



**RURAL WOMEN
NEW ZEALAND**
Ngā Wāhine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa

Rural Women New Zealand

**ANNUAL REPORT
2025**



Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2025

The National Board is pleased to present the Rural Women New Zealand Annual Reports for the 2024/25 year.

These reports relate to the business of the Annual General Meeting which will be held at 10 am on Thursday 20 November 2025 at the Banquet Hall, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

This booklet contains the reports listed in Rule 5.3 (c) of the Rural Women NZ rules and includes the following:

- Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 November 2024
- Executive Reports
- National Finance Chair Report
- Annual Performance Report for the year ending 30 June 2025
- Auditor's Report
- Annual Board Reports
- Annual Leadership Reports
- Ratification of Change to By-Law
- Other Notices of Motions

The Board has determined that, to ensure adequate voting strength at this year's Annual General Meeting, to utilise the provision of Rule 5.12 and allow postal voting for the Annual Reports.

If you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting in person but wish to vote to Adopt, Not Adopt on the proposed motions, you may complete and return the postal voting form which accompanies this booklet.

Completed voting papers must be received by the National Office by post or email by 5pm Monday 17 November 2025.

This report booklet also contains the remits for discussion and voting at the Annual General Meeting. The remits will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting and only Members attending the meeting will be able to vote on the remits.

Sandra Matthews
National President

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The Women's Creed

Keep us O Lord from pettiness,
let us be large in thought, in word and deed,
Let us be done with fault finding and leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face,
without self-pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straight forward and unafraid.
Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle.
Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences;
that in the big things of life we are one.
And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all,
and O Lord God, Let us not forget to be kind.

Agenda – Annual General Meeting 2025

- 10 a.m.** Welcome
National President's Address
Confirmation of voting strength, Scrutineers and Timekeeper
Adoption of the Speaking Rules for Resolutions and Remits
Apologies
Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting
Executive Reports
Financial Reports
National Board Report
Charitable Funding Report
Regional Leadership Reports
Bylaw Change
Proposed Constitution
Notice of Motion
- 12:30 p.m.** Break for Centennial Lunch
- 1:20 p.m.** AGM to re-commence
Announcement of election results
Speech Competition
Remit Session
Soapbox
Awards
- 3:30 p.m.** Close of meeting by National President
- 3:40 p.m.** Photograph on the steps of Parliament

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND

Record of Minutes for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 2:15pm on 21 November 2024
at The Public Trust, Lambton Quay, Wellington

1 | WELCOME & AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mihi whakatau opened the event with mihi and blessing from mana whenua representative, Ellie Houpapa from Port Nicolson Trust.

The meeting was opened and called to order by the Chief Executive Marie Fitzpatrick.

National Life Members present were acknowledged: Jackie Stafford, Wendy McGowan, Dame Margaret Millard and Jenny McDonald.

National Members of Honour were acknowledged: Sue Higgins, Josie Gower, Margaret Scrimgeour, Shirley Read, Liz Hancock, Jenny Turner, Penny Mudford and Melva Robb.

The National Anthem was sung followed by a reciting of the Creed led by Heather Sorensen. National President, Gill Naylor, welcomed the dignitaries and all those in attendance. A video message from our patron Her Excellency the Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro was played. A message was read aloud from ACWW World President, Magdie de Kock by Board member, Sharron Davie-Martin.

The National President addressed the Members and acknowledged their work.

The following awards were presented by National President Gill Naylor and citations were read by the Chief Executive, Marie Fitzpatrick.

RWNZ National Recognition Awards:

National Service Awards to: Linda Welch of Tutaenui Branch and Leonora Spark of Fordell Mangamahu Branch.

Member of Excellence (Olive Craig Tray) to: Joan Black of Tutaenui Branch.

Reports and Project Awards:

Talbot Trophy for International work won by: Helen Bayliss of Taranaki Provincial.

Best Branch President's Report won by: Korokipo Branch written by Anne Finnie.

Honora O'Neill Gong for Best Provincial President's Report won by: Elsa Hydes of Mid Canterbury Provincial.

Lady Blundell Tray Award for Best Innovative Project won by: Bainham Branch for their 2025 calendar "A Slice of Life" - collected by Branch President Carolyn McLellan and members of Bainham Branch.

Short story competition winners:

Marlborough Short Story Tray won by: Christine Pikett from Region 7 and Julie Perkins from Region 4 as a shared prize.

Olive Burdekin Prize for Advanced Writers won by: Melinda Price of Region 3, accepted on her behalf by a representing member.

National President Gill Naylor concluded the opening ceremony and morning tea was served.

BUSINESS SESSION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. AGM ATTENDANCE

1.1 Board:

- Gill Naylor, National President
- Sandra Matthews, National Chair and North Island Board Member
- Sharron Davie-Martin, South Island Board Member
- Heather Sorenson, Interim Board Member
- Claire Williamson, North Island Board Member
- Annette Marr, National Finance Chair

In Attendance:

- Marie Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive
- Felicity Bunny, National Membership Manager/Office Manager
- Lisa Thompson, Programmes and Events Manager

- Mia Cohen, Communications and Social Media Adviser
- Janet Ziegler, Finance Coordinator
- Kelly Conway, Policy Adviser
- Kylie Bensemman, Regional Connector
- Rachael Cox, Communications and Marketing Adviser
- Kowhai Montgomery, Minute Taker

1.2 RWNZ Members Present

Names listed in order of region and in alphabetic order by christian name for quick reference.

Region 1:	Jocelyn Colton
Ann Irving	Josie Gower NMH
Eunice Roberts	Julie Perkins
Heather Smith	Kate Frewen
Jan Appleby	Laura Morrison
Kate Scott	Linda Welch
Lynley Whyte	Liz Hancock NMH
Marion Keen	Leonora Spark
Pat Macaulay – <i>Returning Officer</i>	Margaret Millard DNZM NLM
Region 2:	Marie Daly
Catherine Ritson	Michelle Maynard
Debbie Kelliher	Mitzi Austin
Elle Mitchell	Paula Vincent
Elsa Hydes	Pauline Masters
Frances Beeston	Penny Griffith
Jenny McDonald NLM	Penny Mudford ONZM NMH – <i>Parliamentarian</i>
Kate Frewen	Petra Houdijker
Rachael Handy	Shona Field
Region 3:	Tamzin Coull
Barbara McKay	Wendy Kilsby
Carolyn McLellan	Yvonne Coll
Dot Dixon	Region 5:
Heather McKay	Colleen Tiller
Region 4:	Jenny Turner NMH
Angela McLeod	Margaret Scrimgeour NMH
Anne Finnie	Mary Nowotarski
Carole Serong	Rachel Whalley
Colleen Ervine	Sue Vowell
Jacky Stafford NLM	Wendy McGowan ONZM NLM
Janice Mills	
Joan Black	
Joanne Simpson	

Region 6 Taranaki:

Helen Bayliss
Jo Morgan
Shirley Read NMH
Emma Higgins
Jennifer Wiese
Linda McClintock
Lorna Crane
Margaret Milne
Melva Robb QSM NMH
Sue Higgins NMH

Region 6

Greater Waikato:

Bronwyn Main
Denise Powell
Jenni Torrens
Liz Morgan
Nicole Oliver
Raewyn Marwood
Ross Townshend
Region 7:
Christine Pikett

2 | WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The National President chaired and opened the Annual General Meeting and welcomed all attendees, with special acknowledgement given to the Roll of Honor featuring National Life Members and National Members of Honor.

Remembrances:

Those who had passed away were acknowledged and remembered in the Farewell to Friends.

3 | SCRUTINEERS AND VOTING STRENGTH

The National President explained the voting strength and voting procedures and introduced the Returning Officer, Pat Macaulay of Region 1.

Scrutineers:

THAT Rachel Whalley, Pauline Masters, Dot Dixon, Mary Nowotarski be confirmed as scrutineers.

Moved: Sue Higgins Region 3

Seconded: Elsa Hydes Region 2 **Carried**

Voting Strength:

The RWNZ Rules state that 5% of the Membership is required to participate in the AGM to meet the quorum requirements. Minimum needed for quorum is 80 participating votes. The Returning Officer advised the number of votes received by postal vote was 61 and the number of votes in the room was 73. The total of 134 participating voters reached quorum.

Timekeeper:

THAT Tamzin Coull Region 4 - be confirmed as the AGM timekeeper.

Moved: Josie Gower Region 4

Seconded: Emma Higgins Region 3 **Carried**

Speaking rules:

THAT the speaking rules be adopted.

Moved: Sandra Matthews – Board Chair

Seconded: Josie Gower Region 4 **Carried**

4 | APOLOGIES

Received prior to the AGM:

Region 1:

Margaret Pittaway NMH

Ellen Ramsay QSO NLM

Region 2:

Heather Dickie

Lisa Williams

Lyn Zuppich

Margaret Chapman NLM

Margaret Verrall

Sandra Curd NMH

Region 3:

Diane Higgins

Heather McKay

Region 4:

Caroline Burnell

Region 5:

Liz Pennington

Region 6 Greater Waikato:

Sue Hall

Janet Jensen MNZM NMH

Region 6 Taranaki:

None received

Region 7:

Noelene Price Quedley

Sherrill Dackers NLM

Apologies from the floor:

Region 1:

Lynda Perniskie

Alison Moore

Raewyn van Vugt

Region 2:

Jeanette Tarbotton QSO NLM

Beverley Forrester

Region 3:

Glenda Robb

Region 4:

Claire Adkins

Caroline Ross

Region 5:

Sandra Faulkner

Region 6 Greater Waikato:

Cathy Nola

Fiona Gower MNZM NLM

Lyn Janssen

Eileen Barker

Janet Williams NMH

Region 6 Taranaki:

Margaret Vickers

Region 7:

Marie Appleton NLM

THAT the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Wendy McGowan Region 5

Seconded: Janice Mills Region 4 **Carried**

5 | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Rural Women New Zealand held on 24 November 2023 are included in the Annual Report 2024 booklet and were taken as read.

Errors or omissions noted:

- 2023 Melba Prize Winners not listed – will be added as appendix
- Liz Morgan Region 6 GW was present but not listed
- 8.1 first time speaker competition Tutaenui Bell winner needs to be added
- 3.2 change name from Dame Margaret Chapman to Dame Margaret Millard
- 7. Suggestions/Soapbox first bullet point (page 13) correct to that Gill Naylor will remain chairing the Centenary Committee not remain as president.

THAT the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting with the corrections noted be accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Margaret Scrimgeour Region 5

Seconded: Sue Higgins Region 3 **Carried**

6 | MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising.

7 | ANNUAL REPORTS

7.1 The Annual Reports from the National President, National Finance Chair and Chief Executive have been published in the Annual Report 2024 booklet. The National President proposed these be taken as read; this was accepted and there were no questions arising.

THAT the reports of the National President and National Office be accepted.

Moved: Gill Naylor National President

Seconded: Leonora Spark Region 4 **Carried**

7.2 National Finance Chair Report

The report was taken as read. The National Finance Chair gave a brief overview of the Auditors Report and the National Finance report and noted one correction in the National Office Dashboard:

- Page 20, typo in the top title – for the year ended 30 June 2023, should be 2024

Commentary by Finance Chair: In terms of the audit, very pleased that only missed two entities out of the whole group in the consolidation, many thanks to the Treasurers for all their work. A note was made about the recommendation to have a minimum of 3 signatories, preferable 4 or 5. Going forward using Xero for collecting all electronic bank transactions. Next AGM approval will be sought for changes to bursaries after research has been done. Auditors were against adding more detail in audited accounts, so more detail has been added in dashboard on page 20.

Questions addressed by the National Finance Chair included:

Composition of RWNZ: RWNZ Inc is made up of all branches and regions as well as National office. There are also 6 separately incorporated entities that we are the reporting entity for.

Deferred revenue clarification: this is made up of health branch funding, MPI funding for Activator program and awards, and other funding for the Adverse Events Relief Fund program. Amounts that were deposited before 30 June 2024 but carried forward to match timing of expenditure.

Professional Services costs compared to last year: legal fees, recruitment costs and outsourced design costs account for this increase. This is a strategic spend focused on improving RWNZ image and increasing membership.

Fixed assets: leasehold expenses for 175 Victoria Street Wellington, depreciating part of this due to computer cabling and Wi-Fi being installed when the move was made to new offices.

THAT the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2024 including the National Finance Chair's Report be accepted.

Moved: Annette Marr National Finance Chair

Seconded: Rachel Whalley Region 5 **Carried**

Comments from the floor:

Point of order from Dame Margaret Millard:

It was noted on page 20 that the total surplus for National Office Operations of \$59,540, which is a positive amount, includes the \$760,309 unrealised gain as an investment income item (so it is not guaranteed to realise this income). To a lay person it looks like a surplus, but this may not be the case. Dame Margaret stated that the organisation is in financial risk because the Board has total control, rather than this decision-making sitting with members.

THAT BDO be appointed Auditors for the 2024/2025 Financial Year

Moved: Annette Marr National Finance Chair

Seconded: Rachel Whalley Region 5 **Carried**

7.2.1 Introduction of Asset Managers - Jarden

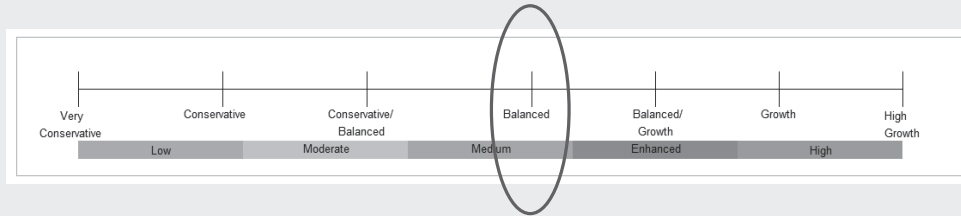
Angus Marks and Andrew Austin introduced themselves.

A recap was given on how Jarden engages with RWNZ including:

- Capital base from sale of Access HomeHealth in 2014
- RWNZ is an intergenerational investor
- Funds managed in keeping with the SIPO, comprising of a balanced strategy of 40/60 income and growth, this balances the provision of ongoing income with protecting capital against inflationary impacts

Presented returns year on year 2020 to 2024:

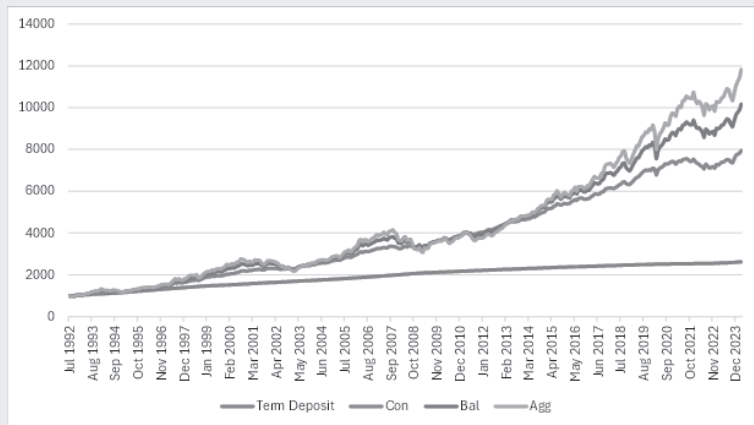
Portfolio Strategy



“Balanced” Strategy

40% Income / 60% Growth

Aim is to balance the provision of an ongoing income with protecting capital against inflationary impacts.



Performance Commentary

Table One – RWNZ Financial Year Returns, last 5 years

Financial Year 1 July – 30 June	Discrete Return (after fees, before tax)
2020	5.99%
2021	11.48%
2022	-8.43%
2023	8.04%
2024	6.74%
<i>Current FY YTD (~5mth)</i>	<i>6.76%</i>

12-month (Nov 2023 – Nov 2024) returns = 13.34%

After withdrawing funds to support running of Rural Women NZ

Performance Commentary

Data in the recent September quarter revealed a global economy less likely to slip into recession than many had previously feared.

Globally, the major Central banks are reducing rates

Inflation is being tamed (broadly retreating closer to central bank targets)

Table Two – RWNZ Portfolio Asset Class returns (Total return +13.34%)

Asset Class	12 Month Return (to 19 November 2024)
NZ Bonds	7.54%
NZ Listed Property	3.61%
NZ Equities	8.12%
Australian Equities	16.51%
Global Equities	29.24%
Alternatives	12.13%

Outlook

- The US economy rolls along at a steady pace, recession remains unlikely.
- Central bank interest rate cuts are likely to continue apace, however rates are unlikely to return to the lows seen during the pandemic.
- The economic backdrop appears supportive of global equities; the rally likely to broaden beyond the narrow selection of stocks that have driven the rally over much of the past two years.
- China – the world’s second largest economy has been in the doldrums for the past two years. The government has introduced stimulus, but more required.
- The global economy has solid economic foundations.
- New Zealand company earnings growth is expected to remain relatively subdued.
- Trump – US focused, Global implications to be seen.

Noted Nov 2023 – Nov 2024 = 13.34% return on investment.

Presented Asset class returns as a slide – emphasising strong performance of global equities.

Angus Marks talked to a general slide on the investment outlook:

- US steady recession unlikely
- Central banks interest rate cuts continue
- Global equity strong and likely to broaden beyond the narrow range of stocks that has been driving growth for the past 2 years
- China outlook not good
- Global economy has solid economic foundations
- NZ company earnings expected to be subdued
- Trump election implications yet to be seen in terms of the global market effects of US tariffs, and war between Russia and Ukraine

Jarden are keen to engage out in the regions – showed slides of Jarden team and introduced Harriet Jones now based in Queenstown.

It was reinforced that Jarden's investment decisions operate within the exclusions defined by SIPO, and the selection of securities aligns with the NZ Super Fund's Responsible Investment Exclusion List.

Angus Marks commented on the prior point of order from Dame Margaret Millard regarding the unrealised capital gains being not real even though reported in accounts. The regular income drawn down comes from the following sources: income generated on interest, cash and bonds, dividends, and realised gains. Recording unrealised gains this way is an accounting convention. There were some examples for illustrative purposes on how unrealised gains had been reported in US bond markets.

A question was asked from the floor [by Penny Mudford Region 4] concerning tapping into RWNZ's capital base. At our current rate of draw down, are we at a comfortable level at present? Angus Marks responded that they would need to crunch the numbers further to give a more detailed answer as it would involve looking at the value of the portfolio over time adjusted for withdrawals and accounting for inflation.

Notice of Motion:

A Notice of Motion was raised by Shirley Read [Region 6 Taranaki] that \$1,700,000 be invested in the name of Pat Evans for the purpose of distributing the annual income to the regions of Rural Women New Zealand equally.

A written Notice of Motion was handed to the Chair.

The Parliamentarian was asked by the Chair for clarification on the process to deal with the Notice of Motion. It was clarified that the Notice of Motion will be included for the AGM in 2025.

THAT the Chair receives the Notice of Motion.

Moved: Shirley Read Region 6 Taranaki

Seconded: Dame Margaret Millard Region 4

Carried

A question was asked from the floor by Wendy McGowan Region 5 seeking clarification about whether there was a cost to regions for utilising Xero. The National Finance Chair clarified that it will be a cost borne by National Office.

A question was asked from the floor by Frances Beeston Region 2 querying how the funds from donations are distributed? The National Finance Chair replied that it depends on the type of donation. The previous National Finance Chair, Jenny McDonald, provided further clarification on the process.

Emma Higgins Region 3 paid compliment to the improved finance dashboard as a valuable resource.

8 | NATIONAL BOARD PORTFOLIO REPORT & CHARITABLE FUNDING REPORT

These reports have been printed in the Annual Report 2024 booklet. The National Chair proposed these be taken as read; this was accepted.

THAT the Board Reports on Portfolios & Charitable Funding be accepted.

Moved: Josie Gower Region 4

Seconded: Jenny Turner Region 5

Carried

9 | ANNUAL LEADERSHIP REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

These reports had been printed in the Annual Report 2024 booklet. The National Chair proposed these be taken as read; this was accepted.

Correction: A typo was made where a reference to AMP it should be A&P.

THAT the Regional Leadership Reports be accepted en bloc.

Moved: Shirley Read Region 6 Taranaki

Seconded: Frances Beeston Region 2

Carried

10 | BYLAW CHANGE FOR ELECTION PROCESS

Clarification was provided of the original wording of the Bylaw and the intention of these changes to enable smooth transition after elections.

THAT National Board Resolution for the change of wording of Bylaw 7.2. f,g,h,i be ratified and adopted.

Moved: Emma Higgins Region 3

Seconded: Frances Beeston Region 2

Carried

The Chair brought the formal portion of the AGM to conclusion and invited Sandra Matthews to start the Remits session.

11 | REMITS

11.1 Remit 1 - Solar Energy

That Rural Women NZ Inc. ask the Government to incentivise solar installation and storage on individual homes and farms (not including commercial solar farms) as a means of ensuring energy security in our country.

Linda McClintock (Proposer) and Carolyn McLellan (Seconder) opened the discussion by speaking in favour of the Remit presented.

Dame Margaret Millard of Region 4 spoke **FOR** the Remit but expressed that Government needs this to be balanced against other economic priorities.

Emma Higgins of Region 3 spoke **FOR** the Remit as it is in line with the RWNZ strategy on adaptability.

Cathy Ritson stated she was **FOR** the Remit.

There were no abstentions, and no one voted against the Remit.

Moved: Linda McClintock Region 3

Seconded: Carolyn McLellan Region 3

Carried

12 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FROM OUTGOING NATIONAL PRESIDENT

The National President acknowledged the work of the Board, warmly thanking Board Chair Sandra Matthews for another level of fresh thinking and governance experience since being elected in 2021. The President praised the National Finance Chair for her astute and competent attributes and for the governance and financial skills she brought to the role. In her interim board member role, Heather Sorensen was acknowledged as a valued addition for her understanding of the membership base and thoughtful approach. RWNZ wishes Heather well in future governance roles and is pleased to provide leadership development and support succession in this way. As Associate Board Member, Heather McKay has been valuable in bringing her future-focused perspective to the Board table.

As outgoing National President, Gill Naylor expressed thanks to the Board for the collaboration, support and great relationships she has enjoyed. The emphasis has been on creating an organisation focused on members, as well as a cohesive and respected organisation for everyone to see.

The role of the Regional Leaders has become more defined and there has been an evolution at governance level. Acknowledgement was made to Mary McTavish, Tamzin Coull, Dot Dixon and Raewyn van Vugt who have stepped back from Regional Leadership roles. Congratulations went to Frances Beeston and Bronwyn Main for stepping up to Board level. Also thanked were Mary Nowotarski, Pauline Masters, Barbara McKay and Lynda Perniskie. Replacements for vacancies left by Frances and

Bronwyn were yet to be announced once By-elections have been held in their Regions. There are opportunities for more representation on Policy Action Advisory Groups (PAAGs). Member involvement is encouraged in this policy space.

The membership was acknowledged for all they bring through contributions made in individual ways. Diversity in membership is increasing, which is a good thing for the future, to be embraced and encouraged. Contributions and connection at regional level are what gives an appreciation of and connection to the wider organisation.

Of special note this year:

- Mental health and wellbeing training to over 600 women
- Supported National Projects for ovarian and gynaecological cancer and leptospirosis.

The President expressed her pride in the wide range of RWNZ's work including:

- Adverse Weather events work on the ground
- Business Awards and the Activator programme
- Country Women's Collective website directory
- Black Heels and Tractor Wheels podcast
- Continued grants and funds distribution
- Disbursement of the Te Whatu Ora grant funding for rural based students engaged in health-based training.
- Centenary celebrations work.

An enormous amount of feedback was received during the Regional Review process and looking to the future. Courage, trust and belief in each other will help us move forward together. The President used the analogy of parenting to explore themes of evolving, passing the baton and letting go. She

expressed what a true honour it was to serve RWNZ as its National President for the last 4 years and she passed the baton to incoming President and Board to take the organisation into the next 100 years.

13 | CITATIONS AND THANKS TO RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

The National Chair read the citation for the outgoing North Island Board member, Claire Williamson. The National President presented her with a National Member of Honour badge.

The National Chair read the citation for Board member Emma Higgins, who concluded her tenure in February. The National President presented her with a National Member of Honour badge.

The National Chair read the citation for outgoing interim Board member Heather Sorensen. The National President presented her with a National Member of Honour badge.

The National Chair Sandra Matthews read the citation for outgoing National President Gill Naylor. The National Chair presented Gill Naylor with her National Life Member badge.

14 | ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

New North Island Board Member Bronwyn Main and new South Island Board Member Frances Beeston were joined on stage by current Board members Annette Marr and Sharron Davie-Martin. Bronwyn and Frances were presented with their National Board Member badges. Sandra Matthews was announced as the new National President and was presented with her President's pin.

AGM CLOSE

As the new National President, Sandra Matthews thanked and acknowledged those stepping down from the Board. Mention was made of the foundations laid down 100 years ago for the legacy that today's members enjoy.

National President brought the 2024 Rural Women New Zealand Annual General Meeting to a close at 4:23 pm.

Approved as a true and correct record of the 2024 Annual General Meeting:

National President:

Date:

National President's Report

Sandra Matthews

It is my privilege to present this Annual General Report for members of Rural Women New Zealand, in my first year as National President.

In November 2024 Gill Naylor finished her tenure as National President of Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ), and I was elected to succeed her. I'd like to express my appreciation for Gill and the work she did during her time as President, and prior to that on the Board.

We also farewelled from the Board Emma Higgins, Claire Williamson and temporary member Heather Sorenson. We welcomed Frances Beeston and Bronwyn Main. In March 2025 after a by-election we welcomed Nicole Oliver. With the addition of 3 new Board members there was a period of settling in for their new governance roles and responsibilities.

This past year has been one of both challenge and opportunity. The early part of 2025 was a time of transition, with staff changes at our National Office. I wish to sincerely acknowledge and thank the staff who have moved on for their dedication, commitment, and service to our members during their time with RWNZ. Their contribution has been valued, and we remain grateful for the work they carried out on behalf of our organisation.

A significant focus of the past year has been the work completed by RWNZ members who volunteered to be part of the Regional Review Working Group (RRWG), which was established following the 2022 remit on regional funding. During engagement with members, the group received over 260 responses from across our diverse membership, and those that wished to input more were phoned by RRWG members. The richness of this feedback went far beyond the topic of funding. It reflected what members value about our organisation, what has worked well in the past, and what has not met expectations. Importantly, it also gave us a clear picture of what members see as essential for the future.

Recognising the breadth and depth of this feedback, the RRWG requested that the Board engage professional expertise to collate and analyse the material. We were fortunate to work with Dr Jo Cribb, former Chief Executive of the Ministry for Women and an experienced governance and not-for-profit consultant, who helped us make sense of this significant body of member input. Following Dr Cribb's report, the Chief Executive engaged an experienced change management contractor to design and guide the short and longer term evolving actions required to implement the Board's approved recommendations. This work from the RRWG and Evolve will help us to build the future of Rural Women New Zealand while remaining true to our proud heritage.

With our membership dropping through the years from 21,000 in 1972, 11,664 in 1985, 2667 in 2013, to 1552 at the end of 2024, and with the feedback work collated, this required the Board to make some challenging and, at times, difficult decisions. These decisions were not taken lightly. They were made with members' voices and views clearly at the forefront, with the long-term viability, membership growth and financial sustainability of RWNZ as our guiding priorities. I commend my fellow Board members for their courage and commitment in making these decisions on behalf of members, in the best interests of our whole organisation's future.

Beyond this important internal work, this reporting year has also been a year of strong activity externally. RWNZ has been active in policy and advocacy, making numerous submissions and engaging directly with government officials, Associate Ministers, Ministers, The Prime Minister and Members of Parliament. We have worked hard to ensure that the voices and experiences of rural women and communities are heard across the political spectrum. By building constructive relationships with representatives of all parliamentary parties,

we are reinforcing our position as a respected and trusted voice for rural New Zealand.

Restructure of National Office

To better serve our members and remain true to our 100-year-old mission of supporting rural women and rural communities, the Board approved a restructure of National Office in early 2025. This change was driven by the need to strengthen the way we support our current members, prepare for future growth, and build financial sustainability beyond our investment fund. The new structure provides dedicated roles to ensure our operations are effective and efficient, to advance our charitable work, and to deliver stronger advocacy and communications that keep member voices being heard, informed and connected. While our membership remains lower than we would like, we have had growth over the past year and in the months preceding the AGM. This investment in our people is about ensuring RWNZ remains a transparent, inclusive, and future-focused organisation - firmly grounded in our kaupapa, while equipped to meet the needs of tomorrow for a growing membership.

Centennial Planning

As we stand on the threshold of our Centennial, 2025 brings both reflection and anticipation. Rural Women New Zealand was founded in 1925 by 16 brave, innovative, and committed rural women determined to create a better life for farming women and their communities. Our inaugural Dominion President, Florence Polson, was an Australian who married a New Zealand farmer from Fordell. Remarkably, leading RWNZ as National President into our 100th year, I am also an Australian married to a New Zealand farmer from Tairāwhiti, a fitting reminder of the enduring links that connect our past and present.

Centennial planning has been in progress for some time to ensure we mark this extraordinary milestone with the celebration it deserves. A dedicated Centennial Committee, with one representative from each region, has worked tirelessly to guide decision-making and support planning across Aotearoa New Zealand. The Committee's commitment of time, energy, and wisdom has been invaluable, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to each committee member for their role in ensuring a successful year of celebrations.

Across the country, many projects and activities are underway to mark our Centennial. I would like to highlight one in particular, the Rose Project from the Fordell-Mangamahu branch. Over five years of careful planning and hard work, members brought this project to life, culminating in the release of 1,600 stunning roses. These roses stand as a lasting symbol of the tenacity, dedication, and enduring spirit of RWNZ members.

The Centennial gives us the opportunity to properly honour the wonderful history of RWNZ and the achievements of the women who came before us. At the same time, it allows us to look confidently to the next 100 years. The passion, strength, and energy of our members remain the foundation of our kaupapa, ensuring RWNZ continues to grow, adapt, and serve rural women and rural communities into the future.

Constitution Review

This year has also been a very important period in terms of our Constitution Review. As required by law under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, we are building a new Constitution that meets all legal requirements ahead of the re-registration deadline in April 2026. The Board has taken this responsibility seriously, ensuring due diligence and responsible governance by establishing a dedicated team and engaging professional advice, including from our legal counsel.

It has been vital that this review was carried out in an open, transparent, and consultative manner once the draft Constitution was prepared. Over a three-month period, members were invited to participate through discussions during regional events, online engagement, and written submissions. This robust process ensured every member had the opportunity to contribute to the final development of the Constitution. We are pleased to report that we remain on track, with the final proposed version to be presented for consideration at the 2025 AGM Constitution shaped by our members, for our members, and for the future of Rural Women New Zealand.

It is imperative that all members review the Constitution and vote by postal ballot or in person at the AGM, as re-registration must be completed by the deadline of 5 April 2026. Voting papers may also be scanned and emailed back to elections@ruralwomennz.nz

Evolving with Purpose

I also want to recognise that transformation within an organisation can feel unsettling, especially for those who have been part of RWNZ for many years. Some members have shared their worries about decisions made by the Board, and I want you to know that these concerns are heard and respected. The truth is, these were not easy choices. They are courageous ones, shaped by member feedback and taken with the best interests of the whole organisation in mind. Our goal is to protect our legacy while equipping RWNZ to survive and thrive in a rapidly evolving world. This isn't transformation for its own sake — it is purposeful, positive progress designed to benefit every member and secure the future of our organisation for the next 100 years. The excitement I am experiencing from the planned Centennial events, from both long-standing members and newer members, has only reinforced my confidence that together we can move in a direction that honours our past while embracing the future with courage and enthusiasm.

Building Partnerships

Over the past year, we have also focused on strengthening partnerships with organisations that share our commitment to rural communities, including Federated Farmers, Young Farmers, Rural Support Trust, Hauora Taiwhenua, TUANZ, Beef+Lamb NZ, the Agri-Women's Development Trust and Dairy Women's Network, among a few. By collaborating more closely, we can reduce duplication of effort, align our strengths, and make the best use of all our limited resources. Working together in this way enables us to have greater impact and deliver more meaningful support for rural women, their whānau, and their communities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Members at the Heart

As members, you are out in your rural communities every day — caring for those in need, supporting other charities, and giving your time and energy to make a difference. As your member-elected governance Board, we owe you our deepest gratitude, because without you there would be no Rural Women New Zealand.

One of the lessons I learned at a very young age from my parents was the importance of “to do the doing.” No matter the challenges or obstacles, we must continue to carry on, to adapt and to move forward so that we can support all rural women and communities. Our organisation has a strong foundation in our branches and groups, and that strength will always remain. The future is about utilising that foundation and not replacing what we value, but building upon it—adding strength and possibility that complements the incredible mahi we already do together.

There is a te reo Māori phrase, *anga whakamua*, which means “to move forward” or “facing the future.” It reflects a forward-thinking approach that honours the past while focusing on what lies ahead. This has been the guiding principle for the Board as we evolve our structure to serve members and rural communities more effectively. To achieve this, we must continue to invest in our future — with courage, care, and commitment.

Closing Remarks

As we prepare to celebrate our Centennial, we stand at a unique and inspiring moment in the history of Rural Women New Zealand. A century of service, advocacy, and community has brought us to this point, built on the courage of 16 pioneering women who saw the need for change in 1925 and carried forward by generations of members who have given their time, energy and aroha to our kaupapa.

This past year has required us to evolve — to make brave and sometimes difficult decisions, to strengthen our foundations, and to invest in the future of our organisation. At times this journey has been challenging, yet it has also been energising and hopeful. Your voices, your commitment, and your mahi in your communities have guided every step.

Looking ahead I am confident that RWNZ is well positioned, not only to honour the past, but to embrace the future with strength, courage and vision. Together, we will continue to stand for rural women and rural communities across Aotearoa New Zealand. Together, we will shape the next 100 years.

National Office Report

Nicola Eccleton

This reporting year has been pivotal. While we have been preparing to celebrate our Centennial year, I have been impressed by the courage and innovative thinking that has gone into ensuring we enter our second hundred years in a way that sets us up to continue to deliver for rural women and rural communities.

We have continued to build on our regular projects such as our grants and bursaries, the Activator programme, and the NZI Business Awards, while at the same time we have begun offering new activities such as the Sharing Shed webinars.

This year, however, we also have special one-off activities: the drafting and consulting on a proposed Constitution to meet the requirements of the new Act; creating a Centennial video and merchandise, and providing promotional support for regional Centennial celebrations; and the design of a new National Office structure to ensure we will be in the best shape to meet the needs of members, potential members, and our wider rural communities.

During this time of transition there have been changes in the team, with external contractors boosting the small number of team members, and together they have been charged with developing a sound foundation for ongoing work, and delivery of the new Strategy. We are looking forward to reducing our reliance on outside contractors and bringing on board our own people, to improve continuity, and increase the institutional knowledge of the team so they can better serve the interests of members and rural communities.

My own role has been one of dexterity. I started with RWNZ as Operations Manager partway through the year, and worked alongside Acting CE Dr Jo Cribb. With Jo moving on, I have moved into the role of Interim CE, and am privileged to have done so.

My thanks to the National Office team members who have worked diligently through a time of change and transition to support the Board, members, stakeholders and each other. You have remained committed and enthusiastic.

“ I have been impressed by the courage and innovative thinking that has gone into ensuring we enter our second hundred years in a way that sets us up to continue to deliver for rural women and rural communities.

National Finance Chair Report

Annette Marr

The 2024/25 year has seen a lot of changes. While these directly affected our national office, they also have flow on effects for our members and the way we operate.

There are new reporting standards applying to our annual performance report. The Tier 3 standard for charities reporting with under \$5,000,000 of expenses, have changed and are more prescriptive in how the reports are able to be presented. One of the new changes required is reporting on commercial activities. This involved Polson Higgs, who are our accountants, having to adjust the reporting of the 2024 year comparatives to fit the new standard, as well as change the way the notes to the performance report are displayed.

It also affected the information that we could include in the audited statement of service performance that make up part of our annual reporting. We are now required to be able to support all references to our charitable work with documentation or photos to prove it happened. As members you also need to be aware of this and recognise that in order to keep our charitable status, we all need to keep records of the many great things we do.

You will be aware that there have been significant staff changes during the last year. But even with a new team bringing together the end of year reporting, I am pleased to report that it has been achieved in a timely manner. The best part of this is that we had 121 branches and groups report out of a total of 122. Only one branch remains for who we cannot find a person to update us about it.

The end of year result is a consolidated surplus of \$435,056 for the year ended 30 June 2025 (2024 = \$24,639). This after strategic spending of \$426,912 and includes Southland forestry net income of \$213,946.

The special and specific fund reserves increased by \$32,839. During the year there were donations

to the Education and Bursary Fund of \$10,595, including \$10,000 from the NZ Salers Society (French cattle breed) on their winding up. Included in this year's AGM is a motion to increase the boarding bursaries from \$900 per annum to \$1,000 per annum.

Jarden became known as JB Were, and the investment portfolio that they manage for us under the Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives (SIPO) grew by a net \$245,607. There were additional drawdowns of \$691,000 during the year.

The strategic investment plan instigated in 2022 with a budget of \$500,000 was added to with the evolve strategy arising out of the Regional Review Working Group's recommendations. Previously none of the agreed \$500,000 had been drawn down and this was done during this financial year, along with the extra \$191,000 for this year's strategy work. This strategy work has now been implemented resulting in the new staffing configuration.

Programmes such as Activator and NZI Rural Women Business Awards continue to be well supported by funders and sponsors and are providing a positive return to the organisation. As part of the 2025 government budget Rural Women have been provided \$250,000 to run a pilot ConnectHER project. This will be reported on in the 2026 financial year. Ministry for Primary Industries and Ministry for Women both continue to financially support our projects and events.

The expenses for running the national office exceeded budget by \$166,483, due mainly to unexpected changes happening with the office personnel. These changes resulted in extra counselling, recruitment, and legal fees associated with HR matters that required resolution through external mediation services. There were also extra legal fees for constitution work done not only for Rural Women New Zealand Inc. but also for Rural Women New Zealand Forestry Scheme (Southland) Inc.

A new line in Note 3. Expenses is the board honorarium. In the interests of transparency this has been shown separately. Travel and accommodation costs are also shown for the board and regional leaders.

Membership has continued to build slowly, with 2023 now looking to have been our lowest point in membership numbers. With a new membership team in place, new initiatives happening and a focus on being the first choice for rural women for connection and support, our membership numbers will increase.

We have been through the process of putting the audit work out for tender. The tenders were put through a rigorous review and the Board has

chosen to recommend BDO be the auditor for the 2026 year. However 2025 will be the last year under BDO partner Geoff Potter, as part of the tender was that BDO changed the partner responsible for undertaking our audit. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Geoff for his contributions to Rural Women over the years.

During the year Janet Ziegler took up a new opportunity and we bade her farewell. I would like to acknowledge her contributions to the finance role and to the rapport she built with the members.

Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated
National Office Dashboard
For the year ended 30 June 2025

MEMBERSHIP			
	2025	2024	2023
Number of members			
Financial Members (subs paid)	1,473	1451	1,309
Members per region (including non-financial)			
Region 1 - Lower South Island	439	435	385
Region 2 - Mid South Island	203	181	180
Region 3 - Top of the South	226	212	189
Region 4 - Lower North Island	251	256	225
Region 5 - East mid-North Island	85	79	72
Region 6 - Greater Waikato	231	233	199
Region 6 - Taranaki	87	89	87
Region 7 - Top of North Island	67	67	58
	1589	1552	1395

Note: The regional split is extracted from the database and includes non-paying members (incl. Life members, Long standing members, Award winners & Activators one-year memberships)
See Note (1) below regarding financial members

ANALYSIS OF TRADING			
	2025	2024	2023
	Actual	Actual	Actual
National Office Trading Surplus/(Loss)	641,283	59,540	411,213
Strategic Investments Budget Spend	(426,912)	(101,288)	(73,525)
Funds & Reserves Net Increase/(Decrease)	47,583	96,871	(41,365)
Regions & Branches Surplus/(Loss)	207,137	(30,484)	(466,591)
Centenary Projects & Events	(34,035)	-	-
RWNZ TOTAL SURPLUS	435,056	24,639	(170,268)

See Notes below regarding (2) Branch trading loss in 2023, & (3) Centenary

ASSETS BREAKDOWN			
	2025	2025	2025
	Nat Office	Branches	Total
Cash & bank accounts	50,613	666,566	717,179
Term deposits - Scotlands TeK/Ed Bursaries	1,295,000		1,295,000
Term deposits - Branches/Provincials		2,065,704	2,065,704
Jarden portfolio	18,560,088		18,560,088
Fixed assets & intangibles	33,648	491,384	525,032
Other assets	133,101	10,615	143,716
Total assets	20,072,450	3,234,269	23,306,719

NOTES
(1) - The Member subs paid in this financial year reflects the increase in total members. The 2023 year was impacted by a timing difference with subscription invoicing.
(2) - In 2023 Awana Branch sold their cottage and donated the full sale amount to the local community resulting in a net trading loss of (\$ 212,528) In 2025 there is net income from Southland Forestry included of \$213,946.
(3) - In 2024 the budget for Centenary costs was agreed at \$260,000 for the period through to July 2026. There have been some early events held in the 2025 year.
(4) - Budget figures for investments are provided by JB Were each year.
(5) - Due to changes of personnel during the year, staff costs and HR legal expenses incurred were not budgeted for.
(6) - Not all regions take up their full grants for activities, administration, training & support, or charitable expenditure.
(7) - Of the \$500,000 budgeted for since 2022, \$272,035 was allocated in 2024/25. New budgeted strategic spend to implement the strategy arising out of the Regional Review Working Group work of \$326,035 was also approved. Drawdowns total \$691,000 to cover the full \$500,000 plus current year budget. The unspent budget for 'Other' of \$121,000 was for expenses that did not eventuate. This strategy has now been implemented.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BUDGET (3 Years)			
	Actual	Budget	Total
EXPENSES	2025	2025	Budget
Market Research	13,000	10,000	50,000
Promotion, Comms & Marketing Refresh			100,000
National Communications - strategic	84,695	121,784	84,000
Regional Comms & Marketing (Connectors)	46,700	30,486	79,000
Contestable Funds	-	-	90,000
Leadership and Development plan	21,361	40,000	26,000
Board Strategy Development	-	8,000	20,000
Regional Review Working Group	234,156	239,800	0
Other	27,000	148,000	51,000
TOTAL STRATEGIC BUDGET SPEND	426,912	598,070	500,000

Notes - refer to (7) above

ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL OFFICE OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR				
NATIONAL OFFICE TRADING	Actual	Budget	Actual	Notes
	2025	2025	2024	Below
INCOME				
Operating Income				
Member Subscriptions	64,040	70,000	63,089	(1)
Net Surplus Awards/AGM/Activator	9,428	6,000	14,763	
Other Income	126,649	35,000	23,854	
	200,117	111,000	101,706	
Investment Income				
Jarden Portfolio				
Realised Gains	(529,126)	232,664	(55,441)	
Unrealised Gains	2,186,991	465,327	760,309	
Interest & Dividends	458,349	533,024	516,870	
Jarden Service fee	(99,601)	(100,000)	(87,427)	
	2,016,613	1,131,015	1,134,311	(4)
ANZ Interest	1,721	3,650	82	
TOTAL NATIONAL OFFICE INCOME	2,218,451	1,245,665	1,236,099	
EXPENSES				
Operating Expenses				
AGM/Election printing costs	29,719	18,000	5,937	
Policy Portfolios	11,942	17,002	8,428	
Major Events Marketing/Promotion	38,319	40,000	48,541	
RWNZ Express	37,130	25,955	36,380	
Staff expenses	899,806	763,573	584,264	(5)
Board/Regional Leadership expenses	193,948	224,844	196,958	
Professional services	164,757	84,950	69,625	(5)
	1,375,621	1,174,324	950,133	
Overheads				
Office overheads	36,738	35,416	38,635	
Computer and Website expenses	25,322	25,947	33,902	
Property Expenses	75,948	74,667	73,680	
	138,008	136,030	146,217	
Regional Expenses and Grants				
	46,139	66,000	49,837	(6)
Depreciation/Loss on disposal	17,400	34,331	30,372	
TOTAL NATIONAL OFFICE EXPENSES	1,577,168	1,410,685	1,176,559	
NATIONAL OFFICE TRADING SURPLUS/(LOSS)	641,283	(165,020)	59,540	

ANALYSIS OF REGIONS & BRANCHES OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR		
REGIONS & BRANCHES TRADING	Actual	Actual
	2025	2024
INCOME		
Operating Income		
Community Fundraising	225,922	102,567
Donations & Grants Received	39,056	59,644
Regional Expenses and Grants Received	28,639	53,111
Forestry Income	609,493	0
Other Revenue (Incl. Forestry)	8,824	120,026
	911,934	335,348
Investment Income		
Interest Received	122,476	119,782
TOTAL REGIONS & BRANCHES INCOME	1,034,410	455,130
EXPENSES		
Operating Expenses		
Donations to Community, Grants & Bursaries	186,278	223,232
Special Efforts for Community Expenses	131,626	59,542
Donations for Special & Specific Funds	12,373	13,776
Professional Services	12,663	10,734
Branch & Region Running Expenses	70,044	76,819
Forestry Expenses	395,547	37,893
Other Expenses	18,742	63,618
TOTAL REGIONS & BRANCHES INCOME	827,273	485,614
REGIONS & BRANCHES SURPLUS/(LOSS)	207,137	(30,484)

Notes - refer to left hand side panel

Performance Report

Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2025

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Entity Information

Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

Registered Charity Number

CC21092

Legal Name

Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated

Type of Entity

Incorporated society that is also a registered charity

Entity Purpose or Mission

Charitable Giving Back
Collaboration and Community Relationships
Authoritative Rural Voice

Entity Structure

The entity operates as a membership-based organisation with a national presence, supported by local branches and regional groups throughout New Zealand. The national office team is based in Wellington.

Formation Date: 3 September 1931

Entity's Governance Arrangements

The entity is governed by a National Board comprising a National President, Finance Chair, and elected Board Members. The Board sets strategic direction and oversees governance. Day-to-day operations are managed by a Chief Executive Officer, who implements the Board's strategic objectives and annual plans.

Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services

The entity relies on gifts of volunteer time and expertise to complete work in many essential roles such as national governance, national committees, regional committees, local committees and fundraising activities.

Main Sources of Cash and Resources

The entity's activities are funded by donations, grants, sponsorship and fundraising. Administration costs are met by revenue from a legacy investment portfolio.

Main Method to Raise Funds

The members hold various fundraising activities throughout New Zealand. Sponsorship is acquired to hold events including the annual Rural Women NZ Business Awards.

Entity Information

Auditor

BDO Wellington Audit Limited

Bankers

ANZ

Postal Address

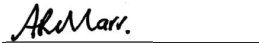
PO Box 12-021, Thorndon, Wellington, 6144

Approval of Performance Report

Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

The Governing Body and Executive are pleased to present the approved performance report including the historical financial statements of Rural Women New Zealand for year ended 30 June 2025.

APPROVED



Name: Annette Marr

Position: National Finance Chair

Date: 13 October 2025



Name: Nicola Eccleton

Position: Interim Chief Executive

Date: 13 October 2025

Statement of Service Performance 2025

The Year in Review

Rural Women New Zealand Ngā Wahine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa is in its 100th year of being at the heart of rural communities through our work to strengthen, support and connect people and communities. A national registered charity with a nationwide membership, we provide opportunities for connection and support for our members and for all rural women who live, work or align with rural and regional New Zealand.

Our work includes:

- **Charitable support:** the traditional and important role of supporting rural communities through charitable give back,
- **Personal well-being:** providing opportunities for connection, personal development and support for members' well-being,
- **Community engagement:** encouraging active involvement in local communities to foster resilience, connection, and shared purpose and
- **Advocacy and representation:** Being part of an organisation that has the social and economic well-being of rural communities at heart and provides a voice for issues that impact their communities including health, education, environment and land use, business and technology, community and social inclusion.

MEDIUM TO LONG TERM OBJECTIVES

Looking ahead, our medium- to long-term focus is the implementation of our new strategy and structure, designed to ensure rural communities are connected and thriving. Our strategy is grounded in shared values, being welcoming, community-spirited, collaborative, and adaptable and aims to grow our impact, visibility, and engagement across Aotearoa.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Charitable Giveback

Our role in supporting communities extends from local individual support and wider local community responses through to funding held at a national level for educational bursaries, community grants and support for those affected by adverse events.

At a local level, Rural Women New Zealand members continue to donate to charities and not-for-profit groups in their local communities to support their work. Rimaniui Branch awarded \$5,850 in education bursaries for second-chance learning and North Taranaki Provincial Branch awarded \$8,000 to support applicants' tertiary education. These

amounts are included in the \$186,278 local community donations and support figure below.

National Support		Local	
Includes Educational Scholarships and Bursaries, Community Grants and Adverse Events.		Local Community Donations and Support Includes support to local charities and community groups as well as families and individuals.	
2025	2024	2025	2024
\$158,528	\$109,493	\$186,278	\$190,452

Included in the National Support paid during 2024/2025 were 27 study grants totaling \$90,000, awarded to rural health students. These grants were administered by RWNZ on behalf of Health New Zealand.

Collaboration and Community Relationships

RWNZ works across the country with a diverse range of organisations. Members in our regions engage with local charities, councils, and hospitals and other health providers as well as with local businesses and schools, and organisations such as NZ Police, Rural Support Trust and Federated Farmers.

Examples of this include in Region 2 where extensive member activity included supporting Plunket with the donations of created and knitted baby requisites. Another example is the “Empowerment/Skills Days” offering a variety of programmes made possible by use of the Contestable Funding provided by National Office. These were held in Darfield, Ashburton and Timaru.

Our partnership with the Ministry for Primary Industries has resulted in the continuation of the Activator series – where Rural Women New Zealand links emerging entrepreneurs with a panel of experienced business advisors to turn ideas into actions. We are also represented on a range of Advisory, Collaborative, Industry or Government Consultation Groups spanning our public policy areas. These include the Rural Communities Trust, Landcare Trust, Rural Education Reference Group, FCAF, Hauora Taiwhenua, Firearms Community Advisory Group and Associated Country Women of the World. We are a member of the International Women’s Caucus which brings together a range of non-government organisations.

We support a range of initiatives benefiting rural women including sponsorship of The Muster, Inspiring Wahine conference, running a Rural Women Business Awards, a webinar series called 'The Sharing Shed' to foster connection, provide information and further support the development of skills, the Country Collective and a podcast "Black Heels and Tractor Wheels" to reach both rural and urban listeners.

Rural Women New Zealand also joined other rural community groups in the Federated Farmers Advocacy Hub at Fieldays in June 2025 where we engaged with 15 individual Members of Parliament, including the Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Rural Communities. We also engaged with senior public sector leaders from MPI, Te Whatu Ora and Biosecurity NZ and other rural advocacy organisations including Federated Farmers and Dairy Women's Network.



Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that can be spread through contaminated water. Rural Women New Zealand has supported research into this. Funding raised for the Leptospirosis National Project for the 2024/2025 year is \$8,245.

Our Voice

RWNZ advocates for rural women, their families and rural communities to ensure their needs, concerns and aspirations are heard and addressed at all levels of decision-making. Over the 2024–2025 year, RWNZ continued to be a strong and credible voice for rural women and communities, delivering impactful advocacy through submissions, public commentary, media engagement, and direct engagement with policymakers and stakeholders.

Activity	2025	2024
Parliamentary submissions	18	16
Member Surveys/Feedback Questions	3	3
Media Releases	15x releases 24x media interviews 30x instances of media coverage recorded *	9x releases 25x media interviews 133x instances of media coverage recorded
National Social Media Reach	185,791	215,791
Meetings with ministers and MPs	10	Not previously reported.

*Not all media coverage has been recorded.

Submissions are a key part of RWNZ’s advocacy work, providing a channel through which we contribute rural perspectives to government consultations and policy development. By drawing on data as well as the experiences of our members and communities, RWNZ ensures that the voices of rural women are represented and heard in decisions that affect their lives and their communities. Our submissions reflect RWNZ’s commitment to evidence-based advocacy and are grounded in the five action areas of our Policy Manifesto 2023–2026 and some highlights include:

- *Submission on Copper Services Investigation,*
- *Feedback on Oestradiol Patch Proposals,*
- *Proposed Changes to NZ Post’s Minimum Obligations Under the Postal Deed of Understanding,*
- *Suicide Prevention Action Plan, and*
- *Submission on the Finance and Expenditure Committee’s Inquiry into Banking Competition.*

Statement of Financial Performance

Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

	NOTES	2025	2024
Revenue			
Donations, Koha, Bequests and Other General Fundraising Activities		405,694	260,572
General Grants		105,304	43,474
Membership Fees & Subscriptions		64,292	63,089
Revenue from Commercial Activities	2	720,800	247,432
Interest, Dividends and Other Investment Revenue	2	2,301,895	1,416,465
Other Revenue	2	10,558	136,926
Total Revenue		3,608,543	2,167,959
Expenses			
Expenses Related to Fundraising		145,626	127,774
Expenses Related to Commercial Activities	3	570,135	315,704
Grants and Donations Made		330,806	278,096
Employee Remuneration and Other Related Expenses		957,961	590,698
Other Expenses Related to Service Delivery	3	1,151,559	800,676
Other Expenses	3	17,400	30,372
Total Expenses		3,173,487	2,143,320
Surplus / (Deficit)		435,056	24,639

Statement of Financial Position

Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated

As at 30 June 2025

	NOTES	30 JUN 2025	30 JUN 2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Short Term Deposits	4	717,179	868,116
Debtors and Prepayments	5	140,396	85,261
Inventory		3,320	855
Investments	6	3,360,703	3,095,451
Total Current Assets		4,221,599	4,049,682
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	302,572	319,012
Intangibles	8	222,460	225,344
Investments	6	18,560,088	18,314,481
Total Non-Current Assets		19,085,121	18,858,837
Total Assets		23,306,719	22,908,519
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Employee Costs Payable		6,361	22,161
Creditors and Accrued Expenses	9	202,741	136,346
Deferred Revenue	12	54,809	140,336
Total Current Liabilities		263,911	298,843
Total Liabilities		263,911	298,843
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		23,042,808	22,609,676
Accumulated Surpluses / (Deficits)			
Retained Earnings	14	20,819,255	20,417,038
Special & Specific Reserves	14	2,002,293	1,969,454
Carbon Credit Revaluation Reserve	14	221,260	223,184
Total Accumulated Surpluses / (Deficits)		23,042,808	22,609,676

Statement of Cash Flows

Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

	NOTES	2025	2024
Statement of Cash Flows			
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash Received			
Donations, Koha Bequests and other General Fundraising Activities		405,694	260,572
General Grants		44,989	43,474
Gross Sales from Commercial Activities		652,249	247,432
Membership Fees and Subscriptions		70,921	63,089
Interest, Dividends and Other Investment Receipts		696,867	152,749
Other Cash Received		10,558	236,923
Total Cash Received		1,881,278	1,004,239
Cash Payments			
Payments Related to Public Fundraising		(145,626)	(59,542)
Employee Remuneration and Other Related Payments		(973,761)	(569,589)
Payments Related to Commercial Activities		(548,932)	(334,155)
Grants and Donations Paid		(330,806)	(346,327)
Other Payments Related to Service Delivery		(1,052,142)	(695,479)
Net GST Received / (Paid)		(28,353)	6,284
Total Cash Payments		(3,079,620)	(1,998,808)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		(1,198,342)	(994,569)
Cash Flows from Other Activities			
Cash Received			
Sale of Investments		1,620,424	1,056,460
Total Cash Received		1,620,424	1,056,460
Cash Payments			
Payments to Acquire Property, Plant and Equipment		-	(1,793)
Payments to Purchase Investments		(573,019)	(2,400)
Total Cash Payments		(573,019)	(4,193)
Net Cash Flows from Other Activities		1,047,405	1,052,267
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash		(150,937)	57,698
Opening Cash		868,116	810,417
Closing Cash		717,179	868,116

Notes to the Performance Report

Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements are for Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated including its branches, provincials, other groups and National Office (together, 'the Society'). The Society is an incorporated society registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The Society is registered under the Charities Act 2005.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The Society has elected to apply Tier 3 Not-for-Profit reporting standards, on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses equal to or less than \$5,000,000 for more than 2 consecutive accounting years.

All transactions in the performance report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The performance report is prepared under the assumption the Society will continue to operate in the foreseeable future. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The information is presented in New Zealand dollars. All values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(b) Basis of Consolidation

The Group controls an entity when it has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. In assessing control, the Group takes into consideration potential voting rights that are currently exercisable.

All entities in the Group have a balance date of 30 June, except for Rural Women New Zealand Forestry Scheme, which has a balance date of 31 March.

(i) Controlled entities

Controlled entities are entities controlled by the Group, being where the Group has power to govern the financial and operating policies of another entity so as to benefit from that entity's activities. The financial statements of the Group's controlled entities are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases.

Subsequent changes in a controlled entity that do not result in a loss of control are accounted for as transactions with controllers of the controlling entity in their capacity as controllers, within net assets/equity.

(ii) Loss of control of a controlled entity

On the loss of control, the Group derecognises the assets and liabilities of the controlled entity, any minority interest, and the other components of net assets/equity related to the controlled entity. Any surplus or deficit arising on the loss of control is recognised in surplus or deficit.

(iii) Transactions eliminated on consolidation

Intra-group balances and transactions, and any unrealised income and expenses arising from intra-group transactions, are eliminated in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

(c) Income Tax

No provision for Income Tax has been made as the Society is registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005. Any surplus from activities is exempt from income tax.

(d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Society is registered for GST. The financial statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis with the exception of accounts receivable and accounts payable which are shown inclusive of GST.

(e) Revenue

Interest income is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method.

Forestry income is recognised at the time of harvest.

Dividend revenue is recognised when the society's right to receive the payment is established.

Membership fees and subscription income is recognised over the period of the membership. Amounts received in advance are recognised as a liability until the membership period has accrued.

Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities are recognised as revenue when the cash is received.

Grants are recognised as revenue when the cash is received. Significant grants received with documented expectations over the use of the grant are initially recognised as deferred revenue and recorded as revenue when the expectations of the grant are met.

All other revenue is recognised when earned and is reported in the financial period to which it relates.

(f) Leases

All leases are classified as operating leases. Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight line basis over the lease term, except where another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased asset are consumed.

(g) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents represent highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into a known amount of cash with an insignificant risk of changes in value with maturities of 3 months or less at inception.

(h) Trade and Other Receivables

Trade receivables are recognised at estimated realisable value.

(i) Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Only items held for resale were included. Due allowance has been made for any obsolete items.

(j) Investments and Other Financial Assets

Investments are stated at fair value through the Income Statement.

Managed funds are stated at market value, based on quoted prices in active markets for identical or similar assets.

Bank term deposits with maturities at inception of greater than 3 months are recognised as investments.

(k) Property, Plant and Equipment

Items of property plant and equipment are initially measured at cost, except those acquired through non-exchange transactions which are instead measured at fair value as their deemed cost at initial recognition. On transition the land and buildings owned by the Society have been recognised at their rateable values on transition.

The Rural Woman New Zealand Forestry Scheme (Southland) Incorporated owns a forest in the Southland area. There is no readily available valuation information and the provincial has not undertaken a valuation of the biological assets. As such the forestry itself has not been recognised as an asset with the land recognised at rateable value as noted above.

Land is not depreciated. Buildings are maintained to retain their condition with maintenance costs expensed, as such are not depreciated but rather considered annually for impairment. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight line method.

- Land and Buildings	Not depreciated
- Computer Equipment	2 - 12.5 years
- Furniture and Equipment	3.3 - 10 years

(l) Intangible Assets

Carbon credits are initially recognised at fair value and are subsequently recorded using the revaluation method. The carrying amount of the carbon credits is based on market values at 31 March being the balance date of the Rural Woman New Zealand Forestry Scheme (Southland) Incorporated.

Website costs are capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the website. These are subsequently recognised at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment. The website is expected to bring future economic benefits to the entity which can be directly attributed to the asset. The website has been fully amortised.

(m) Expenses

Expenses are recognised when incurred and reported in period to which it relates.

Employee remuneration and other related expenses are recorded when the staff provide services.

Honoraria is recognised when paid.

Grants and donations made are recognised when the grant or donation has been approved and the recipient advised.

Depreciation is recorded at year end based on the established depreciation rate.

(n) Comparative Balances

Comparative balances have been reclassified and restated to conform with changes in presentation and classification adopted in the current period.

(o) Change in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies for the period.

	2025	2024
2. Revenue		
Revenue from Commercial Activities		
Activator Programme	34,000	30,000
Advertising Income	2,600	-
Events	73,887	98,813
Forestry Income	609,493	-
Projects	820	118,619
Total Revenue from Commercial Activities	720,800	247,432

	2025	2024
Other Revenue		
Sundry Income	8,571	132,624
Merchandise	1,987	4,302
Total Other Revenue	10,558	136,926

Other Revenue comprises \$1,987 (2024: \$4,302) from National Office and \$8,571 (2024: \$132,624) from the Branches and Groups.

	2025	2024
Investment Revenue / (Losses) - Net		
Interest Received	185,682	194,727
Interest Received - JB Were Portfolio	209,270	255,068
Dividends Received - JB Were Portfolio	249,078	261,802
Realised Gains / (Losses) on JB Were Portfolio	(529,126)	(55,441)
Unrealised Gains / (Losses) on JB Were Portfolio	2,186,991	760,309
Total Investment Revenue / (Losses) - Net	2,301,895	1,416,465
	2025	2024

3. Expenses

Expenses Related to Commercial Activities		
Activator Programme	22,233	30,765
Events	78,353	90,200
Forestry Expenses	395,547	37,893
Projects	36,872	118,967
RWNZ Express	37,130	37,880
Total Expenses Related to Commercial Activities	570,135	315,704
	2025	2024

Other Expenses Related to Service Delivery

Accounting Fees	37,743	41,981
AGM Costs	12,323	12,664
Audit Fees	32,445	30,917
Board & Regional Leadership Expenses	112,481	107,990
Board Honorarium	100,682	106,158
Branch Expenses	70,044	76,819
Computer and Database Expenses	16,955	12,752
General Expenses	85,539	101,457
Investment Portfolio Management Expenses	99,601	87,427
Legal Fees	107,232	7,460
Marketing and Promotion	37,172	35,508
Printing & Stationery	9,620	10,377
Professional Services	102,204	69,741
Regional Review	234,156	2,087

	2025	2024
Rent Expenses	69,347	69,068
RWNZ Annual Report	11,806	5,787
Subscriptions	12,209	22,481
Total Other Expenses Related to Service Delivery	1,151,559	800,676

General expenses comprise \$66,797 (2024: \$43,822) from National Office and \$18,742 (2024: \$57,635) from the Branches and Groups.

	2025	2024
Other Expenses		
Depreciation and Amortisation	17,400	30,372
Total Other Expenses	17,400	30,372

	2025	2024
4. Cash and Short Term Deposits		
ANZ Current Account	18,141	76,297
ANZ Membership Account	2,806	29,269
Branch Cash and Cash Equivalents	666,566	749,690
Rural Women NZ - Bursaries	20,791	4,426
Rural Women NZ - Scotlands	11,120	12,878
Credit Cards	(2,245)	(4,444)
Total Cash and Short Term Deposits	717,179	868,116

Term deposits are presented as cash equivalents if they have a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

The National Office has a credit card limit of \$20,000 overall.

	2025	2024
5. Debtors and Prepayments		
Goods & Services Tax	28,987	634
Trade and Other Receivables	86,388	70,676
Prepayments	25,021	13,952
Total Debtors and Prepayments	140,396	85,261

	2025	2024
6. Investments		
Term Deposits and Investments - Current		
Bank Term Deposits - Education and Bursary, Scotlands Te Kiteroa, Health New Zealand	1,295,000	1,305,716
Branch Investments	1,612,046	1,321,333
Branch Investments Tagged for Specific Reserves	453,658	468,401
Total Term Deposits and Investments - Current	3,360,703	3,095,451

	2025	2024
Investments - Non Current		
JB Were Portfolio - Cash	668,677	209,032
JB Were Portfolio - Fixed Interest Bonds	5,762,814	6,523,447
JB Were Portfolio - Equities	12,128,597	11,582,002
Total Investments - Non Current	18,560,088	18,314,481
Total Investments	21,920,791	21,409,931

At 30 June 2025 the Scotlands and Education Bursary term deposits had an interest rate of 4.1% (2024: Scotlands and Education Bursary 5.9%). The Health New Zealand Bursary term deposit matured during the year.

JB Were Portfolio:

Current Year

Asset Class	Valuation Method	Opening Carrying Amount	Capital In	Funds Withdrawn	Interest & Dividend Income	Gains/(Losses) on revaluation	Fees, Taxes & Rebates	Closing Carrying Amount
JB Were Portfolio - Managed Fund	Current Market Value	18,314,481	25,000	(1,796,005)	514,833	1,642,132	(140,353)	18,560,088
Total		18,314,481	25,000	(1,796,005)	514,833	1,642,132	(140,353)	18,560,088

Last Year

Asset Class	Valuation Method	Opening Carrying Amount	Capital In	Funds Withdrawn	Interest & Dividend Income	Gains/(Losses) on revaluation	Fees, Taxes & Rebates	Closing Carrying Amount
JB Were Portfolio - Managed Fund	Current Market Value	18,260,169	-	(1,080,000)	562,378	704,869	(132,935)	18,314,481
Total		18,260,169	-	(1,080,000)	562,378	704,869	(132,935)	18,314,481

Source and Date of Valuation for each Class of Investments Recorded at Current Market Value

Asset class	Source of Valuation	Date of Valuation
JB Were Portfolio - Managed Fund	JBWere (NZ) Limited	30/06/2025

7. Property, Plant, and Equipment

	FORESTRY LAND	175 VICTORIA STREET	FIXTURES AND FITTINGS	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	OTHER BRANCH PPE	TOTAL
Property Plant and Equipment						
As at 30 June 2024						
Cost	255,000	11,741	65,810	115,115	41,556	489,222
Accumulated Depreciation	-	(763)	(42,143)	(100,870)	(26,432)	(170,208)
Net book amount	255,000	10,978	23,668	14,245	15,124	319,015
Year ended 30 June 2025						
Opening net book amount	255,000	10,978	23,668	14,245	15,124	319,015
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge	-	(704)	(5,262)	(10,474)	-	(16,440)
Closing net book amount	255,000	10,274	18,406	3,772	15,124	302,575
As at 30 June 2025						
Cost	255,000	11,741	65,810	115,115	41,556	489,222
Accumulated depreciation	-	(1,468)	(47,404)	(111,343)	(26,432)	(186,647)
Net book amount	255,000	10,274	18,406	3,772	15,124	302,575

The land includes the 292 acres of forestry land upon which the Rural Women New Zealand Forestry Scheme (Southland) Incorporated operates.

The land was originally donated in 1948, and over the years, the founders and successors of the Scheme has turned this into a profitable scheme. The trees are harvested on a rotational basis every few years, and the planted area is in various degrees of maturity. The profits from the operations are distributed to the provincials and branches within the Southland region. The distributed profits are used for charitable purposes in line with Rural Women New Zealand's purpose, benefiting the surrounding communities within Southland.

The forest has been carried at nil book value, since the provincial has not undertaken a market valuation from an independent valuer. A proxy for the market value of the forest cannot be performed reliably without an independent valuer sighting and determining the condition of the forest.

During the year, the branch earned NZ\$609,493 from the full harvest of its forestry block. This income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance as Revenue from Commercial Activities. The land remains under the charity's ownership and is intended to be replanted for future forestry operations.

8. Intangible Assets

	NATIONAL OFFICE - WEBSITE	NATIONAL OFFICE - DATABASE	CARBON CREDITS	TOTAL
Intangible Assets				
As at 30 June 2024				
Cost or valuation	75,570	2,400	223,184	301,154
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(75,570)	(240)	-	(75,810)
Net book amount	-	2,160	223,184	225,344
Year ended 30 June 2025				
Opening net book amount	-	2,160	223,184	225,344
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	(1,924)	(1,924)
Amortisation charge	-	(960)	-	(960)
Closing net book amount	-	1,200	221,260	222,460
As at 30 June 2025				
Cost or valuation	75,570	2,400	221,260	299,230
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(75,570)	(1,200)	-	(76,770)
Net book amount	-	1,200	221,260	222,460

The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (“ETS”) became law on 26 September 2008 with the passing of the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading) Amendment Act 2008 (the Act). Rural Woman New Zealand Forestry Scheme (Southland) Incorporated is a participant in the ETS as it is an owner of pre 1990 forest land.

The Act provides for the credits to be transferred in two parts. 23 New Zealand carbon credits (NZUs) per hectare were transferred in the 2011 year. The 2,392 NZU’s at the net value received when sold were recognised as income in the 2011 Statement of Financial Performance.

The balance being 3,848 NZU’s were transferred on 9 January 2013 at \$2.05 per unit, and are recorded as an intangible asset in the Balance Sheet. The market value of carbon credits is \$57.50 as at March 2025 (2024 \$58.00).

Under the ETS the entity will have an obligation to account for any emission released as a consequence of deforestation of pre 1990 forest land by surrendering NZUs to the extent of that emission. The entity has no liability for deforestation as at 31 March 2025.

	2025	2024
9. Creditors and Accrued Expenses		
Trade Payables	119,183	71,216
Accrued Expenses	51,700	64,930
Payments Held / to be Refunded	16	200
Funds Held on behalf - Rose Sales	31,363	-
Funds Held on behalf - Shepherdess Magazine	478	-
Total Creditors and Accrued Expenses	202,741	136,346

10. Contingencies

As at 30 June 2025 the Society had no contingent liabilities or assets (2024: nil).

	2025	2024
11. Operating Lease Commitments		
No later than 1 year	75,077	71,952
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	151,143	203,976
Later than 5 years	-	-
Total Operating Lease Commitments	226,220	275,928

No other material commitments requiring disclosure have been identified by the Board and CEO of the Society (2024: Nil).

	2025	2024
12. Deferred Revenue		
Membership Subscriptions - Prepayments by members towards their next year's membership	6,809	180
Activator Programme Income (MPI Sponsorship) - Received June 2025, sponsorship towards costs for FY2026 (2024: Received June 2024)	48,000	44,000
Grant (Health NZ) - 2025: Nil (2024: Received May 2024, delivered August 2024)	-	93,003
Grant (MPI North Island Weather Event) - 2025: Nil (2024: Received FY2024, outstanding funding allocated in the next year)	-	3,153
Total Deferred Revenue	54,809	140,336

13. Project and Events Income and Expenses

The Project and Events Income and Expense line items include only projects and events run from National Office and do not use the Specific Reserves funds or Adverse Events, or projects run by Branches and Groups.

Activities included under Project Expenses are:

- Activator Programme
- NZI Rural Women New Zealand Awards
- Field Days / Major Events
- MPI North Island Weather Event
- Trauma Course
- AGM
- Centenary Project
- Trauma / Wellbeing Support and Workshops

(2024: Activator Programme, NZI Rural Women New Zealand Awards, Field Days / Major Events, MPI North Island Weather Event, Trauma Course, AGM, Centenary Project, Trauma / Wellbeing Support and Workshops)

14. Accumulated Funds

	CARBON CREDIT REVALUATION RESERVE	SPECIAL RESERVE	SPECIFIC RESERVE	RETAINED EARNINGS	TOTAL EQUITY
2024					
Balance as at 1 July 2023	207,792	1,352	1,402,830	20,957,671	22,569,645
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	-	-	-	24,639	24,639
Revaluation of Carbon Credits	15,392	-	-	-	15,392
Funds Transferred from Retained Earnings to Special & Specific Reserves	-	2,094	94,777	(96,871)	-
Transfer between Branch Specific Reserves and Retained Earnings	-	-	468,401	(468,401)	-
Balance as at 30 June 2024	223,184	3,446	1,966,008	20,417,038	22,609,676
2025					
Balance as at 1 July 2024	223,184	3,446	1,966,008	20,417,038	22,609,676
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	-	-	-	435,056	435,056
Revaluation of Carbon Credits	(1,924)	-	-	-	(1,924)
Funds Transferred from Retained Earnings to Special & Specific Reserves	-	6,359	41,223	(47,583)	-
Transfer between Branch Specific Reserves and Retained Earnings	-	-	(14,743)	14,743	-
Balance as at 30 June 2025	221,260	9,805	1,992,488	20,819,255	23,042,808
				2025	2024

Special and Specific Reserves

Special Reserve Balances

ACWW - Pennies for Friendship Projects	26	-
ACWW - Subscriptions	803	1,928
ACWW - Projects for the Pacific	-	20
ACWW - Women Walk the World	717	-
International Fund	-	20
National Project - "O is for"	15	15
National Project - Leptospirosis	8,245	1,464
Total Special Reserve Balances	9,805	3,446

Specific Reserve Balances

Adverse Events	109,951	108,674
Branch Specific Reserves	453,658	468,401
Community Grant	65,574	66,143
Education and Bursary Fund	596,346	574,308
Miss Harris Tertiary Nursing Bursary	18,159	18,669
Nellie Schroder Bursary Fund	5,807	5,601
Scotlands Te Kiteroa Charitable Grant	742,993	724,212
Total Specific Reserve Balances	1,992,488	1,966,008

Total Special and Specific Reserves	2,002,293	1,969,454
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Special Reserves:

These reserves have been established by the governing body of Rural Women New Zealand using funds from grants and donations for special society activities and projects, which may be of a short term or continuing nature.

Specific Reserves:

These funds are set aside for specific purposes. The Rural Women New Zealand society rules state the origins and charitable purposes for which the Community Fund and Education and Bursary Fund may be used.

The following specific reserves fund a range of bursaries, grants and scholarships for which eligible individuals or organisations can apply. Further details can be found on Rural Women New Zealand's website:

<https://www.ruralwomennz.nz/our-funds-and-grants>

- Community Fund
- Adverse Events Relief Fund
- Scotlands Te Kiteroa Charitable Grant
- Education and Bursary Fund
- Nellie Schroeder Bursary Fund
- Miss Harris Tertiary Nursing Bursary

Bursaries funded from the Education and Bursary Fund reserve include: Secondary School Boarding Bursaries; the Florence Polson Secondary School Bursary; the Diamond Jubilee Agricultural Tertiary Bursary; Education and Training Grants for people over 25 years of age one of which is the Audrey Reid Grant; and Text Book Grants.

Reserve Interest:

In prior years a reserve interest adjustment has been included to recognise the interest earned in the Statement of Financial Performance from funds that relate to special and specific reserves (excluding Education & Bursaries Fund and Scotlands Te Kiteroa Charitable Grant). The funds that relate to special and specific reserves are included in the JB Were Portfolio. The return on these funds is calculated based on the average return of the JB Were Portfolio through the year.

Revaluation Reserve:

This reserve has been established to recognise the change in fair value of applicable property, plant and equipment and intangible assets in order to recognise these assets at their fair value. As at 30 June 2025, the revaluation reserve balance of \$221,260 represents the market value of the carbon credits owned by Rural Women New Zealand Forestry Scheme (Southland) Incorporated (2024: \$223,184).

15. Branches, Regions, Provincials and Groups

The 2025 consolidation of Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated includes reporting from the National Office and 121 (2024: 133) branches regions, provincials and other groups.

All entities have a balance date of 30 June with the exception of:

- Rural Women New Zealand Forestry Scheme (Southland) Incorporated - 31 March 2025

Every entity is reporting 12 months of activity. In the opinion of the Board there is no material difference from the reporting dates for these entities and the 30 June balance date for the Group.

A reporting pack is provided to all entities within the Group. If an entity has not reported, follow up enquiries are made. If a group has ceased operating during the financial year and has not provided their financial information as part of the winding up process, this information is requested and followed up by National Office staff. For any Branches or Groups who did not provide their financial statements these entities are retained in consolidated equity at their last reported balance. In the cases where Branches or Groups have been unable to provide their 30 June 2025 bank statements, the Board members have concluded that any potential error could not be material to the group financial information reported.

In the 2024 consolidation, some branches did not provide financial statements. The equity for these branches was retained at their last reported balances. Following late reporting, the information was quantified and an expense adjustment of \$197 was recorded to reflect updated financial activity.

It is acknowledged by the Board that a risk exists that not all assets and liabilities within the Group are captured. However as a result of the procedures performed, the Board considers the reported information of the reporting entities within the Group to be materially complete for the purposes of these financial statements.

16. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 30 June 2025 (2024: none).

17. Events after Balance Date

There were no significant events after balance date (2024: none).

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED**

Opinion

We have audited the performance report of Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated (“the Society”) which comprises the entity information, the statement of service performance, the statement of financial performance, and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2025, the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, and the statement of accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion:

- the accompanying performance report presents fairly, in all material respects:
 - the entity information for the year ended 30 June 2025;
 - the service performance for the year then ended; and
 - the financial position of the Society as at 30 June 2025, and its financial performance, and cash flows for the year then ended

in accordance with the Tier 3 (Not-For-Profit (NFP)) Standard (“Tier 3 NFP Standard”) issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, statement of accounting policies, and notes to the performance report in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (“ISAs (NZ)”), and the audit of the entity information and statement of service performance in accordance with New Zealand Auditing Standard 1 (NZ AS 1) (Revised) *The Audit of Service Performance Information*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Performance Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand)* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Society.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Performance Report

The directors are responsible for:

- The preparation, and fair presentation of the performance report in accordance with the Tier 3 NFP Standard.
- The selection of elements/aspects of service performance, performance measures and/or descriptions and measurement bases or evaluation methods that present a statement of service performance that is appropriate and meaningful in accordance with the Tier 3 NFP Standard.

- The preparation and fair presentation of the statement of service performance in accordance with the Society's measurement bases or evaluation methods, in accordance with the Tier 3 NFP Standard.
- The overall presentation, structure and content of the statement of service performance in accordance with the Tier 3 NFP Standard.
- Such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a performance report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the performance report, the directors are responsible on behalf of the Society for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting the directors either intend to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Performance Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and NZ AS 1 will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance report.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and NZ AS 1, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the directors and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the performance report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance report and whether the performance report represents the underlying transactions and events, and elements/aspects of service performance in accordance with the Tier 3 NFP Standard, in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Who we Report to

This report is made solely to the Society's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Society and the Society's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

BDO Wellington Audit Limited

BDO WELLINGTON AUDIT LIMITED

Wellington
New Zealand
13 October 2025

Motion

THAT Rural Women New Zealand increases the Boarding bursaries to \$1,000 a year.

Rationale

The secondary school boarding bursaries had been set at an amount of \$900 per annum many years ago. There are a number of boarding bursaries, some awarded for one year and some paid each year for up to four years subject to the recipient continuing at boarding school. They are paid from the interest on the Education and Bursaries Funds invested. Donations are received to this fund each year, which build the amount invested. Currently there is \$570,000 in the Education and Bursaries Fund.

National Board Reports

Portfolio Reports

This report provides an overview of activity in relation to each of the Rural Women New Zealand public policy areas over the past financial year.

Our Policy Action Advisory Groups (PAAG) have contributed to a range of submissions and consultation responses during the reporting year, and have provided a connection between policy discussions in Wellington and the realities of life in rural communities. PAAGs meet regularly through the year. Our thanks to all those who participate either directly as a member of a PAAG or through providing information to the PAAGS.

PAAG	Board Convenor
Community and Social Inclusion	Sharron Davie-Martin
Connectivity and Business	Nicole Oliver
Education	Frances Beeston
Environment and Land Use	Sandra Matthews
Health	Bronwyn Main
International	Sandra Matthews

The summary below is an outline of key activities and engagement for each of the policy areas.

Community and Social Inclusion

The Community and Social Inclusion Portfolio focuses on a wide range of social issues impacting people's lives including access to community services, community inclusion and engagement, safety and security. We consider access to services and social support are fundamental to attracting and retaining a rural workforce and building sustainable communities. During 2024/25 our work included:

- Regular involvement in EQC Toko Tu Ake EQC National Reference Group and sub-committees convened by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

- Regular involvement in NAEC National Adverse Event Committee, including Drought Meeting
- Participation in and representation on Safer Farms
- Engagement and contribution to firearms safety through a relationship with Firearms Safety Authority FCAF and Firearms Community Advisory Group (FCAF) Wellington
- Submissions included:
 - *Submission on the Finance and Expenditure Committee's Inquiry into Banking Competition* – RWNZ advocated for improved banking access in rural areas and measures to address the closure of rural branches and reduced access to financial services.
 - *Proposed Changes to NZ Post's Minimum Obligations Under the Postal Deed of Understanding* – RWNZ strongly opposed any reduction in rural postal services, stressing the essential role reliable mail delivery plays in rural connectivity and community wellbeing.

Connectivity and Business

The Connectivity and Business Portfolio has focussed on advocating for affordable, reliable and equitable digital connectivity. To assist with this goal, the Portfolio has:

- Refreshed and reset our strategy to focus on influencing policy and decision-making that supports digitally connected, economically vibrant rural communities.
- Advocated with industry on reliable access to internet and communication ahead of 3G shutdown and copper internet market changes. Presented at the TUANZ Connectivity (Tech users Association NZ) Summit in May. Also attended the TUANZ Tech Users Summit in September.
- Actively engaged with media to elevate the profile and visibility of these issues.

- Submissions included:
 - *Submission on Copper Services Investigation* – RWNZ highlighted the importance of maintaining copper-based telecommunications services in rural areas where fibre and mobile coverage remain unreliable or unavailable.

Education

The Education Portfolio maintains oversight of all components of the education system from early childhood through to tertiary studies, with a strong focus on access to education for those living rurally. During 2024/25 this included:

- Representation on the Rural Education Reference Group (RERG), and relationship with Chair Andrew King. Meeting quarterly, this forum brings together all sectors involved in education in rural NZ. Topics covered have included school buses and transport safety issues, attendance and potential curriculum changes that could galvanise RWNZ to push the remit put to them to raise the issue of food budgeting and cooking
- Ongoing relationship with Federated Farmers related to RERG, and to education.
- Continuing a focus on raising awareness of school bus and transport safety issues and engaging and assisting communities where possible. These include:
 - Engagement in regions with the Rural Primary School – Principals and chair to get feedback on the issues they are having around school buses
 - Meeting with Sandra Matthews and CE Marie Fitzpatrick with Minister Patterson and Hon Erica Stanford about school buses
 - Follow up RERG online session re school bus policy issues.
- Continued building and maintenance of relationships with Ministry of Education transport staff
- Engagement with Group Manager for School Transport, James Meffan, to the current policy and issues arising from it
- Lodging of submissions regarding Early Childhood Education (ECE) and VET

- Co-ordination and Chairing of the Education Bursaries and Grants Committee.

Environment and Land Use

The Environment and Land Use Portfolio has focussed on the interface between environment and land use reforms and changes and the intersection with rural communities.

- Key relationships maintained, including with Landcare Trust, Working with Federated Farmers policy team on the Biosecurity Act submission
- Continued relationships with stakeholders such as Rural Supplies & Consumer Group Teams (23/1/25 meeting - Taumata Arowai), on issues such as changes to water regulations
- Representation at the NEAC meeting on El Niño weather conditions and potential impacts
- RWNZ has been working with Federated Farmers regarding advocacy. Federated Farmers has been incorporating the RWNZ community focus into their submissions where appropriate, to ensure our voice is heard while transitioning to a permanent policy employee.

Health

The Health Portfolio has focussed on issues around equity and access to health services for rural communities. During 2024/25 this included:

- Engaging with a range of relevant parties in a number of ways, including attendance and participation in a Combined Road show focusing on rural health
- Meetings attended by Sandra Matthews, Frances Beeston and Bronwyn Main with Minister Mark Patterson and Hon Matt Doocey regarding rural health and particularly mental health access and response in rural communities
- Participation at the Hauora Taiwhenua RuralFest held at Parliament with other chapters of Hauora Taiwhenua, Government Ministers and opposition party representatives.
- Ensuring a range of parliamentary, reviews and requests were responded to
- Engagement with Health New Zealand

- Regular meetings and discussions with Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Community Chapter, with discussions focused on PRIME care, GP's and nurses under continued growing pressure, St John ambulance and critical care responses, maternity care, reduced budgets and ministry stress with staff role disestablishment
- Keeping issues related to rural health in front of the public by actively raising awareness through media interviews, and promotion of key issues. This includes RNZ and Stuff interviews on Mental Health awareness and support, and an Interviews on Menopause medication shortage
- Submissions included:
 - *Suicide Prevention Action Plan* – RWNZ called for rural-specific approaches to suicide prevention, underlining the unique pressures and barriers to support that exist in rural communities
 - *Feedback on Oestradiol Patch Proposals* – RWNZ expressed concern at Pharmac's initial proposal to fund only Estradiol TDP Mylan and supported the later proposal to also fund Estradot patches, emphasising the need for accessibility and choice for rural women

International Portfolio - Report from the Past and Current President

Our work in the International Portfolio area encompasses our links to the global organisation, Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) and work with the International Women's Caucus here in New Zealand.

An important link is provided by ACWW to other groups of rural women across the globe. RWNZ contributes to their work in an international environment on policy and advocacy efforts, as well as having the benefit of their presence at key global forum such as the United Nations. RWNZ provides support through participation in ACWW Women Walk the World Fundraising events and donations to their work. RWNZ supported Claire Mahon's nomination for re-election on to the ACWW Board, elections take place in April 2026.

RWNZ continues its involvement with the International Women's Caucus - a collaborative New Zealand based group facilitated by the Ministry for Women. It brings together government and civil organisations from facets of society dedicated to empowerment and equity for women and girls. It supports New Zealand's participation at international level in forums where this is a focus, including the United Nations.

The ACWW South Pacific Conference was held in Griffith Australia, with delegates from Tuvalu, Tonga and Fiji in attendance as well as Australia and NZ. RWNZ was able to have eight delegates attend. Included in the delegation were Jeanette Tarbotton former ACWW South Pacific Chair, Claire Mahon Current Trustee, and Colleen Tiller, who has attended 20 ACWW Conferences. RWNZ also financially supported the attendance of two of the Island Delegates.

We are turning our thoughts to the future and look forward to planning and preparing for the – ACWW Conference 2026 in Ottawa, Canada.

Submissions included:

- *Report to the United Nations on Achieving Equality for Women* – Our International Policy Action Advisory Group (PAAG) contributed to a report to the UN coordinated by the National Council of Women on how New Zealand is faring in upholding the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Letter from ACWW President

Magdie de Kock

Rural Women New Zealand Centennial year - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE To the President and Members of Rural Women New Zealand.

Dear Friends, dear ACWW members.

As we gather to celebrate a remarkable milestone – the centenary of your organisation, I take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey that has brought us to this point. For one hundred years, your organisation has been a beacon of hope, a catalyst for change and a champion of progress.

Since your affiliation in 1986, ACWW has been witnessing your history unfold and it has been our privilege to be playing a part together in shaping and activating rural women in action. ACWW honours the countless individuals and visionaries who contributed their time, talent and dedication to found your organisation, driven by passion to make a difference. We have witnessed the impact you have had on communities and lives throughout your history. Rural Women New Zealand has been at the forefront of rural issues, ensuring that the voices of your members and their families are heard and the objectives of your founding members remain central to your authoritative voice on policy and decision-making.

As we mark this significant anniversary, we also look to the future of both our organisations. We need to accept that the world is changing rapidly, and we must adapt, evolve and innovate to remain relevant. We must harness the power of new technologies, new ideas and new partnerships to address the complex challenges of our time.

As you reset for the future and recommit to your core values of integrity, compassion and excellence, ACWW will continue to support your mission to improving lives, promoting understanding and driving progress.

Dear President and Members of Rural Women New Zealand, ACWW is looking forward to supporting you on this journey into the future. Together let us write the next chapter in your organisation's history. Let us embrace the opportunities, overcome the challenges and create a brighter future for all.

Congratulations to your organisation on its centenary! May the next hundred years be even more remarkable than the last.

Kindest regards,

Magdie

ACWW World President 2019 – 2026



Centennial Project Report

Bronwyn Main | Centennial Committee Chair

In July 25 we commence the start of our milestone Centennial year. A time to acknowledge, honour and celebrate our achievements, our history and the members who made this happen by service simply given.

A special project throughout this year was ensuring a solid foundation was in place for the upcoming RWNZ Centennial, which officially starts in July 2025.

Despite the passage of time, the reasons the Women's Division of the Farmer's Union (now RWNZ) was founded on back in 1925 remain the same – providing connection and support and advocating for rural issues like health, education, social issues and connection for our rural women and communities.

As an exceptional milestone in our history, we have worked diligently to ensure our Centennial will be a wonderful year of honouring our legacy, celebrating, and embracing our future.

In preparation for the year ahead the members have worked tirelessly to unearth a treasure chest of our artefacts that will be on display at local functions, thus allowing members present, past and future to gain a deeper insight, understanding and appreciation into our organisation, and our history. Led by a Centennial Committee there are a number of incredible celebrations planned for the year ahead.

The first launch project has been the Rural Women Rose – the brainchild of the Fordell Mangamahu branch, their Rose Committee and Matthews Nurseries Limited. This will include several plantings in significant gardens to ensure our ongoing legacy celebrated in the form of a beautiful rose. The profits from the sale of the 1600 roses will go to education bursaries for rural youth.

We are also curating a Centennial book which will be launched after July 2026, this is to ensure Centennial events happening towards the end of the Centennial year can be included and celebrated.



There is merchandise you can purchase to celebrate the Centennial year, all will be for sale on the RWNZ website, this includes a tea towel with our timeline, stemless glasses and a pin featuring the Centennial logo. We have also worked with Southward Distilling, a female owned, Wellington gin company to create a limited-edition colour changing gin.

Each of our eight regions have been allocated funding to ensure a planned succession of events throughout the country, these special events are to ensure we connect (and in some cases reconnect) with our members past present and future.

These events will unearth some gems of history, service and dedication, and are a testimony to our members organising abilities and the special enduring relationships we have with our supporters. An event calendar is available online on the RWNZ website.

Our ancestry project tracing the families of the original founding members has been a labour of

love led by Pat Macaulay. It will be completed by end of Centennial Year and is scheduled to be included in the Centennial Book.

The Pat Evans Centennial Scholarship will also be launched. This honours Pat Evans' notable contribution to Rural Women New Zealand and rural communities and has been established to improve education and support improved health access for women and rural communities.

In anticipation of the Centennial, the first of many planned regional centennial events also took place. In Cromwell, Central Otago branches from past and present members gathered to connect and celebrate.

Other activities in the lead up have included media engagement around the promotion of the Centennial and a Centennial logo being created. This pink hued badge logo celebrates RWNZ's proud legacy and can be used for all events, publications and celebrations.

This report honours everyone who has gone before, and the current members who have given thousands of hours to this organisation to ensure its existence, its strong foundations and a solid embracing inclusive connected way forward for the future to come, I look forward to celebrating with you all.

Charitable Funding Report

Scotlands Te Kiteroa Charitable Fund

This Fund originated from proceeds from the sale of the Scotlands (Auckland) and Te Kiteroa (Waimate) Rest Homes. Each year interest from the Fund is disbursed to the community in the form of grants for up to \$1,500. These grants support projects and activities related to the welfare of children and the elderly, community, conservation and education.

Grants made this year for 10 successful applications totalled \$15,000 and included projects covering support for programmes centred on youth development, a project to support local communities by purchasing short wave radios, supporting a local emergency centre, parenting programmes, teaching children how to grow and cook their own food and conservation activities.

Committee:

- Sandra Matthews (Chair), National President
- Annette Marr, National Finance Chair
- Margaret Jones, South Island representative
- Wendy Coup, North Island representative
- Tamzin Coull, North Island representative

This committee also assesses applications for the Cynthia Collier Grant, a grant that was made possible due to the generosity of the family of Cynthia Collier, a rural community stalwart and long-standing Rural Women New Zealand member. This grant was approved in June 2025 and was a contribution to Hawarden Waikari Community Vehicle Trust for a replacement vehicle.

Education and Bursaries Fund

This financial year \$16,400 was paid out in Education Bursaries and Textbook Grants.

Grants were made up as follows:

Grants	Grants Made	Total Amount Paid
Boarding Bursaries Y9 & Y10	7	\$6,300
Tertiary Bursary	2	\$2,000
Ruby Stokes Education Bursary ¹		
Florence Polson Bursary	1	\$1,000
Education fund	4	\$2,000
Diamond Jubilee Agricultural Tertiary Bursary	1	\$1,000
Textbook Grants	5	\$2,500
Miss Harris Nursing Bursary ²	1	\$1,000
Audrey Reid Grant	1	\$600
Total	22	\$16,400

1 No applications received

2 Only awarded once every two years (even years)

Committee:

- Frances Beeston (Chair), RWNZ Education Portfolio Convenor
- Sandra Matthews, National President
- Annette Marr, National Finance Chair
- Ruth Thomson, South Island representative
- Rachel Whalley, North Island representative

Special one-off Health New Zealand grants

Health New Zealand partnered with RWNZ to provide financial assistance to rural students of health studies. A total pool of funding of \$90,000 for study grants was provided to students from rural communities, in amounts of between \$2,500 and \$5,000. We received a high volume of interest in these grants. We are grateful to the Education Committee (above) for their support to assess these applications.

Community Fund

The Community Fund is administered by the RWNZ Board. The fund is open to grant applications of up to \$1,000 to assist those in rural New Zealand who have suffered hardship in situations that are not covered by the Adverse Events Relief Fund.

In the 2024/2025 financial year, a total of \$3,000 was granted to recipients in need.

Adverse Events Relief Fund

At the year ending 30 June 2025, we had paid out \$14,000 in grants. Grants were made to support those in need in the Declared Adverse Events area's of Otago drought, Nelson Marlborough flooding and Cyclone Gabrielle. Thanks to the continued generosity of fundraising efforts by RWNZ members, as well as donations from the general public, we have been able to continue to provide support where it is needed.

Committee:

- Sharron Davie-Martin (Chair), Board Member
- Sandra Matthews, National President
- Annette Marr, National Finance Chair
- Melva Robb, South Island representative
- Tamzin Coull, North Island representative

Regional Charitable funding

Bursaries and Grants allocated from our regional entities.

In addition to our national charitable funds many of our regional provincials and branches support their local communities with education and community grants that are allocated annually.

This year the following grants and bursaries have been distributed regionally.

Branch	Grants Made	Total Amount Paid
R1 - Southland Provincial Forestry	1	\$6,000
R4 - Fordell/Mangamahu (Wanganui Education Fund)	13	\$5,911
R4 - Tutaenui	1	\$500
R5 – Rimanui	3	\$5,850
R6 - North Taranaki Provincial	4	\$8,000
R6 – Waikato Provincial	1	\$515
R6 - Waipa King Country Provincial	1	\$2,000
Total	41	28,776

Regional Leadership Reports

Region 1 | Lower South Island

Focus

To strengthen membership and branch connections across the region while supporting the community.

Achievements

Members stepping up in the Clutha District and Southland areas when they were hit by flooding. In the Clutha district this was led by former RWNZ Regional Leader Raewyn van Vught who connected with the Clutha District Civil defence and other agencies getting food and pamper parcels to in-need households followed by sponsorship of the Rural Support Trust Time Out tour event in Balclutha which was well supported.

Also:

- Visits and donations to K9 Medical Detection NZ Trust in Mosgiel
- Scam Savvy workshop – Wanaka
- Southland Interprovincial donations of lymphoedema pumps and garments for loan managed by J Smith, Foveaux Therapy to assist patients before purchasing their own pumps and garments.
- Southland International Rural Women's Day focus on Bouncing back from adversity and celebrating International Women's Day Hawthorne Gardens Invercargill both well supported.
- A & P show stands Central Otago, Invercargill and North Otago
- RWNZ Forestry Scheme (Southland) Inc. ongoing presence and providing for southland and annual day out this year to the Niagara Sawmill plant and Otatara community Nursery and the Castledowns Wetlands Area – on-going membership support in maintaining the area
- Farm Safety Days – Drummond and West Otago
- Central Otago's Frock up day for Ovarian Cancer
- Facebook page, and a big thank you to Alison Moore whose photography and communications have been outstanding who has passed management across to Leona Trimble.
- Ongoing sponsorship of the Southland Beef & Lamb Long lunch panel of guest speakers
- Flatters cookbooks to Year 13 graduates Waiau Area School – Clifden Branch
- Women's Wellness Evening Tokarahi and Hampdens annual Pink Ribbon fundraiser

Celebrating success

- 3 May 2025 Central Otago Centennial Celebration held in Lowburn being the first event of the centennial years celebration
- 100 year birthday celebration for Barbara Johnston former North Otago President, and current Five Forks Member
- Nicola Rae Central Otago and Katrina Thomas Southland supported to undertake the leader development program and their giving back to our region.
- The ongoing silent gifts of time, baking, meals, knitting, community donations and connection being the grassroots of our membership base.

Challenges

- Updating the Southland forestry constitution to ensure the future benefits back to the branches for community donations
- Connecting with agencies and support networks to distribute 390 brand new bras donated by Rose & Thorne out to women in need. Ongoing project to ensure community needs are met
- Maintaining and growing membership through new and existing initiatives.

Lynda Perniskie
Regional Leader

Region 2 | Canterbury

Focus

With no Region Leader in place from November 2024 to July 2025, our region will continue building on the previous year's focus.

Our key priorities are membership and engagement—encouraging rural women to see the value of belonging to RWNZ and welcoming new members. We also work on ways to involve the growing number of members who are not linked to a Branch or Provincial, ensuring they too have opportunities to participate.

Just as importantly, we remain focused on supporting and connecting all members, strengthening communication so everyone feels included and part of the wider national organisation.

Achievements

Member events for the year included:

- Darfield and Glenroy came together to host a Rural Skills and Empowerment Day, where women enjoyed learning about health, wellbeing, gardening, and even chainsaw use and care. Mid Canterbury's Wellness Day brought 34 women together to hear from guest speaker Alicia Mabey of *Motivating Me*, leaving everyone inspired. In South Canterbury, the focus was on Health and Wellbeing, with both morning and evening sessions offered so all women could take part. The event attracted 43 registrations, most from women new to RWNZ, showing the strong interest in what we do.
- Mid Canterbury once again ran a very successful Cook and Eat School Holiday Programme, where children had fun cooking and tasting new foods. The favourites of the day were *ars Bar slice* and *chicken stir-fry*! This popular programme is one that could easily be shared and repeated throughout the region.
- Winchmore Branch has started a lovely new idea called *Sip & Chat*—a relaxed monthly get-together at a café in Ashburton. There's no RSVP needed; members can just turn up if they feel like it. In the warmer months, the catch-up may even begin with a refreshing

walk before sitting down together at 10am. It's proving to be a simple but meaningful way for members to stay connected and enjoy each other's company outside formal meetings—and it's an idea that could easily be picked up by other branches too.

Celebrating Success

Rangiora, Darfield–Glenroy, South Canterbury, and Mid Canterbury have embraced a new idea: Dinner Groups. Each area has taken its own approach to running them, and they have proven to be a very successful venture for our region. We are delighted to welcome 10 new members so far through this initiative and look forward to seeing even more join in the future.

The Canterbury Region also continues to receive strong coverage in local newspapers and farming publications, particularly in Mid Canterbury, helping to raise the profile of RWNZ.

Our online presence is growing too. The Canterbury Facebook page is being used to great advantage, with an increasing number of followers and likes. South Canterbury has also established its own Facebook page, which is attracting strong engagement from local rural women.

To keep members informed and connected, a Canterbury Regional newsletter is distributed by email four times a year, sharing updates, advertising upcoming events, and celebrating what's been achieved.

Together, these successes highlight the strength, creativity, and adaptability of our region, and give us confidence as we look to the future.

Challenges

One of our biggest challenges this year has been finding ways to attract new members. To help with this, we're planning three Hui across the region. These will be a chance for new RWNZ members, along with rural women from other groups, to come together, share what matters to them, and help shape how RWNZ can support the next generation of rural women.

In addition, we have introduced dinner groups in each Provincial as another way to connect with rural women and encourage membership.

This has already proven successful, with 10 new members so far.

With these initiatives underway, we are confident that we can continue to grow, strengthen connections, and ensure RWNZ remains relevant and welcoming for rural women today and into the future.

Elsa Hydes

Acting Regional Leader

“ We are confident that we can continue to grow, strengthen connections, and ensure RWNZ remains relevant and welcoming for rural women today and into the future.

Region 3 | Top of the South

Focus

I have pleasure in providing my Annual Report on activities from Region Three.

Region Three has had a very active year, fund raising, and supporting our communities.

Achievements

Marlborough held an informative Road Show bringing attention to Leptospirosis and while doing these shows raised \$2,000 to donate to Leptospirosis Research. Professor Jackie Benschop was guest speaker on Leptospirosis at Region Three Conference hosted by Nelson Provincial, where a large raffle also raised money for research. Conference was an enjoyable time with fun, work, discussion, and camaraderie.

Our Region supports Hospice; making bean bags, cuddle pillows, helping on stalls, collecting for Daffodil Day, Altrussa House; accommodation for patients, and supporting people in Nelson Hospital.

Also supported are Women's Refuge, Learn to Swim lessons, knitting for babies – singlets, beanies, cardies, blankets and booties. Beanies for fire fighters to wear under their helmets, toiletry bags for Nelson Hospital for people who are admitted in emergency situations.

We donate to Hone Hato (St John), Women's Refuge, food banks, Fire Brigades and charities associated with National Office. Play Centres, Schools, the Uplift Project; donating under garments and swim wear to be sent to the Pacific, and children's reading books to Pacific Islands are also supported.

We have held Sales Tables and Bring and Buy, Book Sale Days to raise funds for Christmas Children's Parties, shade sails, Pink Ribbon Morning Teas, or Lunches raising over \$2,500 for Breast Cancer, producing a very successful calendar - showing a day in the life of a Rural Woman. Anzac Services have been supported, also Women Walk the World, Country of Study Canada Meetings, Dinner and Supper meetings as well as Tea and Talk Meetings for the elderly.

It continues to be a privilege to be part of, and to support, our communities.

Barbara McKay

Regional Leader

Region 4 | Lower North Island

It is a privilege to present this report.

Focus

Our focus has been to increase new members, 275 to date, by keeping everyone well informed, encouraging participation in projects and events at grassroots level. When they enjoy meeting other members and share new experiences, they are inspired to lead with new ideas.

It is with sadness that we lost a valued member in Mrs Dawn Nitschke, who founded the Scott's' Ferry Branch, and had been a member for over 65 years. RIP Dawn.

Achievements

At the AGM in November Joan Black was awarded the Olive Craig Tray, Linda Welch and Leonora Spark a Service Award and Julie Perkins won the Marlborough Writing Competition – congratulations ladies.

All the Branches have been very involved with their rural communities during the year and need to be congratulated.

- Fundraising for bursaries, holding public meetings in local halls for "Meet the Candidates", working with Rural Support Trust, Anzac Day, supplying knitting for Woman's Refuge, Children's Hospitals and other likeminded organisations.
- We sent a pallet of goods to the Top of the South for the flood victims.
- Tutaenui successfully held their Plant Sale.
- Fordell/Mangmahu sold 1600 "Rural Women" roses, a wonderful effort, and organised "Women Walk the World" around a rural farm which was a great success.
- Muhunua East raised over \$1,000 by selling lemonade at various events for Leptospirosis, and donated 50 pairs of pyjamas and slippers made by Joanne Simpson to Starship, Woman's Refuge and Wellington Children's Hospital.
- Korokipo delivered 69 Christmas boxes to the Kereru area.

Doing submissions particularly for the O2NL roading, reducing speed limits and around rural schools has been a big issue this year.

Five members attended the Triple FFF in New Plymouth which was great.

Celebrating Success

A summer Celebration was hosted by the R4 Committee at Pahiatua, that was another fun weekend with the Op Shopping fashion parade on Saturday night with old fashioned games played as well. One of the highlights was visiting the local Museum and Monument in honour of the Polish refugees.

The wonderful achievement by Fordell/Mangamahu launching and selling 1600 roses called "Rural Woman" throughout the country, which is a culmination of five years of hard work at times, and are flourishing in gardens now.

Koropiko held the Regional Lunch at the Puketapu Pub. The Puketapu bridge has just opened after Cyclone Gabrielle.

I need to thank our hard working and passionate Committee and all our members who have supported Region Four and contributed to our requests over the past year and wish them all the best for the next year. Thank you for all for your kind invitations to attend events throughout the past year.

Pauline Masters

Regional Leader

Region 5 | Bay of Plenty/Coromandel

Focus

My main focus is to build the region up so we can do another 100 years.

This year, my main focus has been to get word around my Region that Rural Women NZ is still around and we are there for rural communities.

I have had a couple of stands at local A&P shows, and also when I have a chance I hand out the little fold out cards at different functions.

I am also trying to get our Regional meetings out into the region in different places.

Achievements

I have gained a few more new members for my Region.

I attended the Leadership Course which gave me the confidence to start up a new group with a morning tea, so far most of the time the morning tea has been all ladies who are not members but are very interested.

Celebrating Success

I have one new committee member who is also trying to build the Region by thinking of starting a dinner group in her area, roll on next year and we should see more new members in the Region.

A success for me has been getting a morning tea group going and seeing how much the women attending enjoy it. It is now a regular monthly thing.

Challenges

One of my biggest challenges this year has been recruiting people with the time and energy to support events in the region. It is exciting to have some new people join us that are keen to be involved, and hopefully that will grow.

Getting around the region to see different members within the regional budget is difficult as well. Also being relatively new to the position finding my way was a bit of a challenge, but feel more happy about things after attending the Leadership Course.

Mary Nowotarski

Regional Leader

“ I attended the Leadership Course which gave me the confidence to start up a new group with a morning tea.

Region 6 | Greater Waikato

R6 GW has had another successful year of growth with its Region. We can look this is a number of ways, which all fulfilled our strategic goal of Membership Growth.

The number of members has grown, mostly thanks to the Dinner Groups which have been a real focus. We are holding these in Otorohanga, Cambridge, Morrinsville, Matamata, Taupo and Mercer on a 2–3-month cycle. Those that attend certainly fill the goal of inclusivity and diversity, along with the social support that comes with it, making a wonderful mix of women.

Our Provincials and Branches are still doing amazing work to support their communities, with their strong social support and charitable work- we thank you all.

As a Committee, we have accepted the challenge in learning to use the likes of Gecco and Eventbrite to make registrations and keeping track of attendees much easier, and now look forward to learning Humanitix.

Another growth is in our social media presence and our reach- our Facebook followers are up 18% July 24-July 2025, and interactions have gone up 222%, and with our new social media committee member this continues to grow.

Our Regional Newsletter goes out every couple of months, to inform the members, and other women, especially those not on Facebook, what is happening within the Region and wider.

Other growth is in our committee in several ways, we congratulated two of our Team, Bron and Nicole, as they were elected to the RWNZ Board. Succession planning is part of our mindset, so we have welcomed on several new Committee members this year, to support their growth on the RWNZ leadership pathway and learning. It has made it easier with all the keen women from the dinner groups to get involved. Having such a successful succession planning process was a challenge that we have turned into an exciting opportunity.

Women Walk the World in April was a fun day - walking around Hamilton Lake followed by a lovely morning tea and time to chat.

Activator is another highlight each year for us. As a proactive Region, finding Activator participants is part of securing a Waikato event each year, as well as organising the evening session to introduce the Activators to other like-minded ladies, members and RWNZ as an organisation.

Regional Conference is a great way for members to connect, and May's Conference was just that – including women who are non-members coming to join us and hear from our speakers; Christine Rankin on her journey, and the Matahuru Valley Walk team, one of our first Waikato Activators on their very successful business.

The relationship with the Rural Support Trust stays strong as we look at ways to work together

Our planning also involved further promotional ideas- the Photo Competition and the 100 for 100 Challenge- a huge thanks to Kylie for her support on this.

We have been a small hardworking team, and we are proud of what we achieve, and how we connect and communicate to make things work. We look forward to further growth within the Region in the coming year.

Planning was done well in advance for the Centenary and there are some fantastic events planned to celebrate 100 years.

Bring on the rest of 2025-2026!

Fiona Gower ONZM NLM

Region 6 Greater Waikato Regional Leader

Region 6 | Taranaki

The focus of the year was Celebrating 100 years of Rural Women NZ. In Taranaki we have access to a lot of the history, and I personally spent time in the museum archives researching our local stories.

We continue to hold bi-monthly meetings for members and often include guest speakers. These include Taranaki Regional Councillors, local Medical Centre and St John Hato with how to perform CPR etc. Each year we incorporate the Country of Study into our program and continue to pay membership to Associated Country Women of the World.

The Triple F challenge was held in Taranaki over the weekend of April 4-6. A lot of forward planning and effort was put in by a small team, and many lovely comments were forthcoming by attendees. Taranaki Hospice benefited financially from fundraising efforts attached to this event.

We celebrated Margaret Vickers contribution to Taranaki Area Committee in December. After many years she had stood down from Area to concentrate on the Centennial Committee. We presented her with some garden art in the form of the RWNZ logo, that she now proudly displays in their garden adorned with some lights. Even more special was her New Years Award of the Kings Service Medal, for Services to the Community.

The Area Committee works well together and as Regional Leader I am included in all meetings and activities. We no longer have many branches or active Provincials, so the Taranaki Area Committee is the main point of contact for Individual members. Where once we might have attended RWNZ events at our monthly branch meeting, then our bi-monthly Provincial meeting, followed by a co-ordinating of the three Provincials and followed by an annual Waikato Taranaki conference. Now only a few meet at branch, but otherwise members can meet bi-monthly at the Taranaki Area Committee events or perhaps only through the National Office. Our membership numbers have dropped.

We have a program of three Centennial Events planned with the theme "Past, Present, Future". Our program for the year gives us much to look forward to.

Shirley Read

Regional Leader

Region 7 | Top of the North

It is my pleasure to write this report on behalf of Region 7 for the 2024 – 2025 year. It has been a year of continuing with our usual business as well as having eager anticipation for the Centennial year of our organisation.

The remaining Branches in our Region continue to meet regularly and undertake a wide range of activities despite the membership numbers being small. It is great to see so many of our older members continuing to have a keen interest in all things rural especially those that affect the women and families and their well-being. There continue to be some great fundraising efforts throughout the Region to support local needs. There seem to be no barriers to the wonderful work done to support others.

The set up of the new lunch group at Kerikeri is a great success. Not only are the numbers who attend these lunches increasing but the numbers who choose to become RWNZ members is increasing. The group meets every two months and has enjoyed a variety of guest speakers on a range of topics such as a local author talking about her new crime detective novel set in Northland, a skin care nurse, a midwife and tips and support for public speaking from an expert. The day trip on the vintage train at Kawakawa was probably a highlight in February.

“ I have always believed that the most important aspect of RWNZ is the local connection in the local communities and this is reinforced on a regular basis when talking to members and non-members alike.

Our Region is geographically large and numerically small so that, in itself, is a great challenge. We have a growing number of members who are individual members and we value them just as much as we value our Branch members. We all need to continue to work together to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all members which I acknowledge as being quite varied throughout the Region. Our communications are so important especially when we don't have so many face to face meet up opportunities. I have always believed that the most important aspect of RWNZ is the local connection in the local communities and this is reinforced on a regular basis when talking to members and non-members alike. Under my leadership, we will continue this focus in our Region.

Our organisation, RWNZ, continues to be so important in our rural communities 100 years after its humble beginnings and it counts on you all as its members. I especially thank the ladies who have supported me on the committee (and continue to do so even though they have officially retired!!) and those who take up leadership roles in the Branches. I also value all those who have contacted me by phone or email to share their suggestions, thoughts and concerns as these opportunities help us all to look further into what we are doing and how we can continue improving what we do. Most importantly I thank everyone for being a member and showing your passion and enthusiasm for our organisation in so many ways throughout the year.

Heather Sorensen
Regional Leader

Bylaw Change

Resolution to be ratified

THAT Rural Women New Zealand ratifies the following Board resolution:

That Bylaw 7.2 (h) be amended to remove 'Number of votes cast for individuals remain confidential beyond the Annual General Meeting,' and amend Bylaw 7.2 (i) to the National Office shall announce the results of each ballot at the Annual General Meeting, including the number of votes cast for each individual. Recount within 48 hours.

Rationale

The Board considers full national voting results including voting numbers should be made public to members at the time of announcing the national Board election outcome.

Moved: Annette Marr, National Finance Chair

Seconded: Frances Beeston, Board Member

Proposed Constitution

Motion

THAT the proposed Constitution of Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated, as circulated to members, be approved and adopted as the Constitution for Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated, replacing the current Rules and Bylaws; and that the National Board be authorised to take all necessary steps to apply for re-registration under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, required by the Registrar to complete registration; and that the contact person for the re-registration process shall be National Finance Chair Annette Marr.

Rationale

The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 came into force in October 2023. It introduces mandatory requirements for all incorporated societies, including things that must be included in all society constitutions.

All existing incorporated societies must re-register by 5 April 2026 with compliant constitutions, or they will cease to exist as separate legal entities.

Rural Women New Zealand members must vote on this, by a two-thirds majority, in order to achieve a compliant constitution and proceed with re-registration.

Commentary on the proposed Constitution of Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated and the consultation process with members

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback, proof-read, fact-checked and engaged with the draft constitution consultation process. You provided almost 40 pages of emails, notes, questions and answers that have now all been reviewed. These all informed the final proposed constitution that is included in this Annual Report Pack.

A panel of members, including two Board members, read and considered each piece of feedback, and they were very grateful for the time and thoughtful consideration many of you put into the process. This process has tested

assumptions and refined solutions, and the result is a much better proposed constitution.

In some cases, members had diverse views on the same topic, so their different perspectives needed to be weighed up. All final proposed wording is based on the following two key principles.

Being responsible for decisions

The first key principle is that the Incorporated Societies Act places significant responsibilities on Officers, in this case the National Board, and the liabilities they take on are considerable. It is crucial that they are able to make the financial, operational and governance decisions they need to, to manage the substantial risks they are responsible for.

For an Incorporated Society, the buck stops with the Board: they are accountable legally. (For this reason, 'and liabilities' has been added at 11.4 to ensure members are made aware of the implications of putting themselves forward for the Board.)

Members at the centre

The second principle is that RWNZ is a membership organisation and members are at the heart of everything. Members should remain responsible for shaping the organisation through the nominations, elections and general meetings processes.

Finding a balance

There is a balance between the aforementioned legal responsibilities, making sure the Board is able to make the decisions that they alone are legally responsible for, and reflecting the vision of the membership. The proposed constitution needs to create outcomes that stand the test of time, and provide a relevant membership structure that works well for all current and future members.

Other considerations included trying to address findings of the recent review work about how to serve members better – like ways to make things easier and more cost effective, such as electronic

voting. It's also important not to create unnecessary restrictions for the future: for example, the make-up of sub-committees shouldn't be restricted to just members in case specialist external expertise is needed, or external viewpoints, as in the case of the Evolve Advisory Group.

So these were the things that were considered during the development of the final proposed constitution. The information below outlines the decisions that were made based on the consultation process.

The final proposed constitution

Firstly, the panel is very grateful to those members who worked through the spelling, grammar and numbering so diligently to ensure as many errors as possible were picked up in such an important document. These have been corrected, and the Society's address has been updated to its new PO Box number.

All the references to numbers in the below explanation refer to the proposed constitution; please note this may be different to how it was numbered in the draft constitution.

There are a number of things you asked for clarity on, which prompted an update to clause 3. Definitions and Interpretations. This includes:

- Associate Board Member: to confirm this is a learning and development role, and that they have no voting rights and no liabilities;
- Bodies Corporate: other incorporated entities such as other incorporated societies, registered charities, charitable trusts or companies;
- Interactive Remote Participation: to clarify the use of technology has to be in a way that uses two-way communication for participants;
- National President: adjusted to clarify their governance responsibilities;
- Quorum: The minimum number of Members who must be present at a meeting, and referenced 10.16 for General Meetings and 11.16 for Board meeting quorum requirements;
- Voting: clarified that voting refers to the majority required to pass a resolution, then referenced the 5 different clauses in the Constitution where voting is relevant. Note

that these different clauses require different majorities depending on whether they are constitutional decisions or not; and

- Working Day: the way this is described has been simplified.

Sections on Members

One vote per membership has been clarified at 5.1(a). As an example, your farm company may be registered as a member, but that doesn't mean everyone in the family has a vote, there is just one vote. 'Individual natural person' at 6.1 to clarify that while a person or an organisation can be a member, only a person can be an Officer.

'Supporting members' has been changed to 'Affiliate members' and their membership defined at 6.9 – 6.12.

The word 'proxy' has been replaced with 'representative' at 8.4 to clarify that a body corporate must name an individual for voting purposes.

Wording has been added at 8.5 to account for the historical variance in how branch and provincial life memberships were accounted for before 1989.

Membership fees were discussed during the consultation process, but the change to the Board setting these has been kept in the proposed Constitution. The Board is responsible for the financial health and sustainability of the organisation, and as such, must be able to make decisions about revenue. Instead, clause 8.7 has been added to include a Member advisory committee that makes recommendations about setting membership fees.

Clause 9.5 changes the grace period for unpaid invoices from 6 months to 3 months.

Meetings and Governance

The inclusion of the audited financial statements has been addressed in clauses 10.3 (b) and 14.1 (f). 'Real time audio, audiovisual, or electronic communication' has been replaced with 'interactive remote participation' at 10.10 and 10.16(b).

At 10.21 it has been clarified that the meeting chair does not have a casting vote, and at 10.22 clarification has been added that voting on amendments to the Constitution are outlined in

16.3. The reference to 'various sub-committees as required' has been removed at 11.1, and the section on sub-committees can be found at 11.21 – 11.22.

Following the consultation, the current Rules regarding the terms of Officers and appointment of Board members, have been included entirely and are unchanged in the final proposed Constitution. The table at 11.3 has been updated to reflect this, and clarification about retaining the current Rules for National President and National Finance Chair at 11.7.

Some members wanted to ensure a person was a member of the organisation for a certain amount of time before they were eligible to stand for the Board. This would restrict the members' voting options. Leaving this unrestricted means that members can decide for themselves what their governance priority is for that election round – there will be times when they need consistency, people with institutional knowledge. There will be other times where members will want to vote for a fresh perspective or a particular skillset that a candidate brings. If tenure is important to members, they are able to apply this criteria when they vote.

Clause 11.8 has been added to provide clarity for any appointed Board member, and 11.10 and 11.11 provide clarity for the appointing of an Associate Board member.

Registered Office, Records, Registers and Administration

The provision at 13.19 (b) has not been changed because it aligns with the Act, but based on your questions, a further explanation has been provided here. Clause 13.19 (b) relates to paying for information. It is possible that a particularly detailed and expansive request for information from a member could take weeks to pull together, and be a significant cost to the organisation. The Act allows the cost of that to be recouped from the member requesting it, with the proviso that the person requesting it is informed of, and consents to, said cost. Improvements to the members zone on the website will be made to enable transparency and make information easier to access in the first place.

During the consultation process there were questions raised about liquidation (winding up). For clarity, liquidation requires a two-thirds majority of the membership, as it is a constitutional decision. This is described at 17.4. Once the liquidation process has been confirmed by the membership, the Board may determine where any surplus assets go in accordance with clause 17.10. The reason this has remained unchanged from the draft is because the realities of liquidation mean there are often difficulties with staff, IT access and other barriers to going out to the membership to find out where they would like surplus assets to be distributed, and this decision should not be left for a liquidator.

Some feedback suggested that members approve the Budget at the AGM. The Board is liable for the financial position of the organisation and must be responsible for setting the budget. The suggestion to restrict the Board from raising or borrowing money has also not been adopted because this is not operationally realistic i.e. it would restrict RWNZ from having credit with suppliers and banks (e.g. monthly supplier accounts or using a credit card).

The transition process information at 18.4 has been amended to clarify that the Rules and Bylaws would remain in place until the registration process is confirmed.

The importance of approving a new Constitution

Thank you once again for your enormous contribution to this proposed constitution. It is now incredibly important that members vote on this constitution. If a new constitution is not approved, Rural Women New Zealand Inc. is not able to re-register under the new legislation and would cease to exist on the 6th April 2026. This is a critical time for our organisation; not only are you encouraged to vote, but please encourage everyone in your networks, groups and branches to vote as well.

Without a two-thirds majority of members in favour of passing it, it will need to be re-drafted, another consultation process undertaken, and a Special General Meeting called in order to try to re-register before the 5 April deadline.



**RURAL WOMEN
NEW ZEALAND**

Ngā Wāhine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa

Constitution of Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated

Meeting the New Zealand Incorporated Societies
Act 2022

DRAFT

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Constitution of Rural Women New Zealand

1. Name

1.1 The name of this incorporated Society shall be Rural Women New Zealand Incorporated; in this Constitution referred to as the Society.

2. Charitable status

2.1 The Society is a registered charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005.

3. Definitions and interpretation

Definitions

3.1 In this Constitution unless the context otherwise requires:

Accounting Period	means the 12 month period commencing on 1 July in any year and ending on 30 June the following year.
Act	means the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 or any Act which replaces it (including amendments to it from time to time), and any regulations made under the Act or under any Act which replaces it.
Annual General Meeting	means a meeting of the Members of the Society held once per year which, among other things, will receive and consider reports on the Society's activities and finances.
Associate Board member	means a person appointed by the Board in a learning capacity, who may attend and contribute to Board meetings but has no voting rights and is not an officer under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.
Board	means the Society's governing body.
Bodies Corporate	means other incorporated entities such as other incorporated societies, registered charities, charitable trusts or companies.
Charities Act	means the Charities Act 2005 as amended and replaced from time to time.
Chief Executive	means the Officer responsible for the matters specifically noted in this Constitution.
Constitution	means this Constitution as amended from time to time.
General Meeting	means either an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Members of the Society.
Interactive Remote Participation	means the ability to be part of the meeting from a

remote location by being able to be individually identified and having a form of remote technology connection that allows two-way communication with all other participants in the meeting.

Matter

means:

- (a) the Society's performance of its activities or exercise of its powers; or
- (b) an arrangement, agreement, or contract (a transaction) made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Society.

Member

means a person who has consented to become a Member of the Society and has been properly admitted to the Society and who has not ceased to be a Member of the Society.

National President

means the Board member who provides leadership for the Society and promotes best practice governance.

Officer

means a natural person who is:

- (a) a member of the Board, or
- (b) occupying a position in the Society that allows them to exercise significant influence over the management or administration of the Society, including any Chief Executive.

Quorum

means, in respect of General Meetings the minimum number of Members that must be present as prescribed in clause 10.16 and, in respect of Board meetings as prescribed in clause 11.17.

Register of Interests

means the register of interests of Board members kept under this Constitution and as required by section 73 of the Act.

Register of Members

means the register of Members kept under this Constitution as required by section 79 of the Act.

Registrar

means the Registrar of Incorporated Societies appointed in accordance with the Act.

Returning Officer

means the person appointed pursuant to clause 11.9 to oversee the election of officers of the Society.

Special General Meeting

means a meeting of the Members, other than an Annual General Meeting, called for a specific purpose or purposes.

Voting

refers to the size of the majority required to pass resolution as prescribed:

- (a) for resolution of the Board at a Board meeting, in clause 11.20

- (b) for motions at a General Meeting, in clause 10.22
- (c) for motions to amend this Constitution, in clause 16.3(a)(ii);
- (d) for motions to liquidate the Society, in clause 17.4;
- (e) for motions to apply to remove the Society from the Register, in clause 17.5.17.4

Working Day

means any day of the week other than Saturday, Sunday and observed public holidays.

Interpretation

3.2 Unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) terms, words and phrases are defined in the Act shall be given the same meaning in this Constitution.
- (b) reference to a person includes any other entity or association recognised by law and vice versa.
- (c) words referring to the singular include the plural and vice versa.
- (d) a reference to:
 - (i) a person includes their executors and administrators.
 - (ii) **writing** includes words printed, typewritten, or otherwise visibly represented, copied, or reproduced including by email. **Written** has a corresponding meaning.
 - (iii) statutory provisions is to them as amended or re-enacted.
- (e) all periods of time or notice exclude the days on which they are given.
- (f) time is of the essence.

Notices

3.3 Unless specified otherwise in this Constitution any notice or other communication (**Notice**) given under this Constitution must be in writing.

3.4 A Notice may be served by:

- (a) Post to a Member at their postal address in the Society's register of Members.
- (b) Email to Members at the email address in the Society's register of Members.
- (c) Post to the Society at PO Box 11221 Manners Street, Wellington 6142.
- (d) Email to the Society at enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz.

3.5 From time to time, the Society may change its postal or email address for the purposes of clause 3.4(c) and 3.4(d) giving notice to all Members.

3.6 A Notice is deemed served at the time evidenced by the sender's sent email history, unless another party can prove it was not received.

4. Purposes

- 4.1 The purposes of the Society shall be:
- (a) To advance the social and economic wellbeing particularly of communities outside the main urban areas of New Zealand.
 - (b) To support the empowerment of women and families within rural communities.
 - (c) To undertake charitable activities that benefit New Zealand's rural communities and individuals.
 - (d) To engage in any lawful activities that support or are related to achieving these goals
- 4.2 The Society shall function in accordance with its purposes. In fulfilling these purposes, the Society shall promote policies and practices that reflect:
- (a) The cultural diversity of Aotearoa New Zealand.
 - (b) Respect for the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
 - (c) Equitable access to services.
- 4.3 The Society shall not operate for the financial gain of any its Members.

5. Membership

Rights and Responsibilities

- 5.1 Members shall have the following rights and responsibilities:
- (a) Right to one vote per membership on any motion.
 - (b) Right to participate in meetings and activities.
 - (c) Responsibility to uphold the Constitution and the Society's purposes.
 - (d) Responsibility to pay any membership fees.

6. Categories of Members

Members

- 6.1 Members shall be an individual natural person or body corporate admitted to membership under this Constitution and who support the objectives of the Society regardless of whether they reside in a rural area.
- 6.2 An employee of the Society cannot be a member of the Society.

National Life Members

- 6.3 The Board may, from time to time, confer the status of National Life Member on an individual who has rendered exceptional service as National President, National Finance Chair or Board Chair of the Society.
- 6.4 National Life Members shall have the same rights as Members.
- 6.5 National Life Members shall not be required to pay membership fees.

National Members of Honour

- 6.6 The Board may, from time to time, confer the status of National Member of Honour on an individual Member who has made outstanding contributions to the objectives and activities of the Society at the national level (for example, service on the Board).
- 6.7 National Members of Honour shall have the same rights as Members.
- 6.8 National Members of Honour shall be required to pay membership fees.

Affiliate Members

- 6.9 Affiliate Members may be Bodies Corporate that wish to support the objectives and activities of the Society.
- 6.10 They shall be required to pay membership fees as determined by the Board.
- 6.11 Affiliate Members have no voting rights.
- 6.12 Neither Affiliate Members nor their representatives are eligible to stand for Board election.

7. Becoming a Member

Application and payment

- 7.1 An applicant for membership must complete and sign an electronic application form, supply any information as may be reasonably required by the Board regarding an application for membership, and will become a Member upon payment of the required membership fee.

Consent

- 7.2 Submitting an application to become a Member shall be deemed to constitute consent to becoming a Member.
- 7.3 The signed written consent of every Member to become a Society Member shall be retained in the Society's membership records.

8. Being a Member

Members' obligations and rights

- 8.1 Every Member shall provide the Society in writing with that Member's name and contact details (namely, physical and email addresses and a telephone number) and promptly advise the Society in writing of any changes to those details.
- 8.2 Every Member shall promote the interests and purposes of the Society and shall do nothing to bring the Society into disrepute.
- 8.3 A Member is only entitled to exercise the rights of membership (including attending and voting at General Meetings, accessing or using the Society's premises, facilities, equipment and other property, and participating in Society activities) if all membership and any other fees have been paid to the Society by their respective due dates, but no Member or Life Member is liable for an obligation of the Society by reason only of being a Member.
- 8.4 Any Member that is a Body Corporate shall provide the Society, in writing, with the name and contact details of the person who is the organisation's authorised representative

Membership fees

- 8.5 Every Member who is not a National Life Member or a Member who was recognised as a Life Member of a Rural Women New Zealand Branch or Provincial before 1989, is required to pay an annual membership fee to maintain their membership.
- 8.6 Membership fees for each membership category shall be set annually.
- 8.7 The Board shall establish and set the terms of reference of a Member advisory committee, which shall make recommendations to the Board on the setting of membership fees.
- 8.8 Members will be notified of any changes to the membership fees at least three months in advance of the new fees taking effect.
- 8.9 Members who fail to pay their fees by the due date shall be considered in arrears and shall have their membership cancelled if fees remain unpaid for three months from due date.
- 8.10 Members will be notified 1 month before their membership fee is due.

9. Termination of Membership

Resignation

- 9.1 A Member may resign their membership by notifying the Society in writing to that effect.
- 9.2 Upon resignation, all membership benefits shall cease immediately.
- 9.3 There shall be no refund of any membership fees paid.
- 9.4 Members who wish to rejoin after resigning their membership shall be required to reapply for membership and shall be subject to any applicable fees and approval processes.

Failure to pay membership fee

- 9.5 Any Member whose membership fee is in arrears for a period of three months or more shall automatically cease to be a Member.
- 9.6 Such Members may be reinstated upon payment of the current year's subscription.

Suspension and expulsion for misconduct

- 9.7 Any Member who does not abide by the rules of the Society as set out in this Constitution or whose actions in the opinion of the Board have brought or may bring the Society into disrepute, may following a dispute resolution process under this Constitution, have their membership terminated.

Upon death (or if a body corporate on liquidation or deregistration)

- 9.8 A Member's membership shall cease on their death or, in the case of a body corporate, on liquidation or removal from the relevant register.

Obligations once membership has ceased

- 9.9 A Member who has ceased to be a Member under this Constitution:
- (a) Shall cease to be entitled to any of the rights of a Member.

- (b) Remains liable to pay all subscriptions and other fees owing to the Society at the time that their membership ceased.
- (c) Must not hold themselves out as being a Member of the Society.
- (d) Shall return to the Society all material provided to them by the Society (including handbooks and manuals).

Becoming a member again

- 9.10 Any former Member may apply for re-admission in the manner prescribed for new applicants in clause 7 of this Constitution but subject to clause 9.11.
- 9.11 If a former Member's membership was terminated following a disciplinary or dispute resolution process, the applicant may be re-admitted only by a resolution passed by the Board upon recommendation of two Members.

10. General Meetings

Annual General Meeting

- 10.1 In accordance with any requirements in the Act and this Constitution the Society will hold an Annual General Meeting:
- (a) once per year on a date and at a location and/or using any electronic communication determined by the Board and consistent with any requirements in the Act, and the constitution relating to the procedure to be followed at the Annual General Meeting;
 - (b) no later than 6 months after the balance date of the Society but within 15 months of the previous Annual General Meeting; and
 - (c) where possible, in conjunction with the Society's conference in years when a conference is held.
- 10.2 The Business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:
- (a) Confirm the minutes of:
 - (i) the last Annual General Meeting; and
 - (ii) any Special General Meeting(s) held since the last Annual General Meeting.
 - (b) Receive and adopt annual reports from:
 - (i) the National President;
 - (ii) the Chief Executive; and
 - (iii) the Board.
 - (c) Appoint an Auditor.
 - (d) Announce the results of any election of Officers.
 - (e) Consider any motion of which prior notice has been given to Members with notice of the Meeting.
 - (f) Consider any general business.

- 10.3 The Board's annual report must contain the following information:
- (a) a report on the operation and affairs of the Society during the most recently completed Accounting Period;
 - (b) the annual audited financial statements for that period; and
 - (c) notice of any conflicts of interest disclosed by Officers during that period (including a summary of the matters, or types of matters, to which those disclosures relate).

Special General Meetings

- 10.4 The Board may, by resolution, call Special General Meetings at any time.
- 10.5 The Board must call a Special General Meeting if it receives a written request signed by at least 10% percent of Members.
- 10.6 The written request must include the names and signatures of the Members requesting the meeting.
- 10.7 Any resolution or written request must state the business that the Special General Meeting is to deal with.
- 10.8 A meeting called under clause 10.5 must be held within 3 months of the date on which the Society received the Members' request for a Special General Meeting.
- 10.9 The rules in this Constitution relating to the procedure to be followed at General Meetings shall apply to all Special General Meetings, but a Special General Meeting shall consider and deal with only the business specified in the Board's resolution or Members' the written request for the Meeting.

Procedure for all General Meetings

- 10.10 General Meetings may be held at one or more venues by Members present in person and/or by interactive remote participation that gives each Member a reasonable opportunity to participate.
- 10.11 The Board shall give all Members at least 15 Working Days' written Notice of any General Meeting and of the business to be conducted at that General Meeting.
- 10.12 The General Meeting and its business will not be invalidated simply because one or more Members do not receive the Notice of the General Meeting.
- 10.13 Only Members and Officers may attend, speak and vote at General Meetings.
- 10.14 The National President shall chair all General Meetings unless the National President has declined to chair the Board under clause 11.2, in which case the chair appointed by the Board shall chair all General Meetings.
- 10.15 If at any General Meeting the Board chair is not present within 15 minutes after the appointed meeting time, the Board members present will appoint a person to chair the meeting
- 10.16 A quorum requires at least 5% of Members present. A Member is present for the purposes of this clause if they:
- (a) attend in person; or
 - (b) attend by interactive remote participation; or

- (c) have cast a valid postal or electronic vote on any of the motions that are to be put to the meeting.
- 10.17 If a quorum is not present within half an hour after the scheduled start time of the meeting, the meeting shall be dissolved if it was convened at the request of Members. In all other cases, the meeting shall be adjourned to a date, time, and place determined by the chairperson of the meeting. If a quorum is still not present at the reconvened meeting, those Members present in person or by electronic means shall be deemed to constitute a quorum.
- 10.18 Decisions made without a quorum present are invalid.
- 10.19 In the case of a dispute as to whether the requisite number of Members is present, the decision of the chairperson of the meeting will be final.
- 10.20 Each Member is entitled to cast one vote on any motion at a General Meeting. Voting will generally be conducted by voices or by a show of hands as determined by the chair of the meeting but must include all valid votes that have been cast by post or by electronic means.
- 10.21 The person chairing a General Meeting has a deliberative but, in the event of a tied vote, no casting vote. If a motion put to the vote is tied the vote shall be deemed lost and the status quo shall remain.
- 10.22 Except where provided otherwise in this Constitution, motions are resolved by a simple majority, including the valid postal and electronic votes. For clarity, voting on amendments to this Constitution are referred to in 16.3 (a) (ii).
- 10.23 No proxy voting shall be permitted.
- 10.24 Written resolutions may not be passed in lieu of a General Meeting.

11. Governance

Structure

- 11.1 The governance structure of the Society shall consist of a Board.
- 11.2 The National President shall chair the Board unless the National President declines to do so, in which case the Board shall appoint a chair from its number.

Composition of the Board

- 11.3 The Board shall comprise:

Position	How Elected/Appointed to Position on the Board	Voting Rights
National President	Elected by Members	Yes

National Finance Chair	Elected by Members	Yes
Two members representing the South Island	Elected by Members	Yes
Two members representing the North Island	Elected by Members	Yes
Up to 1 appointed Board member	Appointed by the Board at the Board's discretion for a specific purpose	Yes
Associate Board member	Appointed by the Board	No

Appointment of the Board

- 11.4 People must consent to being Board members and be made aware of their responsibilities and liabilities under the Act during their tenure and upon vacating office and must also certify that they are not disqualified from being an officer under the Act.
- 11.5 Except for positions on the Board that are appointed by the Board under this Constitution, each member of the Board shall be elected from the Members by the Members through a democratic process.
- 11.6 Unless this Constitution provides otherwise, The term of office for members of the Board shall end at the second successive Annual General Meeting after they are appointed but they shall be eligible for re-election for up to 2 further terms of 2 years.
- 11.7 Without limiting clause 11.6, the National President and National Finance Chair term shall end at the second successive Annual General Meeting after they are appointed but they shall be eligible for re-election for up to 1 further term of 2 years.
- 11.8 Clauses 11.5 and 11.6 shall not apply to Board members who are appointed by the Board under this Constitution.

Process to elect the Board

- 11.9 Board members shall be elected by postal or electronic ballot with the following process:
- (a) At least 3 months prior to the proposed Election Date, the Board shall:
- (i) set the date for elections to the Board, and

- (ii) appoint a Returning Officer for those elections.
 - (b) Following the setting of the election date the Board shall give Notice to all Members calling for nominations for any vacant Board positions.
 - (c) The Board's Notice under clause 11.9(b) shall include a nomination form and shall specify the date such nominations must be in the hands of the Returning Officer, such date being not less than 35 Working Days prior to the election date.
 - (d) A nominee's written nomination shall be accompanied by the nominee's:
 - (i) written consent to the nomination; and
 - (ii) certificate that they are not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a Board member (as described in section 47 of the Act).
 - (e) At least 25 Working Days prior to the election date the Board shall give Notice to all Members of the valid nominations received for Board positions.
 - (f) If the number of nominations exceeds the number of positions to be filled, the Board shall forward to each Member a voting paper accompanied by the biographies of the candidates for election.
 - (g) Voting papers shall specify the latest date (which shall be not less than 5 Working Days prior to the election date) that it must be in the hands of the Returning Officer to be counted as a valid vote.
 - (h) In the event of a ballot being required under clause 11.8(f) the candidate/s polling the highest number of votes shall be declared elected by the Returning Officer.
 - (i) The failure for any reason of any Member to receive any Notice under this clause 11.9 shall not invalidate the election.
 - (j) In the event of any vote being tied the tie shall be resolved by the incoming Board (excluding those in respect of whom the votes are tied).
- 11.10 In addition to Board members elected under clause 11.9, the Board may from time to time and at its discretion, appoint:
- (a) 1 Board member for a specific purpose, or for a limited period, or until the next Annual General Meeting; and
 - (b) an Associate Board member until the next Annual General Meeting.
- 11.11 Unless otherwise specified by the Board any person appointed under clause 11.10(a) shall have full speaking and voting rights as a member of the Board. Associate Board Members have no voting rights at Board meetings.

Casual Board vacancies

- 11.12 Should a position on the Board become vacant through resignation, death, disciplinary action or any other reason, the Board may, at its discretion:
- (a) appoint a temporary replacement through a Board resolution to serve until the next Annual General Meeting;
 - (b) conduct a by-election to elect a new Board member in accordance with the process set out in clause 11.9; or

- (c) resolve to leave the vacancy unfilled if the position becomes vacant within 6 months of the next Annual General Meeting.

Vacation of Office

- 11.13 A Board member may resign from the Board by written notice to the National President.
- 11.14 A person ceases to be a Board member if they cease to be a Member of the Society.

Removal of Officers

- 11.15 A Board member may be removed as a Board member by resolution of the Board with effect from the date specified in the resolution where in the opinion of the Board:
 - (a) the Board member has been absent from 3 consecutive Board meetings without leave of absence from the National President;
 - (b) the Board member has brought the Society into disrepute;
 - (c) the Board member has failed to disclose a conflict of interest; or
 - (d) the Board does not have confidence in the Board member.

Powers and duties of the Board

- 11.16 The Board shall have the following duties and powers:
 - (a) Subject to this Constitution and any recommendations that may be provided by the Members at a General Meeting, the management of the Society, as well as the control of its finances and affairs, shall be vested in the Board. The Board is authorised to exercise all powers and perform all activities that can be exercised or performed by the Society, except for those matters directed by this Constitution or law to be delegated or executed by the Members in a General Meeting.
 - (b) The Board shall act in good faith and in the best interests and promotion of the purposes of the Society.
 - (c) The Board is collectively responsible for ensuring that the Society complies with the Act and any requirements that are relevant to the Society's charitable status, and that all Members of the society, including Board members comply with the Constitution.
 - (d) Other than as prescribed by the Act or this Constitution, the Board or any sub-committee may regulate its proceedings as it thinks fit.
 - (e) The Board shall have the power to make policies for the management of the Society and to make such alterations to policies from time to time as it considers necessary, provided no policies shall conflict with this Constitution or the Act.

Meetings of the Board

- 11.17 A quorum for the transaction of business of the Board shall be 4.
- 11.18 The Board shall meet either in person or electronically to dispatch the business of the Society at such times as it sees fit and regulate its meetings as it sees fit.
- 11.19 The National President shall chair all meetings of the Board unless the National President has declined to chair the Board under clause 11.2, in which case the chair appointed by the Board

shall chair meetings of the Board. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the Board may regulate its own procedure.

- 11.20 Decisions arising at any Board meeting shall be determined by a majority vote.
- 11.21 Each Board member with voting rights will have one vote. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting does not have a casting vote.

Sub-committees

- 11.22 The Board may appoint sub-committees consisting of such persons (whether or not Members of the Society) and for specific purposes.
- 11.23 Unless otherwise resolved by the Board:
- (a) The quorum of every sub-committee is half the members of the sub-committee plus 1.
 - (b) No sub-committee shall have power to co-opt additional members.
 - (c) A sub-committee must not commit the Society to any financial expenditure without express authority from the Board.
 - (d) A sub-committee must not further delegate any of its powers.

12. Conflicts of interest

- 12.1 The Board must keep an Interests Register.
- 12.2 An Officer who is Interested in a Matter relating to the Society must disclose details of the nature and extent of the interest, including any monetary value of the interest if it can be quantified:
- (a) to the Board as soon as practicable after the Officer becomes aware that they are Interested in the Matter; and
 - (b) in the Interests Register.
- 12.3 A Board Member who is Interested in a Matter:
- (a) must not vote or take part in a decision of the Board relating to that Matter;
 - (b) must not sign any document in relation to that Matter;
 - (c) may take part in any Board discussion and be present at the time of the Board decision, unless the Board decides otherwise;
 - (d) may be counted for the purpose of determining whether there is a quorum at any meeting at which the Matter is considered.
- 12.4 Clauses 12.3(a) and 12.3(b) do not apply to a Board Member in relation to a particular Matter if all members of the Board who are not Interested in the Matter consent to the Interested Board Member acting as referred to in clauses 12.3(a) or 12.3(b).
- 12.5 Despite clause 12.4, if 50% or more of the Board Members are Interested in a Matter, a General Meeting must be called to consider and determine the Matter.

13. Registered Office, Records and Registers

Registered office

- 13.1 The registered office of the Society shall be at Level 10, 175 Victoria Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011 or such other place from time to time nominated by the Board.
- 13.2 The Board may, by notice to the Members, change the Society's registered office from time to time provided that such place shall always be in New Zealand.
- 13.3 Changes to the registered office shall be notified to the Registrar and to the Charities Board:
- (a) at least 5 working days before the change of address for the registered office is due to take effect, and
 - (b) in the forms and as required by the Act and the Charities Act.

Minutes

- 13.4 The Society must keep minutes of all General Meetings and Board meetings.

Contact person

- 13.5 The Board shall appoint at least 1 individual, usually the Chief Executive, but no more than 3 individuals as the Contact Person for the purposes of the Act, whom the Registrar can contact when needed.
- 13.6 The Contact Person must be at least 18 years of age, and ordinarily resident in New Zealand.
- 13.7 Each Contact Person's name must be provided to the Registrar, along with their contact details, including:
- (a) a physical address or an electronic address, and
 - (b) a telephone number.
- 13.8 Any change in that Contact Person or that person's name or contact details shall be advised to the Registrar within 20 Working Days of that change occurring, or the Society becoming aware of the change.

Register of Members

- 13.9 The Society shall maintain a comprehensive register of all members.
- 13.10 This register shall include in respect of each Member:
- (a) their name;
 - (b) their address and contact details;
 - (c) the date they became a Member;
 - (d) their membership category;
 - (e) a record of membership fee payments; and
 - (f) any other information required by this Constitution or the Act.
- 13.11 The register shall be kept at the Registered Office of the Society.
- 13.12 The register shall be kept up to date and made available for inspection by any member upon request, subject to privacy and confidentiality requirements.

- 13.13 The Society shall also keep a record of former Members of the Society with the following information:
- (a) the former member's name and last known contact details;
 - (b) the date on which they became a member;
 - (c) details regarding any official position held within the Society;
 - (d) the date on which they ceased to be a Member; and
 - (e) any other requirements as per the Act.
- 13.14 It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that their contact information is current and accurate. Any changes to personal details must be communicated promptly to the Society's office.
- 13.15 The register of Members shall be maintained with strict adherence to privacy laws and regulations. Personal information shall not be disclosed to third parties without the explicit consent of the member, except as required by law.
- 13.16 Members of the Society may access the register to verify their own details through the electronic Member support service.

Register of Interests

- 13.17 The Board shall at all times maintain an up-to-date Register of Interest disclosed by the Board and by members of any sub-committee.

Access to Information for Members

- 13.18 A Member may at any time make a written request to the Society for specific information held by the Society.
- 13.19 The Society must, within a reasonable time after receiving a request:
- (a) provide the information;
 - (b) agree to provide the information within a specified period if the Member pays a reasonable charge in advance (previously specified) to meet the cost of providing the information; or
 - (c) refuse to provide the information in reliance on section 81 of the Act, specifying the grounds for refusal.

If the Society requires the Member to pay a fee for the requested information, the Member may withdraw the request. The Member will be considered to have done so unless they notify the Society within 10 working days of receiving the notification that they agree to pay the fee.

14. Administration

- 14.1 The Board's responsibilities shall include the following:
- (a) To keep records of all minutes of the Board meetings and Annual General meetings and shall be responsible for all correspondence of those meetings.
 - (b) To maintain an efficient accounting system that provides full records of all financial

affairs of the Society.

- (c) The Board may apply the Society's funds as it considers necessary, expedient or proper in payment of costs and expenses in furthering or carrying out the Society's objectives.
- (d) The Board shall set its own policy for investment of the Society's funds that are not immediately required to further the Society's purposes.
- (e) The Board may borrow or raise money from time to time by the issue of debentures, bonds, mortgages or any other security based on all or any part of the property and/or rights of the Society and either with or without security. The borrowing may be on such terms as to priority and otherwise as the Board sees fit.
- (f) To present to the Members at the Annual General Meeting the audited financial statements for the past financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Society at the balance date and its financial performance for the year.
- (g) To keep a proper record of all the office holders on a national and regional level of the Society.
- (h) To appoint a Returning Officer for any voting for office holders and to be responsible for the conduct of the Board elections and for the notification on the outcome of such elections.
- (i) To maintain an up-to-date record of the Constitution of the Society and of any Board policy decisions.
- (j) To do all things necessary for the efficient governance and management of the Society's business.
- (k) To maintain the Register of Members.

15. Disputes resolution

Disputes

- 15.1 The Society may consider, resolve, and/or decide disputes between any one or more Members acting in their capacity as Members and any one or more Officers acting in their capacity as Officers and the Society, that relate to an allegation that:
- (a) a Member or an Officer has engaged in misconduct;
 - (b) a Member or an Officer has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under this Constitution or the Act;
 - (c) a Member or an Officer has breached, or is likely to breach, any code of conduct in place for the Society from time to time;
 - (d) the Society has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under this Constitution or the Act;
or
 - (e) a Member's rights or interests as a member have been damaged or Members' rights or interests generally have been damaged.

How a complaint is made

- 15.2 A Member or an Officer may make a complaint by giving Notice to the Board, or any

subcommittee established for this purpose, that:

- (a) states that the Member or Officer is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute under this Constitution;
- (b) sets out the allegation to which the dispute relates and who the allegation is against; and
- (c) sets out any other information reasonably required by the Society.

15.3 The Society may make a complaint involving an allegation against a Member or an Officer by giving Notice to the person concerned that:

- (a) states that the Society is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute under this Constitution; and
- (b) sets out the allegation to which the dispute relates.

Person who makes complaint has right to be heard

15.4 Unless the Society decides not to proceed, the Member has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined. A Member must be taken to have been given the right if:

- (a) the Member has a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing, if one is held; and
- (b) an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
- (c) an oral hearing, if any, is held before the decision maker; and
- (d) the Member's written statement or submissions, if any, are considered by the decision maker.

15.5 If the Society makes a complaint, it has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined and a Board Member may exercise that right on behalf of the Society. The Society must be taken to have been given the right if:

- (a) they have a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing, if one is held; and
- (b) an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
- (c) an oral hearing, if any, is held before the decision maker; and
- (d) its written statement or submissions, if any, are considered by the decision maker.

Respondent has right to be heard

15.6 The Member or Officer who, or the Society which, is the subject of the complaint (**Respondent**) has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined. If the Respondent is the Society, a Board Member may exercise the right on behalf of the Society.

15.7 A Respondent must be taken to have been given the right if:

- (a) the Respondent is fairly advised of all allegations concerning the Respondent, with sufficient details and time given to enable the Respondent to prepare a response; and

- (b) the Respondent has a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing, if one is to be held; and
- (c) an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
- (d) an oral hearing, if any, is held before the decision maker; and
- (e) the Respondent's written statement or submissions, if any, are considered by the decision maker.

Investigating and determining disputes

- 15.8 The Society must as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving a complaint or grievance, investigate and determine the complaint or grievance in a fair, efficient, and effective manner.

Circumstances in which a process may not proceed

- 15.9 Despite the content of this clause 16 and any other clause in this Constitution or in the Regulations, the Society may decide not to proceed with a matter if:
- (a) the complaint is trivial; or
 - (b) the complaint does not appear to disclose or involve any allegation of the following kind:
 - (c) any material misconduct; or
 - (d) any material breach or likelihood of material breach of a duty under this Constitution or the Act;
 - (e) any material damage to a Member's rights or interests or Members' rights or interests generally; or
 - (f) the complaint appears to be without foundation or there is no apparent evidence to support it; or
 - (g) the person who makes the complaint has an insignificant interest in the matter; or
 - (h) the conduct, incident, event, or issue giving rise to the complaint has already been investigated and dealt with under this Constitution; or
 - (i) there has been an undue delay in making the complaint.

Refer complaint

- 15.10 The Society may refer a complaint to:
- (a) a subcommittee or an external person to investigate and report; or
 - (b) a subcommittee, an arbitral tribunal, or an external person to investigate and make a decision.
 - (c) with the consent of all parties to the complaint, to any type of consensual dispute resolution such as mediation or facilitation.

Decision makers

- 15.11 An individual may not act as a decision maker in relation to a complaint if two or more

members of the decision-making body (whether it is a Board, committee, complaints subcommittee, tribunal, or other) consider that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the individual may not be:

- (a) impartial; or
- (b) able to consider the matter without a predetermined view.

16. Amendments to this Constitution

16.1 All amendments must be made in accordance with this Constitution.

16.2 Any minor or technical amendments shall be notified to Members as required by the Act.

16.3 Amendments by the Society:

- (a) Every amendment to the Society's constitution must be:
 - (i) in writing; and
 - (ii) approved at a General Meeting of the Society by a resolution under a notice of motion passed by a two-thirds majority; and
 - (iii) otherwise made in accordance with this Constitution.

16.4 Minor or technical amendments as per section 31 of the Act:

- (a) The Society may amend this constitution under this section if the amendment:
 - (i) has no more than a minor effect; or
 - (ii) corrects errors or makes similar technical alterations.
- (b) The Board must ensure that written notice of the amendment is sent to every Member of the Society.
- (c) The notice must state:
 - (i) the text of the amendment; and
 - (ii) the right of Members to object to the amendment.
- (d) If no objection from a member is received within 20 working days after the date on which the notice is sent, the Board may make the amendment.
- (e) However, if such an objection is received, the Board may not make the amendment under this section.

17. Liquidation and removal from the Register

Resolving to put the society into liquidation

17.1 The Society may be liquidated in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

17.2 The Board shall give 30 Working Days written Notice to all Members of the proposed resolution to put the Society into liquidation.

17.3 The Board shall also give written Notice to all Members of the Annual General Meeting at which any such proposed resolution is to be considered. The Notice shall include all information as required by section 228(4) of the Act.

- 17.4 Any resolution to put the Society into liquidation must be passed by a two-thirds majority of all Members present or electronically who are voting.

Resolving to apply for removal from the register

- 17.5 The Society may be removed from the Register of Incorporated Societies in accordance with the provisions of the Act.
- 17.6 The Board shall give 30 Working Days written Notice to all Members of the proposed resolution to remove the Society from the Register of Incorporated Societies.
- 17.7 The Board shall also give written Notice to all Members of the General Meeting at which any such proposed resolution is to be considered. The Notice shall include all information as required by the Act.
- 17.8 Any resolution to remove the Society from the Register of Incorporated Societies must be passed by a two-thirds majority of all Members present or electronically who are voting.

Surplus assets

- 17.9 If the Society is liquidated or removed from the Register of Incorporated Societies, no distribution shall be made to any Member.
- 17.10 On the liquidation or removal from the Register of Incorporated Societies of the Society, its surplus assets after payment of all debts, costs and liabilities shall be distributed to a charitable organisation with similar objectives, as determined by the Board.
- 17.11 In any resolution under this rule the Society must comply with this Constitution and the Act.

18. Transition

- 18.1 This clause 19 applies to facilitate transition of the Society from the previous rules to this Constitution. If this clause is inconsistent with any other clause in this Constitution, this clause will apply to the extent of the inconsistency and the other clause will not.

Transition of Members

- 18.2 Subject to this Constitution, every Member who or which was a member of the Society and recorded on the Member Register immediately prior to the commencement of this Constitution, will continue as a Member.

Transition of Board members

- 18.3 The Board Members appointed under the Society's previous rules shall continue in their roles for the terms that applied at the time of their election or appointment.

Transition of Bylaws

- 18.4 All Bylaws which were in force immediately prior to this Constitution coming into force will continue in force until the Society has reregistered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

SIGNATURES

Signed by three Members for the purposes section 21 of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908:

Sandra Matthews, National President

Annette Marr, National Finance Chair

Nicole Oliver, Board Member

Notice of Motion

That \$1,700,000.00 be invested in the name of Pat Evans for the purpose of distributing the annual income to the regions of Rural Women New Zealand equally.

Rationale

Provincials had their own Homecare schemes. The “housekeepers” / carers were employed and paid by the Provincial Homecare committee. Placements, wages and training were undertaken by members who were not paid. Each committee had a separate bank account which reported to the Provincial.

When the Ministry of Health decided to contract all homecare RWNZ formed Access Homehealth under a national structure to comply with the reporting and training standards.

Each Homecare Scheme contributed the equivalent of six weeks funding (without any interest payments) to finance the wages until they were reimbursed by the funder.

As Access Homehealth became financially viable Homecare Schemes were reimbursed the amount they had contributed. As years went by mergers closures and amalgamations made it difficult to identify exactly who should receive the balance of the money.

Council decided members had worked willingly unpaid for years for Homecare and the money should be returned to the members through the regions. A specific fund to be established to ensure there was a continuing benefit.

The original investment of \$1,700,000.00 realised sufficient funds for each region to receive \$8,000.00 each year. As personnel changed the investments were “tidied up” (consolidated) and the purpose of the Fund was lost. Pat Evans had a life long involvement with Homecare and played a significant role in the change to Access Homehealth.

Proposed by: Shirley Read, Region 6 Taranaki

Seconded: Dame Margaret Millard, Region 4 Lower North Island

Response to Notice of Motion tabled at the 2024 AGM

Going back through the annual financial statements to 2005 (20 years ago) there was not a “fund” of \$1,700,000.00 showing in the investments of Rural Women New Zealand Inc. at any point.

There was in the Special and Specific Reserves of the financial statements of Rural Women New Zealand Inc. a reserve called “Pat Evans Charitable Reserve” for \$1,345,675.24. This reserve remained unchanged between 2005 and 2017.

In the board meeting on the 13 & 14 February 2018 the following motion was passed:

“The National Finance Chair advised that the amount of \$1,345,675.24 that had for many years been reported in the Balance Sheet as a separate reserve, called the Pat Evans Charitable Reserve, needed to move out of the reserves and into retained earnings. The accounting treatment of this has been raised by the auditors in the past.

That the Board agree that the Pat Evans Charitable Reserve be moved out of reserves and into retained earnings.

Moved: Penny Mudford

Seconded: Rachael Dean **Carried”**

This motion had no effect on any investments. No investments were “tidied up” or consolidated as a result of this being passed.

Background

Prior to the sale of Access Homehealth Ltd in 2014, the regional development and charitable funding came from the dividend paid from Access Homehealth Ltd to Rural Women New Zealand Inc.

Each year, depending on the size of the dividend received, a decision was made as to how much was available for the regions to use. Any funds budgeted but not used by the regions from the regional allocation each year was then added to the Community Fund.

In the meeting minutes of the Compliance, Audit, Risk and Finance Committee meeting on 7 February 2018 the following is noted:

“that \$8,000 per region per annum was budgeted for three different types of regional expenditure: administration and support; activities and training; and, Regional Charitable (Pat Evans).

These expenses were funded out of general operational funds”

“To ensure the name and work of Pat Evans was not forgotten the regional expenditure of a charitable nature was called the Pat Evans.”

At the Remit Session held by zoom on 3 March 2022, the Internal Remit 3 was proposed:

“That the RWNZ Board consider adopting a mechanism to ensure Area Committees receive equitable funding.

Moved: Liz Morgan

Seconded: Bronwyn Main”

After discussion this remit was agreed to be changed to:

“That the RWNZ Board gives serious consideration to adopting a mechanism that ensures that all Area Committees receive the same annual amount of funding

Moved: Bev Sanford

Seconded: Margaret Scrimgeour”

The amended remit was then discussed and put to the vote. It was carried by only one vote, 21 votes for, 20 votes against.

Current Situation

The funding for the regions has continued at \$8,000 per region per annum, for the three different types of regional expenditure as mentioned above. Expanding from seven regions to eight regions. These funds have continued to be paid from general operational funds since the sale of Access Homehealth Ltd.

Below is the table of funds used from the regional funding budget over the last 5 years by region:

Regional Funding 2020 - 2025 (actual spend)					
	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
Region 1	7,472.55	6,378.38	7,761.11	8,000.00	7,860.22
Region 2	8,000.34	5,173.36	7,927.36	8,000.00	7,654.72
Region 3	6,805.58	7,870.64	7,513.25	6,201.42	6,108.14
Region 4	7,950.73	7,784.10	7,210.20	7,533.89	7,001.14
Region 5	4,057.89	7,795.01	8,000.00	5,160.37	7,216.44
Region 6T	447.65	2,098.79	4,181.69	-	-
Region 6GW	7,989.63	8,000.71	3,523.24	7,114.53	4,197.44
Region 7	3,415.10	2,222.95	1,857.95	644.32	2,458.09
Total Spent	46,139.47	47,323.94	47,974.80	42,654.53	42,496.19
Budget	64,000.00	64,000.00	64,000.00	56,000.00	56,000.00

In 2023 the Regional Review Working Group was convened to look at both the regional boundaries and how the allocation of funding was shared among the regions. While this committee asked these questions of members, they found it wasn't the main concerns of the members who responded. In fact, very few respondents even mentioned these two questions.

The Regional Review Working Group has now progressed into the Evolve Advisory Group and they are currently tasked with the boundaries and the funding questions. There are many facets to these questions, such as the different sizes of the regions, the numbers of members per region, the changing types of groups within regions, how to accommodate growing membership numbers equitably.

Until this advisory group comes back with a recommendation to the Board, the Board will continue with the budgeted \$8,000 per region per annum.

At no time has there been any discussion around not supporting the regional development and charitable funding for the regions.

General Remits

Remit 1

THAT, following the process as laid out in the RWNZ Procurement Policy, Rural Women New Zealand Inc conduct a formal **Request for Proposals (RFP)** process for key professional advisors (e.g. Auditors, Legal Advisors, Accountants, Portfolio Fund Managers and Electoral Returning Officers at least once every **five years**.

Proposed by: Fiona Gower NLM

Seconded by: Jenni Turner

Rationale:

To ensure that RWNZ is getting the most appropriate and effective services from its providers. Also, the review of the providers' services helps to ensure that the providers are delivering the best and most effective services to the organisation.

This is not something to be rushed, as it is time-consuming for both the Board and those proposing their delivery. However, best governance and risk management practice is to re-look at these at least once every 5 years to ensure RWNZ is being served well.

This does not necessarily mean changing providers, but the review process gives the Board the ability to look at other opportunities. The incumbent provider may be invited to reapply as part of the RFP process (this is common practise unless there is a particular reason to not do so).

This was done in a very robust way by the first Board to select the Portfolio advisor, and requests also around other providers.

There needs to be that robust process in the information required from the providers, most likely using the appointed Board role with the skills needed to help facilitate this. The decision to reappoint or change providers will be based on a structured assessment of proposals, including cost, experience, service quality, and strategic fit and consideration of the SIPO.

In summary, this process ensures:

- Value for money,
- Quality of service,
- Transparency and accountability,
- Alignment with the RWNZ's evolving needs.

Objectives:

To ensure transparency, value for money, and alignment with RWNZ's evolving needs through a fair and competitive selection process.

Action Plan:

The RWNZ Board will put in to place an RFP schedule review sequence to ensure that each of these roles is reviewed on a regular basis

Financial Implications to RWNZ:

Unlikely to incur any cost unless independent advice is required or a contractor is needed for some of the work due to workloads of staff and/or unavailability of an appropriately qualified/experienced volunteer to assist.

May generate savings.

Remit 2

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. appoint an independent returning officer for elections and voting for both the Board and any other roles in which a position is filled via a vote.

Proposed by: Janet Williams NMH, Rukuhia Branch, Greater Waikato Region 6

Seconded by: Angela McLeod, Individual Member, Region 4

Rationale:

Appointing an appropriately qualified/experienced **independent returning officer** for elections to a Board or other governing body of a Charity is internationally accepted good practice. Some of the reasons for this are listed in points 1 to 7 below.

NB: An independent returning officer for elections to other roles within an entity is also internationally accepted good practice for the same reasons.

1. Impartiality and Fairness – the removal of bias and conflicts of interest.
2. Compliance with Rules and Regulations – ensure the election is conducted according to RWNZ relevant documents and any relevant legal frameworks.
3. Credibility and Transparency – use of a neutral party increases confidence in the election and reduces the possibility of disputes.
4. Efficient and Professional Management. Also reduces the administrative burden on RWNZ's staff, volunteers and Board members.
5. Reduces the possibility of challenges or allegations of misconduct. Helps protect RWNZ from reputational damage.
6. Ensures the privacy of those voting is maintained.

7. Should an independent count be called for, the separation of all relevant documentation from any member of RWNZ - or anyone who while not a member could be seen to have a conflict of interest – maintains confidence that the votes have not been tampered with.

Objectives:

To help ensure the integrity, transparency, fairness and maintenance of trust and confidence in the election process. More members may vote knowing it is more transparent.

To strengthen RWNZ's ability to provide a defense against any allegations of misconduct.

Action Plan:

The RWNZ will look to appoint an independent Returning Officer through a reputable business this could be done by Request for Proposals (RFP).

Financial Implications to RWNZ:

Additional costs associated with the election process.

Remit 3

THAT the Rural Women New Zealand Inc. Board appoint the RWNZ National Chair as a separate role of that of President.

Proposed by: Penny Mudford, ONZM, NMH

Seconded by: Fiona Gower, ONZM, NLM

Rationale:

With the new RWNZ Board structure it is timely to propose that the role of Board chair is a separate role on the board to that of the President's role.

There are several reasons for this – notably, there is a different skill set required to be a chair to that of the President. A board chair oversees governance, strategy, and accountability and requires a strong skill set around meeting procedures, board policies, financial literacy, and human resources.

The President requires strong leadership, communication, and people skills. The role of the President should be to focus on being the leader of the organisation – building relationships both inside and outside of the organisation, providing leadership at a national level, and acting as an ambassador for the organisation and its members.

Another consideration is that it avoids role overload and helps the board to function independently and effectively. The workload of a President doing both the leadership and governance roles can be overwhelming, meaning that neither role is fulfilled to the necessary level required for the organisation to be fully effective. This remit proposes that the role of a board chair is a designated role separate from that of President.

The current position is that the appointment of a board chair is at the discretion of the President. This remit proposes that the appointment of a board chair be a requirement. The appointment could be made by the board, or by an independent committee appointed by the board. If the board believe that no board member has the required skills to be the chair,

the board already has the ability to appoint an independent board member, and they could use that function to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced person to act as chair.

Objectives:

To ensure that the Board and RWNZ has the appropriate capability and capacity for its governance of the organisation, and to ensure efficient and effective leadership for the members with the separation of the roles of chair and president.

Action Plan:

Once voted in by the membership, this will form the new process as part of the board structure. A change will be required to the constitution at section 11.2 of the draft constitution which states: The President shall chair the Board unless the President declines to do so, in which case the Board shall appoint a chair from its number.

Financial Implications to RWNZ:

Minimal since board members already receive board honoraria for their roles. The extra responsibility on a board member becoming chair may require one honorarium to be increased slightly, but not significantly.

Remit 4

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. support a gradual increase in subscriptions to bring the RWNZ organization in line with other organisations subscriptions.

Proposed by: Glenda Robb

Seconded by: Jocelyn Cresswell

Rationale:

Our members value RWNZ and the work it is doing in the Rural Community, however the very low sub \$50 does not reflect what a great organization RWNZ is.

The low sub may even be putting off new members as they may think RWNZ is of low value, when RWNZ has such a low sub in comparison with other similar organisations. Examples of other organisation subscriptions include:

- a. Zonta Marlborough \$200
- b. Lions \$75
- c. Icing Guild \$55

After the initial increase there should be small increments to the sub every year in line with inflation.

Objectives:

To offset more of the year's expenses and provide a future for the organization without using up invested capital.

Action Plan:

- To move this motion at the Annual General meeting in Wellington in November 2025
- The new subscription will start in the year commencing 1 July 2026

Financial Implications to RWNZ:

The result should mean an improved balance sheet for the year ending 30 June 2027.



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NEW ZEALAND**
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