



## THINGS TO SEE AND DO AT THE RWNZ NATIONAL CONFERENCE

### DAY 1:



LEARN MORE FROM GUEST SPEAKERS ALICE RITCHIE & ROSEMARY BANKS



### DAY 2:

CONNECT WITH LIKE-MINDED WOMEN



CELEBRATE SUCCESS AT THE NZI RURAL WOMEN NZ BUSINESS AWARDS 2023



### DAY 3:

STRETCH YOUR LEGS - JOIN THE WALKING GROUP



BE INFORMED BY THE PANEL



STRENGTHEN - SUPPORT - CONNECT

# Editorial



Kia ora katoa,

Spring always has a rejuvenating effect on me, and I hope it does for you too. It is about new beginnings and the promise of good things to come as we make our way through the rest of the year. The weather is always unpredictable, and this year is no exception, with wild swings from one extreme to the other. The forecasters are predicting more extremes for summer across a good part of the country so perhaps holding an information session with your local Fire and Emergency New Zealand team on minimising fire risk around your home and property might be something of interest to your area or group.

On the Rural Women New Zealand calendar, we have a number of exciting things underway. Groups around the country will have recently celebrated the International Day of Rural Women in mid-October and taken the opportunity to embrace and remember the fabulous work they do in their local communities.

We have just completed the judging of this year's NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards. Another field of extremely exciting entries made it very difficult to decide the Category winners, and you can read more about them in this issue. The Supreme Award winner will be revealed at the Gala Event held during the National Conference in Christchurch.

We hope you are as excited by the Conference programme as we are. It is a fabulous chance to come together as RWNZ Members and explore a rejuvenated Christchurch.

We look forward to seeing lots of Members there on 23, 24 and 25 November.

The Regional Review Working Group has met and formulated a work plan for the project. The Group will be looking for feedback throughout the process and we hope you will take part as it is really important that we gather a full range of views, thoughts and ideas as to the future make-up of our organisation. The Working Group is very aware that this discussion must be managed sensitively and the views shared and contributions made will be treated with respect and in confidence.

The Centennial Committee is also busy in its work. It is fantastic to see the Regions working on their plans and identifying how they would like to celebrate this very special milestone with local and regional events and projects. A decision on the Regional Funding Allocations for the Centennial Celebrations will be announced at the AGM. We wait with baited breath for the result to the naming competition for the Centennial Rose. Thank you to everyone who contributed ideas. Thanks especially to the team in the Whanganui area which is running this significant project.

As you can see, there is plenty happening at present, and I'm really looking forward to meeting together in Christchurch in November.

Ngā mihi,

*Gill*

## IMPORTANT: Accessing the Annual Reports

Based on your feedback in the Communications Survey, and to ensure information is available well in advance of the Annual General Meeting, there are some changes to the ways that you can access the Annual Reports booklet this year. We will be uploading these reports online for those with an email address to view and access through our Members Zone. Please call National Office on 0800 256 467 if you have any difficulty accessing the Members Zone.

Members without an email address have received a printed copy with their Express Magazine.

If you would prefer to receive a printed booklet, please call the National Office to request a copy.

All Members will have received printed voting papers with this edition of the Express. Completed papers can be scanned or posted back to National Office and full instructions are provided on the voting form.



## NATIONAL BOARD OF RWNZ

### National President

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**Education Portfolio (Joint Lead)**  
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### National Chair and Board Member (North Island) / Health Portfolio (Lead)

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### Board Member (North Island) Connectivity & Business Portfolio (Lead)

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### Board Member (South Island) Community & Social Inclusion Portfolio (Lead)

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## NATIONAL OFFICE

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## Dates for the Diary

**Thursday, 23 and Saturday, 25 November:** RWNZ National Conference, Christchurch

**Friday, 24 November:** RWNZ Annual General Meeting, Christchurch

**Friday, 24 November:** NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards 2023, Christchurch

**Friday, 22 December:** National Office closes for Christmas and year end

**Monday, 8 January:** National Office opens for 2024

**Friday, 16 – Sunday, 18 February:** The Shepherdess Muster, Motu

**Saturday, 11 and Sunday, 12 March:** Region 3 Conference, Golden Bay

## Welcome to New Members

Del Bruce, Region 3

Joan Forrest, Region 4

Penny Bargh, Region 4

Sara Denniston, Region 1

Bronwyn Minty, Region 1

Jo Muirhead, Region 3

Rae MacDonald, Region 6GW

Elanor Herd, Region 3

Leigh Golden, Region 1

Bernadette Hunt, Region 1

Clare Jackson, Region 6GW

Helen Connole, Region 4

Leaha Hargreaves, Region 3

Stacey Speedy, Region 3

Sylvia Nikolasion, Region 1

Amanda Bates, Region 7

Kim Johnstone, Region 6GW

Carmen Stratford, Region 1

Lisa Webber, Region 3

Taylor Mant, Region 3

Hazel Wilkes, Region 3

Nicky Bright, Region 3

Anne Wilson, Region 3

Caroline Dafoe, Region 5

Jill Barnett, Region 3

Maddie Cowie, Region 3

Wendy Allison, Region 4

Claudia Laschet, Region 6GW

Brittany Stembridge, Region 6GW

Lisa Shaw, Region 6GW

Nicole Oliver, Region 6GW

Samantha Tennent, Region 6GW

Anna Robinson, Region 4

Jody Anderson, Region 6GW

Kay Simmonds, Region 1

Natalya Johnson-Mathijssen,  
Region 6TK

Rebecca Barclay, Region 5

Lynn Murphy, Region 1

Mystique Porter, Region 6TK

Christine Ollerenshaw, Region 1

Lesley Just, Region 4

Robyn Gold, Region 1

Suzzy Thomas, Region 1

Kristin Kirkpatrick, Region 2

Janet Zrinyi, Region 3

Lutte Thys, Region 1

Lennie Cody, Region 6GW

Danielle Loader, Region 1

Laura Todd, Region 1

Lucy Stone, Region 4

Nicola Rae, Region 1

Amy Francis, Region 1

Amy Ewald, Region 1

Carolyn Leslie, Region 1

Andrea Dudding, Region 1

Dawn Hansen, Region 1

Bronwyn Bulwer, Region 6GW

Jo Newton, Region 2

Jasmin Lennartz, Region 2

Lisa Cubitt, Region 6GW

Karen Petch, Region 6GW



# From the Board Table

**Charitable organisations like RWNZ play a vital role in addressing societal issues in our rural communities, and success hinges on effective governance. From the board table to grass roots members, sound governance practices are the bedrock of impact.**

Since 2016, when the current Board structure was established, each Board has continued to build steps towards a strong backbone of best practice governance for our non-profit success.

From fostering diversity to maintaining transparency and accountability, the boardroom plays a pivotal role in shaping our future. By embracing these governance principals, non-profits like ours can maximize positive impact and better serve our communities.

Building the following sound governance practices is one of the areas we have focused on over the past 18 months:

## **Strategic Planning:**

- Mission clarity: our mission is crystal clear and at the forefront of the Strategic Plan – Strengthening, supporting and connecting people and communities.
- At a facilitated workshop early in 2022, an updated strategic plan aligning with our Vision, Mission and Values was created to guide a proactive and sustainable future pathway.
- This guides us in making decisions to positively impact membership, build value in membership, and grow membership.
- Recently, in a facilitated workshop, we reviewed progress of the plan and were heartened to see positive results in some areas (see Express detail). During the journey it was identified our technology was not fit for purpose so improvements have since been actioned.
- The review has incorporated feedback from the Regional Leadership team and Members, which has assisted in setting the strategic goals for the next year.

## **Fiscal Responsibility:**

- Our commitment to financial accountability is unwavering with continuous monitoring of the investment portfolio and annual national budgets. We ensure that every dollar is allocated wisely to maintain and enhance the services you enjoy as a Member. We also ensure that every dollar spent is used efficiently and effectively to fulfill our mission, while building towards the future. Annual financial reports are presented at the AGM, providing Members with an opportunity to discuss.

## **Diverse Board Composition:**

- Our diverse Board brings a spectrum of perspectives, experiences and skills to the table. This fosters innovation and ensures that the organisation will remain relevant in this rapidly changing world. RWNZ Board Members are not corporate directors - we are all rural women and Members of our organisation. We know the challenges within our rural communities and this lived experience around the board table provides invaluable contributions towards a bright future for RWNZ.

## **Risk Management:**

- Identifying and mitigating risks is crucial. A robust risk management framework has been implemented to ensure the organisation has the ability to weather challenges and continue our mission. Within this area a regular structured review process of all internal policies is in place.

## **Members:**

- Your opinions and feedback matter!
- We proactively sought your input and feedback on aspects of how we connect and communicate our work at a national level to support Members and our communities.
- This has been done through surveys, attendance at Regional Conferences and Member Advisories. This valuable Member feedback helps to shape decisions at Board level.





## Collaboration:

- We have developed greater engagement opportunities with partner organisations and government agencies to maximise our impact. By forging these meaningful partnerships, we can pool resources, share knowledge, and tackle challenges together to create a stronger voice. The newly formed Policy Action Advisory Groups are another strengthening aspect for collaboration into the future.



Board Strategy Day, October.

Members will start to see small changes in the way we communicate and a greater amount of information being shared based on the groundwork completed over the past year.

As an organisation, we have been on this journey for nearly 100 years. Challenges are inevitable, change is constant but the collective determination of us all to support our communities will keep us moving forward. Your Board believe that together, we can continue to create lasting change, leaving a legacy of compassion and hope for future generations.

Our history is strong.  
Our future is bright.

Ngā mihi,

*Sandra*

*Sharron, Sandra, Gill and Gabe  
representing RWNZ at Parliament,  
August.*







## National Office Report

Crikey, these reports seem to roll round quickly. We are already in October and Christmas is just around the corner, but as we know there is plenty on before then.

We have been thinking about National Conference for so long that it hardly seems possible to say that it will take place next month. After two false starts in the last three years, the opportunity to come together and connect in Christchurch is tantalising close. The National Office team will be at the Conference, and we are really look forward to spending time with you.

There has been a lot of activity in almost every area over the last few months.

Our new membership database system, Gecco, has been installed and we are loving it. It is easy to use and has simplified many administrative tasks. It is also a wonderful example of supporting entrepreneurial rural women. Gecco is owned and operated by women and based in Waipukurau. If Gecco wasn't an RWNZ supplier, it would be a fantastic entrant for the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards.

Speaking of the Business Awards you will have seen that we have our finalists for this year. We look forward to welcoming these seven fabulous Category Award winners to Christchurch for the Awards Presentation and Dinner which will be held during the Conference.

There has also been plenty of activity in RWNZ's policy work. The new Policy Action Advisory Groups (PAAGs) are up and running and are already making excellent contributions to RWNZ's submissions on a range of areas of interest. RWNZ's Policy Manifesto for 2023 – 2026 has been published. Pre-election meetings have been held with representatives of most of the parties currently represented in Parliament.

*We love it when Members come to visit, especially when they bring a delicious morning tea spread with them. Thank you to Penny Griffith of the Bainham Branch in Region 3 who brought us morning tea recently. We even got out the heritage china! From left: Mia, Penny, Gabe and Janet.*

Recent contributions have been made as follows:

- Feedback on Independent Electoral Review to the Ministry of Justice Panel – July 2023
- Collaboration with the Australasian Society of Association Executives (AuSAE) on the Incorporated Societies Regulations 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment – July 2023
- Submissions on the Review of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme – August 2023
- Submission on a redesigned NZ ETS Permanent Forest Category to the Ministry for Primary Industries – August 2023
- Submission on Improving GMO regulations for laboratory and biomedical research to the Ministry for the Environment – August 2023
- Preliminary Issues Paper on the Market Study into Personal Banking Service to the Commerce Commission – September 2023

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership recently. In particular, it has been a pleasure to speak with Members who call National Office to pay their subs with a credit card. We really enjoy these opportunities to find out what is happening around the country and hear anything that is on our Members' minds.

Those of you who receive digital communications would have noticed a refresh of our advisories and newsletters. You will see more changes over the upcoming months



as we implement your suggestions and feedback from the Communications Survey early this year. Our new database makes targeted messages much easier and we want to deliver you advisories, news and stories that are relevant and timely. Please let us know what you think of these changes, what you like and any ideas you have for improvements.

We continue to be very mindful that not all our Members have access to or want online communications. At the other end of the spectrum are Members who prefer to receive communications online. Those Members without an email address will be receiving this year's Annual Reports booklet with this Express magazine. Members with email addresses will have been offered a choice to view this year's reports on the Member's Zone or have a printed copy mailed out to them. If you would like a printed copy of the Reports booklet mailed to you, please call the National Office and we will send you a copy directly.

The business-as-usual tasks for this time of year continue at pace. We are working with the National Conference Organising Committee on preparations for Christchurch. Registrations for the event are well subscribed. We have received lots of membership applications over the last few months. The latest round of education bursaries and grants also closed recently and the applications have been prepared for consideration by the funding committee. Applications to the Adverse Events Relief Fund continue to arrive in the wake of the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

It was a pleasure to welcome the Regional Leaders to Wellington in early August. It was a great opportunity to welcome them to our "new" office space. We were able to fortify those who had arrived that morning with a robust cup of tea after a blustery arrival in Wellington. As always, if you are visiting Wellington, we would love to welcome you to the office. It is very centrally located for luggage drop-offs or free wifi and if you give us some warning, morning or afternoon tea.

## New cervical cancer screening tests a 'game changer'

A new cervical screening test is expected to increase screening rates and significantly reduce cervical cancer deaths in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The HPV primary screening test is a simple and quick swab that people can choose to do themselves. It detects the presence of the human papillomavirus (HPV) which causes more than 95 percent of cervical cancers.

Dr Nick Chamberlain, National Director, Te Whatu Ora National Public Health Service, says HPV primary screening will be a game changer. "Not only is this test easier and less intrusive, it's also a better, more sensitive test that will prevent more cancers. It also means most people will only have to be screened every five years instead of every three."

The new HPV test won't totally replace the cervical sample test (often called a smear test) which remains an option and will still be necessary to check if the HPV virus has caused cell abnormalities.

Cervical screening is for eligible women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 69. The self-swab will usually be done in privacy, at a health clinic, doctor's surgery or community clinic. Some health centres may offer a take-home option, but this won't be the norm until HPV testing becomes more established.

Although cervical screening, along with HPV vaccination, has greatly reduced cervical cancer in New Zealand, around 180 people develop the disease every year and 60 die from it. Dr Chamberlain says that about 85% of those diagnosed with cervical cancer have either never been screened or have not had regular screening.

- Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers.
- HPV vaccination, along with regular cervical screening is one of the best ways to protect yourself from cervical cancer.
- Around 180 people are diagnosed with cervical cancer every year and about 60 die from it.
- Around 85% of people who develop cervical cancer in New Zealand have either never been screened or have been screened infrequently.
- HPV screening detects the presence human papillomavirus (HPV) that causes most cervical cancer.
- HPV is very common and is passed on by intimate skin-to-skin contact or any sexual activity. Most adults will have HPV at some time in their lives and in most cases, it clears up by itself. Some types of the virus can persist and go on to cause cell changes that may over time develop into cervical cancer.

Regardless of which option you have, you will need to have a consultation with a screen-taker or other healthcare professional first. Cervical cancer often takes ten years or more to develop. So, 5-yearly screening is a very safe interval.

Screening is free for people aged 30 and over who have never had a cervical screen or who haven't had a screen in the last five years.

Further information is available at [www.timetocervicalscreen.nz](http://www.timetocervicalscreen.nz)





*Top left:* Emma Hasler, Botanic Press - Creative Arts winner.

*Top centre:* Haylee-Chanel Simeon, Hayz at The Anchorage - Bountiful Table winner.

*Top right:* Sophie Hurley, Honest Wolf - Emerging Business winner.

*Left:* Kathryn Wright, Rural Health & Wellbeing winner.

*Bottom left:* Kylie Rae, Nature and Nosh & The Bush Boardroom - Love of the Land winner.

*Bottom centre:* Laura Koot, Real Country - Innovation winner.

*Bottom right:* Rebecca Greaves, Target PR - Rural Champion winner.







# And the Winners are...

The final round of judging in the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards for 2023 was completed in early October. The incredible calibre of this year's entries made for some extremely difficult decisions for our judges.

The final component of the judging process is that each entrant has an interview with the judging panel. Given that these talented, innovative business owners are spread around the country, the interviews were held via Zoom. To reach this stage of the process, the entrants had been through an initial round of judging where the judges decided which entries would progress to the second round. Those selected then embarked on preparing a range of information and resources for the judges to consider before the interview.

Each entrant provides detailed answers to written questions which probe into all aspects of their businesses. They must also create a video presentation of 3 minutes, supply a high quality photograph, provide details of referees and any other information they feel the judges need to consider their entry.

In the final interview, the judges draw on all of the supplied material to conduct the 40min interview. These interviews can be very comprehensive as some entrants are finalists in more than one category so, during the interviews, the judges consider how every finalist measures against the specific judging criteria for each of the categories.

After the final interview, the judges decide their Category Award Winners. It is with much pleasure that we introduce you to this year's amazing Category Winners:

## Premier Partner:



### Emerging Business

**Honest Wolf – Sophie Hurley**

(Hunterville, Region 4)

*This Category is proudly sponsored by Manatū Wāhine / Ministry for Women*



### Love of the Land

**Nature and Nosh & The Bush Boardroom – Kylie Rae** (Waikato, Region 6 Greater Waikato)

*This Category is proudly sponsored by Manatū Ahu Matua / Ministry for Primary Industries*



### Innovation

**Real Country - Laura Koot** (Kingston, Region 1)

*This Category is proudly sponsored by Marks & Worth Lawyers and IP Specialists*



### Rural Champion

**Target PR - Rebecca Greaves** (Pongaroa, Region 4)

*This Category is proudly sponsored by Jarden Financial Partners*



### Creative Arts

**Botanic Press - Emma Hasler** (Albert Town, Region 1)

*This Category is proudly sponsored by Alltech®*



### Rural Health and Wellbeing

**Kathryn Wright** (Te Anau, Region 1)

*This Category is proudly sponsored by Access Community Health*



### Bountiful Table

**Hayz at The Anchorage - Haylee-Chanel Simeon** (Bluff, Region 1)

*This Category is proudly sponsored by Havana Coffee Works*



# National Conference News

## The RWNZ National Conference will be held at the Rydges Latimer in Central Christchurch.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Christchurch. If you haven't registered yet, don't worry, there's still time!

You can register online via the RWNZ website or download a registration form and return it by email. You can also register by calling the National Office team on 0800 256 467.

## Accommodation

Accommodation at the Rydges is now fully booked so you might want to consider staying at one of the following alternatives:

- Ramada Suites by Wyndham (0.5km walk to Rydges Latimer)
- Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square (0.5km walk to Rydges Latimer)
- Distinction Christchurch (0.5km walk to Rydges Latimer)
- Quest Cathedral Junction Serviced Apartments (0.4km walk to Rydges Latimer)
- Breakfree on Cashel (0.5km walk to Rydges Latimer)

You might also consider investigating some options on AirBnB and BookaBach, especially if you are travelling and staying with others.

## Walking Group

Pack your walking shoes and join the Walking Group on Friday and Saturday mornings. The Group will depart from the Rydges Latimer for an hour long walk around Christchurch's fabulous regenerating central city.

## Competition time

The Speech Competition will take place on Friday, 24 November. Please advise National Office if you would like to wow the audience with your oratory skills this year.

The topic is: *"Things our mothers taught us, things we'll teach our children."*

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

We have heard that there is plenty of interest around this year's craft competitions and we have already started to receive entries at National Office. Haven't started your entries yet? No problem, there is still time...

So, get crafty and enter your Christmas Decoration into the Cora Wilding Trophy competition and make a woollen toy for the Wool Competition.

Details on the entry criteria can be found on the RWNZ website. Entries must be named and submitted to the Conference Registration Desk prior to the Opening Ceremony at 2pm on Thursday, 23 November. Alternatively, you may send your entries to the National Office but they must arrive no later than Friday, 17 November.

## Take your chances

No Conference would be complete without some raffles. Bring some coins or notes with you for a flutter on Friday.

## Thank you to our National Conference sponsors



Farming Families  
Charitable Trust

farmingfamilies4u@gmail.com  
farmingfamilies4u





## Project Uplift NZ

Project Uplift has been recycling bras, swimwear and underwear donated by women from across New Zealand since 2012. In many South Pacific countries, bras are like gold as they are both very expensive and difficult to obtain. They're so hard to obtain that women are forced to share them. Bras also dictate whether a woman can get a job or go out in public and wearing one can reduce the likelihood of unwanted sexual assault in some countries.

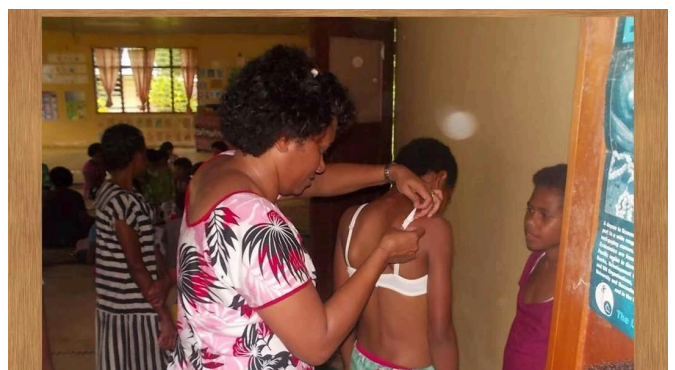
RWNZ Members have been supporting Project Uplift for many years. Region 2 Members have been collecting new and used bras for the express purpose of giving them to women in need in the Pacific Islands. All and any size garments are gratefully received but especially those that are white or a colour that can be worn under white clothing. Once collected, these garments are then delivered to the right people by private individuals to ensure they reach their recipients directly, especially in relevant places where corruption is rife. They are distributed by health workers to encourage local women to come forward so they can have mammograms, cervical smears or bring their children for vaccinations.

Beverley Forrester (Region 2) and Noelene Price-Quedley (Region 7) delivered two suitcases of swimwear, bras, undies and "knitted knockers" (handknitted breast prostheses) to

ladies in the Cook Islands in October 2022. Some ladies had travelled 1200km from the outer islands for mammogram appointments, and each was able to select one or two garments from a trestle table to take home. Rarotongan women have to get their bras by travelling to New Zealand or asking a friend to purchase on their behalf or order them online. Women that require mastectomies are usually required to spend 6-8 weeks in New Zealand.

You can contribute to this wonderful work. Please bring any unused bras, swimwear and underwear with you to the National Conference where there will be empty suitcases ready to receive your contributions which will be collected by The Bra Lady during the Conference.

*Thanks to Beverley Forrester for her content for this item.*







## Activator Programme

August was Activator Programme month. This year, three fabulous sessions were held around the country.

It turns out that Southland and Otago are hotbeds of entrepreneurial activity by rural women and the available places in the Gore session filled quickly. We welcomed seven Activators with businesses from all over the bottom of the south. The presentations by the Activators showcased creative and innovative enterprises included clothing, baking, landscaping and possum fur products.

A week later, the Activator Programme ran in Christchurch with another 5 entrepreneurs pitching their businesses to our panel. One of the most excellent surprises about the Activator Programme is how much the panellists learn from the Activators during the day. At the end of each of the sessions, the panellists leave feeling inspired by the energy and focus of the entrepreneurs. Our Christchurch Activators' enterprises featured tourism and wellbeing, journalling, specialty gluten free products, stainless steel drinkware and active wear specially for women working in the wool shed.

The third and final session was held in Cambridge. Five more entrepreneurs met our panellists. Their wonderful and diverse range of businesses included a pitch for creating a Forest School programme for inclusion in our education syllabus, a tree nursery, journalling and wellbeing workshops, felting and the wonderful things you can do with pumpkin seeds.

This is the fourth year that the Ministry for Primary Industries and RWNZ have worked together to present and run the Activator Programme. It is open to applications from rural women who have a business idea they want to get off the ground, women who are ready to take the next step in their business and those who have encountered an obstacle or challenge on their entrepreneurial journey and want to discuss some strategies to address that issue.

One of the highlights of this year was the calibre of our excellent panellists. Thank you to the wonderful people



who made themselves available to sit on a panel and encourage, motivate, reassure, suggest, collaborate with and nurture the Activators. Thanks also to MPI for its support of this programme – we couldn't do it without you.



# The road to 2025

The Centennial Committee continues to meet regularly to flesh out plans for celebrations which will take place from July 2025 through to July 2026.

Since our last report in July's Express, the rose naming competition closed and we await the outcome of the judges' deliberations. The deadline for submitting proposals for the Regional Allocation of the centenary budget has also passed and the Committee wishes to express its thanks for all the wonderful suggestions that have been received. Local and regional celebrations of the magnificent milestone of reaching our centenary will be an integral part of the year's activities.

The Book Working Group met recently to discuss the content and direction for the commemorative book. A lively meeting has generated some excellent ideas and a preliminary structure for this project. Progress is underway on content, collaboration and contracting the expertise we need to turn our vision into reality.

One of the projects that is picking up momentum is the RWNZ Ancestry Project. This project invites Members to track the DNA of the organisation by tracing and finding descendents of the Founders of the Women's Division of the Farmer's Union in 1925. Contact has been made with descendents of Miss Mackenzie from Southland and Mrs Preston of Otago.

*"Theirs was the inspiration;  
Ours the inheritance."*



If you are interested in genealogy or know something about any of our founders, we would love to hear from you.

The list of those attending that very first gathering is:

**Mesdames:**

- Polson (Wanganui)
- Pow (Wellington)
- Matheson (Wairarapa)
- Jackson (Wairarapa)
- Joll (Hawke's Bay)
- Preston (Otago)
- Carson (Palmerston North)
- Lilburn (Wanganui)
- Talbot (Timaru)
- North (Nelson)
- Isaacs (Wellington)
- Purchase (Wellington)
- Myers (Wellington)

**Misses:**

- Mackenzie (Southland)
- Mackenzie (Southland)
- Fulton (Marlborough)

## WOMEN'S DIVISION OF THE FARMERS' UNION.

**Motto: PRINCIPLES NOT PARTY.**

### 17 Reasons Why You Are Asked To Join:

**WE WANT—**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (1) to strengthen the Farmers' Union as it is only by the co-operation of both country men and women that this can be permanently and successfully achieved. | (10) to improve conditions of migration.   |
| (2) to better the conditions of women and children living on the land.   | (11) to strive for "The Bible in Schools."   |
| (3) to improve the schooling for country children.   | (12) to secure school books for children at cost price.  |
| (4) to improve the system of Board for country children attending High Schools.  | (13) to inaugurate and preserve a Farmers' Union Sports Day.   |
| (5) to improve medical and nursing facilities for country women.   | (14) to develop a community spirit and encourage the ideals of Good Citizenship.   |
| (6) to secure more frequent medical inspection in country schools.   | (15) to promote the welfare of the Home, Country, and the Empire.  |
| (7) to secure more domestic help on farms.   | (16) to brighten the lives of all junior migrants to the Dominion, working on the land.  |
| (8) to obtain visiting help or housekeepers.   | (17) to endeavour to secure a Home Science Department at the University and Agricultural Colleges to enable country women to receive instructions in Dressmaking, Millinery, Bottling and Preserving Fruits, and Domestic Arts, together with Lectures and Demonstrations on Public Health, Child Welfare, Prevention of Disease, etc. |
| (9) to provide Rest Rooms in Country Towns.  |  |

**Membership Fee, 2/6 a Year.**

There are also places available on the Working Groups.

These Groups will guide the development of some of the major events and themes that will run throughout the year.

We are looking for expressions of interest to join the following Working Groups:

- Sponsorship and grant applications
- Opening and Closing events
- National Project
- Promotions

If you are interested or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Lisa at the National Office.

# Around the Regions

One of the most consistently popular features of the Express are the items shared by Members about the activities and projects taking place in their areas. At National Office, we also love reading the reports and seeing photos of the connections between Members and the incredible contributions

## Region 4

Liz Hancock received Life Membership of the Wairarapa Provincial at its recent AGM. Liz, who joined WDFP in 1989, is greatly admired for her contributions to the organisation over many years. She has been an office holder at Branch and Provincial levels and served as a National Councillor between 2014-17. In addition to her work on behalf of WDFP and then RWNZ, Liz has been a champion for local projects in Wairarapa, supported her husband in their farming operation and worked as a local vet.

*Thank you to Viv Malneek for this item.*

## Region 6 Greater Waikato

The Waikato Wonder Women have been extremely busy in recent months.

In late August, the WWW organised an evening event called Connect & Activate which followed the Activator Programme run during the day. The event attracted Waikato based women from all walks of life. Many were not members of RWNZ when they attended but have subsequently joined.

The event was skillfully MC-ed by Board Member Claire Williamson. It was held at the Cambridge Raceway and guests were treated to delicious finger food, an enlightening and informative panel discussion featuring local rural women entrepreneurs and a quiz. There was ample laughter and celebration with plenty of time to mix and mingle. Word on the street is that the WWW would love this to

they make to building resilience and offering support in rural communities. It is evident that, as we put some distance between the restrictions of recent times and where we find ourselves today, our Members are relishing the opportunities to meet in person again.



*Liz Hancock receives her Provincial Life Membership from incoming Wairarapa Provincial President, Jocelyn Coulton, seen here with Region 4 Regional Chair, Pauline Masters.*

be the first of many of these events so contact the Region 6 Greater Waikato Committee to join the mailing list to be notified of upcoming events like this.

It was a quick turnaround for the WWW as the Region 6 Greater Waikato Committee held a High Tea in mid-October. Held at The Olde Creamery, the menu featured plenty of dainty, delicious goodies. Guests were treated to a right royal presentation from Geoff Wright who served in the Queen's Household Guards for many years. Geoff shared his experiences of living and working with the royal family and had lots of amazing memorabilia on display.

One of the guests was Isabelle Campbell who has just turned 96 years old. Isabelle is a descendent of one of the founding members of RWNZ (then the WDFU), Miss McKenzie. An excellent afternoon was had by all.







## Region 3

The RWNZ Kenepuru Branch Fashion Event at Linkwater Hall, Queen Charlotte Drive, finally took place on Saturday, 30 September. The first successful show was held in February 2021 at the Portage Resort, and it was always intended to be a yearly event. Then came COVID, which was followed by two years of road closures that still exist. This meant we had to step into neighbouring territory, which proved to be highly successful, being closer to Picton and Havelock.

We anticipated welcoming between 50 and 70 guests and came up just short of the higher number. The raffles were a true mix of prizes, one featuring our secretary Mel Price's Chanel handbag cake. Another popular raffle was the mystery prize, which coincidentally turned out to be another stylishly pricey but *real* handbag. Both contributed significantly to the final earnings count, as did door sales and 15% of the total garments and cosmetics sold on the day.

The event's focal point was local Picton fashion boutiques Evolve and Bellebird, Bridal and Beauty. Jane from Evolve spoke about spring and summer fashion trends, and with a full rack of apparel, she developed dress 'stories' that matched or complimented the many styles. The collection also included handbags and shoes. We loved how Jane transformed the word *bunion* into a sophisticated French phrase that sounded something like *boun-yon*. Think Mrs Bucket as Mrs Bouquet. Hayley educated us on simple makeup techniques and invited three audience members to demonstrate how easy it was to enhance our beauty.



We'd like to thank everyone who came out to support the event, as well as everyone who complimented us on providing a terrific afternoon of entertainment and fun. The social connection was equally as important as the community fundraising, which exceeded expectations.

*Thank you to Marion Day for this report.*

## Region 6 Taranaki

Members in Region 6 Taranaki recently met and were given a very informative presentation from the region's Civil Defence force. Information on preparing your emergency kit and considering your pets' needs was offered. Additional considerations for farmers, including the importance of access to a generator, sufficiently stocked water tanks and stand-off pads to prevent harm and stress to animals, were also discussed.

On display were some of the hundreds of tiny garments knitted by Members Jenny Purdon and Faye Carver for New Plymouth's neo natal unit. Here they are with Regional Leader, Shirley Read and some of their work.



*Thanks to Margaret Vickers for this report.*



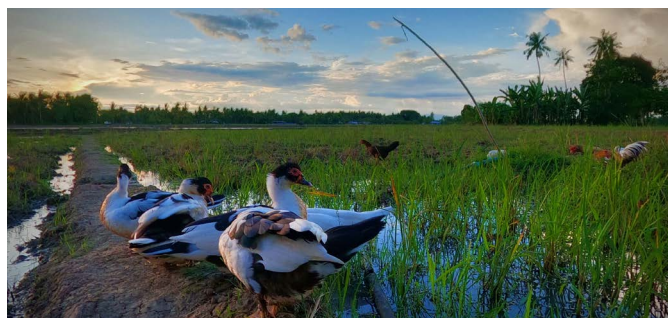


## Country of Study

### This year's country of study is the Philippines.

Comprised of 7,641 islands, this Southeast Asian state has an incredibly rich and layered history. The Philippines are home to a huge diversity of plants, marine life, birds, animals and insects.

The Philippines is a close friend of New Zealand. Our countries have substantial trade interests, a strong history of cooperation in regional and international matters, and there are approximately 80,000 Filipinos living throughout New Zealand.



## WORKING IN WOODCUT RURAL CALENDAR 2024

If you are looking for the perfect gift to send to friends and family overseas, then this is great option for you.

This beautiful calendar features twelve unique woodcut images which provide a beautiful perspective of life in rural Aotearoa New Zealand throughout the year. The striking original artwork has been created by Carol Teutscher from the Fordell Mangamahu Branch in Region 4.

All proceeds from the sale of these calendars will support the Branch's education bursaries for rural children.

The calendar is A4 size, so it fits nicely in a large size envelope for posting.

At \$25 which includes delivery and GST, these calendars really are something very special and unique. To place your order, or if you have any questions, please email: [WhanganuiRWNZ@gmail.com](mailto:WhanganuiRWNZ@gmail.com)



MOTHER AND MILK



## Members' Giveaway

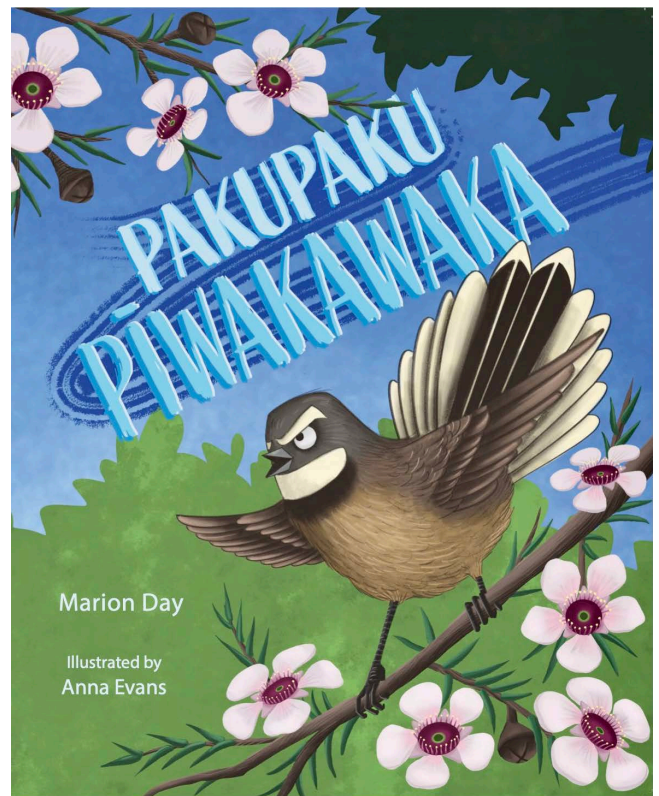
Kenepuru Branch Member and award-winning author Marion Day has just published a new picture book for children and it is gorgeous. It is titled *Pakupaku Pīwakawaka*.

*Pakupaku Pīwakawaka* is a child of the god Tane and serves as protector of his forest. As each predator attempts to enter the forest, Pīwakawaka greets them with his distinctive tweet. "Ti-ā-ti-ā-titā-kāti... Stop!" The intruders must explain themselves, and it is determined who will be sent away and who will remain!

*Pukupaku Pīwakawaka* is a creative non-fiction picture book in Marion's nature series. It's beautifully illustrated by New Zealand artist Anna Evans and teaches children about the predators of our native forest through the eyes of a bold yet endearing fantail. It begins with an information page about pīwakawaka and ends with one about what kids can do to help protect our forests.

Marion has very generously donated three copies of *Pukupaku Pīwakawaka* to give away to three lucky Members. To enter, please email your name, address and your favourite thing about piwakawaka/fantails to [competitions@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:competitions@ruralwomennz.nz) or phone National Office on 0800 256 6336.

The recommended retail price for this lovely book is \$24.99 including GST. However, Marion would like to offer RWNZ Members the opportunity to purchase copies of *Pukupaku Pīwakawaka* from her website at a discounted price. If you would like to take advantage of this wonderful offer, send Marion an email at [marionday@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marionday@xtra.co.nz) for information on accessing the membership discount price.



## Adverse Events Relief Fund

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

To help grow this fund, we are selling RWNZ's pure wool, New Zealand-made **Aftersocks**, the proceeds of which go directly to the AERF.

These are available online at [www.aftersocks.nz](http://www.aftersocks.nz) or from the National Office.



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

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

# Tributes

## Marie Casey

4 February 1934 - 20 August 2023

Southern Southland recently said farewell to a much loved and admired Member, Marie Casey.

Marie had been a Member since 1956, initially of Haldane Branch and later, the Otago Branch (now the Tokanui Otago Waikawa Branch). She was made a Branch Life Member in 1990 and, as a result of her leadership at Provincial level, Marie was awarded a Provincial Life Membership in 1985.

Marie had been actively involved as a Homecare Advisory member and served on the Holiday Homes, Dressmaking and Forestry Committees.

Thank you Marie for your Service Simply Given.



### Farewell to Old Friends

Margaret Paine - Pokuru Branch  
Ruth Keller - Midhurst Branch  
*National Service Award, BLM, PLM*  
Carole Kennedy - Takaka Branch

Helen Nichols - St Arnaud Branch  
June Pope - Tokanui  
Heather Buckingham - Tokanui  
Marie Casey - Tokanui

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### The Last Word

**BLACK HEELS  
AND  
TRACTOR WHEELS**

NEW SEASON  
AVAILABLE  
NOW!

  
Rural Women  
NEW ZEALAND  
Ngā Wahine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa



# Regional Leaders & Regional Committees

Region 1 Lower South Island	Position	Contact Email
Raewyn van Vugt	<b>Regional Leader</b>	whitegold@rivernet.co.nz
Alison Moore	<b>Regional Committee Chair</b>	mooreterritory2017@gmail.com
Jean Hamilton	<b>Minute Secretary</b>	jeansh@yrless.nz
Pat Macaulay	<b>Centennial Committee Chair</b>	pat.macaulay@outlook.com
Lynley White		whyte.5@farmside.co.nz
Eunice Roberts		ebroberts51@gmail.com
Emily Walker		ergualter@gmail.com
Barbara Earl		bagjack@xtra.co.nz

Region 2 Canterbury	Position	Contact Email
Frances Beeston	<b>Regional Leader</b>	francesbeeston@gmail.com
Margaret Chapman	<b>Regional Committee Chair</b>	mgchapman@xtra.co.nz
Sandra Curd	<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	curd@xtra.co.nz
Michelle Martin	<b>Vice Chair</b>	michellemartin1@kpmg.co.nz
Mary Watson		mmf.wats@gmail.com
Angela Johnson		babelamb@hotmail.com
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Cathy Ritson		catherine_ritson@yahoo.co.uk
Lyn Zuppich		goathills@amuri.net

Region 3 Top of the South	Position	Contact Email
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Melva Robb	<b>Regional Committee Chair</b>	melva@soundsreflection.co.nz
Diane Higgins	<b>Secretary and secondary contact</b>	dmhiggins@xtra.co.nz
Margaret Faulkner		NO EMAIL
Jennifer Wiese		NO EMAIL
Carolyn McLellan		balmac@xtra.co.nz
Carol Wells		NO EMAIL
Margaret Milne		margarwpt@kinect.co.nz

Region 4 Lower North Island	Position	Contact Email
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Janice Mills	<b>Secretary</b>	white.rock@farmside.co.nz
Caroline Ross	<b>Treasurer</b>	cross@wise.net.nz
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Leonora Spark		ljnajsark@gmail.com

Region 5 BOP / Coromandel	Position	Contact Email
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Bev Sanford		jsanford@xtra.co.nz

Region 6 Greater Waikato	Position	Contact Email
Bronwyn Main	<b>Regional Leader</b>	bronwynmain45@gmail.com
Liz Morgan	<b>Regional Committee Chair &amp; Treasurer</b>	lizziemorgan36@gmail.com
Denise Irvine		denise.irvine@e3health.co.nz
Jenni Torrens		torrensfarms@xtra.co.nz
Fiona Gower		fionagower@hotmail.com

Region 6 Taranaki	Position	Contact Email
Shirley Read	<b>Regional Leader &amp; Committee Chair</b>	sdread@xtra.co.nz
Helen Bayliss	<b>Secretary</b>	harrybayliss@xtra.co.nz
Joyce Lawrence	<b>Treasurer</b>	niaruo@inspire.net.nz
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Jo Morgan		morgl@xtra.co.nz
Sue Brophy		t.sbrophy@icloud.com

Region 7 Top of the North	Position	Contact Email
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Noelene Price-Quedley	<b>Secretary &amp; Newsletter</b>	noeleneq@hotmail.com
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Christine Pikett		c/o_mary_p@xtra.co.nz
Margaret Smiley		margaretesmiley@gmail.com



## Regional Leaders

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3	Dot Dixon		022 639 7175	dotsf9@gmail.com
4	Tamzin Coull		027 309 3616	tamzin.coull@xtra.co.nz
5	Mary McTavish	07 543 2521	021 141 6432	jhmemcts@gmail.com
6	Shirley Read (Taranaki)	06 752 3698	027 665 9047	sdread@xtra.co.nz
6	Bronwyn Main (Greater Waikato)	07 825 4727		bronwynmain45@gmail.com
7	Heather Sorensen	09 401 6176	0274 724 485	heathersorensen55@gmail.com

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