

RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND

MINUTES OF AGM

HELD ON FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2022

at Public Trust Hall, 131-135 Lambton Quay, Wellington at 10am

PRESENT: Gill Naylor National President
Sandra Matthews National Board Chair
Jenny McDonald National Finance Chair
Sharron Davie-Martin South Island Board Member
Emma Higgins South Island Board Member
Claire Williamson North Island Board Member

In Attendance: Gabrielle O'Brien Chief Executive
Katrina Bullen Minute taker

Members attending:

Region 1:

Alison Moore
Ann Irving
Eunice Roberts
Heather Smith
Lynley Whyte
Pat Macaulay
Raewyn van Vugt

Region 2:

Alison Shearer
Bev Bagrie
Beverley Forrester
Elsa Hydes
Frances Beeston
Lisa Williams
Lyn Zuppich
Marg Verrall
Marion Dent
Sandra Curd

Region 3:

Dorothy Dixon
Lorna Crane
Sue Higgins NMH

Region 4:

Anne Finnie NMH
Caroline Burnell
Caroline Ross
Jacky Stafford NLM
Jocelyn Colton
Josie Gower NMH
Leonora Spark
Liz Monk
Pauline Masters
Shona Field
Tamzin Coull
Kathy Gruschow
Marie Daly

Region 5:

Jennifer Turner NMH
Kay Pridmore
Margaret Scrimgeour NMH
Mary McTavish
Mary Nowotarski

Region 6 Greater Waikato:

Bronwyn Main
Elizabeth Morgan
Fiona Gower ONZM NLM
Jenni Torrens
Raewyn Marwood

Region 6 Taranaki:

Margaret Vickers
Shirley Read NMH
Jo Morgan

Region 7:

Heather Sorensen
Katrina Stent
Marie Appleton NLM

OPENING CEREMONY

Introductory Comments

The meeting was opened by the Chief Executive. Emma Higgins shared a karakia and a waiata was sung. Housekeeping matters were covered.

New Zealand National Anthem

Everyone stood and sang the National Anthem.

RWNZ Creed

Heather Sorensen shared her thoughts on the Creed and outlined some of its history before leading the reciting of the Creed by those attending the AGM.

The National President welcomed everyone, especially the National Life Members and National Members of Honour, to the AGM. She also thanked the National Office team for all their hard work.

Messages

A video message from Her Excellency, the Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro was played. The National President shared some thoughts received from the Hon. Minister Jan Tinetti, who was unable to attend the AGM, but would be attending the Business Awards. Greetings from ACWW's International President, Magdie de Kock, and ACWW South Pacific President, Gail Commons, were also read to the meeting.

Keynote Address – Claire Mahon

Claire Mahon, RWNZ's nominee for the position of Chair of the Communication and Marketing Committee on ACWW Board of Trustees addressed the AGM via video and outlined her professional and personal background and her reasons for standing for the ACWW Board.

National President's Address

The National President presented her opening address and the following was noted:

- Congratulated Rural Women New Zealand Members who had received Queen's Honours over the last two years. She also congratulated the National Board Chair on her recent award.
- It had been another year of disruptions but the President was proud of the organisation, which had shown support, empathy and the ability to be flexible and adaptable.
- The Strategic Plan had been designed to take the organisation past the 2025 centenary and included goals and targets to aspire to. RWNZ would work with staff and the Regional Leadership to convert plans into actions. Work was being undertaken to raise the profile of RWNZ and share what it has to offer.
- One of the goals is to have 2,000 members by June 2023 and the new Membership Working Group was raising good ideas and strategies.
- The Contestable Fund was available for applications for new initiatives.
- An elevator pitch was in development.
- The importance of keeping connected and maintaining communication to move forward together was noted.
- Planning had started towards the Centennial and a subcommittee had been established. The subcommittee was working on a book about RWNZ's achievements and a centennial rose was underway.
- RWNZ needed to evolve with the times at all levels of leadership and this would be one of the keys to success in the future.
- Recognition of the wonderful legacy left by previous RWNZ members.

Presentation of National Awards

The award winners were announced as follows:

Olive Craig Tray - Member of Excellent Award

- Liz Morgan, Region 6 Greater Waikato and Waitanguru Branch

Best Branch President's Report

- Verla Smith, Pelorus Sound Branch, Region 3

Honora O'Neill Gong - Best Provincial Officer's Report

- Marg Verrall, Mid Canterbury Provincial, Region 2

Lady Blundell Tray - Best Innovative Project Award

- Region 6 Greater Waikato - Charity Online Auction

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. WELCOME

The National Board Chair, Sandra Matthews, welcomed everyone to the AGM and opened the meeting. The Chair introduced the Board members and National Office staff.

The contributions of all members on the Roll of Honour were recognised.

Time was taken to farewell friends and remember those that were no longer with us. A moment's silence was observed for Ailsa Lovett, who has passed away at 93 years of age. She had joined the Lynnford Branch in 1950.

2. EXPLANATION OF VOTING RULES

The voting rules were explained and noted.

3. VOTING STRENGTH

The voting strength was confirmed as follows:

- 54 votes in the room
- 115 votes by post and email.
- Total voting strength of 169.

It was confirmed that a quorum had been achieved, being 5% of the total membership of 1,677. It was noted that seven invalid votes had been received in the post.

4. CALL FOR SCRUTINEERS AND TIMEKEEPER

It was confirmed that Pat Macaulay from Region 1 was the Returning Officer.

The four Scrutineers to assist the Returning Officer were:

- Shirley Reid, Region 6 Taranaki
- Heather Sorensen, Region 7
- Bronwyn Main, Region 6 Greater Waikato
- Tamzin Coull, Region 4

It was moved that the proposed scrutineers be accepted.

Moved: Fiona Gower

Seconded: Gill Naylor

CARRIED

5. CALL FOR TIMEKEEPER

Dot Dixon, Region 3, offered to be the timekeeper to time the speakers.

It was moved that Dot Dixon be appointed timekeeper.

Moved: Gill Naylor

Seconded: Raewyn Van Vugt

CARRIED

6. ADOPTION OF THE SPEAKING RULES

It was noted that the speaking rules had been circulated and copies were available. Members took a moment to read the rules.

It was moved that the Speaking Rules be adopted.

Moved: Sandra Matthews

Seconded: Josie Gower

CARRIED

7. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were noted:

- Liz Pennington
- Melva Robb QSM, NMH
- Ellen Ramsay NLM
- Wendy McGowan NLM

- Sue Vowell
- Elizabeth Hill
- Janet Williams NMH
- Margaret Millard DNZM NLM
- Susan Saunders NMH
- Craig Young
- Dianne Higgins
- Karen Attwood
- Margaret Chapman ONZM NLM
- Michelle Martin
- Janet Jensen MNZM NMH
- Margaret Pittway NMH
- Penny Mudford ONZM NMH
- Noelene Price-Quedley
- Cathy Nola
- Sue Hall
- Eileen O’Conner
- Alison Oxnam
- Jean Coleman
- Joan Black

It was moved that the apologies be accepted

Moved: *From the Chair, Sandra Matthews*

CARRIED

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**

It was moved that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting in 2021 be adopted as a true and correct record, subject to the amendments noted below.

Moved: *Mary McTavish*

Seconded: *Sue Higgins*

CARRIED

The following amendments to be made to the minutes:

- *People present who were not noted in minutes:* Marg Verrall, Maureen Maginness.
- Page 3, note 3, amend typo ‘remembrance’ is spelt incorrectly.

Matters Arising

Bronwyn Main, Region 6 – Greater Waikato asked about the Remit Meeting held by Zoom and the Chief Executive was able to advise that this would be included in the Remit session in the afternoon.

9. **ANNUAL REPORTS**

All annual reports were taken as read and noted.

9.1 **National President’s Report**

It was moved that the National President’s Report be accepted.

Moved: Gill Naylor **Seconded:** Sandra Matthews CARRIED

It was noted there was a typo 'Black Heels' podcast spelt incorrectly.

9.2 National Office Report

It was moved that the National Office Report be accepted.

Moved: Gill Naylor **Seconded:** Emma Higgins CARRIED

9.3 National Finance Chair's Report

The National Finance Chair (NFC), Jenny McDonald presented her report and the following was noted:

- These were the consolidated reports of Branches, Regions, and National Office.
- There had been a consolidated loss of \$2,574,430 for the year, with a National Office trading loss of \$2,575,981. There had been a net trading surplus of \$51,522 for the Regions/Branches. *NB: These figures were later clarified and updated - refer paragraph 10.1*
- There had been savings at National Office, but there had also been a significant drop in the investment portfolio with a deficit of \$2,475,294 versus budget. The realised loss was \$137,000 and an unrealised loss of \$1,882,312.
- The value of profit was \$17,980,741, which was a drop in value of \$1,432,562 from June 2021, or 8.43%.
- The Russia/Ukraine war had had a negative impact as had a drop in the bond market.
- The end of September quarter had seen an increase of \$110,071 (profit) and it was noted that the quality of the portfolio was strong.
- The membership funds were \$67,940, which was a drop of \$1,821 or a drop of 42 financial members.
- With the strategic investment budget in place, RWNZ was developing a new membership strategy. This was an ongoing focus for the Board with a goal of 2,000 members by June 2023 and a target of 6,000 members by 2027.
- The Board required flexibility for the strategic fund.
- Thirty-nine Branches had failed to report in June 2022. This creates a risk for the future. RWNZ would follow up the unreported entities over the next year to offer assistance to meet reporting requirements.
- The withdrawal of cheques has had an impact on some of the Branches.
- Polson Higgs have been appointed as RWNZ's accountants.
- National Office's new premises would mean an annual rent saving of \$40,000.
- RWNZ had received its seventh unqualified audit opinion and thanks were expressed to the BDO team.

As this was the NFC's last report, she acknowledged our Jarden advisors for their work and Kathy Gruschow, Investment Advisor, for her oversight of investments which she undertakes pro bono. She also acknowledged the hard work of the National Office team and thanked the National Board members for their support; they are a team of highly skilled and dedicated women. She also welcomed Annette Marr as the new National Finance Chair.

It was moved that the Finance Report be accepted.

Moved: Jenny McDonald **Seconded:** Sue Evans, Region 3 CARRIED
Abstention: Mary McTavish, Region 5

The floor was opened for questions. A question was asked regarding the money for the discretionary funds and the \$90,000 for the running of the National Office and how those funds are withdrawn

The NFC advised that the ringfenced funds had been transferred to the Jarden portfolio following advice. It was noted that the Wellington property market was very different now due to earthquake insurance etc, and the current Board had considered it a risk to invest in commercial property and that Jarden offered a better return on those funds.

The NFC also noted that the portfolio split decision had been made after consultation with Jarden and advice from Kathy Gruschow, and although it had not worked advantageously this year, it would be the case in the future.

Regarding ethical investments, it was noted that the Board and the Financial Advisor were always monitoring whether Jarden was working within the SIPO and there is a list of equities currently held in the RWNZ portfolio.

A question was raised regarding realised losses and why shares had been sold. Angus noted that they undertake a lot of research including the long term outlook when they are investing and if a position no longer looks as positive, they would consider a decision to sell at a loss.

The National President noted the makeup of the portfolio, and that there were times during the year that it might change.

Shirley Read queried the investment income budget and noted that RWNZ had budgeted to pay \$67,806 for investment fees but that the actual amount had been \$70,129, which was higher than budgeted. The NFC noted that this was due to the change of ratio during the year which had required additional transactions.

12. NATIONAL BOARD PORTFOLIO REPORT

The National Board Portfolio report was taken as read and noted.

13. CHARITABLE FUNDING REPORT

The Funding Report was taken as read and the following was noted:

- The CE confirmed that raised funds had been paid to the 'O is for...' National Project charities.
- Bronwyn Main felt there was a need for more specifics on the charities and how they would be using the money.
- The National President noted that the overall outcome was to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and this had been achieved.

It was moved that all Annual Board Reports be accepted.

Moved: Gill Naylor

Seconded: Claire Williamson

CARRIED

14. REGIONAL LEADERSHIP REPORTS

The Regional Reports were taken as read and noted. Any questions could be emailed to National Office.

It was noted that the motion for the reports were included in the voting papers.

It was moved that the Regional Leadership Reports be accepted.

Moved: Eunice Roberts

Seconded: Raewyn van Vugt

CARRIED

15. BYLAW CHANGE

It was noted that minor changes had been made during the year to the Regional Policy.

Bronwyn Main noted that she was speaking against the bylaw and sought clarification about the Pat Evans funding and it being replaced by 'Charitable' and what Charitable now includes. The National President noted that any reference to Pat Evans includes the charitable proportion is allocated to regions. The amount includes funds for activities and training, funds for administration support and funds for charitable. Bronwyn noted that with the clarification she would now support the bylaw change.

Raewyn Van Vugt sought clarification on the wording 'recognised leadership training course'. The National President noted that it was broad and that there was not a specific list of recognised courses.

Shirley Read spoke for the change and gave a background of the bylaw change specifically that Area Leaders were now Regional Leaders.

Heather Sorensen noted that under 4.10.a a change had been missed and there was still a reference to 'Area Leader' rather than 'Regional Leader'.

16. **RESOLUTION TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEE**

The Chair outlined the reasoning behind the proposed increase from \$50 inclusive of GST to \$60 inclusive of GST from 1 July 2023.

The National President was called on to speak to the motion as the seconder.

Marie Appleton spoke for Members who were unable to attend. She felt that, at present, it was the wrong time to be raising subs and that the organisation must retain those people who have spent time building it.

Jenny Torrens noted the need to strive to attract new members, but felt the hardest aspect was asking them to pay the subscription.

Tamzin Coull spoke against the resolution. She felt it should not be raised now when RWNZ are trying to increase the membership and that the organisation needed to concentrate on growing its base before it looked at increasing the fees.

It was moved that the membership subscription increase from \$50 inclusive of GST to \$60 inclusive of GST from 1 July 2023

Moved: Sandra Matthews **Seconded:** Gill Naylor

Votes for: 54

Votes against: 95

Abstentions: 3

MOTION WAS LOST

The Chair noted it was very heartening to have the discussion and RWNZ needed to look at the whole operation and that the Board wanted to represent them to the best of their ability.

Presentations were made to the staff and the Chair noted that they do an outstanding job and she thanked them on behalf of the Members.

The AGM proper concluded at 12.45pm and lunch was taken.

The meeting resumed at 1.15pm

17. **PANEL DISCUSSION – HEALTH REFORMS**

The panel members were:

- Rachel Haggerty, Interim Director, Transformation and Enablers, Commissioning at Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand
- Marie Daly, General Manager, Advocacy of Hauora Taiwhenua – the Rural Health Network

Rachel Haggerty and Mary Daly introduced themselves and outlined their backgrounds.

Rachel Haggerty described Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand, the Rural Health Strategy and the Women's Health Strategy. The CE asked what changes they could foresee over the coming years and Rachel spoke about access to services and the sustainability of services:

- Better access to diagnostic services and after hours care;
- Access to timely emergency services;
- Reliability and sustainability of mental health services;

- Realistic funding for rural health services.

Rachel Haggerty advised that Te Whatu Ora was working on how to fund rural care noting that attracting an adequate workforce was the biggest, significant issue, with the impacts of sustained pressure on the health system and COVID-19 as other large issues. There was a vast amount of work to encourage people to enter into rural practices and being supported once they were. There was a need to grow the number of people to work rurally. Maternity care was a major work of work and Te Whatu Ora expected to fund rural maternity teams having recognised it is a significant gap.

Marie Daly discussed the rural geographical classification for the health map.

The floor was opened to questions:

- A question was asked about using both English and Māori to help people understand Te Pae Tata – Interim Health Plan.
- A question was asked on how rural could attract doctors from practices in Auckland. Marie felt that help should be given to rural to train their own.
- It was noted that the issues of bonding were complicated but that Te Whatu Ora was working on this.
- A Member stated that the biggest problem in New Zealand was that we were not training enough people and that they should get back to basics. Rachel Haggerty noted there was a workforce taskforce looking at the unnecessary barriers which prevented people entering and exiting training.
- Rachel Haggerty noted Te Whatu Ora was looking at a new rural healthcare model which would remove rigid rules and working its way through and addressing the issues.
- Concern was expressed about the elderly and the use of migrant workers. Rachel Haggerty noted time was needed to work through the homecare support services and how best to support people who work in communities and how to nurture them including attaching them to local teams using a locality approach.

In summary, Rachel Haggerty noted that rural healthcare was now part of Te Whatu Ora's thinking, planning and choices. Marie Daly agreed and noted the commitment to always fight to ensure all have access regardless of day, time of night, and that it was not going to cost an arm and a leg to do so. When people face an emergency, they know that help is on its way and that the emergency services will be available to them.

The Chief Executive thanked Rachel and Marie for their time and presented them each with a gift.

18. **SPEECH COMPETITION**

Shirley Read, Convenor of the Speech Competition outlined the background of the competition and introduced the two speakers.

First speaker: Lorna Crane, Murchison Branch, Region 3

Second speaker: Frances Beeston, Region 2

The Judges were Fiona Gower, Sue Higgins and Heather Sorenson.

Shirley Read outlined the rules of the competition and the topic being: *A modern rural women's guide to etiquette* and then the two speakers shared their speeches.

19. **REMITTS**

19.1 **Minutes from the Previous Remit Session**

The Minutes from the 2022 online Remit Session were taken as read.

The following amendments were noted:

- An amendment for the Minutes had been received by the Office noting that Karen Attwood was missing from one session.
- Change Maureen Champion from Region 6 to Region 5.

It was moved that the Minutes from the 2022 Remit Sessions with the amendments as noted, be accepted.

Moved: Gill Naylor

Seconded: Kay Pridmore

CARRIED

An update was provided on the Remits that had been passed at the previous meeting and the following was noted:

- *Remit 1 – Third Party Insurance:* No action had been taken due to other priorities.
- *Remit 2 – Decentralised of Emergency Services:* No action had been undertaken due other Board priorities.
- *Remit 3 – Fees on Rural Vehicles:* Initial research had been carried and it had been noted that fees only applied to imported vehicles.
- *Remit 4 – Immigration and Visas:* Raised with Ministry for Primary Industries and is ongoing.
- *Remit 5 – Rural connectivity:* Ongoing and is part of what the Technology Workgroup are doing.
- *Remit 6 – Maternity Service Review:* Ongoing work by Board and staff.
- *Remit L1 – Improved Visibility for Road Users:* No action has been taken due to other priorities.
- *Remit UN High Level:* Added to submissions when appropriate.
- *Remit Rebalancing of Funds to Regional Committees:* Item is on the Board's upcoming workplan and they will advise when the work is completed.

Frances Beeston asked whether the National Office had the capacity to action the remits. The CE noted that they were restricted by having one policy person and the fact they were a small team but that they will do what they can. The National Chair noted that she would talk about a fresh approach to policy which may enable them to deal with some of the remits.

Bronwyn Main asked for confirmation that the Board was looking at rebalancing the funding, and whether it would be implemented in the next financial year. The Chair noted that this was a bigger piece of work than just the funding of the Regions. The Board was aiming to do this in the new year and it would be included the Board agenda. Region 6 Greater Waikato acknowledged this and wanted to deliver the best possible outcomes for Members.

19.2 Remit for 2022

That RWNZ urge the NZ Ministry of Education to expand the Food component in the School's Health and Physical Education Curriculum for all Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, to allow a greater depth of study in food growing, handling, nutrition, budgeting and hands-on cooking.

Moved: Marg Verrall

Seconded: Sandra Curd

CARRIED

Marg Verrall shared the rationale behind the remit and proposed it be adopted.

Sandra Curd seconded the remit and noted she had spoken to teachers and New Zealand is one of the top countries with childhood obesity. She had also discussed adding budgeting and cooking.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Kay Pridmore from Region 5 spoke for the remit and shared two examples of children having been taught to cook and the benefits of this.

Anne Finnie, Region 4 spoke against the remit and expressed concern about pressure being put back on schools with all the other subjects they are also required to teach. She felt that more effort should be put into teaching the parents in communities where there is need.

Jo Morgan, Region 6 – Taranaki spoke for the remit and noted that there were families whose children have been taught to cook who were coming home and teaching their families.

Lynley Whyte, Region 1 had noticed young staff who were working on Stations who were not able to cook and their Branch had been running cooking classes for them, and she felt that teaching cooking in schools was needed.

Marg Verrall agreed that there was a lot to be being taught in schools and they had tried, without success, to teach the parents. One idea could be to get on board with some food producing organisations to help.

The Remit was then put to the vote.

Against: 2

Abstained: 2

The remit was carried.

20. **SPEECH COMPETITION RESULTS**

The competition results were announced and awards presented:

- Tarrant Bell: Lorna Crane – Murchison Branch, Region 3
- Tutaenui Bell: Frances Beeston, Region 2

21. **SHORT STORY COMPETITION**

The following winners of the short story competition were announced:

- Marlborough Short Story Competition winner: Lorna Crane, Region 3
- Olive Burdekin Prize for Advanced Writers winner: Liz Evans, Region 3

22. **SOAP BOX**

The soap box items were read out by the Chief Executive:

- Why can't the \$8,000 regional money, if not spent in one year, be held over until the next year?
- Financial reporting: Could it be that after each branch meeting the financial report is sent to National Office. As these reports are already presented to the branch it is not an additional job to do. It can be used as a running record for each branch and this will help with the Audit reporting.
- It is good that we have 19 million in the bank, but when Access was sold did they put any special conditions on that money? What plans do you have for the future of this money?
- Why does our Finance Chair only have a two-year term as they have only got there head around it, why not a 4 year term?
- Charitable Giveback: Could the Charities Commission question our charitable give back nationally?
It is very small percentage of our funds: Response: Feedback with auditor working well within the scope of the charitable status.
- Please explain the job description of the Regional Connectors and how we would maximise their input to our Regions?
- Is there any support for the Board increasing the subs by \$2 every two years not \$10 in 10 years. The Membership Working Group will look at this.
- It is a huge concern to people of aged character that there seems to be a huge amount of rhetoric in any of the blub from Te Whatu Ora regarding home based help for rural and aged.

23. **PANEL DISCUSSION – Q&A SESSION WITH THE NATIONAL BOARD**

The Board introduced themselves and provided an overview of their roles and what they had been involved in during the year. The National President presented the Rural Women NZ Strategic Action Plan and the floor was then opened for questions.

A Member asked for the Plan to be sent out to Members. It was also agreed to add the plan overview to the website.

There was a discussion regarding Florence Polson and the formation of one of the early Branches in Stratford and the possibility of obtaining information from her grandsons.

A question was asked regarding the Business Portfolio: whether it had been merged into another portfolio and if this was permanent? Claire Williamson advised that it was and this would continue in the new Policy Action Advisory Group structure.

Fiona Gower asked about the funding received two years ago for trauma training and what was happening with it. The Chief Executive advised that RWNZ had discussed this with the Ministry

of Women as the funding was originally to be used to bring in a specialist trainer from Australia and this had not been possible due to COVID-19 restrictions. RWNZ was now in the process of discussions with the Regional Leaders on how best to use the funding before the end of June 2023.

Heather Smith asked whether the Board had approved a budget for the Centenary celebrations. The National Chair replied that a budget would be set but the Board was not at that point yet. It needed to look at the size and scale of the project and then allocate a budget accordingly.

Mary McTavish noted that a couple of items she had previously asked to be changed in the Plan had not been. Specifically, she noted the word 'rural' should be added back into the Vision statement and the order of the rectangular boxes be altered so that 'Membership' preceded 'Our people'. The National President noted the reason for leaving 'rural' out of the vision.

Margaret Vickers asked whether truancy in schools was something that Rural Women should look at.

Jenny Torrens acknowledged the Board and the impact of COVID-19 but said that she would like to see the Board more focused and that she was concerned that there wasn't a budget for some things. She also noted that a lot of things had been put aside due to COVID-19 and that it was now time for Rural Women to stand up and make themselves known. Emma Higgins asked for an example of something that needed to be brought in to focus. Jenny replied that on reviewing the Remits, it looked like lot of things had been glazed over and not finished and that this was needed for some of the agreements that had been made. Emma Higgins noted that there could be more communication on progress that had been made.

The National President noted that the Board has a schedule of work that would be completed by June 2023. The Chief Executive noted that with regards to the Remits, RWNZ was consistently responding to events and developments as they arose.

Fiona Gower asked about setting good KPIs which was acknowledged by the Board Chair.

Frances Beeston reiterated her earlier point - that it came back to the capacity to undertake the policy work included liaison with policy groups and members.

24. **NATIONAL BOARD ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chief Executive acknowledged and thanked retiring National Finance Chair, Jenny McDonald. She then read Jenny's citation and presented her with a gift and flowers.

The newly elected National Finance Chair, Annette Marr, and the returning Board Members were then announced and confirmed.

The National President thanked Jenny for her support during her tenure.

25. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE AND VENUE FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023**

The National Conference for 2023 would be held on 23-25 November at Rydges Christchurch, with the AGM being held on Friday 24 November.

26. **MEETING CLOSE**

The National President shared her closing thoughts.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm

Signed by President

Date