

# EXPRESS

July 2025

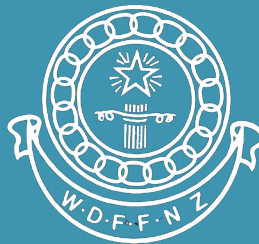


## Centennial Year July 2025 – July 2026



100 years of supporting rural  
women and communities

W.D.F.U.



RURAL WOMEN  
NEW ZEALAND

**IN THIS  
ISSUE:**

**PAGE 4**  
Celebrating  
our Centennial

**PAGE 10**  
Open letter to  
RWNZ members

**PAGE 12**  
RWNZ  
Strategy

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

27 July	Remits
15 August	Financial forms and statements of service provision due
22 August	Feedback on draft Constitution
22 August	Nominations for South Island board member
20 November	AGM

### SPEECH COMPETITION

This year's Speech Competition topic is **"100 years strong: Honouring our Past, Shaping Our Future"** and what that means to you as a member. This year's competitions for the Tarrant Bell and Tutaenui Bell will take place as part of the Annual General Meeting in Wellington on Thursday 20 November. For more on both competitions and the judging criteria, visit the Member Zone on the RWNZ website ([www.ruralwomennz.nz](http://www.ruralwomennz.nz)) or call National Office on 0800 256 467.

### CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Thank you everyone for your questions on our draft constitution document. Please keep these coming through as it is important that we work through as much feedback as we can to continue shaping this draft before the AGM. **The final date for feedback is 22 August 2025**, which will then be collated and any changes integrated after that date.

### AGM 2025

This year the Centennial AGM will be held on **20 November 2025** in Wellington. We are still finalising the exact timing, but it will start in the morning, followed by lunch, then a panel discussion and speech competition. The day will be completed mid-afternoon allowing people time to travel home.

### REMITTS

Remits are due on **27 July 2025**. Once these are received they will be provided to the remits Committee to review and make recommendations. Please send these to [policy@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:policy@ruralwomennz.nz) or post to Rural Women New Zealand PO Box 12021 Thorndon Wellington 6144.

### NATIONAL BOARD ELECTIONS

This year Sharron Davie-Martin reaches the end of her third two-year term as South Island representative on our National Board. We will be holding an election for a new South Island representative, and nominations close on **22 August 2025**. Please contact the office if you need another nomination form sent to you.

### STATEMENT OF SERVICE PROVISION

The deadline for RWNZ Groups to get their financial forms and Statements of Service Provision into National Office is **Friday 15 August 2025**. The templates are in the member zone – please contact the office if you are not able to locate them.

## RWNZ National Board

### NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**Sandra Matthews, Tairāwhiti**

International Portfolio Lead /  
Environment Portfolio Lead  
Mobile: 027 496 6336

[Sandra.matthews@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:Sandra.matthews@ruralwomennz.nz)

### NATIONAL FINANCE CHAIR

**Annette Marr, Greta Valley**

Mobile: 021 743 750

[financechair@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:financechair@ruralwomennz.nz)

### SOUTH ISLAND BOARD MEMBER

**Sharron Davie-Martin, Rangiora**

Community & Social Inclusion Portfolio Lead

Mobile: 027 475 4129

[sharron.daviemartin@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:sharron.daviemartin@ruralwomennz.nz)

### SOUTH ISLAND BOARD MEMBER

**Frances Beeston, Ashburton**

Education Portfolio Lead

Mobile: 027 648 8379

[Frances.beeston@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:Frances.beeston@ruralwomennz.nz)

### NORTH ISLAND BOARD MEMBER

**Bronwyn Main, Waikato**

Health Portfolio Lead

Mobile: 027 481 2552

[Bronwyn.main@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:Bronwyn.main@ruralwomennz.nz)

### NORTH ISLAND BOARD MEMBER

**Nicole Oliver, Waikato**

Connectivity and Business Portfolio Lead

Mobile: 0278 594 5516

[Nicole.oliver@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:Nicole.oliver@ruralwomennz.nz)

### ASSOCIATE MEMBER

**Heather McKay, Tasman**

Mobile: 027 660 7189

[Heather.mckay@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:Heather.mckay@ruralwomennz.nz)

## National Office

Ph: 04 473 5524 or 0800 256 467

PO Box 12-021, Wellington 6144 Level  
10/175 Victoria St, Wellington 6011

[enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz)  
[www.ruralwomennz.nz](http://www.ruralwomennz.nz)

Find us on social media:



@ruralwomennz

# A WORD FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

---

Sandra Matthews

---



## Welcome to a Momentous Year: Celebrating 100 Years of Rural Women New Zealand

### Together, Honouring the Past and Embracing the Future

Welcome to this very special edition of the Express magazine — the first of a year that promises to be one of reflection, celebration, and future focused vision for Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ). This year, we stand on the threshold of our Centennial: one hundred years of dedication, resourcefulness, and courage. Our story is woven into the very fabric of Aotearoa New Zealand's rural heart, and it is with immense pride and excitement that we can all join together as one in celebrating the centenary of RWNZ.

For a century, RWNZ has thrived because of the unwavering commitment of our members. Women from all walks of rural life have poured their energy, insight, and compassion into supporting

not only each other, but also their families and the broader rural communities they call home. Each volunteer — whether their effort was large or small, recent or from generations past — has contributed to the longevity and strength of RWNZ. The stories of hard work, kindness, and solidarity form the rich tapestry of our history, reminding us that the legacy we hold today is built on the dreams and deeds of those who came before us.

As we honour this remarkable milestone, we also look bravely forward. Our willingness to champion change and invest in the organisation's future is more important than ever. By listening, innovating, and responding to the evolving needs of today's rural

women and our communities, we ensure that RWNZ remains relevant, viable and resilient. Together, we can be committed to making RWNZ the first choice for all rural-at-heart wāhine across the country. It is through this shared vision that we will continue to build support, foster friendships, and strengthen our rural communities — not only for today, but for generations to come.

Let us celebrate the centenary with hearts full of gratitude and hope. Thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey. Here's to one hundred years of rural women transforming Aotearoa New Zealand, and to the many more years of courage, connection, and community support ahead that we will journey along together.



# Proudly Celebrating Our Centennial Year

## Rural Women's Rose Ready to Bloom in Wellington Botanic Garden

We are delighted to be planting a small number of Rural Women roses in the Wellington Botanic Gardens.

We are enormously grateful to Clare Adkins, Leonora Spark, Liz Hamblyn and Julie Perkins from the Fordell Mangamahu branch of Rural Women NZ for instigating this wonderful rose project. The project was started to celebrate the centennial of Rural Women New Zealand, to honor the trail-blazing spirit of Mrs. Florence Polson, the first Dominion President, and to continue the tradition of fundraising for educational assistance for rural children, a tradition stemming from the Wanganui Province.

The stunning lilac-hued, delightfully scented rose, named 'Rural Women' rose, has been bred in collaboration with renowned rose nursery Matthews Nurseries Limited. Gardeners from all over Aotearoa have purchased roses, and we are looking forward to seeing photos of the plants as they grow and bloom.

We have done some digging (metaphorically!) and the New Zealand Countrywoman's Rose was created in the 1970s for our 50th Anniversary. It was named 'Madam President' and Centennial Committee member Margaret Vickers provides this context from early meetings: "I very well remember if you wished to speak, you stood up and waited to be acknowledged by the President. The first words spoken were "Madam President,". before you went on to express an opinion. I feel that was why the rose was named just that."

We are hoping that somewhere around the country, someone may be able to plant a Rural Women rose near their Madam President rose – we'd love you to send us a photo if you manage to do that!

Profits from the sales of the roses will contribute to educational assistance for rural children – this may be by way of boarding costs, uniform costs, technology or book costs or general costs of schooling.



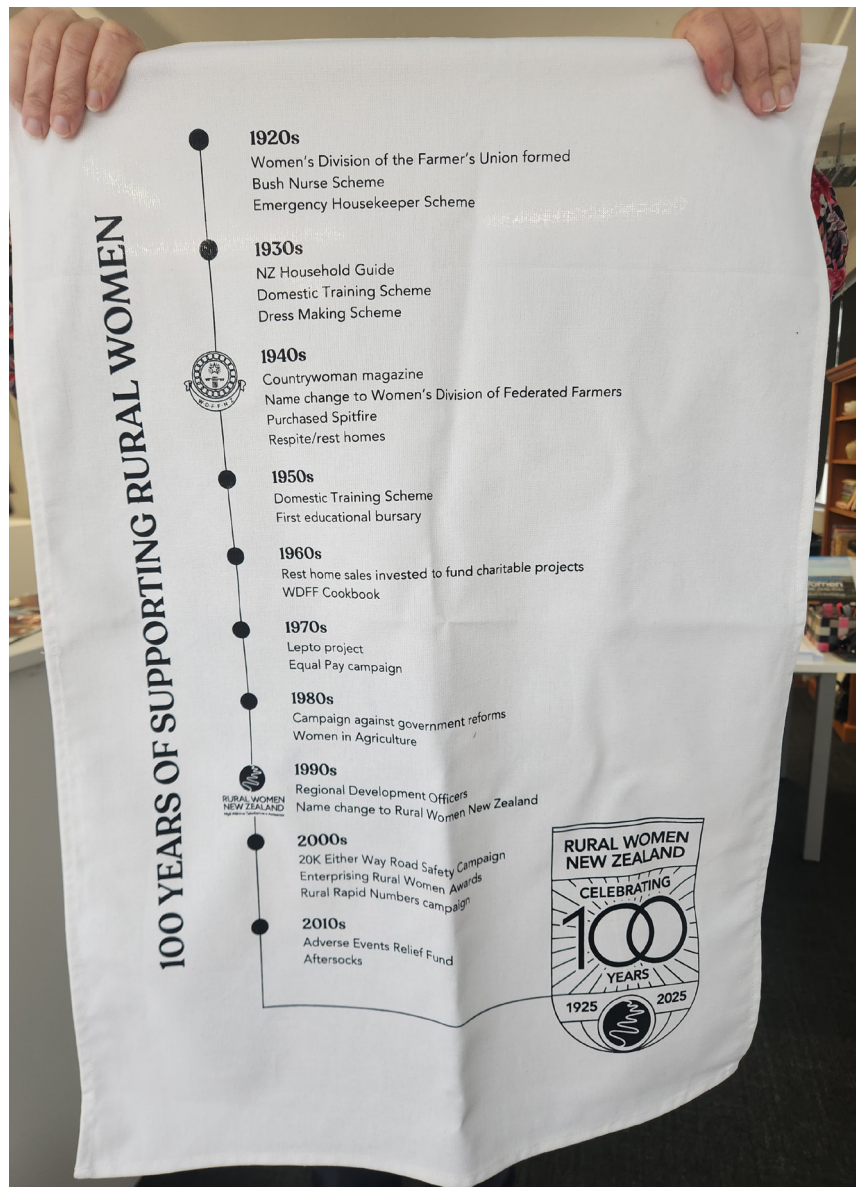
## Centennial 5 minute Quiz

1. What date was the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, after which the RWNZ volunteers rallied to feed the Farmy Army?
2. Who is our patron?
3. How many founders met in Wellington in 1925 to form the WDFP?
4. What type of war plane was purchased to aid the war effort for World War 2?
5. What is the name of our Centennial rose; a. Rural Rose b. Rural Women c. Rural Beauty?
6. What was the name of the rose bred for our 50th Jubilee a. Country Beauty b. Country Rose c. Madam President
7. In what decade was the WDFP cookbook first published?
8. Which Past President came first a. Mrs E A Ramsay b. Mrs J M McIntyre
9. In 1925 how many women were in the original group that founded the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union to improve support systems for their fellow rural women.
10. In the 1950s what was the name of the Girls' Training School purchased by the organisation?

# Centennial round up

Our Centennial year has arrived, and we are so excited to be ready for the special events that are happening all around the country to celebrate such a significant milestone.

In the next few months some wonderful celebrations are taking place around the country. For a list these events, and for other Centennial information please visit the Centennial pages of our website.



Unboxing our Centennial tea towel ready for sale. Felicity's next job is getting them ready for posting. Website shop opening soon.

The Centennial Committee made the decision to include some key celebration events in our Centennial book – therefore the book will be published once these are completed in 2026.

Centennial banners have been sent to each region to use at your events, and in the member zone you will find resources like photos you can use in your celebrations. We have also been able to send historical hand-embroidered banners to some regions

to display – please let us know if you'd like your regions historical banner sent to you.

By the time this goes to print, we will be setting up how to buy Centennial merchandise in the shop. Pop onto the website to purchase your pins, tea towels and wine glasses!

Our Centennial Committee has worked hard for a long time to get to this stage and we are so grateful for their commitment.

The first five correct quiz entries we receive will get a Centennial prize.  
Send entries to [enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz) or phone 0800 256 467



# Reflections and Reminiscences of past Presidents

**We asked Past Presidents for their reflections and reminiscences of their time in the role.**

Here is a selection of these - some serious, some humorous – showing the range of experiences of our Past Presidents, and to give a fuller picture of the range of activities and issues faced at various times.

As expected, all our Past Presidents were generous in their praise of others, while being extremely humble about their own contributions. The strength of diverse perspectives coming together was one of Wendy McGowan's reflections.

"I spent eight years on the National Council before becoming National President, during those eight years I worked on National Council, with the guidance from three very different National Presidents whose style of leadership were incredibly different, each one had something important to give and left their mark. There is no right or wrong way to be a leader. Each one made many changes to keep our organisation viable."

Another consistent theme we heard from all of them is their commitment to strong and relentless advocacy on those issues of importance to rural women and their communities.

All Rural Women NZ Presidents spend a large amount of their time making sure the voice of members and other rural women is heard

loud and clear. Over the years, this has meant there have been face to face meetings in Wellington, both with politicians and with members getting together from across the country. Occasionally this even set the scene for a memorable story!

Jeanette McIntyre has one such story. She talked about the Wellington office "The office was a gracious old house in Hawkestone Street, just across the road from 'Honda House', a beautiful old home where Councillors were accommodated. Many were the late night discussions after a day of meetings, one so intense and interesting, that a bath was left to overflow and flooded both upstairs and downstairs!"

Along with the usual President's duties of advocacy, submissions, and Chairing the National Council, Dame Margaret Millard had the unique challenge of acting as Chief Executive for six months while a new Chief Executive was being recruited.

Some of the Past Presidents talked about very specific challenges during their tenure, others talked about the need to adapt and change as the needs of rural women changed.

"It was a time, too, when we were learning to accept change was inevitable in the way we operated; how and what we did; how we

presented ourselves to rural communities – not just as 'tea, scone and cakes, but one truly representing the diversities of rural women." Sherrill Dackers recalled.

One of these big changes was a major restructuring of the Home Help Scheme, reflected on by Jeanette Tarbotton. "A major restructuring was with the voluntary Home Help Scheme which was run with dedicated volunteers providing free home help to those in need. Changes had to be made to make it viable in a new and competitive environment with the increase in Providers and new Health Regulations."

One of Margaret Chapman's highlights was the beginning of the Enterprising Rural Women Awards, now the NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards. "Rural women were finding so many ways to create a small business for themselves. The first Awards ceremony was held at Parliament at the 2009 Conference. As we now know this Award is now an established event on the RWNZ calendar and is still all about acknowledging and celebrating rural business women and entrepreneurs."

Liz Evans reflected on some of the books we have published over the years. "By the end of my term, our partnership with a publishing





Above: Dame Margaret Millard at the protest against the 1980s' reforms.

company had resulted in three well received cookbooks and three non-fiction biographies of outstanding rural women."

Fiona Gower's time as President coincided with unique period in New Zealand history that was shaped by Covid-19, and specific challenges for regional New Zealand, including the Kaikōura earthquake and the Whakaari eruption. "The lockdown showed up cracks and weaknesses in essential services such as rural connectivity, and it showed the strength of our rural communities as they again supported each other through."

Adverse events feature strongly in Gill Naylor's reflection too. "I am immensely proud of the efforts and generosity of our members throughout the country in response to these events, but particularly during Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle in 2023, which wreaked havoc particularly across the South Eastern Quarter of the North Island, from the East Cape south. There was unprecedented call on our Adverse Events Relief Fund, with close to 200 grants approved."

All the reflections were consistent about the importance of working together, summed up here by Ellen Ramsay.

“ I will always be grateful for the opportunities I had to meet and work alongside many, many kind, energetic, dynamic and inspiring women.

Ellen Ramsay | QSO, NLM | National President, 2001-2003



# National Centennial Fundraising Project

## Pat Evans Centennial Scholarship

### PURPOSE

The Pat Evans Centennial Scholarship honours Pat Evans' notable contributions to Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) and rural communities. It serves as a legacy of her impact on RWNZ history.

### BACKGROUND

Pat Evans served on the National Council from 1986 to 1997, and as Home Care Chair from 1989 to 1997. She played a key role in securing opportunities for RWNZ, and when the contracting of services and government wage subsidies for home support workers began.

### OVERVIEW

- **Scholarship Name:** Pat Evans Centennial Scholarship
- **Fundraising Timeline:** 1st July 2025 – 31 July 2026
- **Objective: Establish a scholarship to improve education and to support improved health access for women and rural communities, aligned in an area of advocacy interest for RWNZ.**
- **Fundraising Goal:** \$150,000
- **Funding Sources:**
  - Regional and national fundraising
  - Legacy donations (endowments)
  - Charitable trust donations
  - **Annual Scholarship:** One, with a goal of increasing to two
- **Amount:** \$5,000 per annum
- **Criteria:**
  - Health students over 25 years old
  - Members, member's whanau
- **Future Plans:** Members may wish to continue fundraising past the centennial year to further benefit members and whanau.



# Activator

May and June were packed with the Activator sessions. We kicked off in Wellington with a wonderful group of vibrant Activators, ready for our seasoned panelists. Our Wellington Activators' enterprises featured health and well-being support, wool products and professional services.

One attendee said *"Oh my goodness - I got so much out of yesterday ... in fact, I'm absolutely fizzing with excitement. I feel like those gorgeous people unblocked something in me. Watch this space..."*

Next up was Christchurch on a beautiful and crisp day. We welcomed another group of Activators with creative and innovative enterprises including boutique accommodation, a riding centre and equestrian products, delicious lime products, mental health and well-being support and short-term relief services.

Finally, we finished off in Dunedin.



The Activator series gets under way in Wellington

Just like the previous two, this was another varied and inspirational group, juggling farm responsibilities, children, full time work, and their entrepreneurial aspirations. Our Dunedin Activators featured a diverse range of businesses including health and wellbeing services on farm, beautiful New Zealand made wool coats, flower podcasting and pet transport services.

The Activator Programme is a long-held partnership with the Ministry for Primary Industries. These sessions are for any rural

women who may have a business idea they want to get off the ground, for women who are ready to take the next step in their business or for those who have encountered an obstacle or challenge and want to discuss some strategies to address that issue.

Thank you to the wonderfully capable and knowledgeable panelists who made themselves available to sit on a full day panel to encourage, motivate, reassure, suggest, collaborate with and light a fire under the Activators.

## The Sharing Shed

We have now come to the end of the first series of Sharing Shed webinars, and we are delighted with the response. These sessions, presented by passionate, committed experts, are such a fantastic resource for our members. If you missed one, make yourself a cuppa and settle in to watch one (or all). You can find these on the Members Zone of the website, under the 'Resources' and 'Webinar' tab.

We'd like to take the opportunity to acknowledge

the six phenomenal presenters who made themselves available to support RWNZ, despite being in such high demand for their expertise. We are so grateful to them for their time and support.

Topics and presenters included:

- Paddock to Powerhouse: Crushing Imposter Syndrome featuring Trish Lui
- Harvesting Better Deals: Negotiating a YES featuring Jenny MacDonald
- Woolsheds and Toyboxes: Balancing work and parenting featuring Emma McLean
- Fences and Finances: Financial strategies for women featuring Pippa Hogg
- Barnyard to Boardroom: Grow

Promoting our wonderful presenters

- your governance career featuring Jo Cribb
- Haybales and Hot Flushes: Navigating Menopause featuring Dr Anju Basu



# Open Letter to Our Valued Members

## From the Board of Rural Women New Zealand

Kia ora e te whānau,

We hope this letter finds you well.

As your Board, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for your continued support, commitment, and connection to Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ). It is the strength of our members—your passion, your time, and your belief in our kaupapa—that continues to carry RWNZ forward as a meaningful force in rural Aotearoa New Zealand.

We also acknowledge that periods of change can feel uncertain. We want to take this opportunity to speak directly with you about the direction of RWNZ—what’s happening, why these changes are needed, and how you remain at the heart of every decision we make.

### Why We’re Changing;

In September 2023, the RWNZ Board initiated a review of our regional structure to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all rural women. Over 260 members shared their voices through this process, and it was clear: while RWNZ has a proud legacy, we must adapt to meet the changing needs of a diverse and evolving membership and our rural communities.

In Phase Two, governance expert Dr Jo Cribb reviewed all feedback and provided a set of strategic recommendations that reflect the realities of modern rural life and the future aspirations of our members.

Based on these findings, we are committed to the following directions:

We are refocusing our efforts to better serve the diverse and evolving needs of all rural women—from those just beginning their journey in rural communities to those who bring decades of experience and leadership. We recognise that rural women are not a single group, but a vibrant and varied community with a wide range of roles, perspectives, and needs.

We are simplifying our leadership structure to make it

easier for more members to participate and contribute meaningfully. By reducing complexity and opening more pathways to leadership, we hope to empower a broader range of rural women to share their skills, experiences, and energy with RWNZ.

We are reimagining the structure and function of our National Office so that it can provide better support to our members and bring greater value to the organisation as a whole. This includes addressing long-standing resourcing challenges and ensuring the office is equipped to support branches, deliver services, and meet future needs effectively.

And we are committed to taking a measured, thoughtful approach to all of these changes, ensuring that we stay connected as a community. We know that our strength lies in our relationships—with each other, with our past, and with the rural communities we serve in our charitable work—and we will honour those connections throughout this journey.

### What’s Changing—And Why It Matters:

The changes now underway are designed to make RWNZ stronger, more sustainable, and more effective in serving rural women and communities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Some of the key initiatives already underway include:

- Welcoming new members: Branch kits, dinner group guides, and social media support tools have been rolled out to help you grow local networks and invite others in.
- Easier access and engagement: We’ve streamlined our sign-up process and expanded member resources online to make joining and participating easier than ever.
- Leadership development: Our new leadership programme and Sharing Shed webinars are helping members gain new skills, share ideas, and build lasting connections.

### Strengthening the National Office

One of the most significant findings from our review



was that our National Office—despite the dedication of its people—has long been under-resourced and underinvested in.

There have been longstanding gaps in both capacity and capability, particularly in supporting our branches and groups to grow and thrive. This has made it difficult to fully deliver the services and support our members and rural communities deserve.

The Board has made the decision to restructure the National Office with the clear intention of building an operation that is:

- Better resourced – with the right team, tools, and infrastructure to meet today’s needs.
- More efficient – ensuring time and resources are focused where they deliver the most impact.
- Member and future focused – ensuring our services are relevant, responsive, and aligned with our mission and charitable work.

The Wellington office will remain where it is, with some internal layout adjustments to support the new structure.

This restructure also enables us to reduce our reliance on our investment fund over time, by increasing operational capability, attracting external funding, and creating new revenue pathways to sustain RWNZ for future generations.

### **Honouring the Past, Embracing the Future;**

We deeply appreciate the trust members have placed in us—and in the Boards and Councils before us—throughout RWNZ’s long and proud history.

We also want to acknowledge something important: declining membership is not a new challenge. It has been a concern for over 30 years. Membership has dropped from 21,000 in 1972 to 1650 in 2025. Successive Boards and Councils have worked tirelessly to try to turn things around. Your current Board is continuing that journey with care, commitment, and urgency.

We’ve made the decision to use some of our investment funds in the short term—not to stand still, but to invest in a sustainable future for RWNZ over the long term. Because to do nothing would mean accepting that we may not survive another 100 years. That is not a future we are willing to accept.

We believe in the power of this organisation. We believe in the strength and potential of rural women. And we believe that with bold, thoughtful action—guided by our members—we can ensure that RWNZ not only survives but thrives.

### **Moving Forward—Together;**

We know change can be difficult. But we also know that our future must be built together.

We are not doing this alone. Your voice, your experience, and your ideas have been and are vital to this journey. Let’s continue to build a culture grounded in respect, openness, and kindness—one where all members are valued, and where our collective wisdom leads the way.

### **Thank You;**

Thank you for standing with us. Your feedback, support, and shared sense of purpose make all the difference.

We remain committed to listening, learning, and leading together as we continue to evolve into an organisation that reflects the realities of today and the hopes of tomorrow—while holding true to the values that brought us here.

If you have questions, feedback, or ideas, please don’t hesitate to reach out. This is our shared journey, and we are proud to walk alongside you all.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Sandra, Annette, Sharron, Bronwyn, Nicole,  
Frances and Heather  
Rural Women New Zealand Board



# Introducing the RWNZ 2025-8 Strategy

## Building a Strong Future Together

In the hundredth year of Rural Women New Zealand, this strategy looks back to honour the legacy of the first women who saw the need in their communities for services and support, as well as looking forward to the needs of new generations of rural women.

This strategy builds on and acknowledges the work of previous Presidents, Boards, National Councils, Branch and Regional Chairs and committees, and Regional Leaders.

### RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE CONNECTED AND THRIVING

The vision of Rural Women New Zealand remains centred on serving rural communities to ensure they are connected and thriving.

### SHARED VALUES DRIVE OUR WORK

Driven by a Creed, this strategy will be implemented adhering to these key values:

- We are welcoming and open; to all rural women
- We are community spirited; focused on the well-being of families and communities
- We are collaborative; we seek to work with others
- We are adaptable and relevant: meeting the needs of today's and tomorrow's rural women

### WE ARE THE FIRST CHOICE FOR RURAL WOMEN FOR CONNECTION AND SUPPORT

Rural Women New Zealand aims to provide opportunities for connection and support for all rural women and 'rural-at-heart' women. We have a critical role in face-to-face support through our extensive branch network, as well as growing an on-line community.

### THREE PILLARS OF SERVICE

The connection and support that Rural Women New Zealand provides will continue to focus on three pillars:

- Ensuring the economic well-being of rural women; so, providing opportunities for rural women to grow their skills and leadership
- The social and economic well-being of rural communities
- Supporting the personal well-being of rural women; by providing opportunities for connection and personal development.

### ENSURING THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF RURAL WOMEN

To deliver on this pillar, Rural Women New Zealand will continue to deliver and expand the Business Awards, Business Directory, Education grants and Activator programme.

We will also design and deliver leadership and business webinars that will be widely available to all members while being targeted to those at the grassroots.

### THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

Much work at the local level supports the social and economic well-being of local rural communities. We will continue to support and celebrate this work.

Rural Women New Zealand is known and respected for its policy and advocacy work. We will build on this to both react to government policy announcements (through submissions and Minister meetings) as well as proactively campaign on key issues (such as the importance of investing in rural women's health). The proactive campaigns – aiming to put issues on the policy agenda – can create positive change for rural communities as well as engage many more rural women in them.

Rural Women New Zealand also has a long and proud history of delivering key services for rural communities. As many agencies have withdrawn from rural communities, Rural Women New Zealand will look to how it can support the delivery of key services to rural communities.

### SUPPORTING THE PERSONAL WELL-BEING OF RURAL WOMEN

Rural Women New Zealand has one of the most extensive branch networks in the country that provides meaningful opportunities for many rural women to connect.

Alongside the physical opportunities to meet, the first Sharing Sheds have been launched with high numbers of participants. The Sharing Shed will be extended and developed to create on-line communities of interest and on-line opportunities to connect.

Further, Rural Women New Zealand will work with other groups to pilot different ways groups can be constituted under the Rural Women umbrella.



# Team Structure

## Operations & Finance Team

**will establish and fix operational processes to ensure they are both cost efficient and effective.**

**What we will see:**

The smooth running of the organisation by managing its finances, operations, process improvement and compliance.

Responsibilities include accounting, payroll, audits, budgeting, procurement, and liaising with and managing service providers such as IT and event providers. They also oversee investments, financial reporting, and office logistics.

- 
- Manager
  - Finance Advisor
  - Admin Support

## Development & Delivery Team

**is dedicated to organisational growth. They bring in new members and new money to deliver services that people who are rural at heart want.**

**What we will see:**

Meaningful services that make a real impact and attract new members.

This team builds partnerships, secures funding and sponsorships to enhance support for members and the communities we serve. Responsibilities include testing new services directly in communities, to be delivered by the Membership team.

- 
- Manager
  - Regional Roles

## Membership Support Team

**understands the needs of members and delivers to those needs. They improve the experience members have with the organisation and are responsible for retention.**

**What we will see:**

Improved delivery of member-related tasks such as enquiries, elections, data management, and services like the Member Recognition Programme and Activator. Responsibilities include AGMs, remits, grants, and bursary administration, as well as providing committee support. They oversee membership reports, and ensure members are supported, connected, and engaged.

- 
- Manager
  - Membership Support

## Communications & Advocacy Team

**ensures that rural women's voices are heard, to directly influence policy and government decisions. They build awareness and engagement using good, accessible communication.**

**What we will see:**

All communication channels will work well to ensure members and stakeholders remain informed, connected, and engaged. Policy positions, advocacy campaigns, and media relations will be cohesive and influential across all platforms. Rural voices will be engaged, connected, and strong, enhancing the organisation's influence and reputation.

- 
- Manager
  - Campaigns and Advocacy Advisor
  - Social Media Advisor





# 2025 Government Budget Announcement

We are excited to be able to provide you with more details about our ConnectHER pilot, which not only aligns with the new strategy but takes us back to the future - providing services to rural communities.

This pilot is an exciting initiative aimed at strengthening connections for rural women and their families with government services and funding. It also seeks to provide valuable feedback to agencies on how they can improve service delivery to rural communities. This pilot will be run in partnership with community and government agencies, has received dedicated funding from MPI.

The pilot will appoint two ConnectHER roles in Southland and East Coast/Wairoa, with individuals who have deep local knowledge, strong relationship-building skills, and cultural competence. These ConnectHERs will receive training on the range of social services available in their region, enabling them to guide rural women and families toward accessing those services effectively. They will also work closely with service providers, offering recommendations to enhance their outreach.

Based in accessible community locations, ConnectHERs will engage with women through face-to-face meetings, online platforms, and local networks. They will collaborate with Rural Women New Zealand networks, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), and partner organisations like Women's Refuge to ensure meaningful connections and support.

The pilot, set to run for one year starting July 2025, will be overseen by a steering committee, including member representatives and partner organisations. This committee will monitor progress and ensure the programme's objectives are met. Recruitment for these roles will begin soon, marking the first step in bringing this impactful initiative to life.

---

## Evolve Advisory Update



The Evolve Programme is moving into the next phase, implementing the findings of the Evolve team into our regular operations.

The next item on the Evolve Advisory Group's agenda is to begin working through how we make changes to the regional boundaries, and how that will affect funding. We are excited about having such a capable and diverse group of rural women bringing their expertise to advise on some of these complex challenges.

### LEPTOSPOROSIS

Thank you to all the branches and members around the country who fundraised and raised awareness for Leptosporosis over the past year. Now that the financial year has ended, we will be collating the total raised and will provide an update on the project in the next Express.



Deep in discussion at Fieldays 2025

# Advocacy Update

RWNZ continues to be an active and credible voice on a range of issues affecting rural women and communities, and we strive to ensure rural perspectives are heard by decision makers.

## POSTAL SERVICES UNDER REVIEW

RWNZ has strongly opposed the proposed cuts to NZ Post's rural services, including reductions in delivery frequency, outlet closures and a shift to more communal collection points. We are concerned these changes will particularly affect older, digitally excluded and isolated members.

## WINS IN HEALTH

Following pressure from RWNZ and other advocacy groups, Pharmac has reversed its earlier decision and is now funding both Estradiol TDP Mylan and Estradot HRT patches. This restores an essential choice for women managing menopause. We also publicly supported the Government's new rural health initiatives, including an increase in after-hours and diagnostics services.

## STANDING UP FOR PAY EQUITY

RWNZ is currently putting together a strong submission to the People's Select Committee on Pay Equity. The Government's decision to amend the existing pay equity process and cancel 33 active pay equity claims was done without public consultation. We are concerned at the impact of this on rural nurses, educators, caregivers and other female dominated workforces.

## IMPROVING OUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

RWNZ contributed a thorough submission to the development of New Zealand's future emergency management legislation, advocating for formal recognition of rural needs, more recognition of community-led responses, and better planning for working animals and livestock.

## RURAL NEEDS IN VOTING PROCESSES

We submitted to LGNZ's Electoral Reform Working Group, advocating for measures to help improve the accessibility of voting for those in rural areas.

RWNZ has also:

- Submitted on the Commerce Commission's copper deregulation proposal, warning of its risks to the 80,000 rural copper users still without fibre.
- Opposed proposals to remove the full driver licence test, citing rural safety risks.
- Submitted to the Ministry of Justice's human rights engagement process on the impacts of digital exclusion, reduced postal services and rural health access
- Raised concerns with Ministers over the withdrawal of Police from rural mental health callouts
- Supported the establishment of Industry Skills Boards as part of the Government's reforms to vocational education.



# Spotlight on our people

We have so many wonderful people in our organisation doing incredible things to make a difference to the lives of others. This makes it difficult to acknowledge them all. However, we have a few magnificent women to spotlight.

## TOKANUI, OTARA, WAIKAWA BRANCH

A meeting in December was held at the Fortrose Cafe where we enjoyed a relaxing evening and were served a beautiful Christmas meal. It was also an opportunity to reward three of our members with Branch Honours.

Greta Buckingham, immediate Past President, joined the Tokanui Branch in 1958, her passion being our Forest as it was her mother-in-law, Mrs Ellen Buckingham, who was a Foundation member of that committee. Greta has been invaluable to the Branch, always available and willing, so in recognition for all she has done for RWNZ, she was honoured with Branch Life Membership.

Nancy Dermody, immediate Past Treasurer, was also awarded Branch Life Membership for the time and effort over the years she has given. She joined the Tokanui Branch in 1966 and has been a regular attendee and giver of her time. These two ladies have district, health, and well-being in mind.

The third award was a Service Simply Given certificate to Lyn Gutsell, our immediate past Secretary. Lyn's involvement with the Branch hasn't been as long as the other two, but she has done a sterling job as secretary.

## HUGE CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our immediate past National President Gill Naylor (2022 to 2024) for receiving an ONZM for services to rural communities and women.

As national president, Gill has advocated, inspired and empowered women from across the sector and helped strengthen rural communities through social connection.

King's Birthday Honours 2025 - Citations for Officers of the New Zealand Order of Merit | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)



## FORDELL/MANAGAMHU BRANCH

At the end of March the branch met to award Life Membership to Leonora Spark, who has been a member since 1997. During her years of service she's held many positions and is still a very active Region 4 Committee and branch member; part of the Centennial Rose Committee, Treasurer of the F/M Education Fund, branch vice chair and the organiser of the popular ACWW 'Women Walk the world' walk.

# Getting to know our people



## Nicole Oliver, North Island Board Member

- Lives on a farm between Matamata and Morrinsville
- Runs Diamond Lab, an online fine jewellery business serving clients across New Zealand
- Deputy Chair of Life Education Trust – Waikato East, bringing Harold the Giraffe into classrooms to teach health and wellbeing
- Loves reading, hiking and her spending time with her friends and family
- Matamata Rotarian and part of Women in Business – Matamata Piako
- Has Masters of Professional Management, and an interest in futures thinking and long-term, resilient leadership
- Connectivity and Business Lead
- Prior career in corporate marketing, developing products for global brands and producing TV commercials

## Heather Sorensen, Regional Leader R7 Top of the North

- Moved to Kerikeri 5.5 years ago after being in Awatere Valley, Marlborough for 27 years.
- Began her RWNZ journey at Scott's Ferry Branch when living near Bulls
- Four adult children and nine fabulous grandchildren. Family is a priority so lots of child minding and helping on the kiwifruit and blueberry properties her sons own nearby
- A registered Celebrant, officiating at weddings a funerals which she finds most rewarding
- Chairs the PTA at her grandchildren's school
- Volunteer for Rural Youth and Adult Literacy Trust
- A phone holder for the Northland Rural Support Trust
- Currently involved in a Yarn Bombing of Kerikeri project - knitting up a storm!!



## Fiona Gower, Interim Regional Leader R6 Greater Waikato

- Third generation Rural Woman
- Based on a farm near Port Waikato, where her partner Terry works.
- Past National President
- Works at Onewhero Area School in the Careers department, mainly with vocational students
- Is Pukekohe Car Club President, and on the Board of the Sunset Surf Lifesaving Service as the Junior Coordinator, Lifeguard, Instructor and Examiner
- Daughter Emily works in England as an outdoor ed instructor, son Anthony works on a farm
- Favourite RWNZ things are the Activator, NZI Business Awards and Mighty Morning Tea Shout, and representing RWNZ internationally
- Loves the Dinner Groups
- Is committed to being inclusive of all Rural Women, and making sure she focuses on the Mighty Waikato
- Looking forward to celebrating our Centennial!



# Country of Study

## Spotlight on Canada: Rural Women Leading Change

**This year, Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) is spotlighting Canada as its Country of Study, aligning with the 2026 ACWW Conference in Ottawa.**

Canadian rural women are leading innovative initiatives that strengthen their communities and offer valuable insights for New Zealand counterparts. The Rural Development Network offers services to support new migrants that are heading to rural communities to work and live, to ensure they succeed and stay living in those communities long term. They provide training programmes that provide understanding of diversity, inclusion and culture, for example the specific needs of Ukrainians fleeing the war, who have sought a new life in rural Canada.

One notable project is Shelter Pulse, a collaborative effort between the Rural Development

Network and Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association. This initiative developed a centralized, trauma-informed policy database specifically for rural women's shelters across Canada. It empowers shelters with accessible, adaptable resources to enhance their support for women facing gender-based violence, particularly in remote areas.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada—an ACWW member—supports rural women through education, advocacy, and hands-on projects. They're active in lobbying for issues that are relevant here in New Zealand such as rural healthcare and digital access, while also running community support networks that ensure no one is left behind.

**ACWW board nomination**  
Rural Women New Zealand is supporting Claire Mahon's

re-election to the Board of ACWW. Claire is originally from Rotorua, and part of a multi-generational farming family. Claire is an international human rights advocate and lawyer, with an extensive career in strategy, development and programme management. Claire has a specific professional interest in food security, access to food and agriculture systems that support this.

### INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?

If you are interested in attending the ACWW Conference in Ottawa, Canada and wish to be part of the New Zealand delegation, please get in touch with us on [enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz) Please note you will need to cover all your own costs.

## 2025 AGRICULTURAL TOURS

### MOROCCO



**SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER -  
SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**

### IRELAND & UK



**THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER -  
TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER**

### SRI LANKA



**SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER -  
MONDAY 27 OCTOBER**

Farm & Leisure Tours offers group travel with a difference, a journey of discovery and learning with groups of like-minded people. Our tours are a balance of special interest farming, sightseeing and a chance to meet the locals, getting the real feel of the country.

**PROUD TO SUPPORT RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS ON OFFER FOR 2025



[www.ruralwomennz.nz](http://www.ruralwomennz.nz)



WEBSITE [www.farmandleisuretours.nz](http://www.farmandleisuretours.nz)

EMAIL [enquiries@farmandleisuretours.nz](mailto:enquiries@farmandleisuretours.nz)

**AGRICULTURAL TOURS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

# Regional Connector



Tēnā tātou katoa  
Winter is well and truly here now and I hope you're keeping warm with a nice hot cuppa as you read through this edition of the Rural Women Express Magazine. It's been a busy and exciting time as we enter our Centennial year and I'm so very proud to be a part of it!

In the Member Zone you'll see design templates for conference social media tiles, a banner and a flyer for your conferences during the centenary, and there's a slideshow you can use in the background at your events.

You'll also see the 'How to Start a Dinner or Lunch' pack. This is full of guidelines and templates

to help you start a group in your region. If you need any support in the early phasing of start-up please let me know. We've also worked with Humanitix to secure an early pay out fee for events and a special rate. Online ticketing offers a faster, more efficient alternative to traditional methods and simplifies the process for both organisers and attendees, a great shift and sustainable choice as we move forward into the next 100 years.

We also have the 100 for 100 Project and the Photo Competition rolling out in the Waikato with robust processes in place to roll these out to other regions, if you'd like to see these projects in your local area drop me an email.

Fieldays was an absolute buzz this year, and we were stoked to be part of it! A massive thank you to everyone who stopped by our site, had a kōrero, or lent a hand. I felt incredibly proud and honoured to represent Rural Women New Zealand in the Advocacy Hub, where we stood shoulder to shoulder with other passionate organisations making a difference for rural communities. It was all about connection, advocacy, and showcasing the work our members do every day. Getting behind the camera and capturing the energy and highlights from the event was also a lot of fun.

---

If you need any support with anything in your regions, I'm here to help - please feel free to reach out, even if it's just to discuss ideas, as the regional connector I'm here for you!

You can contact me via email at [kylie.bensemenn@ruralwomennz.nz](mailto:kylie.bensemenn@ruralwomennz.nz)

---



# In Our Communities

We know a huge amount of hard work goes on around the country in support of rural women and rural communities, and we love hearing about all the events and activities.

## Lunch and dinner groups continue to be a hit

In early June the Kerikeri Group got together at La Patisserie cafe. The 22 attendees enjoyed the guest speakers, and comments included "Rural life can be isolated, and it jolly well is most of the time. Joining the lunches with like-minded women helps bridge that and is something to look forward to."



## Remember your entry

Our writing competition is open till August and entries can be sent to [jen.wiese@icloud.com](mailto:jen.wiese@icloud.com)

While we remind you that entries are open until Friday 29 August for our 2025 writing competition we would also like to make a correction. The winning author's name of the Olive Burdekin Advanced Writers Competition Award 2024 is Melinda Price.

Thank you for your wonderful short story, people can read it on the Members Zone.

## Region 5 Leadership Course

Regional Leader Mary Nowotarski has been participating in the Leadership course.

These are her thoughts about the experience so far:

“ I am participating the RWNZ Leadership course and so far have got a lot from it. I have always been on the quiet side but I'm learning to be more assertive. So far this course so far has given me enthusiasm for the future.



# Region 6 Greater Waikato Regional Conference

The R6GW Region was held at the Jet Park Hotel at Hamilton Airport in mid-May; it was another fun filled informative day for the 63 women that attended the day. There was a mix of long-standing members, new members and several women who were interested in learning more about RWNZ. The speakers were Christine Rankin, speaking of her journey including the time spent as CEO of Work and Income with very powerful take home messages.

RWNZ President Sandra Matthews gave an update on National Office.

After Lunch Fiona Gower, Regional Leader gave

an update of regional happenings, including the Centennial preparations.

This was followed by Angus Marks from Jarden Wealth updating the gathering on the RWNZ portfolio.

Women from the Matahuru Valley Walk, from the first Activator session held in the Waikato gave us an insight into their business and their journey to the present.

After the day session, a small group joined the Jarden Wealth team at their offices for a very informal investment chat over wine and nibbles.

**TO MARK ONE HUNDRED YEARS SINCE THE END OF WWI GLENROY BRANCH** organised and donated plaques for display in the Glenroy Hall. The 100 knitted poppies form a lovely, framed wreath, between two wartime roles of honour. It was a partnership between Glenroy Rural Women and the Craft Group



Women Walk the World was held on Sunday 27th April in Hamilton. 17 adults and 3 children got their bodies moving and strolled around the 3.7km Hamilton Lake walkway,

for total of 74kms and raised over \$100 for ACWW. There was a mix of walkers from the area, including some new members and guests, leading to a wonderfully relaxed

friendly atmosphere, especially at our host's home. Thank you to Wendy and Martin Coup for welcoming us to their amazing home right on the lake edge!





## TRIPLE F CHALLENGE

FUN • FITNESS • FRIENDSHIP



The Triple F Challenge has been held regularly since 2007. However, this year was the first time Taranaki has taken part. The team planning the Challenge got a bit bigger as the year progressed, supporting what Sandra Blue and Margaret Emo had in mind. Along with the challenge of fun, fitness, friendship and fundraising the focus was celebrating some of our unique local artists, and our regional beautiful surroundings – from the Tasman sea to our Taranaki Maunga. Thirty RWNZ women and men travelled from the north and the south to New Plymouth. While the early heavy rain was welcome, alleviating dry conditions, it did turn in our favour, staying away until after the planned weekend events were over.

“Overall, the feeling was certainly one of fun and friendship, partly because we weren’t big in numbers but that we all went to the same places collectively, which allowed us to make new Rural Women connections”. One comment made by one of the ladies attending was “you fitted so much in, we got a good taste of the beauty of



Taranaki. Great RW friendship. Thoroughly good weekend”.

A couple of weeks after the very successful Triple F weekend the Committee donned their Taranaki RW Vests and visited their fundraising partner, the Taranaki Hospice. “We had morning tea with the CEO Paul Lamb and handed over a “cheque” for \$3,000 – something we felt very proud to be doing. We were then given an extensive site visit which complemented what Paul had spoken to us at the Weekend evening meal about the workings of the Hospice.”

## Tokonui Recycling Roundup



Following a few meetings and a lot of co-ordination, and led by Dot MacDonald, the Recycling Roundup day got underway, and while it was a few months ago, its impact has been huge. Tokanui, Otara, Waikawa



Rural Women and South Coast Catchment Group were well supported by local organisations, and invited Kate Mead from Waste-Ed to join in. An incredible amount was covered, and achieved. The Ag and Chemical drum drive brought in 780 drums and 12 500kg Fert bags filled with used fertiliser bags. Kate spoke at a Women’s workshop then again at Tokanui School, and a collection point was set up at the Tokanui Hall for used batteries and other electrical items. As the day progressed there were more presentations, and issues covered, and “challenging discussions tempered with solutions and humour” had.

“We came away with the thought “Make one change at a time to help reduce the impact of plastic on our environment.” We can all make a difference.

# WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

## REGION 1

Wendy Dodd  
Pauline Dawson  
Pip Blair  
Elizabeth Simpson  
Suzie Matthews  
Margaret Gordon  
Sarah Kirkland  
Michelle Bisset  
Dayna Paterson  
Sheree Wallis  
Nayana Barbosa  
Debbie Wills  
Christine Thomson  
Gayle McCormack

## REGION 2

Andrea Brough  
Lee-Ann Doffizi  
Jackie Hunter-Letham  
Charlie Butler  
Susan Fernie  
Felicia Forbes  
Hannah McKinnon  
Rae Frear

Jenny Harkerss  
Caroline Jeavons  
Hazel Carr

## REGION 3

Cathy Heatherbell  
Julie Fitzgerald  
Jan Coll  
Shinae Blackadder-Jones  
Linley Robertson

## REGION 3

Laura Simpson  
Georgia Nelson  
Erin Henriksen  
Nicky Stanley-Clarke  
Mary Davis  
Karen Jarrett

## REGION 4

Janet Ziegler  
Robyn Cornford  
Alice Beamish  
Lynette Shanks  
Sue Dunmore  
Tania Chisholm

## REGION 6 GW

Christina Campbell  
Alana Rowe  
Laura Flynn  
Kylee Smit  
Jennifer Carew  
Jess Sutherland  
Katie Dimond  
Tesh Hearth  
Wendy McDowell  
Chontelle Burkitt  
Janice Davis  
Ashley Habraken

## REGION 6 TK

Maureen Iremonger

## REGION 7

Marie Baker  
Kortne Snedden  
Melanie Vezey  
Sasha Russell  
Ceri Wiggins  
Sophia Egan-Reid

# Farewell to old friends

## APRIL 2025

Maureen Hamilton - Heddon Bush Branch  
Maureen Foote - Ngakuru Branch  
Mary Earwaker - Tokanui Otara Waikawa Branch BLM PLM

## MAY 2025

Jennifer Syme - Darfield Branch BLM  
Christine Sinton - Arohena Branch BLM  
Monica Oliver - Arohena Branch BLM

## JUNE 2025

Isabel Campbell - Rukuhia Branch PLM  
May Ludemann - Five Forks Branch

## JULY 2025

Vicki Ryalls - Cambrian St Bathans Branch  
Maureen Sumbly - Kenepuru Branch BLM

**Join us!**

Rural Women NZ  
membership is just  
\$50 a year.

To join contact us at:  
[www.ruralwomennz.nz](http://www.ruralwomennz.nz)  
0800 256 467



[www.ruralwomennz.nz](http://www.ruralwomennz.nz)

# Regional Leaders & Regional Committees

---

## REGION 7 - TOP OF THE NORTH

Heather Sorensen / Regional Leader / 027 472 4485  
Heather.sorensen@ruralwomennz.nz

---

## REGION 6 - GREATER WAIKATO

Fiona Gower | Regional Leader / 0274 283 884  
Fiona.gower@ruralwomennz.nz  
Liz Morgan | Regional Committee Chair & Treasurer  
lizziemorgan36@gmail.com  
Denise Irvine | denise.irvine@e3health.co.nz  
Jenni Torrens | torrensfarms@xtra.co.nz  
Lara Bowyer / lbowyer@milfordasset.com  
Anita van Beek / Amvanbeek@actrix.co.nz  
Maria Heslop / maria.heslop@craigsip.com

---

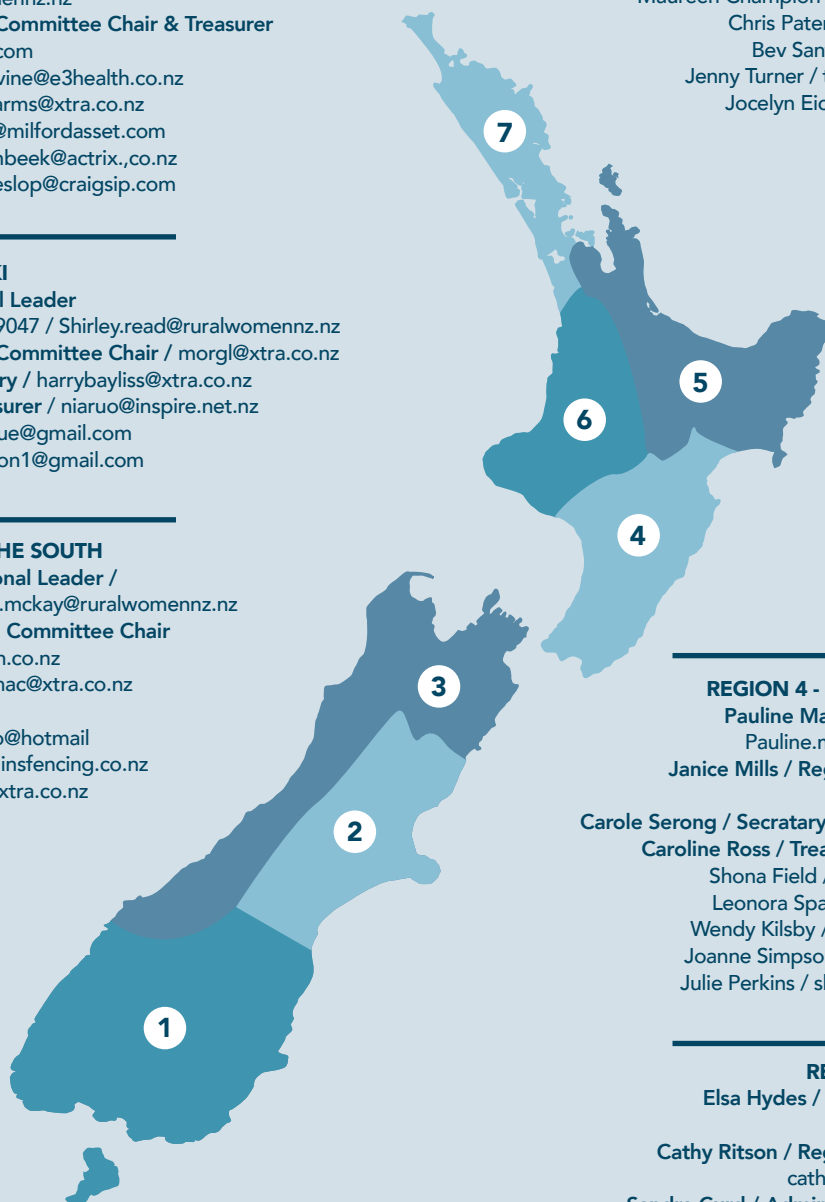
## REGION 6 - TARANAKI

Shirley Read / Regional Leader  
06 752 3698 / 027 665 9047 / Shirley.read@ruralwomennz.nz  
Jo Morgan / Regional Committee Chair / morgj@xtra.co.nz  
Helen Bayliss / Secretary / harrybayliss@xtra.co.nz  
Joyce Lawrence / Treasurer / niaruo@inspire.net.nz  
Sandra Blue / dm.sm.blue@gmail.com  
Jennie Purdon / js.purdon1@gmail.com

---

## REGION 3 - TOP OF THE SOUTH

Barbara McKay / Regional Leader /  
021 142 6980 / Barbara.mckay@ruralwomennz.nz  
Melva Robb / Regional Committee Chair  
melva@soundsreflection.co.nz  
Carolyn McLellan / balmac@xtra.co.nz  
Carol Wells / -  
Lorna Crane / murchallo@hotmail  
Sue Higgins / sue@higginsfencing.co.nz  
Gillian Neal / nealclan@xtra.co.nz



---

## REGION 5 - BOP / COROMANDEL

Mary Nowotarski / Regional Leader, Regional  
Committee Chair / 07 332 3160 /  
Mary.nowotarski@ruralwomennz.nz  
Wendy McGowan / Treasurer / rusty\_wendy@xtra.co.nz  
Margaret Scrimgeour / Secretary / mscrim@gmail.com  
Sue Vowell / tepudeer@xtra.co.nz  
Maureen Champion / sparkysark@kinect.co.nz  
Chris Paterson / chrisjam@xtra.co.nz  
Bev Sanford / jsanford@xtra.co.nz  
Jenny Turner / turnerjenny99@gmail.com  
Jocelyn Eicher / eichlersj@gmail.com

---

## REGION 4 - LOWER NORTH ISLAND

Pauline Masters / Regional Leader /  
Pauline.masters@ruralwomennz.nz  
Janice Mills / Regional Committee Chair /  
jlmills111@gmail.com  
Carole Serong / Secretary / c.serong@hotmail.co.nz  
Caroline Ross / Treasurer / cross@wise.net.nz  
Shona Field / mtwilliam@inspire.net.nz  
Leonora Spark / ljnajspark@gmail.com  
Wendy Kilsby / wendy.kilsby@gmail.com  
Joanne Simpson / josies5888@gmail.com  
Julie Perkins / shearhardwork@gmail.com

---

## REGION 2 - CANTERBURY

Elsa Hydes / Acting Regional Leader /  
esurya@hotmail.com  
Cathy Ritson / Regional Committee Chair /  
catherine\_ritson@yahoo.co.uk  
Sandra Curd / Administrator / curd@xtra.co.nz  
Michelle Martin / Vice Chair / michellemartin1@kpmg.  
co.nz  
Margaret Chapman / mgchapman@xtra.co.nz  
Angela Johnston / babelamb@hotmail.com  
Lyn Zuppich / goathills@amuri.net  
Alex Thompson / alex.thompson74@outlook.com  
Marg Verrall / r.m.verrall@xtra.co.nz

---

## REGION 1 - LOWER SOUTH ISLAND

Lynda Perniskie / Regional Leader  
Lynda.perniskie@ruralwomennz.nz  
Eunice Roberts / Regional Committee Chair  
ebroberts51@gmail.com  
Jean Hamilton / Minute Secretary / jeansh@yrless.nz  
Lynley Whyte / whyte.5@farmside.co.nz  
Alison Moore / mooretterritory2017@gmail.com  
Raewyn van Vugt / whitegold@rivernet.co.nz  
Pat Macaulay / pat.macaulay@outlook.com