rests with all of us. On this Waitangi Day, my hope and dream is that New Zealanders will be guided by those principles in working together to create a sustainable and just future for the generations to come – and for the wellbeing of these islands we call home."

Dame Patsy urged New Zealanders to care for our natural gift, the environment.

"New Zealanders frequently put the environment at the top of the list, along with freedom, rights and peace. The

environment is a taonga for all of us, but caring about the environment and caring for the environment are two different things. Sentiment must be accompanied by action. We can be, and indeed must be, better kaitiaki – guardians – of our lakes, rivers and oceans, and the land that sustains our wellbeing."

Dame Patsy Reddy is patron of Rural Women New Zealand and took the opportunity to have a brief chat with Penny Mudford as she took an informal walk amongst her guests on the lawn at Government House.

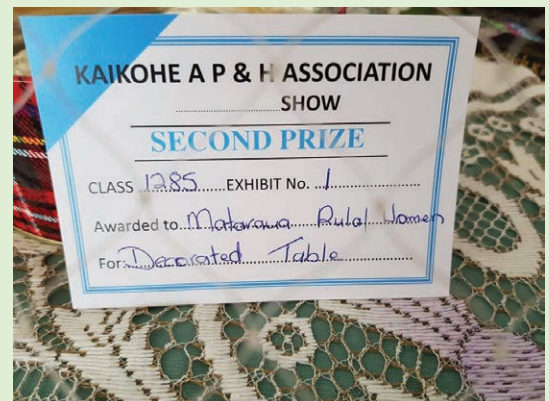


Dame Patsy Reddy and RWNZ National Chair, Penny Mudford, at the Waitangi Day Bledisloe Garden Reception at Government House on Wednesday, 6 February.

KAIKOHE AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL SHOW

Congratulations to Members of the Mataroa RWNZ Branch who received second prize for their decorated table at the Kaikohe Agricultural and Pastoral show in mid-January.

We look forward to receiving news and pictures of events which can be shared with our Members.



Margaret Pittaway

NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Former Rural Women New Zealand Board Member and Health Portfolio Convenor, Margaret Pittaway, was a semi-finalist in the Senior Category of the New Zealander of the Year Awards. The Award Ceremony was held in Auckland on Wednesday, 13 February, which Margaret attended with RWNZ National President, Fiona Gower.

Since joining RWNZ in 1996, Margaret has used her extensive knowledge of medical practice and the health system to campaign for improved rural health outcomes, particularly maternity care. Margaret chaired the RWNZ Committee for National Adverse Events which established a legacy of rural women who continue to support and strengthen rural communities in need.

The New Zealander of the Year Awards recognised Margaret as a champion of rural women and we are proud of everything she has achieved.



Margaret with former Prime Minister and patron of the New Zealander of the Year Awards, the Rt Hon Jim Bolger.



From left: RWNZ National President, Fiona Gower, CEO of Age Concern, Stephanie Clare, and Margaret Pittaway.

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD!



ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
ACWW Connects & Supports Women and Communities Worldwide

29 April is
ACWW Day!



Each year, people worldwide celebrate ACWW's international network by joining together to Walk the World

The aim is raise awareness of ACWW's work, promote the organisation and raise funds - this money goes to further develop our aims of raising the standard of living for rural women and their families through education, training and community development programmes, supporting educational opportunities for women and girls and help eliminate gender discrimination.

You can join us! This is how you can participate and take your part in Women Walk the World

Don't forget to send us photos of your walk, with details of how many people took part, the weather and where you walked by 15 May. The winner of our photo competition will be featured on the front cover of the July issue of The Countrywoman magazine. For more information or additional posters, contact info@acww.org.uk



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AGM POSTAL VOTING UPDATE

The closing date for returning completed voting packs to the National Office was Thursday, 28 February. We are awaiting a visit from the Returning Officer to count the votes and declare the results.

The Board is very pleased with the high level of participation in this process. The National Office's mail deliveries have been filled with completed voting forms since reopening at the end of January. We look forward to sharing the results of the voting with Members as soon as the Returning Officer has completed her analysis.



RWNZ MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER JACINDA ARDERN

On Wednesday, 27 February, RWNZ Region 6 Members had the opportunity to meet the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern.

Greater Waikato Leadership Councillor, Judy Board and Waikato Area Chair, Malvina Dick presented the Prime Minister with a RWNZ peg bag filled with honey from Hunt and Gather Bee Co. and handmade baking courtesy of National President, Fiona Gower.



Report from the International Women's Caucus

The International Women's Caucus meets several times a year and comprises representatives of women's organisations in New Zealand which are, or are affiliated to, groups that hold ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council of the UN) status at the United Nations.

The Caucus is convened by the Ministry for Women which also provides secretariat support. Member organisations are largely volunteer-based and form part of 'civil society', which is the term used by the United Nations to describe organisations like RWNZ.


At the last meeting, Caucus attendees listened to presentations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials on the work the Ministry is doing to prepare for the Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary National Review. The Government is due to present this Review to the United Nations in July and the document will be available for public consultation in the near future.

The meeting also received a report on the work of the Trade For All Advisory Board from its Chair, David Pine. The Caucus had a frank discussion with David on the need for further conversations regarding women in trade, which he agreed to pursue.

The Caucus held a closed door session to discuss issues for referral to and discussion with the Minister for Women. These issues were presented to a Ministerial Advisor in the Minister's absence. RWNZ representatives raised the need for more information on the Ministry's efforts to empower rural girls and women.

Following Fiona Gower and Penny Mudford's return from the Commission on the Status of Women 2018 (CSW62) in New York last year, the Caucus and Ministry agreed that the three main areas in which rural women and girls required Government support are education, health and leadership.

Wool in Schools

Wool in Schools is an education initiative set up by The Campaign for Wool NZ Trust in partnership with PGG Wrightson. Our aim is to inspire the next generation to be curious about wool and think of creative ways to use it well in to the future given it is a  renewable, sustainable and biodegradable resource.

The programme takes place in a purpose-built shipping container, **The Wool Shed**, packed with woolly resources and is made available to New Zealand schools free of charge. Now in its fourth year, the Wool Shed is a popular resource sought after by primary, intermediate and secondary schools in both the North and South Islands.

Teachers can use The Wool Shed as a hands-on teaching resource, allowing students to see and feel the different stages of shorn New Zealand wool, while they learn about the unique attributes of this abundant natural fibre.

The resource material that accompanies The Wool Shed assists in teaching subjects such as Maths, Science, Technology, Economics, English and the Arts.

Both the North Island and South Island Wool Sheds are fully booked for the first and second terms of 2019. Bookings for terms three and four are now being processed. Due to the huge demand for bookings in the South Island, we often host students from neighbouring



schools together in a joint session to ensure that we reach as many students as possible.

For more details, or to book this resource, teachers can contact us online at www.woolinschools.nz

OBITUARY - EURYL GRIFFIN

Tutaenui Branch prepared a lunch to honour Euryl Griffin in late February. Friends, family and Rural Women Members gathered at the Tutaenui Hall for lunch to farewell one of our longest serving Rural Women Members.

Euryl Griffin joined Tutaenui WDFW around 1966. She was known for her many artistic talents, cooking and handcraft skills and Euryl was always the first person to volunteer. She organised and produced several local productions and was the main organiser of decorating our entries into our local Christmas Floats competitions.

Euryl always served her RWNZ community and district with enthusiasm and sincerity. She was a deserving recipient of Service Simply Given and will be greatly missed.

By Jean Coleman, President (Tutaenui Branch)



WOMEN IN ACTION IN THE HAKATARAMEA

Two young women are leading change in the Hakataramea Valley by bringing local people together to identify ways of reconnecting the community and helping the community meet the challenges of farming in the dryland valley.

Juliet Grey and Sarah Elliot are part of the next generation of farmers who have moved into the Valley. Following Environment Canterbury's consultation on changes to the region's Land and Water Plan, Juliet and Sarah established the Hakataramea Sustainability Collective (HSC) which is a community-run forum for sharing ideas and challenges, seeking to encourage local landowners to work collaboratively.

In the past, community groups in the valley have made significant steps toward sustainable land management such as using minimal tillage and direct drilling techniques introduced to the valley following the wind erosion and drought of 1985 to 1986.

There is an influx of 'next generation' farmers returning to the Hakataramea to raise their families. These families have a huge passion for their Valley and long-standing locals are sharing their knowledge of farming in the Valley to this younger generation. Juliet and Sarah hope that this information sharing will continue through HSC.

One of the primary objectives of the group is to improve relationships with various regulators and stakeholders so that when difficult discussions or decisions arise, the parties involved already understand and respect each other's point of view.

"At the end of the day, we want to lead rather than be led in what is best for our Valley," says Juliet Grey, Chairperson of the HSC. "No farmer classes themselves as a 'greenie.' However the reality is that farmers love the land they live on, they love what it provides them and their environment. Sometimes we get slam-dunked with regulations and policies without being given time or resources to process why it is happening. We want to front-foot future regulation discussions.

"We know the four pillars of sustainability are economic, social, cultural and environmental, and so we ask: how can we get these in balance? 'We need to be in the black to be green' is a common saying at the moment and it is so true. We can't invest in technology or other mitigation tools and processes if we aren't profitable."

The NZ Landcare Trust has supported the group through its catchment support programme by linking them to other successful catchment programmes, helping to facilitate and support meetings and bringing stakeholders and the group together to enable collaboration about programmes that affect landowners. The latest field day brought together 45 people to discuss weed and pest management issues in the Valley.

Farmers do not earn a living from their livestock or produce; they earn a living from the land under us. If we treat it right, it will return the favour.

*Written by Janet Gregory, Canterbury Regional Coordinator
NZ Landcare Trust, Juliet Grey and Sarah Elliot.
Photo: Sally Rae, Otago Daily Times*



Melva Robb



Melva Robb is a National Member of Honour of Rural Women New Zealand and is in Region 3. In addition to being a Leadership Councillor for Top of the South Island, Melva has been instrumental in organising emergency relief for communities affected by adverse events. She is one of the organisers of 101 Ways with Wool and still finds time to run her shop in Blenheim. Lisa and Nora from the National Office were lucky enough to sit down with Melva to learn more about her time with RWNZ.

Melva Robb's memories of Rural Women New Zealand go back to early childhood, when she and her sister Glenda played quietly in the corner during Women's Division and Federated Farmers meetings in the Marlborough Sounds. At 12 years of age, Melva became a Junior Member of the Women's Division.

"One of the hardest things for me as a child was public speaking, because I was deaf when I was little," remembers Melva. "One day, I was told I had to write a poem about where I lived and recite it to an audience. Rural Women, or Women's Division as it was called then, helped me build the confidence to stand up and speak."

Melva's RWNZ highlights have revolved around her fellowship with other Members. "I'd just finished college when they organised a busload of rural women to go right around the South Island. We were billeted by all the different Southern Branches. It was fantastic. In Invercargill, the hosts we were staying with knew that Suzanne Prentice was playing at one of the local clubs, so we went and met her. Since then, I've always said 'I know Suzanne Prentice, I've met her!'"

The Robb family has always had a strong sense of community. "The more you put in, the more you get back," says Melva.

In February 2011, after Christchurch shook with the force of a 6.3 magnitude earthquake, Melva and Glenda sprang into action, organising and collecting financial donations and supplies for those affected by the earthquakes through the Adverse Events Relief Fund.

At the end of 2016, when Kaikoura was ruptured by an earthquake felt across the length of New Zealand, the sisters once again spearheaded the delivery of relief supplies to remote rural families. They were recognised for their compassion and commitment to the community by Marlborough Mayor, John Leggett, who awarded Melva and Glenda Civic Honours in 2017.

Despite accolades and awards, Melva is humble and credits her actions to her involvement with RWNZ.

"After the Christchurch earthquake, the letters and reports back from people we didn't know who we had made donations to really meant something...it makes you think, isn't the organisation just marvellous?"

The Robb sisters' community work also involves organising large-scale events, such as the upcoming 101 Ways with Wool festival to be held on Saturday, 23 and Sunday, 24 March in Blenheim. Both Melva and Glenda are passionate about wool as a sustainable resource.

"We've got a woollen coffin and a woollen surfboard; we've got different breeds of sheep on display, some that we'd never even heard of; there will be specialists talking about the fibre and microns of wool, as well as shearing and wool-handling events. We even have Sarah Higgins, winner of last year's Woman's Shearing Award at Golden Shears, shearing at the event."

Wander around the event on the day and you will find a framed letter of support from His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Patron of Wool, as well as food stalls, a bouncy castle and a fashion parade on the Saturday that highlights the journey of wool from the shearing shed to the catwalk.

When asked what she would wish for Rural Women New Zealand, growing the Membership was at the top of Melva's list. That, and another raucous road trip around the South Island.

Now that the Nelson-Tasman district is enduring New Zealand's largest wildfire since 1955, Melva has been instrumental in organising donations and supplies for evacuees and firefighters.

Please find the details of how you can contribute to the Adverse Events Relief Fund on the next page.

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.

There are three ways to help grow this fund. Firstly, there are two products for sale, the proceeds of which go directly to the AERF: RWNZ's pure wool, New Zealand-made Aftersocks and our popular peg bags.

Each peg bag is \$25.00 plus postage. Please contact the National Office for purchase, or visit www.ruralwomen.org.nz

Aftersocks are available online at www.aftersocks.nz or from the National Office.

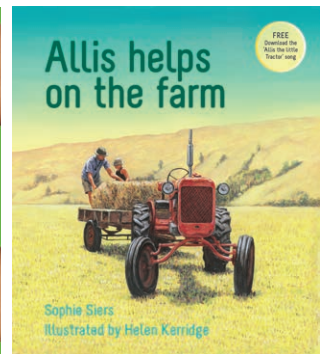
Secondly, NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards Creative Arts Winner 2018, Sophie Siers of Millwood Press, is offering Branches the opportunity to use her books as a fundraiser for AERF. Find more information about this offer on page 21.

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

Reference: AERF



Sweet Louise

Sweet Louise is a charitable organisation co-founded by Scott Perkins in remembrance of his wife, Louise. It is New Zealand's only charitable organisation offering support to people diagnosed with incurable breast cancer.

Louise Perkins was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 27. She had just graduated and recently married. Despite treatment, and at only 29 years old, Louise was told that the metastatic breast cancer had advanced to a secondary stage. She was given just two years to live.

Louise received excellent medical care but knew that

while this was necessary it was not enough. She filled her life with reasons to live, tending to her mind, body and spirit and discovered a myriad of ways that helped her deal with the challenges of an incurable cancer.

Exceeding all expectations, Louise lived another full and vibrant 10 years. This charitable organisation in her name offers the support and care to others with incurable Breast cancer.

You can read more about Louise's life and legacy on the Sweet Louise website at <https://sweetlouise.co.nz/>

RuralFest

RHĀNZ calls Government to action:

At RuralFest 2018 RHĀNZ identified five current key issues and specifically calls Government to action. Collectively addressing these will have a positive and sustainable impact on the health and wellbeing of rural communities:

- Good policy starts with good data analysis
- Urgently address the rural workforce crisis
- Review funding models for health and wellbeing services
- Rural Proofing policy from within rural communities
 - Focus on mental health and wellbeing.

For more information, please contact: info@rhaanz.org.nz



I represented Rural Women New Zealand at Ruralfest 2018 in Wellington last October. Ruralfest is an annual conference organised by Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand (RHAANZ) which brings together representatives of its member organisations to identify challenges in the rural health sector and present them to Government Ministers. RHAANZ membership is diverse, ranging from RWNZ and Federated Farmers to the Mental Health Foundation and local government authorities.

Last year's meeting felt very different to earlier years as our focus was on the rural workforce as a whole rather than the health workforce specifically. Each presentation highlighted shared areas of concern. Many spoke of being overwhelmed by the amount of paper work they are obliged to complete at the end of a very busy working day, often extending the day by three to four hours. Others experienced bullying tactics to meet compliance obligations. The worst stories of bullying were those of children bullied at school because their family farm had been identified in relation to M. Bovis.

RHAANZ members reported that immigration restrictions make it difficult to maintain a continuous well-trained workforce. These restrictions frustrate employers and are often heart breaking for the employees. Many spoke of the heart and soul draining from rural communities facing the closure of their local hospital, maternity unit, school bank or agricultural firm. Each of these closures creates the inconvenience of travel to access

vital services and the loss of employment opportunities in the community.

The most positive aspect of Ruralfest was our collaboration on potential solutions to these challenges. Over the course of two days, we worked together to create a document that highlighted our concerns regarding the rural workforce crisis. RHAANZ provided a skilled facilitator and a journalist who helped us create the final submission document.

Key points included the need for meaningful research to support evidence-based policy and practice. For example, there are currently at least 17 different definitions of the term 'rural.' We advocated for better training programmes in order to retain skilled workers and establish a sustainable rural workforce. We argued that health sector funding is inadequate and poorly targeted as the centralisation of healthcare resources means that health professionals struggle to fulfil on-call demands. Finally, we urged Government to ensure that all policy and legislation is looked at through a 'rural lens.'

We concluded Ruralfest by presenting our arguments to Health Minister, David Clark and Minister for Rural Communities, Damian O'Connor. Both spent considerable time listening to our concerns and suggested that all Members of Parliament should receive the document. We left the Beehive feeling positive about Ruralfest, what we had accomplished and the exciting potential for change in rural communities.

Written by Margaret Pittaway



CASTLEDOWNS WETLANDS PROJECT

The Rural Women New Zealand and Dipton Landcare Castledowns Wetlands Project had a busy end to 2018, with field-days held in October, November and December.

Our first goal for the new year is to clear an area of higher ground for a picnic table near the entrance to the Wetlands. This is a balancing act between maintaining the tracks we have already cleared and creating more space in the grounds.

We are making strides towards clearing out possums, especially as Chris Freer has volunteered to assist us with the clear-out and additional traps have been added to our arsenal. It is very encouraging to see improvements to the conditions of the Wetlands wildlife already. Flocks of pigeons are returning to the area and we hope to see many more positive developments throughout the year.

We are very fortunate that the Wetlands Project has strong supporters. The Project received funding from the

Meridian Power Up Community Fund which allowed us to engage a contractor to work on a tracking system. Large sections of the 12.4 hectare wetlands have never been explored because of its thick vegetation; the tracking system allows our volunteers, as well as their families and friends, to discover the area safely.

In November, we were visited by Members of the Southland Ecological Restoration Network, who helped to plant cabbage trees before a period of heavy rain began. We would also like to acknowledge Jesse Bythell, QEII Representative for Southland, who has been an invaluable source of knowledge and youthful enthusiasm at our field days.

Field-days are held on the third Sunday of every month. If you would like to volunteer your time or a financial donation to the Project, please contact me by email at ann.irving@outlook.com or by phone on 027 656 9319.

- Ann Irving, Coordinator Castledowns Wetland Project



From left: Duke of Edinburgh volunteer family; Ann Irving cheerfully crossing the Dipton stream; Participants of the RWNZ Forestry bus trip ready to plant a cabbage tree in celebration of Suffrage 125. Top: Group of volunteers during a track clearing session last winter.



Willowbank Windmill Restoration Fundraiser Fête

Written by Jeanette McIntyre

A couple of light showers failed to dampen the spirits of the hundreds of people who flocked to Hawthorn Den in Waikaka on Sunday, 24 February for the Willowbank Windmill Country Fête.

RWNZ All Points Branch organised the occasion to raise funds for the restoration of the iconic windmill and its wooden water tank, which is listed by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust as having outstanding historical significance and value. The Hawthorn Den farm has been in RWNZ Member Jan Ward's family for over 145 years.

The Hawthorn homestead and adjacent buildings make a wonderful venue for weddings and, in recent years, for a range of RWNZ activities and seminars.

The rambling, sheltered garden breaks off into several different areas, which people took great delight in discovering as they wandered amongst the 45 stalls on display. Art work, honey products, wooden toys, garden plants, rhododendrons, clothing, knitting, soaps and candles, jewellery and lawn games for children were on offer throughout the day.

In addition to the homestead, Hawthorn Den comprises a barn, an old church and an equally old school in which Jan displayed a vast collection of vintage clothing and accessories providing great buying for the discerning connoisseur.

No one went hungry with paella, cupcakes, fudge, barbeque, hot chips, Mr Whippy and, of course, some wine, on offer. The All Points Branch also made 27 dozen scones in Jan's kitchen which, with tea and coffee served in old fashioned china, were very popular with the hungry guests.

As a result, the All Points Branch raised nearly \$6000 to contribute to the restoration of the Willowbank Windmill.

The success of the Fête is owed to the dedication of RWNZ Members and the Windmill Committee, and the enthusiasm of our local community.

Given the positive feedback we received and the experience we gained along the way, there may be another Country Fête at Hawthorn Den next year.



Tapawera Christmas Luncheon

In early December, Members of Rural Women New Zealand, Top of the South Rural Support Trust (TOSRST) and Federated Farmers hosted a pre-Christmas luncheon in Tapawera. "We wanted to celebrate the contribution of farming families to the Nelson-Tasman region for the amazing variety of food they produce," said Barbara Stuart of RWNZ and the local coordinator of TOSRST.

Local food producers and members of rural organisations, spent a relaxing afternoon connecting with one another and discussing the important role that food-producers play in developing Nelson-Tasman's regional identity over a fabulous Christmas themed lunch.

Guest speakers at the gathering included Hannah Norton of the Nelson Regional Development Agency (NRDA) who spoke about NRDA's aspirations for the region, the Nelson Visitor Strategy, key exporters and the opportunities that science capabilities and Port Nelson offer.

RWNZ National Board Member, Sue Higgins said, "It is very important to recognise the uniqueness of our local produce. RWNZ and RST's reason for hosting this luncheon is to inspire the next generation of producers in Nelson-Tasman to tell their story, find niche market opportunities together and embrace Nelson's regional identity. NRDA's vision is a potential pathway for that kind of collaboration."

The luncheon was also an opportunity for locals to discuss the progress on the national eradication of Mycoplasma bovis. Jenny Ridgen, from the Ministry for Primary Industries, discussed the major impact that MBovis has had on families and communities, prompting local

farmers at the event to share their experiences of the disease. They explained that for those under either Infected Property status or Notice of Direction, the Biodiversity Act takes priority over farming business. Seasonal income can be negatively impacted for a year or longer as a result. In order to avoid MBovis infection, Ms Ridgen urged farmers to ask the necessary questions and only purchase cattle from trusted people when bringing new stock onto their farms.

Rural Support Trust coordinator Barbara Stuart spoke about the five ways for mental wellbeing and the need to take care of ourselves and each other. She reminded people that there is a free and confidential phone number 1737 that anyone can call 24/7 to speak to a qualified counsellor about themselves, a friend, family worker or partner. The Rural Support Trust is always just a phone call away and their services are free and confidential.

Top of the South Rural Support Trust Chairman, Ed Newport, closed the event by saying that he, "greatly enjoyed watching farming locals chat and connect. I wish everyone a relaxed and safe Christmas and suggest that we connect again next year to learn more about progressing economic opportunities for farmers in our region."

If you are interested in organising a similar event in your Region, please contact Sue Higgins at sue.higgins@ruralwomennz.nz for more information about the planning and framework of the Tapawera Luncheon. RWNZ welcomes opportunities to engage and collaborate on local projects and events with Members of other rural organisations.



From the Archives

The National Office staff have begun to unearth a wealth of treasures from the RWNZ archival material stored in Wellington.

We will be sharing more material in upcoming editions of the Express and e-newsletters, as well as our social media channels.

For now, how about trying something sweet from the March to April 1951 edition.



Plum Sweet
Boil half a cup of rice in salted water, drain, and allow to cool. Put a cup of milk, 2 tablesp. white sugar and a few drops of vanilla into a double boiler, stir till sugar is dissolved, then mix in two beaten egg yolks and stir till it thickens. Mix in the rice. Pour into a shallow dish and allow to cool. Make a puree of plums previously cooked in syrup by removing skins and stones and perhaps adding a few tablespoons of apricot or other jam. When the rice is quite cold, pour the plum conserve over it. Chill before serving. Serve with whipped cream.

Poor Man's Pudding
From Lepperton, North Taranaki.
2 cups flour, ½ cup sugar, 1 cup sultanas, 1 tablespoon syrup, 1 tablespoon butter, 1 heaped teaspoon baking soda.
Method: Dissolve syrup and butter in ¾ cup boiling water; add soda to flour and sugar, then stir into dissolved syrup and butter, add sultanas. Boil or steam 2½ hours.

SHE SHEARS DVD

She Shears is now available on DVD.

The documentary follows five women shearers as they prepare for the world's most prestigious shearing festival, Golden Shears.

RWNZ proudly supported She Shears because it showcases the enormous skill and passion of shearers at the top of their field and shines a light on women who live and work in rural New Zealand.

Buy your copy online at www.mightyape.co.nz





'I AM HOPE' GUMBOOT FRIDAY

They say that having depression is like walking through mud every day.

On Friday, 5 April mental health organisation 'I Am Hope' is asking us to show our support of New Zealanders who are living with mental health issues by putting our gumboots on, donating a gold coin and spending a day in their shoes.

In 2018, 137 young people committed suicide in New Zealand. It is estimated that another 3,500 attempted to take their own lives. While Government agencies are doing their best, some young New Zealanders are forced to wait up to six months to receive the counselling they so urgently need. This is a challenge all too familiar to families living in rural New Zealand.

The RWNZ National Office team will be wearing our gumboots on Friday, 5 April and we would love to see

you and your community do the same. All donations will be put towards ensuring that children in need are provided with free and timely counselling by registered health professionals.

If you would like to be involved in Gumboot Friday, please let us know at enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz

RWNZ will be running a photo competition for the event, so make sure to take a great picture in your gumboots on the day and send it through to competitions@ruralwomennz.nz

We will choose a winning photo to publish in the next e-Newsletter and Express, as well as on our social media channels. For more information: www.iamhope.org.nz

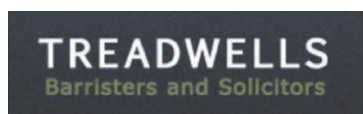


Rural Women New Zealand would like to thank:

Premier Partner:



Sponsors:



Special Offers for Members

VELETTÀ SKINCARE - SPECIAL OFFER & GIVEAWAY

"Your skin will be glowing." - Australian Woman's Day

Velettà is a natural, luxurious collection of products that nurture your skin. Made in small batches in the South Island, they are halal-certified, vegan and cruelty-free. There are four beautiful Velettà products:

- Velettà Facial Cleansing Oil
- Velettà Rejuvenating Facial Oil
- Velettà Facial Nourishing Oil
- Velettà Nourishing Facial Moisturiser.

Visit Velettà's website for a description of the ingredients used in these products and what the benefits of each are for your skin. There are lots of other ingredients you will not find in these products: things Velettà steers clear of because they are bad for your adrenal system and our environment, or because they don't deliver real results for your skin.

Velettà products are made without parabens, artificial fragrances and chemicals, and unnecessary preservatives. They also avoid any bulkers or fillers: all the pure, concentrated ingredients in Velettà products are included because they genuinely work to help your skin be its best self. Velettà's website also provides advice on how to use and obtain the best results from Velettà products. They also have step-by-step guides on how to enjoy Velettà's bespoke anti-aging facial massage. For RWNZ members, they have a special offer available when you order online from <https://velettaskincare.com>, refer to the advert for further details.

VELETTÀ SKINCARE GIVEAWAY

Following the success of RWNZ's Veletta giveaway in December, we have decided to offer a very special gift pack containing one of each of the four products to our Members once more. Robyn Reid, winner of December's giveaway, says she looks forward to seeing "a glowing, more youthful looking me in the mirror soon."

To enter the draw, please send your name and details to competitions@ruralwomennz.nz

Velettà's four beautiful products are available online at www.velettaskincare.com

SPECIAL OFFERS:
Buy 1 get 1 half price (use the code RW1 at checkout)
Buy 2 get 1 free (use the code RW2 at checkout)
Valid until 30 January 2019 (t&c on website)

Velettà offers a money-back guarantee, free shipping and Laybuy



MILLENNIUM HOTELS & RESORTS - 20% DISCOUNT ON ACCOMMODATION

Millennium Hotels and Resorts are pleased to offer Rural Women New Zealand Members 20% off the best flexible room rates, on the day of booking, at any of our 20 hotels, New Zealand-wide.

Registration is by special invite only and can only be booked via one of the following options:

- Book online at: www.millenniumhotels.com, use promo code STAYMCK.
- Phone the hotels direct and quote STAYMCK.
- Freephone call: 0800 808 228.

Additional seasonal special offers may be offered at selected Hotels. Rates can be accessed for all your personal and business travel. While staying there, you are invited to join up to the My Millennium loyalty programme. If you stay at any of the participating hotels worldwide and you will automatically earn My Points with every qualifying spend. The more you stay, the more you earn.

Further benefits available to AA members - Book direct on www.millenniumhotels.com, register your AA membership and swipe your AA Smart fuel card on check out every time you stay with Millennium, Copthorne and Kingsgate Hotels. You will save 10c per litre on every \$100 spent on accommodation. To find out more visit www.aa.co.nz/aasmartfuel



FLY MY SKY - EXPERIENCE GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

Fly My Sky's Robyn McKenzie, winner of the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards Rural Champion Award 2018, is offering a 20% discount to RWNZ Members using the promo code RWNZCONF19 on an 'Experience Great Barrier Island' adventure.



The cost of travelling with Fly My Sky from Auckland to Great Barrier Island is now \$264 per person (for a minimum of two travellers) down from \$330 per person. Plan a weekend away on the beautiful Great Barrier Island with your significant other, a family member or friend.

This package includes:

- Airfares: Flights depart from Auckland Airport and Great Barrier Island three times a time
- Car rental: Two-day car rental (driver must be at least 21 years old and have a full driver's license)

This RWNZ Member discounted fare is available from now until Sunday, 9 June 2019. Travel on the RWNZCONF19 promo code expires on Saturday, 30 November 2019, after which an expired fare may be upgraded to the standard Fly My Sky Great Barrier Island package price before 31 December 2019.

Cancellation fees: Two days prior – no cancellation charge / Day before travelling – 50% cancellation charge / No refund if cancelled on departure date. To read Fly My Sky's terms and conditions, visit www.flymysky.co.nz



MILLWOOD PRESS - FUNDRAISING OFFER

Millwood Press' Sophie Siers, NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards Creative Arts Winner 2018, is offering branches an opportunity to use her books as a fundraiser. The proceeds of the sale of the books could either be donated to the RWNZ Adverse Events Relief Fund or to your local Branch. Fundraising options are outlined below.

Seven paperback titles: *Allis the little tractor, Allis helps on the farm, Do you want to Gallop with me?, Rosie Joy Here There and Everywhere, Arlo and the Ginkgo Tree, The Gift Horse.*

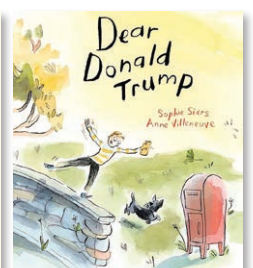
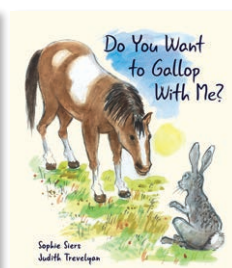
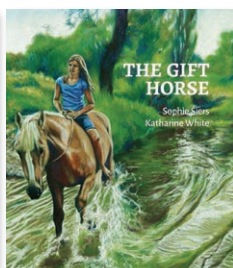
Retail price: \$20.00 / Cost to branches: \$14.00 = \$6.00 profit per book

Hard back title: *Dear Donald Trump*

Retail price: \$28.00 / Cost to branches: \$20.00 = \$8.00 profit per book

- Option 1: A box with 10 of each title to sell directly. The final invoice will be provided by Millwood Press once sale numbers have been determined. Unsold books can be returned.
- Option 2: A set of 1 of each of the books to use as samples and collect orders. Millwood Press will provide the books for sale once numbers are confirmed.
- Option 3: Use the code 'RURAL' at the Millwood Press website checkout to automatically donate \$6 or \$8 (depending on the order) to the National Office for distribution into the Adverse Events Relief Fund account.
- Members can also select a combination of all three.

Members can view the books on the website, www.millwoodpress.net Should you have any questions, please contact Sophie at books@millwoodpress.com or by telephone on (06) 874 6664 or 021 082 00788.



National Office News

There are some new faces at the National Office.

Lisa Thompson joined us late last year. She brings a wide range of experience and capability to her new role. In addition to qualifications in law and history, Lisa has worked for several not for profit organisations, as a lawyer and most recently, as an owner and manager of a printing company. Outside of work, Lisa is a keen cook, plays croquet and is involved in her local community.

Nora Maarleveld has joined the RWNZ National Office team to work on Communications and Marketing until the end of April, when she will be moving to the Netherlands. Nora is a native Wellingtonian and studied International Relations, Religious Studies and Creative Writing at Victoria University. Nora brings with her a background in media analysis for government and private sector organisations. Nora and Lisa feel incredibly lucky to have been so warmly welcomed into the RWNZ community and look forward to meeting as many Members as possible over the upcoming months.

National Office staff have had a very busy start to 2019. They arrived back to a large pile of Postal Voting forms and more have arrived during the past month. They welcomed the Leadership team and Board to Wellington in mid-February and are busy processing the notes of their highly productive workshops. Lisa and Nora have also started work on sorting the many boxes of archival material held at the National Office. They have unearthed many treasures from RWNZ's rich heritage.

Lisa has taken up her role as Projects and Events Manager this year after working primarily on communications and marketing at the end of last year. She is focussed on setting the framework and timelines for RWNZ participation in events such as Golden Shears and Fieldays. Lisa is also already working on the RWNZ Summit, the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards and assisting the Region 7 Organising Committee for the National Conference. Nora and Lisa have been working with our website developers focussing on the design and content of the new RWNZ (soon to be launched) website.

Penelope England left as CEO of RWNZ on Friday, 15 February and has moved to a role in the arts and philanthropy sector. During her time at RWNZ, Penelope was instrumental in developing stakeholder relationships and achieving great support for the organisation. National Office wishes Penelope well in her new role.

MEETINGS AND SUBMISSIONS

During February, Angela McLeod (RWNZ Manager, Government, Public Sector and Academic Relationships) attended the International Women's Caucus, presented oral submissions on the Equal Pay Amendment Bill at the Education and Workforce Select Committee and met with representatives of the Safe and Effective Justice Advisory Group.

RWNZ's key messages reflect the importance of including rural communities' perspectives in policy development and decision-making, and how the economic empowerment of rural women and girls is vital to building, maintaining and improving the economic and social fabric of rural communities. Members are aware that many rural communities desperately need equal access to services that their urban counterparts take for granted.

If you would like to be involved with our portfolio work, please consider joining our Rapid Response email list. For more information do not hesitate to contact Angela McLeod by email at angela.mcleod@ruralwomennz.nz or by phone on 0800 256 467.

MEDIA RELEASES

- Rural Communities Miss Out in Mental Health Inquiry Report
- Rural Communities Will Suffer Without 24/7 Policing
- Rural Woman Leader Elected Chair of Landcare Trust
- Government Takes a Step in the Right Direction for Rural Communities
- Possible MBovis Eradication
- Good News for Rural Communities
- Cautious Optimism at Proposal for Migrant Workers
- RBI Roll Out Encouraging Yet Cell Coverage Inadequate
- Recognition of Rural New Zealanders' Human Rights Needed
- Greater Access to Services Needed to Address Rural Family Violence
- Safety on Roads as Students Return to School
- Tertiary Bursaries and Grants Deadline Approaching
- RWNZ Stands by Communities Affected by the Nelson-Tasman Fires
- Cautious Optimism About the Reform of Vocational Education
- Reserved Support for Equal Pay
- Rural Input Needed on Tax Working Group Recommendations



AREA COMMITTEES BY REGION

Region 1 Lower South Island	Position	Contact Email
Pat Macaulay	Leadership Councillor	pat.macaulay@outlook.com
Raewyn van Vugt	Area Committee Chair	whitegold@rivernet.co.nz
Heather Smith		iahsmith@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
Judy Kingan		jaydeekgn@gmail.com
Margaret Pittaway	Advisory – Ex officio	lochlea@xtra.co.nz

Region 2 Canterbury	Position	Contact Email
Sharron Davie-Martin	Leadership Councillor	sdaviemartin@me.com
Margaret Chapman	Area Committee Chair	mgchapman@xtra.co.nz
Beverley Forrester		forrester@amuri.net
Mary Watson		mmf.wats@gmail.com
Christine Anderson		jcandynz@gmail.com
Margaret Chapman [Hook]		randmchapman@clear.net.nz
Sandra Curd	Administrator	curd@xtra.co.nz
Marg Verrall		r.m.verrall@ruralnet.co.nz

Region 3 Top of the South	Position	Contact Email
Heather Sorensen	Leadership Councillor	e.h.sorensen@xtra.co.nz
Melva Robb	Area Committee Chair	melva@soundsreflection.co.nz
Diane Higgins	Secretary and secondary contact	dmhiggins@xtra.co.nz
Margaret Faulkner		NO EMAIL
Jennifer Wiese		NO EMAIL
Carolyn McLellan		balmac@xtra.co.nz
Carol Wells		NO EMAIL
Margaret Milne		margarwpt@kinect.co.nz
Dot Dixon		dotsf9@gmail.com

Region 4 Lower North Island	Position	Contact Email
Liz Hancock	Leadership Councillor	liz.hancock@ruralwomennz.nz
Joan Black	Area Committee Chair	joanblack@inspire.net.nz
Jean Coleman	Secretary	ngaios@farmside.co.nz
Helen Clark	Treasurer	trevorandhelen25@gmail.com
Liz Monk		liz.dennis@xtra.co.nz
Leonora Spark		ljnajsark@gmail.com
Pauline Masters		paulinemasters@xtra.co.nz
Shona Field		mtwilliam@inspire.net.nz

Region 5 BOP / Coromandel	Position	Contact Email
Margaret Scrimgeour	Leadership Councillor	margaret.scrimgeour@ruralwomen.org.nz
Sue Vowell	Area Committee Chair	tepudeer@xtra.co.nz
Chris Paterson		chrisjam@xtra.co.nz
Jo Gravit		pandjgravit@xtra.co.nz
Lyn Staples		urwinfarms@xtra.co.nz
Wendy McGowan		rusty_wendy@xtra.co.nz

Region 6 Greater Waikato	Position	Contact Email
Judy Board	Leadership Councillor	judy.board@xtra.co.nz
Malvina Dick	Area Committee Chair	malvinad@xtra.co.nz
Liz Morgan		lizziemorgan36@gmail.com
Karen Attwood		theattwoods@actrix.co.nz
Eileen Barker	Secretary/Treasurer	efbarker74@gmail.com
Susan Black		susblack@gmail.com
Parminder Singh		jyotijora@gmail.com

Region 6 Taranaki	Position	Contact Email
Shirley Read	Acting Leadership Councillor and Area Chair	sdread@xtra.co.nz
Joyce Lawrence	Treasurer	niaruo@inspire.net.nz
Margaret Vickers		r.m.vickers@xtra.co.nz
Jennie Purdon		chrisjen1@orcon.net.nz
Helen Bayliss	Secretary	harrybayliss@xtra.co.nz
Angela Hammond		NO EMAIL
Vivienne (Viv) Grigg		evgrigg@hotmail.com

Region 7 Top of the North	Position	Contact Email
Pauline Hilliam-Olsen	Leadership Councillor and Area Chair; Facebook/Newsletter	pauline.hilliam@xtra.co.nz
Sherrill Dackers		sherrillmd@xtra.co.nz
Cynthia Williams		cynwilliams818@gmail.com
Mary Dale-Taylor	Treasurer	m.t.dale-taylor@xtra.co.nz
Noelene Price-Quedley	Secretary and secondary contact	noeleneq@hotmail.com
Christine Pikett		NO EMAIL



LEADERSHIP COUNSELLORS

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With 159 years in business, NZI has a proven history of supporting New Zealand farmers. We are delighted to be working with Rural Women New Zealand as the Premier Partner of the NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards 2019.

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