

Wilkinson, Di (1990)

A rural community: Wimbleton/Herbertville in
southern Hawkes Bay

A RURAL COMMUNITY:

Wimbleton / Herbertville
In Southern Hawkes Bay

Di Wilkinson

1990 N.Z. Rural Leadership Programme

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

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FOREWORD

The motive behind the selection of this topic was very personal and while reading this project, that fact must be kept firmly in mind.

I grew up east of Dannevirke about an hours drive south of where I live now.

My father who was born in the area was a farm manager, and with my two sisters and brother we had a very "traditional" rural life, with almost all of our activities centered on the community in which we lived, with the school being a very important focal point for the community.

When I returned to the country after ten years away, and with my husband started raising a family, on the surface not a great deal had changed - the school still played an important part in the life of the district, "working bees" were held when things needed doing and traditional local organisations (ie. WDFP, horse sports, etc) were strongly supported. There were few empty houses, and most farms of any size employed labour - often married men with families.

However looking back, indications of change were there - roading (and cars) were improved and trips to town, a distance of 65 Kilometres, were much more frequent - indeed a few children were going in regularly to ballet, music, sports, lessons - unheard of in my youth, when that distance from town.

Now, as I look around our rural community, the changes are much more evident. Roads have improved more, (likewise cars) and many children from the local school participate regularly in town based Saturday morning sport. Along with this, rural women have moved back into the paid work force, often travelling long distances to do so.

I am one of those women - and was one of the earlier ones in our district to return to paid work off the farm. From attending every sports day/function that our children were involved in at our local school, and having our vehicle for transport offered automatically by our children, I now find myself having to plan what I can attend, and my husband often being the one who "provides the transport". There are times when neither of us can do it - so who takes our children?

When a local function is on, the "ladies a plate" for me sometimes translates to a packet of bought biscuits - and sometimes translates into non-attendance when work commitments mean I'm too tired!

Personal sport and recreation (even on a casual basis) takes second place at weekends to housework, or an attack on the garden or something the children wish to do.

I have overheard comments (not delivered in our district and not directed at me personally) to the effect that "just because she works she feels she doesn't have to pull her weight in the district".

So is this project an attempt by me to find out what the district really thinks of us; the women who are in paid work?

Or is it an attempt by me to absolve myself from the guilt I have felt when I "haven't been there" at a district function?

Or is it an attempt to rationalize my two packets of mallow puffs at the school breakup, rather than the luscious homemade cake? (Despite the fact my children tell me they'd rather have the mallow puffs than my cake anyway!)

I don't know - possibly a mixture of all three, plus a real interest in writing about a topic that is becoming more and more relevant to our rural lives.

I have enjoyed writing this. I appreciate all the help and support of people who took the trouble to participate.

I dedicate it to all we Rural Women - and the work, both paid and unpaid, recognised and unrecognised, successful and unsuccessful we do, every day in our rural lives.

DISTRICT

The area I chose for this survey lies east of Dannevirke, in a coastal strip, with Herbertville right on the coast being equal distance from Dannevirke (pop. 6,000) and Waipukurau (pop. 4,000) - both rural servicing towns, both with a local hospital and one secondary school.

The district surveyed is the catchment area of the local school (Wimbledon - sole charge at the time of the survey with a roll of 20 pupils, covering new entrants to Form 11).

There are two hotels in the area - one offering accommodation, the other operating as a tavern, and a nine hole golf course, swimming pool, and tennis court which are available for public use. The beach at Herbertville has a camping ground with amenities, plus a cluster of holiday homes or baches. In the 1986 census the population was listed as 169.

The farming activity in the area is beef and cattle on what is generally regarded as hard hill country, exposed to westerly wind, very dry most summers and prone to irregular rainfall, heavy at times. The size of farms range from what is now seen to be uneconomically small (especially with any debt loading) to large, (over 20,000 stock units).

Married and single staff are employed by some of the larger places. There are also several houses with up to 30 hectares of land attached, owned by people who also do other work in the district, often on a casual basis for local farmers.

There is five day mail delivery, everyone is on electric power and everyone has a telephone service. The nearest garage of any description is 15 kilometres away, and the nearest Post Office or Trading Bank 60 kilometres. Roads are a mixture of sealed and metalled with all the side roads being metal.

Recreation in the district revolves around the beach (fishing/diving) and golf, with social tennis in the summer. Almost all children are sent to Boarding School, for their secondary schooling, so there is a lack of teenagers living in the district, apart from school holidays.

By North Island standards it is considered isolated, and in the 10 years I have lived in the district there has been a shrinking population.

The following pages detail some of the changes and concerns of the people still living in the area, and some of their thoughts on the future.

PROJECT EXPLANATION AND METHODOLOGY

This project was written for the stage 2 part of the 1990 N.Z. Rural Leadership Programme (a year long, three part programme centered on Lincoln University).

The topic is my community, the district of Wimbledon/Herbertville with emphasis on the role of women in the paid work force. The method used was a survey sent out to every household in the district (excluding holiday homes).

There were separate questionnaires for men and women, plus they each had an additional standard questionnaire they were asked to complete. Of the 82 questionnaires sent out, 37 were to women and 45 to men, the reply rate was 49% (women) and 44% (men), a total reply rate of 46%.

(Two replies were late and were not able to be used).

FINDINGS

Question 1 (Men & Women). Do you live on a farm?

All but 4 people (2 men and 2 women) lived on a farm.

Question 2 (Men & Women). Do you live with a partner/spouse?

All women who replied lived with a partner/spouse. Three men did not.

Comment In the initial mail out of questionnaires I identified eight men living on their own in the area, but only one woman. This is reflective of the general composition of isolated rural areas - most women live there for their partner/spouses work, rather than for their own employment prospects.

* Over all in N.Z. 6 out of 10 one person households comprise women and 4 out of 10 are women 65 + years of age.

* Census 1986 Dept of Statistics, Profile of New Zealanders NO. 3.

Question 3 + 4 (Men & Women). Mens paid employment and whether farm related?

17 men replied they were in paid employment and of these, 14 were in farm related employment. 3 men classified themselves as "not in paid employment". 16 women replied they had a partner/spouse in paid employment, all farm related and one was in both farm related employment plus off farm employment. 2 women replied age meant the question was not relevant to their spouse /partner.

Comment This question was badly worded as the option of self employment was not given. Some answers did not consider paid employment equated with self employment, hence a discrepancy in answering with 4 people ticking no to Question 3 and yes to Question 4.

Question 5 + 6 (Men). Is your partner/spouse in paid employment and would you like her to be?

Of the 17 men with a partner/spouse, ten replied the partner/spouse was in paid employment.

Of the seven men who did not have a partner/spouse in paid employment 3 would like to have, and 2 had spouses in the retired age group.

One replied with a straight no and one as follows:

"We already work as a team, self employed".

Comment Even in what is seen to be a conservative rural area, (if there is such a place!) the above figures indicate to me an acceptance of the concept of married women in paid work.

Question 5 + 6 (Women). Age and number of children and whether they live with you?

Only one reply stated no children.

The average number of children was 2.5 per women.

9 women had children 17 + years.

3 women had children secondary school age.

5 women had children at primary school.

5 women had pre-school children.

13 women stated they had children living with them on a permanent basis.

Comment It seems the district is reflecting the trend over the rest of N.Z. as regard number of children and their ages
* 35% of all families in N.Z. with children are one child families while 37% of families with children are two child families. Over all only 32% of all N.Z. families with children now have a pre-schooler in the home. Families of 4 or more children now account for only 8.5% of families.

* Census 1986 Dept of Statistics Profile on New Zealand NO.3.

Question 7 + 8 (Women). Hours of work on the farm and whether paid or not?

Of the eighteen replies to this question two were in the retired age bracket.

7 women worked 0-5 hrs.

4 women worked 6-10 hrs.

1 woman worked 10-20 hrs.

4 women worked 20 + hrs.

Five women said they received payment for this work. Only 1 woman working 0-5 hrs per week was paid while only one woman working 20 + hrs per week on the farm was not paid.

Quote "Not specifically - work as partnership on farm and theoretically share 50% profit and loss. Self employed situation".

Question 9 (Women). Paid employment apart from farm work?

From the 18 replies 8 women indicated they were in paid employment, including 3 who were also paid for working on the farm. Two replies indicated they were in the retired age group and 1 woman indicated she was in a self employed situation (a 50% partnership in the farm). Two women who were paid for farm work were not in any other paid employment.

Comment The above questions identified a total of 11 women (61%) who regard themselves as being in paid employment. This could be seen to be high, considering the isolation of the area surveyed, but is perhaps also an indication of the change in rural areas over the last decade.

Question 10 and 11 (Women). If you are not in paid employment would you like to be and what are the barriers?

Of the 7 replies in this category 4 indicated they wanted to be in employment and 3 did not. The biggest barrier was seen to be distance from town, followed by no suitable work and then age of children.

Comment The above answers are similar to the answers received when men were asked if they would like their partner/spouse to be in paid employment - of the eight men whose partner/spouse was not in paid employment 3 out of 8 said they would like them to be.

Question 12 (Women). How is your work paid?

The most common method of payment was an hourly rate or by salary. Only 1 woman stated she received a weekly wage. One woman who had several part time jobs received payment by 3 different methods.

Question 13 (Women). Hours of paid employment?

3 Women were in paid employment of less than 10 hrs per week.
1 woman worked 10-20 hrs
6 women worked more than 20 hrs

Question 14 (Women) Distance travelled to work?

2 women replied not applicable.
 5 women replied 0-20 k per day.
 3 women replied 60+ k per day.

Comment The 3 who travelled the furthest were also all working 20+ hrs per week.

Question 7 (Men) and 15 (Women). Reasons for women being in paid employment?

2 men and 2 women indicated financial reasons.
 1 man and 1 woman indicated boredom.
 5 men and 4 women indicated a combination of financial reasons and self fulfilment.
 2 women gave "it just happened".
 1 man gave "other" (unspecified).

Quote: "Financial reasons but can't imagine not working for self(ish) reasons too".

Comment The reasons for being in paid employment were perceived almost identically by men and women. Financial reasons figured in the decision in over 70% of the replies - not unusual given the financial reality in rural areas over the last five years.

Question 16 (Women). Is your family supportive of your work?

7 women replied yes while 1 replied sometimes.

Quote: "90% of the time but they do know how to make me feel guilty".

Question 17 (Women). What is most difficult personally about paid employment?

Quote: "Juggling time - never enough for me"
 "Travel involved"
 "Lack of time - feel guilty if late home - would like to play Saturday sport but feel it would be unfair to family"
 "Long hours, no relaxation"
 "Not being home in the day, especially after school"
 "Hours of my type of work"
 "Babysitter"(finding!)

Comment The common theme in almost every reply is lack of time. From talking to urban women with families, who are also in paid work, I would suspect that their replies would not be greatly different from those given above. Perhaps working mothers need a 30 hour day!

Question 8 (Men). What is personally most difficult about your partner/spouses paid employment?

Quote: "Not enough time together to relax (2 people).

"None"

"Childminding and extra workload around the home - less time for farm work and relaxational activities".

"Having to run children 13 km to school bus at an inconvenient time".

"A nuisance when I need a hand and she's not there".

Comment 2 men identified lack of time to spend with a partner/spouse as a problem. Two men mentioned the time pressure caused by childminding/house work reflected on their own work.

Question 18 (Women). What do you think is the most difficult about your paid employment for your partner/spouse?

Quotes: "Extra responsibility housewise placed on spouse and children.

"Having to look after children".

"Spending very little time together".

"Not being available at home when I'm wanted".

"Being tied holidaywise to my work".

"He has to do my housework"

"Extra childminding and housework".

Comment Most replies mentioned men having to do what is (evidently) still regarded as "womens work" ie. housework and childminding. However most men (see Question 8 (Men) above) didn't perceive this to be the problem that their partner/spouses felt it to be and only mentioned it when they felt it was affecting their own work. Perhaps women need to rethink their attitude to this aspect of their lives.

Question 9 (men) and 19 (Women). The best aspect of womens paid employment?

5 men indicated financial reasons only. Others included extra reasons.

Quote: "Considerable easing of financial problems combined with new interests and meeting new people, also has made the children take a more responsible role in the family".

"Working together".

"No effect"

Womens replies tended to be more explanatory.

Quote: "The extra money closely followed by contact with other people".
 "Self fulfilment followed closely by financial rewards".
 "Feel secure"
 "Necessary financially"
 "Being able to educate our children"
 "Fulfilling an ambition"
 "I'm a person again in my own right, not only a wife and mother"

Comment Financial reasons are an integral part of all (75%) of the replies given by both men and women.

I would anticipate similar reasons from urban areas given the tighter financial climate of the last six years.

Question 10 (Men) and 20 (Women). If there was no financial reason would you continue to be in paid employment?

Men 3 gave yes

Quote: "Yes for her sanity".

5 gave no

Women 7 said yes

1 said no

Quote "Yes there is no financial need for me to be in paid employment".
 "Yes but not such long hours or days".
 "Yes, would find it extremely difficult to now go back to staying at home".
 "Yes !!!".

Comment A clear difference emerged in the answers given by men and women to this question. This ties in with the previous questions where women, although admitting the money was important in their work also gave additional reasons which they ranked almost if not as important, as a good aspect of their work. It suggests that this rural community can continue to expect to have a steady proportion of women in paid employment.

FINDINGS
(Yellow Questionnaire)

Men and Women

Question 1 What organisations do you belong to?

3 men and 3 women replied they did not belong to any clubs at all. Of the rest of the replies the most popular organisations were Federated Farmers, C.W.I./W.D.F.F. (for both men and women) and after that sporting clubs were most popular with men. Women listed sporting clubs, arts and crafts and church as almost as popular as their first choice.

The "other" clubs that people put down included church fellowship, Area Health Groups, Library, Maori Womens Welfare League, Founders Society, Te Kohanga Reo, Playcentre, Vintage Car Club of N.Z., Dog Trial Club (not seen to be a sporting club)!

5 of the women in paid employment of 20+ hours a week belonged to no organisations (2 women) or 1 organisation only (3 women)

Comment While membership of clubs still seems quite strong I know personally that several clubs are struggling for numbers and two local branches of organisations have gone or are planning to go into recess. The reasons for this are complex, and are tied up with many factors, including peoples perceptions of the organisations, what people want from an organisation, and peoples willingness (and ability) to travel. I feel that "blame" for lack of members of various clubs can't rest solely on the shoulders of women who have returned to paid work. However people may see this point differently, as the quote below illustrates.

"Women that used to attend meetings don't now because they spend all day away from home and like to stay in at night".

Question 2 What services are available in your community and degree of satisfaction?

The services people considered not satisfactory are as follows:

Telephone	by 18 people
Public Health Nurse	" 13 people
Rural Delivery	" 9 people
Primary School	" 3 people
Social Club	" 2 people
Sports Club	" 2 people

Quote: "Born and lived in the district all my life. Services are as bad as the war years. I feel sorry for future inhabitants of rural life. Not much future".

"At my age I would have expected the Public Health Nurse would call and check sometimes as I have health problems. I do not even know who she is".

"Rural delivery ends 7 kilometres from our gate".

The ones not available are Post Office, Secondary School, Public Transport. While one of the hotels operated a local store, it seemed to depend upon which end of the district you lived as to whether or not you thought this service was available or not!!

There was satisfaction with other services listed.

Comment The high proportion of people dissatisfied with the telephone service (47%) reflect how important this method of communication is in rural communities. The other "method" of communication - rural delivery also had quite a high level of dissatisfaction.

Given the push by The Government policy on privatisation, towards "user pays" I think an underlying fear of loss of these services, or an unaffordably high cost to the rural user is perhaps reflected in these results.

Question 3 What is the focal point of your community?

Hotel: given by 9 men and 11 women (52% of answers).
 School: given by 8 men and 8 women (42% of answers).
 Golf Club: given by 6 men and 2 women.
 Beach: given by 1 man and 1 woman.

Quote: "Hotel - tough if you don't drink in hotels - you feel out of things".

"The correct thing to write would be the school but infortunately the hotel wins hands down".

"One would have to say the hotel - practically all meetings held there, notices displayed".

Comment With 52% of replies picking the hotel (and some evidently feeling uneasy about its place in the community) it is clearly seen to be a focus and a place where the district stays in touch with each other. It is interesting to note that more women than men perceive the hotel to be the focal point, as men are the greater "users" of the hotel.

Question 4 Future of the local school?

Of the people who answered this question 67% expressed doubt about the future of the school - see quotes below.

"Depends on Government spending"

"Not confident"

"Depends on farming"

"If present enrolment trends continue will close in a couple of years"

"Falling roll/school transport means doubts for the future"

"With the school roll having to depend mainly on employed couples in the near future I put a large question mark"

"Depends on how many families continue to leave the district"

"Grim"

The remaining people expressed the view the school would continue, but didn't seem to expect the roll to rise.

"Falling roll but hopefully will survive"

"Confident it will survive"

"Fairly confident"

"Very - good teacher"

"I think there must continue to be a school at Wimbledon as the distance to alternatives makes them unattractive"

"I cannot see our school closing down"

Comment Given the number of people who consider the school the focal point of the community (42%) its closure would be a real blow. The pessimism reflected over its future must be tied in to the fact that people evidently don't see a booming rural economy just around the corner (and indeed, perhaps continue to see a continued reduction of people in rural areas.

Question 5 What effect has paid employment for rural women had on your community?

6 people from those who answered this question thought it had no effect.

The rest as below:

"Largely beneficial, link between town and country communities"

"School affected with parents no longer involved as they once were and school trips a serious problem with transport. Women are reluctant to go out at weekends - not such a strong community feeling"

"Less women to do unpaid work"

"Has affected children - rivalry, one upmanship over cars, holidays etc"

"Fewer women for school functions but husbands/friends fill the gap"

"A higher male profile at what used to be traditional female functions"

"Unemployed women have to be more supportive to help those employed re children"

"They have more money to spend than us"

"Definite drop in numbers for sports and social activities. Less people available for community work"

"Male as caregiver role is strengthened"

"Children more independent"

"Children may benefit materially but may miss out through some mums being employed out of the community"

"More pressure and stress on the family unit while relieving some of the financial burden"

"It has fragmented our community"

"It has helped keep farmers on the land"

"The greed of the dollar in N.Z. has separated people"

Comment There is no doubt that traditional "community" activities are seen to suffer through womens time being committed elsewhere - in particular, "voluntary" labour as regards the school. However people also see benefits, with fathers being more involved in childcare, a "blurring" of the male/female role and more independence in children.

Question 6 Is your community a better place to live in now...?

Of the 36 people who answered this question 1 person answered both "yes and no", and the rest were as follows:

Yes	3 people
No	20 people
Don't know	4 people
Same	8 people

Comment Given the extent of change and financial constraints felt by most families over the last five years I would anticipate a similar result if this question was asked to a group of urban people.

Question 7 What is the biggest challenge facing the community?

The most commonly mentioned factor was population loss, closely tied in with financial viability. Also mentioned was better facilities, ie. power, phone, roading and the continuation of the local school.

"The return of an interest of young couples to their home and family"

"A good primary school and pride in the district and facilities"

"Financial survival"

"Increasing costs - petrol, power, phone and isolation"

"The availability of employment"

"Coming to terms with change"

"Isolation and loss of people"

"Continuing maintenance of our services - mail, phone, roading, power, and rabbits!"

"Financially unviable farming climate"

"Lack of children for school"

"Being able to withstand poor returns for wool and lambs and being able to maintain what services we do have left! (Good farm returns = more jobs = a rising school roll = stronger community = survival of community)".

Comment Two comments stood out from the rest by stating opposing views to a situation that perhaps rural communities haven't had to cope with before. I think they are worth sharing because they are indicative of the change happening still in rural areas.

"Acceptance of other's values ie. people on the dole - two way understanding must be achieved otherwise social disharmony and violent attitudes will develop"

"Not getting too many unemployed/sickness beneficiaries living in the area"

P R O F I L E

Bill & Nola Hales
Wimbleton
Retired.

Bill is local and his family has lived in the area for many years. He met Nola when she was appointed sole charge teacher at Herbertville school and they were married several years later.

They had four children, and in 1961 with the oldest away at Boarding School and the youngest 4 years old, Nola was approached by the Hawkes Bay Education Board to take the position of assistant teacher at Wimbleton school. She initially agreed to go there for three weeks, and left 4½ years later when the school reverted to single teacher status.

Nola was then appointed to a teaching position in Dannevirke, 60 Kilometres away, and the next nine years were spent living in Dannevirke during the week and returning to the farm at weekends. The children lived with Nola in town and attended school in Dannevirke.

After all her children had left school Nola returned to living on the farm, but continued to teach within the district for another 10 years before finally retiring.

Nola and Bill now both live at Wimbleton. Nola indulging her passion for local history by research and writing, and Bill is still active on the farm.

When I talked with them about their life and the fact that it could be seen to be unconventional even by today's standards they both seemed suprised. Nola commented "I didn't get married to be a farm labourer - my area of expertise on the farm ended at the garden gate. I never wanted to work on the farm and I never did". Because Nola has never held a drivers licence, for the years she worked in town Bills weekly timetable included taking the family into town on Sunday evening, staying the night and returning to the farm on Monday, back into town during the week to spend one night with the family and in town again on the Friday evening to collect the family and bring them home for the weekend.

When I queried the amount of work involved in running two households both Bill and Nola were adamant that it worked as long as you were organised - and they also commented that in their house there were no mens or womens tasks. (Bill confided to me he was a better cook than Nola was). When I spoke with one of their sons he remarked that he could remember that everyone, children included, had to help with what needed doing - not to get pocket money but because it was expected that everyone had to work to keep the household operating.

Nola said the comment was made to her when she first returned to teaching at the local school, that "the school needed a proper teacher" (this despite the fact she had over five years teaching experience). Bill said the odd comment was made to him in the district, but local people seemed to accept it more easily than "outsiders" did. Both Nola and Bill remarked on the wide circle of friends and acquaintances, and the expanded social life they had through Nola's work, but both were genuinely horrified when I queried whether they ever considered moving closer to town to live. They are both adamant that where they are now is where they have always wanted to live.

As Nola put it "Just because I needed the intellectual stimulation of my work, didn't mean I didn't want to live at Wimbledon".

CONCLUSION

This project is my perspective of my community and the changes that have happened over the 10 years I have lived here. I have also asked other people living in the community their thoughts on the changes and how they see the future.

There is not a lot of optimism about the future for this particular country district. The loss of families from the district is of ongoing concern, and with 67% of people surveyed doubtful about the future of the local school, and the ramifications the loss of it may have on attracting people to the district to live, along with the fear expressed that we will continue to lose services either through Government policy or because the user pays philosophy makes them too expensive, the future does indeed look bleak. The sale of farms is still, continuing and with wool and sheep meat facing increasing competition on world markets the need for the financially viable farm to be bigger combined with the unattractive perception of farming over the last few years, indicates to me that the majority of sales will be to neighbours ie. a loss to the district of more people as families leave and are not replaced.

This leads to empty houses and owners may rent them (if they can) rather than leaving them empty. In my opinion this option must be welcomed if cheaper available housing can help to attract much needed people into country areas. However in the Wimbledon/Herbertville area there is limited availability of casual work and the vagaries of the transport system means that private transport is considered essential by most people; plus the high cost of basic items in rural areas, and the difficulty of access to what are considered by most people to be basic services (ie. education, mail delivery, health care etc.) can become a deterrent to people if their only income is a benefit. In some cases people who move into the district without coming because of permanent employment are perceived to be "short term" stayers and in some cases this is proved correct. Perhaps if our community is to survive we "permanent" residents need to accept that we need all the people we can get and to also accept that we are not isolated from the social change that has affected urban N.Z. over the last decade especially as regards unemployment and sole parent families, ie. we have to accept that people will be living in our communities for different reasons, and they may have different priorities.

Whether a change of Government in N.Z. will radically alter the future of rural N.Z. is hard to predict. Given the massive financial problems faced by whatever Government is in power, plus the lower prices and lower demand for agricultural products it is hard to imagine a radical "revamp" for rural areas. Perhaps the best we can hope for is more tolerance and understanding of the realities of rural life and an acknowledgement that whenever funding is based on a "per head" formulae rural areas will continue to be disadvantaged as costs of providing services will always be greater. An acceptance of that fact by bureaucrats in Wellington along with an acceptance of the fact that rural people must have access as of right to affordable basic services such as education, communication, (ie. telephone, mail delivery) electricity and health care, would go a long way to restoring the faith of rural people in their way of life.

The one resource I think will help the district to continue is the people. Rural families in N.Z. continue to exist and continue to earn a large proportion of N.Z.'s overseas funds. They have a resourcefulness and an adaptability towards change which has helped them survive. The changing role of rural women especially in the area of paid employment is indicative of this. Even in this district (which is relatively isolated) the replies to the questionnaires indicate women have helped to ensure the financial viability of the farms and the community. This has been at a cost and I think this is echoed in some of the quotes I have given - my personal feeling is that there is always a cost with change and perhaps our community, to survive will have to keep accepting change and the cost that goes with it.

The discrepancy in replies of men who want their partners to be in paid employment for financial reasons, and men who wouldn't want their partners in paid employment if there was no financial necessity, is perhaps a stage of this change that we are all struggling to cope with.

While there are many comments on the effect womens paid employment has had on the district many of them are supportive and are looking beyond the "now" to the more longlasting effects, ie. more independence of children, link between town and country communities, a higher male profile at some functions, male in caregiver role is strengthened, and a growing sense of self fulfilment in women.

I think rural communities are receptive to change if it means survival and I think rural communities will survive, but it is not going to be easy, and there will be no turning the clock back to "the way we were". The world is changing, N.Z. is changing and we must change to live in it.

APPENDIX

Questionnaires and letters.

28 September 1990.

Birch Rd East,
RD 2,
PORANGAHAU.

Dear

This year I was selected for the N.Z. Rural Leadership Programme, run at Lincoln University in Canterbury.

One of the requirements of the programme is that each of the participants writes a project of their own choice, but relating to the rural sector, which we then take back to Lincoln with us, when we return there for 10 days in November.

An aspect of rural life that has seen a lot of change in the last 10 years is the fact of rural women returning to the paid work force. From my childhood memories of growing up in a rural community, and even during the early 1970s, when I was raising a young family, it was very much the exception for a rural woman to be in off farm paid employment. It is my observation that this has changed greatly in the last decade, and I am interested in the reasons for the change, and even more interested in the effects (if any) of the change on the the rural communities.

I hope that the district will help me in this project, by taking the time to fill in the attached questionnaire and return it to me. I have chosen for my survey a clearly identifiable area - in this case the catchment area of the local school.

No names will be used and people will not be individually identified. The project will be available to anyone who wants to read it.

Time is short - and this is a busy time of the year. I am extremely grateful for your time and support for this project.

Di Wilkinson.

Question 6

How many of these children live with you at home?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/>						

Question 7

Do you work on the farm on a regular basis?

0 - 5 hrs per week	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 - 10 hrs per week	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 - 20 hrs per week	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 + hrs per week	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 8

Do you receive a wage for this work?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 9

Are you in paid employment? (apart from question 8 above)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes to question 8 or 9 please go to question 12.
In no to question 8 or 9 continue below.

Question 10

If you are not in paid employment would you like to be?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comment

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Question 11

What do you see as the biggest barrier to paid employment for you personally?

- husbands expectations
- families expectations
- age of children
- distance from town
- no suitable work available
- no desire for paid employment
- other

Comment

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* Please now go to yellow Questionnaire if you have answered no to questions 8 & 9.

Question 12

Is your work paid by

- the hour
- the week (regular wage)
- salaried

Question 13

How many hours paid employment do you work in a week?

- Under 10 hrs
- 10 -20 hrs
- 20 + hrs
- Varies but more than 10 most weeks

Question 14

How far do you travel to work most days? (Return Trip)

- 0 - 20 kilometres
- 20 - 40 kilometres
- 40 - 60 kilometres
- More than 60 kilometres

Question 15

What was the main reason for your decision to re-enter the paid work force?

- 1) financial
- 2) self fulfilment
- 3) a combination of 1 & 2 above
- 4) boredom
- 5) "just happened"
- 6) other

Comment

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Question 16

In your opinion is your partner/spouse/family supportive of your work?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes

Comment

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Question 17

For you personally, what do you find most difficult about being in paid employment?

Comment

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.....

Question 18

What do you think is the most difficult aspect about your paid employment for your partner/spouse/family?

Comment

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Question 19

What is the best aspect about paid employment for you?

Comment

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Question 20

If there was no financial need for you to be in paid employment would you continue to be so?

Comment

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Question 3

What do you personally consider to be the focal point of your community?

Comment
.....
.....

Question 4

How confident do you feel about the future of your local school?

Comment
.....
.....

Question 5

What effect do you think rural women in paid employment has had on your community?

Comment
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.....

Question 6

In your opinion, is your community a better place to live in now, than it was five years ago?

- Yes
- No
- Same
- Don't Know

Question 7

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing your community in the next five years?

Comment
.....
.....

Please return by October 12

THANK YOU

Question 7

If your partner/spouse is in paid employment what do you personally think is the main reason for her being so?

- 1) financial
- 2) self fulfilment
- 3) combination of 1 & 2 above
- 4) boredom
- 5) just happened
- 6) other

Comment

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.....

Question 8

What has been the most difficult aspect for you personally in your partners/spouses paid employment?

Comment

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Question 9

What has been the best aspect for you personally about your partner/spouse's paid employment?

Comment

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.....

Question 10

If there was no financial need for your partner/spouse to be in paid employment would you expect her to continue to be so?

Comment

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Question 1

What organisations do you belong to?

- W.D.F.F./ C.W.I./ Fed Farmers
- Board of Trustees, local school
- Sporting ie. tennis/golf etc
- Arts/Craft
- Church
- Other (specify)

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Question 2

What services do you have available in your community now, and how do you rank them in order of satisfaction?

	Not available	Very satisfactory	satisfactory	Not satisfactory
Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Store	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local School - primary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
secondary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports Club(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Club(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hotel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Health Nurse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Childhood Centre e.g. Play Group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post Office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comment

Question 3

What do you personally consider to be the focal point of your community?

Comment
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.....

Question 4

How confident do you feel about the future of your local school?

Comment
.....
.....

Question 5

What effect do you think rural women in paid employment has had on your community?

Comment
.....
.....

Question 6

In your opinion, is your community a better place to live in now, than it was five years ago?

- Yes
- No
- Same
- Don't Know

Question 7

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing your community in the next five years?

Comment
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Please return by October 12

THANK YOU