

Rural Wrap-Up #12

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** Edition #12 • 16 April 2024

I want to thank our members for all of the kind messages I have received since I announced my decision to step down as Chief Executive of Rural Women New Zealand at the end of June.

It reminds me that the most important thing about this organisation is our wonderful people and the way it connects all of us despite our geographic distance.

There's still a lot of water to go under the bridge before I finish up at the end of June, including this year's NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards and the launch of our online rural women's business directory in the beginning of May. We look forward to sharing more details in the next edition of the Rural Wrap-Up.

Associate Board role

We've had a really positive response to our announcement that we are establishing an Associate Board Member role.

The role is designed to develop the next generation of rural leaders and support the movement for more women on Boards generally. As an organisation, it also supports our succession planning and helps us achieve a broader balance of skills and diversity.

It was also great to see media including Stuff pick up the story. You can read it by clicking this link. (<https://www.stuff.co.nz/rural/350234610/new-rural-women-nz-role-created-develop-rural-leaders>)

More information on the role is available by clicking this link.

(<https://www.ruralwomennz.nz/associate-board-role>)

Applications close on 10 May.

Ngā mihi

Gabrielle O'Brien and the National Office team (Janet, Felicity, Lisa and Mia)

** Government advocacy update

Registration of interest for Reserve Bank community cash service trials

The withdrawal of banking services from rural areas is something we have consistently campaigned on.

We encourage members to spread the word in their communities about taking part in the upcoming Reserve Bank community cash service trials.

The trials look to find solutions to problems rural retailers have with bank takings and obtaining change in locations lacking over-the-counter bank or ATM cash services.

The trials will kick off from August/September and will focus on the important role of retailers in local cash circulation.

Registrations of interest are invited from business, community, local government or iwi leaders on behalf of communities of 1,000 to 10,000 residents with limited or no bank over-the-counter cash services or ATMs.

More information about the trials are available by clicking this link.

(<https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/money-and-cash/future-of-money/cash-system-redesign/community-cash-service-trials>)

You can register your interest by clicking this link.

(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9SXHP5Z>)

If you have any questions, please contact Peter Northcote via email at peter.northcote@rbnz.govt.nz or ring him on 04 471 3281.

Reduction in rural post services

Rural Women CE Gabrielle O'Brien was recently interviewed as part of RadioNZ's Rural News programme about NZ Post phasing out Saturday newspaper and parcel deliveries.

Her message was that while we understand the business rationale behind reducing the frequency of rural postal services, with a range of connectivity issues in rural communities, rural post and newspapers still play an important link.

You can listen to the story from 4.40 seconds in the bulletin by clicking this link. (https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=2018933503)

You can read NZ Post's media release about the changes by clicking this link (<https://www.nzpost.co.nz/about-us/media-centre/media-release/nz-post-to-change-delivery-days-for-newspapers-parcels-to-rural-addresses>) .

Rural Women continues to engage with Ministers and the Ministry for Primary Industries on the issue of rural post services ahead of New Zealand Post updating its Deed of Understanding with the Government.

Agriculture Ministers touring the country

The Government's three agriculture Ministers have begun a national woolshed roadshow.

The meetings are designed to allow rural communities to engage directly with Ministers about the issues affecting them.

We encourage Rural Women NZ members to go and make their voices heard!

The schedules of dates and locations can be found by clicking this link. (<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-woolshed-roadshow-kicks>)

** Funds and Grants

Last chance to apply for two RWNZ community grant programmes

Applications close at the end of April for two of our grant programmes.

The Scotlands Te Kiteroa Charitable Grant of up to \$1500 aims to assist rural individuals, groups and organisations for projects and activities in the areas of children, care, elderly, community, conservation, counselling and education.

You can find more information and download the application form by clicking this link. (<https://www.ruralwomennz.nz/our-funds-and-grants/blog-post-title-one-k9dzg-xf6zj-5nec2>)

The second is the Cynthia Collier Grant. This grant of \$5000 is intended to support projects and activities focussed on children, the elderly, community, conservation, counselling and education.

You can find more information and download the application form by clicking this link. (<https://www.ruralwomennz.nz/our-funds-and-grants/blog-post-title-one-k9dzg-xf6zj-5nec2-fwrj9>)

Scholarship Recipient

We also love receiving feedback from our scholarship recipients!

Danelle Taft was the recipient of the Rimaniui Norma Evans Education Award.

The \$2,000 grant is designed to help rural women advance their tertiary studies.

Here's what Danelle had to say: "Thanks to your scholarship, I have been able to pursue my degree with greater focus and determination. I am thrilled to share that I have recently passed cardiology, a milestone that would not have been possible without your assistance."

** News

Member concerns about the withdrawal of copper landlines

We have had some members express concern that Chorus will remove their copper landlines even though they don't have access to a fibre connection.

We want to reiterate that Chorus can only stop supplying copper services where households can access the same services over the fibre network. In areas where fibre is not currently available, Chorus must continue to supply copper services.

More information on the Copper Withdrawal Code the Commerce Commission administers is available by clicking this link.

(<https://comcom.govt.nz/regulated-industries/telecommunications/telecommunications-for-consumers/copper-withdrawal-code>)

If you have experienced this issue, please let us know and we will raise the issue directly with the Commission.

Changes to Health NZ's National Travel Assistance Scheme

Health New Zealand has recently made changes to the National Travel Assistance (NTA) scheme.

The scheme helps people access specialist health care who need to travel long distances or travel frequently by contributing to their travel and accommodation costs.

A number of changes to the NTA scheme have been announced. From 1 April 2024:

* mileage rates will rise from 28c to 34c a kilometre, and

* nightly accommodation rates will rise from \$100 to \$140 a night. The rate for those staying with friends or whānau will increase from \$25 to \$35 a night.

NTA applicants can now email their claims through to
claimsmanagement@health.govt.nz

In the near future they also intend to:

- * introduce easier pre-payment and claiming options,
- * make eligibility changes to better target those in need, and
- * better promote and increase awareness of the scheme.

Share your views on farming today

AgriHQ (the team behind Farmers Weekly) is asking New Zealand farmers and their families to speak up and share their ideas about farming today through their new 'The Farmer's Voice' community.

The first step in building their community to have better farming conversations is taking part in their survey about what it is like to be a farmer today and what the most important issues are.

They will share the results with participants, as well as passing on key themes to decision-makers in government and other industry bodies.

You can join The Farmer's Voice community and take part in the survey by clicking this link. (<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7703416/rural-women>)

You can find more information about the Farmer's Voice by clicking this link. (<https://www.agrihq.co.nz/thefarmersvoice>)

House of science looking for volunteers

House of Science is looking for volunteers. They are a not-for-profit established in 2013 to build confidence and capability in science learning and develop hands-on, comprehensive, bilingual (te reo Māori and English) resource kits with all the materials needed to carry out engaging science lessons.

The kits are delivered to schools using a subscription-based library system.

They service many rural and remote regions across the North Island and are looking for local volunteers to help deliver and upkeep these invaluable resources.

If you're interested in volunteering, please email info@houseofscience.nz or visit their website by clicking this link.
(<https://houseofscience.nz/supporters/>)

** Regional Spotlight

Sod turning for new health building funded by former Awana Branch

Chair of the Aotea Health Trust turning the sod with Diane Simpson, former President of the Awana Branch, Practice Nurse Leonie Howie and Beverley Blackwell, the longest serving Member of former Awana Branch. Her mother Mrs Sanderson was a founding member of the branch in 1948.

At the beginning of April the sod was turned for the new Aotea Health Practice building on Great Barrier Island. The new building is expected to take about 10 months to complete. Once complete a wing will be named in honour of the former Awana Branch.

The new building received a substantial donation from the proceeds from the sale of the Awana Branch Marion Barleyman Memorial Cottage.

Rest, Refresh and Revitalise events

We have wrapped up our series of five Rest, Refresh and Revitalise events in Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay and Tararua.

The events were a wonderful opportunity to provide some much-needed time out for some of the women who continue to provide invaluable support to their communities following Cyclone Gabrielle and last year's extreme weather events.

** Member Spotlight

Deborah Rhodes wins Emerging Rural Research Award

A big congratulations to our member Deborah Rhodes who took out the award for Emerging Rural Researcher at the National Rural Health Conference 2024 Awards.

Deborah is a rural advocate and dairy farm owner and pioneers groundbreaking research on health and safety in the dairy industry. Her PhD work addresses critical gaps, using innovative methodologies to shed light on rural health challenges, aiming for tangible policy improvements and community resilience.

We are also very fortunate to have Deborah as a member of our Health Policy Action Advisory Group.

** Upcoming Events

----- 45° Fibre Festival

It's great to see our Clifden Rural Women organise Southland's first 45° Fibre Festival!

The Festival is being held in Gore on the weekend of 4-5 May.

In the words of Ann Sutherland from Clifden Rural Women:

“The festival is mostly around wool, spinning, weaving, dyeing, and generally increasing awareness of our wool product and how it has been used in our culture and creatively.

At a time when the selling power of fleece is at rock bottom prices, we need to encourage people that wool is to be appreciated through various techniques and worn proudly.”

Find out more (<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2024/45d-fibre/gore>)

ACWW Women Walk the World

29 April marks ACWW Women Walk the World Day. The international day is designed to celebrate ACWW's international network and raise awareness and funds for their work.

You can find information and resources on the ACWW website by clicking this link. (<https://acww.org.uk/fundraise-for-acww>)

ACWW South Pacific Area Conference in Griffith NSW Australia

The Associated Country Women of the World, which RWNZ is affiliated to, is holding its South Pacific Area Conference in Griffith, Australia on 9-12 September.

National President Gill Naylor is looking forward to attending the conference and connecting with a strong RWNZ delegation there.

You can find out more information about the conference and register your attendance by clicking here. (<https://acww.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6b21bce6f6526dbf7583fb2aa&id=07930b556d&e=0d74fde763>)

Similar to Kuala Lumpur last year, if you are planning on attending, please make your own travel and accommodation arrangements. Additionally, please advise Noelene Price Quedley via email noeleneq@hotmail.com (<mailto:noeleneq@hotmail.com?subject=&body=>) as she is going to be collating attendees' details.

This will allow for RWNZ members to connect ahead of the conference and keep in touch while over there. Thank you to Noelene for offering to do this!
<https://www.facebook.com/ruralwomennz> https://www.instagram.com/ruralwomen_nz/
<https://ruralwomennz.nz/> <mailto:enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz>

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