



Rural Women New Zealand:

Strengthening Rural Communities

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**Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme Project
2009**

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Executive Summary:

Rural Women New Zealand has been in operation for over 80 years. Through the years and the name changes its main aim to support rural women, families and communities has stayed basically the same.

As a relatively new member of RWNZ, there is a lot about the organisation that I do not know about or understand, and there are a lot of others in the organisation that are in the same position.

This is the reasoning behind me looking at RWNZ, so that I can get a better understanding of the organisation as a whole, and hopefully other members may as well.

To further my knowledge and understanding, I looked at a number of areas within the organisation, and asked the Members for their input, mainly in the form of surveys, and non members for their thoughts as well.

I also recognised terms used within RWNZ that members need to know about have put these into an extra publication I called "RWNZ for Dummies and New Members"- see Appendix 6 page 129.

The main areas studied were:

- RWNZ today; its structure, and its aims and goals for now and the future.
- The organisations history- where and why it all began.
- National Office's role in the organisation, and the way the overall body strengthens rural communities.
- Activities and events, from Members and Branches through to National initiatives.
- The Branches; their history, present status, ways in which they have helped their communities, and what can be done for their future.
- The Members; their perspective on RWNZ, and what they believe could be done to improve the organisation.
- How non members view RWNZ.

The conclusions drawn were:

- That RWNZ operates basically at two distinct levels- National and Grass Roots, but each supports the other in many ways and mostly works well together.
- At the National level, RWNZ is seen as professional, with a strong voice in the ear of the policy and decision makers.
- The organisation offers great opportunities through bursaries, grants and training to both members and non members.
- Access Homehealth is an incredibly important part of RWNZ

- At Grass Roots level, RWNZ is seen as an organisation that helps the communities it is based in.
- However, the perception is that the organisation is for older farming women, many branches are struggling because of this
- Some members worry about the gap between Grass Roots members and National and it is getting too wide.
- The organisation as a whole needs to update its image to become more appealing to younger members and those who have an interest in rural, but not necessary involved in farming.

Recommendations:

- That RWNZ needs to become more proactive at attracting younger members and those who are rural, but not farming.
- Branches need to become more flexible to accommodate the needs of prospective members, and if this is not suitable encourage the initiation of a new group more suited to encourage new members.
- More use of the media to showcase what RWNZ does, as branches and at a National Level. This means not just rural, but general circulation media to lift the profile of the organisation
- Try and remove the common misconception of RWNZ as for older farming women just baking, flower arranging and having cups of tea, and replace it with a more vibrant image of women getting out and doing things for themselves and their communities politically educationally and socially.
- The concept of "them and us" as seen by the attitude of some grass roots members to National Office needs to be addressed
- The advocacy work done is extremely important and this needs to continue,
- The good work done by the Branches supporting their communities needs to continue, but perhaps they should expect a little more in return by these recipients or their families being encouraged to join RWNZ.

Introduction and Explanation:

This project has been done in three sections. I have done it this way as each section was researched for different reasons, and I believe each section will be of interest of different readers.

Section One: Who is Rural Women New Zealand?- Page 8

As a relatively new member there was a lot about the history and structure I was unsure of, and I believe that I am not alone on this. I set out to learn more about the organisation; its beginnings and the good works of the early WDFU and WDFP members; its aims and visions for now and the future; the structure; the policy areas and our advocacy role; RWNZ initiatives for activities and events, at National level through to Branch level. Also how branches had changed over the years and what they have done to help strengthen their communities.

The people this section is aimed at are new members, those wanting to know more about the organisation, such as other organisations, or sponsors, as well as RWNZ members wanting to know more about what goes on and what other groups in the organisation do, to get more ideas for their own group.

Section Two: Surveys and Perceptions – Page 85

I sent out survey forms and received replies from a number of members, branches and non members.

I was interested in members perception of the organisation, why they joined, how well they knew the organisation, how well they felt RWNZ performed, and suggestion for the future of the organisation.

The Branches were asked what could be done at Branch and National level to ensure the branches are still active in the future.

Non members were asked about their perception of RWNZ, and reasons why they had not joined.

This section was aimed at RWNZ members, especially those in leadership roles, so they can see what is working and what could be improved on at all levels of the organisation. These answers were from grass roots members who are often the face of RWNZ in the communities, some have been in the organisation for a long time, some just a short while, and all have views that are important and relevant to the growth and future of RWNZ.

Section Three: RWNZ for Dummies and New Members – Page 129

As a new member going to meetings, there were terms and acronyms that meant nothing to me and often I didn't like to ask what they meant as they appeared so obvious to everyone else. I know there are other members out there that feel this way so this is designed for them- so they can refer to it if they are unsure of something. I believe this will help them feel more confident when attending meetings and taking on roles within the organisation.

Section One:

Who is Rural Women New Zealand?

Introduction:

Rural Women New Zealand is an organisation with a proud history of helping the rural communities of New Zealand.

This section has been written to raise the understanding of the organisation: the structure; the history; the advocacy work undertaken; the initiatives undertaken by the organisation at Branch level through to National level to help strengthen rural communities by awareness campaigns, fundraisers, and other community work; the grants and bursaries to help individuals and groups better their lives.

It explains what the aims, goals and visions of the organisation are and what RWNZ is trying to achieve as a whole.

The information contained here is to help understand how National Office and National Council works, and what they do, who they work with and what alliances RWNZ has with other organisations.

There is the early history of the organisation, why it was set up in the beginning, and many parallels can be seen between what they did then and what is happening now. It also contains information about opportunities for members to improve life skills and other benefits from belonging.

There is a large amount of information on what activities and events are run throughout the country by Branches, Provincials up to the initiatives run at a National level.

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Who is Rural Women New Zealand?

Rural Women New Zealand is a national network of women working collectively for a strong and sustainable rural sector.

Mission Statement: Strengthening Rural Communities

Vision: The leading organisation that enriches rural communities

Goals: The leading organisation with a strong, committed membership, working for strong sustainable rural communities

-A respected voice of rural New Zealand families and communities because we understand and address social, economic and environmental aspects of rural communities

- A resource partner for rural development initiatives

-A financially sustainable organisation

Rural Women New Zealand affirms:

-The central importance of strong family, community, and cultural values and networks

-The interdependence of social, economic and environmental factors

-The critical role of infrastructure- telecommunications, transportation, energy

-The value of the rural sector to the New Zealand society and economy

Values: The values governing RWNZ's future development are underpinned by the words of the Women's Creed and will be carried out with honesty and integrity.

RWNZ is:

Forward thinking- Ensuring that the activities, programmes and internal policies processes and plans are working towards the achievement of the vision and are relevant for today and the future.

Focused- Identifying the core issues for RWNZ

Flexible- Being creative, innovative, and proactive in the development of activities and programmes, and be prepared to try new ideas and approaches

Professional- Ensuring all interactions within RWNZ and with external parties reflecting best practice, building on credibility and helping to reach RWNZ's goals. Designing and delivering programmes that are recognised for their excellence

Inclusive- Welcoming diversity in all its forms

To achieve the goals and the vision, RWNZ will:

At grass roots level-

- Portray a positive image

- Organise fun, social events for members and the wider community

- Be inclusive and welcoming all who live, work or have an interest in rural communities
- Develop and implement programmes that motivate and support rural women to reach their potential and that are relevant to the needs of women today
- Network with other groups e.g. Plunket, Playcentres
- Raise public awareness of Access Homehealth as the rural healthcare provider

At National level-

- Lead action on issues that affect rural communities
- Develop policy on issues that impact on rural
- Provide reputable comment to the media on rural issues
- Support the Enterprising Rural Women Awards
- Establish guidelines for issues groups
- Organise Women in Law and Women in Business seminars
- Strengthen the Women in Farming network
- Develop and implement a rural leadership programme
- Lead an annual national project
- Set up alliances with Young Farmers, Women in Dairying
- Advocate for homecare workers

Benefits of Membership of Rural Women New Zealand:

- Being part of a leading voice for rural families & communities. RWNZ makes submissions on a wide range of topics affecting the rural sector, and members are asked for their input.
- There are education opportunities both within and supported by RWNZ
- There are support and networking opportunities both formal and informal, from local through to national level.
- RWNZ is an organisation that is constantly moving forward putting in place new initiatives to suit women of all ages and stages who have an interest in the land or in rural issues.

Women's Creed- used by RWNZ

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought and word and deed.

Let us be done with fault finding and leave off self seeking.

May we put away pretence and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgement and always generous.

Let us take time for all things, make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and afraid.

Grant that we may realise that it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things in life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great human heart common to us all, and O Lord, let us not forget to be kind.

Rural Women New Zealand Song:

From the near and distant farmlands

From the upland and the plain,

In community of spirit, let us share our work again.

In community of spirit, let us share our work again.

May we give and take good counsel,

May the work unto our hand,

Aid the countryside to prosper, ease the hardship of the land.

Aid the countryside to prosper, ease the hardship of the land.

Not by ladders unto heaven,

Nor allegiance to a creed,

But by service simply given unto each in time of need.

But by service simply given unto each in time of need.

As we move towards the future,

Rural Women strong and free,

May we face up to each challenge with courage and integrity.

May we face up to each challenge with courage and integrity

History:

The Beginning-

In July 1925, a number of wives of Farmer's Union members gathered at the Tudor Room at the D.I.C in Wellington while their husbands attended the Farmers Union Conference.

Mr L McAlpine, one of the Farmers Union organisers had noted the hard, lonely lives of many farm women. He met with the wives at the now famous tea party, and told stories of the privations endured, the toil, the mud track roads and other hardships of these backblock women. There were women at the tea party that too had experienced these conditions, and all present were touched by the experiences, the loneliness and the lack of help except from already overworked husbands and neighbours, if there were neighbours.

It was agreed to meet the following day. So on the 28th July 1925, sixteen women met and the W.D.F.U was formed. Mrs W J Polson became the first Dominion President, Mrs J Pow, secretary, Mrs. C.C Jackson treasurer, and Vice President, and Mrs R Lilburn and J H Joll completed the committee. Subs were set at 2/6.

The question once home was what to do. As Mrs. Polson, the President was abroad, the committee, especially Mrs Jackson did the majority of work. She wrote more than 2000 letters and sent out some 2000 copies of Mr. Mc Alpine's address to the ladies. The first branch formed was at Oakura and was officially opened in June 1926, followed by Wanganui, under Mrs Lilburn.

Fifty pounds was donated by the Farmers Union for organising purposes, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Polson went on an organising tour as far up as Auckland. At the Royal A & P Show, they set up an information stand and distributed copies of the "Seven Reasons Why You Are asked to Join". The motto was "Principles, not Party" and was the first publicity campaign.

When the first Annual Conference was opened in 1926, there were no branches, but one hundred members had paid their subscriptions and thirty two members were present. It was decided to form as many Branches as possible, with at least 5 members per Branch. The focus was on helping other country women. Mrs J. G Coates, the Prime Minister's wife, when opening the conference, said that any organisation that had for its aims the bringing about of better conditions, including better educational facilities, and all those advantages that were necessary for the comfort and happiness of country women was well worthy of active interest and support.

When Mrs Polson returned from overseas, she brought back information on other women's organisations, none were like the W.D. In her presidential report in 1926, she hoped that the Division would take up all questions concerning health, education, home economics and justice.

In response to letters asking for reliable help when women were ill or had to leave home, the W.D. Emergency Housekeeper Scheme came into being, and so, "housekeepers, willing to do anything" and "Bush nurses, with surgical and midwifery certificates" were advertised for.

To pay for these women, the Community Chest fund was set up, to pay, or subsidise wages. The Branches were responsible for keeping it supplied with funds.

Another scheme set up was the Dominion Book Club. This was in 1927, and hundreds of books were collected on Dominion Book Day. Headquarters were in Marton, and the service carried on until more country libraries and the Country Library Service made it unnecessary.

At the 1927 Conference, there were 1250 members, and the constitution was adopted. By 1932, there were 10164 members and by 1950 there were 25000 and 650 branches.

Headquarters/ National Office:

In the beginning, the work was done voluntarily. The first two years had the Dominion treasurer using her kitchen table as her office.

Headquarters was based in Wanganui, as that was the centre nearest Mrs Polson the Dominion President's home, assisted by the Farmer's Union staff in Wanganui and Wellington.

When it was needed for the office to move to Wellington, an office was set up in the D.I.C building, then to the Dominion Farmer's Institute building.

A more up to date office then was rented in Brandon Street. In 1946, the organisations 21st birthday, the Division purchased their own premises in Grant Road, made possible by donations from branches.

Honda was purchased in 1962 and used as the National Office and Clubrooms until 1966, when 25 Hawkestone St was bought and used as the Office and Honda became the Bed and Breakfast that it remains to this day. In 1988 number 25 Hawkestone St was sold and 30 Hawkestone St was purchased for the current National Office premises.

Rest Homes:

In 1938, the NZ Sheep owner's Federation offered the former Girl's Flock House property to the W.D., it was gratefully accepted and turned into "Kaianga Moe", a rest home in Palmerston North, for tired mothers. It was run in conjunction with a training scheme for young Maori girls.

In 1943, Mrs Noel Adams, the Dominion President of the time, and her husband donated the Division their home, Melrose, in Nelson.

In the same year, Te Kiteroa was purchased in Waimate for a third rest home, and a few years later, Scotlands was bought in Auckland to meet the needs of those women in the north.

Each house could accommodate 12- 16 guests, which included non-members as well as members. The usual period of residence was one month, and the peaceful atmosphere meant many weary women left the rest homes restored to health and strength.

As was the case with housekeepers, if a guest was unable to pay full fees, the Community Chest provided subsidies.

Doctor Agnes Bennett gifted her home, Honda, at Lowry Bay, Wellington; it was available to W.D. members as a holiday residence, where they could take their families.

Since then these have all been sold or have gone. The money raised has gone into different schemes. The original Honda was sold and the present one purchased in 1962. Scotlands and Te Kiteroa were sold in 1980 and the funds from the sale were loaned to the Scotlands Te Kiteroa Wdff Charitable Trust which was set up in 1982 to provide the legal charitable requirements for the organisation.

The Nelson rest home was not actually owned by Wdff and as stipulated in the agreement at the time that if it could not be maintained, it was to be handed over to the City of Nelson.

Publications and Magazines:

In 1930, the first "The NZ Household Guide" was published, with further updated editions. By 1950, there had been eleven editions, selling over 60,000 copies. In 1987, at the request of Dominion Council, Waipa Provincial compiled hints submitted by members throughout New Zealand into the "Handy Hints" book.

Before 1932, there was no separate official journal of WDFE, but as early as 1929 a page of the NZ Dairy Exporter was allotted to the organisation, later increased to two pages, and space was also given in other farm journals.

In 1933 the following appeared in the Conference report: "it is with pride and satisfaction that an official organ of the Division, "the NZ Countrywoman" has been established this past year".

In 1938, "progress reports" were printed in newspaper form and posted out to individual members at a cost of 1d.

By 1942, and circulation had risen to 4800 and the title of "NZ Countrywoman" was in use again after a few years of disuse. It must be noted that at this time, due to the war, and the increased costs of paper and printing, the magazine was published at a loss. But it was felt that the paper was a service ensuring that the remote branches were kept up to date with what was happening in the Division in other parts of the country.

In 1946, the service was enlarged to contain many features found in other women's magazines as well as news of the organisation, both national and local. It contained articles dealing with activities of women's organisations all over the world. By 1950 circulation had risen to 12,000.

To celebrate the New Zealand Centenary, the Division published a book of pioneer stories called "Brave Days". The material was gathered by members from all parts of New Zealand, and became a production worthy as a memorial to the pioneer women of New Zealand.

For the 25th Jubilee of WDFE in 1950, the organisation put together a book called "And So We Grew" to celebrate how far as an organisation they had come in 25 years.

WDFE Badge:

This was three designs blended into one. The lower part of the badge is a red scroll with the letters WDFE NZ in gold. The circle above has a blue background with a bundle of sticks (the symbol of unity), surrounded by a white star (the ideal of service arising out of unity). The five points of the star each denote a particular field of service to church, community, school and home. Encircling the blue centre is a green band, an endless circle, signifying love and service without end. On this green circle is depicted an endless chain, each link a branch of the WDFE. The colours of the badge also have their significance- red white and blue for the Empire (Commonwealth), and green for the green lands of New Zealand.

Aims and Objects of the Women's Division (as set down in 1927)

To strengthen the Farmer's Union, as it is only by the co-operation of both country men and women that this can be permanently and successfully achieved.

To better the conditions of women and children living on the land, and to improve the conditions of rural life generally

To improve the medical and nursing facilities for country women

To secure more domestic help on farms

To obtain visiting help or housekeepers

To provide rest rooms in country towns
 To improve the schooling for country children
 To secure more frequent medical and dental inspection in country schools
 To improve conditions of migration
 To brighten the lives of all junior migrants to the Dominion, working on the land
 To develop a community spirit and encourage the ideals of Good Citizenship
 To promote the welfare of the Home, Country and the Empire
 To promote harmony between farmers and their employees
 To promote social intercourse, and the study of social questions bearing on the interests of the farming community
 To maintain a vigilant watch on all legislative measures brought before Parliament affecting country women, and to protest against such measures as are deemed injurious to their interests
 To endeavour to secure a Home Science Department at the University and Agricultural Colleges to enable country women to receive instruction in dressmaking, millinery, bottling and preserving fruits, and domestic arts, together with lectures and demonstrations on public health, child welfare, prevention of disease, etc

Early Good Work:

The area of Ngaroma was one of those affected by bush-sickness, and the adverse conditions for the settlers caused a stir throughout the organisation. The state of the land caused malnutrition in the animals and the people, and the Women's Division got together and sent great quantities of food and clothing to the people. Mothers were taken away for holidays to regain their health. Petitions were sent to government to move these settlers. Although nothing was done immediately, within a year they were moved. With the improvement in research and development, the lack of minerals in the soil, especially cobalt, the land has been improved and the area successfully settled.

When WW2 broke out, the policy adopted was to be of active use and "wholeheartedly throw themselves into patriotic endeavours". It encouraged members to co-operate with recognised channels of war service, such as Red Cross. Branches of the Division made themselves responsible for the activities of their neighbourhoods. To provide comforts for the men of the merchant navy was the particular task undertaken, and so members spun and knitted for this cause. Much of the work was done at home as travelling to meetings was made more difficult with lack of petrol and transport services. Many country women, too busy or tired to spin themselves due to having to do the farm work if husbands were called up, sent their fleeces to the urban branches to carry on the good work.

By the 1940 Conference, the desire to do something greater was voiced. The inspiration came from the then Dominion President, Mrs Adams. "We will give a spitfire" she said. The news spread to the branches and within a month 5000 pounds were raised. It was a proud moment when the cheque was presented to the Government to forward to Great Britain. The plane had the name W.D.F.U.N.Z inscribed on it and was piloted by the son of a Levin Branch member.

During 1944-45, many branches sent food parcels and comforts regularly to prisoner of wars. After the war, these parcels were sent to Britain instead, to help the people there.

Words from Past Dominion Presidents:

Mrs W.J Polson, first Dominion President 1925-1929:

"The farmer and his wife are one- they are partners. How could it be otherwise, when the growth of his business daily spreads itself before her eyes? There was never a successful farmer who was not backed by the loyal support of his wife. Women's work is different; her viewpoint is different, but when there is a definite purpose the farmer and his wife work together for that cause. It is only by this co-operation that the home and farm is built up. The moral and social problems of the district can only be solved by the aid and sympathy of the women when organised. The individual worker achieves very little but there is no limit to the good that can be achieved by co-operative effort; but one must not lose sight of the individual benefit that comes to each little community and each member of a branch.

"Without such an organisation as the Women's Division the woman on the land is apt to drift along with nothing to call her attention to the problems which she has been given the responsibility- a franchise freely given- of helping to solve but let her come in contact with her neighbours at the regular monthly meetings of the branch, let her be drawn into discussion, and her outlook will be broadened a hundred-fold. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world is only true when the hand is guided by an intelligence that takes into account the world's activities. Woman's sphere extends beyond the home to the community and the whole is greater than the part.

"The Women's Division is of distinct benefit to the community because of awakened interest in community conditions and the possibility, by organised efforts, to improve these conditions.

"It's numbers that count when one wants to get things done."

Mrs W.H Ward OBE Dominion President 1933-1935 speaking on the Great Depression:

"Anything that affects the farmer affects his wife and family. Consequently, many of our women were the victims of the financial calamity. They were wonderfully brave, but some were unable to bear up under the physical and mental strain. Thanks to the vision and thoughtfulness of the founders of our organisation we were ready for just such an emergency. The Housekeeper Scheme whereby reliable women were sent into country houses to take charge for a month was a great help. In one year, eleven hundred homes had a housekeeper. The wages were often heavily subsidised from Community Chest and our members were put on their honour to see that none of their neighbours broke down for want of the help that the W.D. could give. This help was not a charity but insurance. Twelve country homes were registered as Rest Homes and to these were sent those who needed a change of scene to complete their restoration to health. We were proud of the spirit in which our women showed that they cared and shared. It was lovely to see that our organisation was needed and was able to help so many. Markets were opened to help our women to be independent by selling their surplus goods direct to the public. The educational work progressed; classes were started in cultural and practical subjects with experts teaching in the local halls."

Mrs C K Wilson OBE Dominion President 1935-37 (on attending her first W D meeting)

'The meetings of women's organisations I had attended did not inspire me. They seemed occupied with pious platitudes, abuse of the mess the men had made of the world and the panegyrics of the fine things we do. However, I went to that meeting

and all my prejudices were dispelled. Instead of strident man-haters and acidulated spinsters, I met a collection of happy wives, mothers and sisters of farmers anxious only to help their men to make country life more prosperous and attractive. I immediately became an ardent member. My first duty was to form a branch in Piopio, my own village, but because of transport difficulty we hesitated to form branches in small places where no stock sales took place. We found to our surprise that it was just these isolated and mud bound women who most appreciated the social gatherings." In my opinion the best work accomplished by the W D (always excepting the Housekeeper Scheme) has been political, 'keeping a watchful eye on legislation', protesting against that which we considered harmful, and agitating for that which we thought beneficial to country conditions. To learn how well that was carried out, one only has to look over the agendas and remits of our earlier years to find that practically every request we made to a Minister has since been granted."

Name Changes:

The Organisation was known as WDFU (Women's Division Farmers Union) until 1946, when it was renamed WDF (Women's Division Federated Farmers) to keep in line with the Federated Farmers name.

Until 1999, WDF continued to operate and help those in need. It was decided in 1999 to change the name from Women's Division Federated Farmers to Rural Women New Zealand. This was done as it was felt that there was a misconception by the communities that WDF was a "division" of Federated Farmers, and that WDF was for older farming or retired farming ladies who met once a month, had a speaker, did baking and had flower competitions, few outside the organisation realised the work done at a National level. Younger women did not want to belong to an organisation like this that their mothers went to. It believed that the name change would encourage other women to join. It was done to encourage any women with an interest in rural to join, not just farming women and to appeal to a younger group of women. Members knew what they did, but the general public didn't, and that needed to be remedied.

A consultant came up with a series of names and logos, which were narrowed down and three options, including the WDF status quo were sent to the members via the branches for a member vote. The result, which is today's Rural Women New Zealand name and logo, was announced at the Hamilton National Conference in 1999, and officially announced at Parliament by Prime Minister Jenny Shipley on October 15 1999, World Rural Women Day.

The picture on the logo was to be representative of rural hills of anywhere in New Zealand. It was done to be changes if a future National Council decided to. It was designed to use without the picture if necessary, for faxing and copying clarity issues.



By 2009, there were approximately 300 branches with about 4000 members.

Although it is over 80 years since the organisation began, it can be seen that the need for it today is just as important as it was back then. The aims may have changed their wording and many of the fundraising and community works done have changed, there is still the need for the advocacy work done by National Office and the social activities and awareness campaigns for the members and their communities.



First National Conference Wellington 1926



National Conference, Wellington, 2009

Structure:

Members

	Elected Body (Governance) National Council	Individual Members
Paid Staff		Branches/ Groups
National Executive Officer		Provincials
Teams		Regional Management
Communications Officer		
Groups		Regional Liaison
Administration		
Contracted people (Rural Bulletin Editors, Policy Analysts)		

Rural Women New Zealand National Office is situated at 30 Hawkestone Street, Thorndon, Wellington

Postal address: P O Box 12-021 Thorndon, Wellington

Telephone: 04 473 5524

Fax: 04 4728946

Email: enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz

Website:

www.ruralwomen.org

RWNZ Membership Structure:

Members:

RWNZ is an inclusive organisation that welcomes anyone to join.

There are several ways to be a member;

Branch Member: Someone who has joined a branch. There is no limit to how many branches a member can belong to, but only has voting rights at one

Individual Member: For someone who does not want to join a branch, or does not have one close, but still wishes to belong to RWNZ

Associate Member: Someone interested in RWNZ's activities and purpose, but does not wish to be a fully participating member. Has no voting rights

Subscriptions for these categories had stayed the same at \$22.50 for a branch member since 1992. At the 2008 Blenheim National Conference, it was passed to increase the subs over the next three years starting at \$30 for 2008, \$35 for 2009

and \$40 for 2010, to be reviewed at the 2011 AGM. The reasoning behind this was so there was not a huge jump all at once, which might put some members off rejoining.

Up until 2009, subscriptions were paid by the members to the Branches, some to Provincials, and then to National Office. The problem with this came about if the Branch had not forwarded the money to National Office by March 31; this meant some delegates were not financial, even if they had paid their sub to their Branch. From 2010, there will be personal accounts sent out to each member, so that the database will be able to be updated more quickly, so mail outs and other essential information are sent out correctly. It will also mean less work for Branch and Provincial Treasurers collecting subscriptions. A list of members will be sent out to the Provincials, Branches and Groups after the subscriptions have been paid.

Corporate member: A remit passed at National Conference at Wellington in May 2009 proposing a new type of member be added. This is the Corporate / NGO Member. This is aimed at those organisations that we have a relationship or stakeholder partnership with, NGO's such as Plunket, Maori Women's Welfare League, and National Council of Women, and Corporates such as BNZ and Telecom.

These entities have consistently demonstrated an interest in rural communities and rural issues and a commitment to this support through active participation.

This will entitle them to copies of the Rural Women magazine, yearbook, E-newsletter and Rural Bulletin, but they will not have voting rights.

The annual subscription is to be set at \$100 plus GST

Branches: A group of members who meet regularly under the RWNZ name, and share a common interest in strengthening rural communities. The groups can take many forms, such as lunch or afternoon meetings, evening or dinner meetings.

Provincials/ Districts: A group of branches within a boundary. Several provincials make up a region. Not all branches belong to a Provincial, mainly in areas with only a few branches.

Regions:

There are seven regions that make up RWNZ.

Region One: Otago Southland

Region Two: Canterbury

Region Three: Top Of The South

Region Four: Central

Region Five: Rimanui

Region Six: Wainaki

Region Seven: Kaurilands



Each of these regions has the following:

National Councillor:

Who is elected by the region to represent them on National Council. Their main objective is to promote RWNZ as a desirable organisation to join and to encourage activities and events to stimulate members and to ensure RWNZ is being effective in rural communities.

Their responsibilities include:

- Promoting two way communication between members and National by reporting back to Branches and Provincials after each Council meeting, and by reporting to Council on plans, activities and results from within the Region
- Developing RWNZ's role as a voluntary & charitable support network within the rural communities
- Encouraging new initiatives and encouraging non-members participation and creating growth opportunities
- Offering support for personal development and encouraging members to participate in decision making, and workshops as well having social events
- Acting as a resource person on RWNZ policy and other RWNZ matters
- Being a leadership role model, able to communicate and negotiate effectively
- Meeting with the Regional Management Team and helping prepare a Regional Plan that uses available resources efficiently.

Regional Development Officer:

The RDO is a paid employee of RWNZ, at present each region gets funding for 12 hours per week, travel allowance plus expenses. Regions One and Two have two RDO's each, who share these hours. The overall aim of RDO's is to attract new members and raise the profile of RWNZ; they are employed to work in the regions with RWNZ members to assist with promotion, organizational development and to support their regional councillors.

Regional Liaison Groups:

These were set up in 1999 and act as link between Access Homehealth and the communities. They are elected or nominated groups of members of a region who are responsible for the allocation of funds for charitable purposes and to assist with Access Homehealth concerns within the region. Each year they give financial support to those who "fall through the cracks" or need short term support, such as new mothers, or the elderly after a hospital stay.

Liaison Groups also support a wide range of community projects, such as: World Rural Women's Day speakers, books for playgroups, and medical equipment for ambulances.

Funding is also available for Branch and Provincial activities such as leadership courses, newsletter expenses, farm safety days or travel for training.

Branches and provincials apply for grants using an application form from their Liaison group facilitator. Outside organisations cannot apply directly.

Regional Management Team (RMT):

Its purpose is to extend RWNZ horizons, initiate new approaches to RWNZ activities and to increase RWNZ membership.

It is an elected or nominated group of up to six members elected at Regional Conference prior to September every second year, including up to two co-opted by the National Councillor to provide the best possible expertise and geographic representation for their region. They assist their National Councillor with the Regional Year plan and regional activities, and are responsible for consulting with RWNZ members on it before the start of each calendar year. The RMT is a sub-committee of National Council. Members may serve three consecutive terms of two years and may be re-elected.

Regional Consultancy Group: The original name for what is now known as the Regional Management Team.

Regional Conferences:

These are run within the regions either annually or biannually depending on the region. They are an opportunity for members to get together and socialise and network. Workshops and/ or speakers are organised, discussion is conducted on business, remits and issues affecting RWNZ.

National:National Council:

Is made up of the elected National President, plus the seven regionally elected National councillors, as well as the National Finance Chairman.

The National President: may hold office for a maximum of three years and must have served on National Council for at least one year.

The National Finance Chairman: is responsible for all financial matters relating to RWNZ, including budgets and accounts. They are in constant communication with the Accounts Administrator at National Office and liaise with the Accountant and Auditor throughout the year. They make investments and any urgent financial decisions in liaison with the National President. A set of annual accounts, a report and a budget are presented at National Conference. They also serve ex officio on all National based committees such as Honda, Scotlands Te Kiteroa, Access Homehealth and Enterprising Rural Woman Award. They may hold office for a maximum of six years and must have served on National Council previous to becoming National Finance Chairman.

National Councillors: may be any member who has held office on a RWNZ committee and may hold office for up to eight years and is eligible for re-nomination to the same office after being absent from National Council for one term – one term is two years for National Councillors.

The Deputy President: is elected from the elected National Council

National Council meets quarterly and has brief meetings pre- and post- Conference as well as conference calls as necessary.

The National Executive is made up of the National President, Deputy President and National Finance Chairman

Scotlands Te Kiteroa WDFC Charitable Trust: Established in 1982 after the sale of the Scotlands and Te Kiteroa rest homes to carry out the legal requirements of RWNZ's charitable status. The money from the sale was put into the trust and the interest used for grants to individuals, groups or communities in rural areas. The categories considered include: welfare, community, conservation and education. The committee is made up of both RWNZ members and non members. RWNZ members are appointed annually for a maximum of six years. Non members are also appointed annually, but there is no restriction on their length of term. All members must be nominated by 31 August each year

The Trust meets once a year to consider the applications which must be received by the secretary by 30 September each year.

There is a number of Paid staff at National Office including:

Executive Officer: Fulltime position, in charge of advocacy, Human resources, management, policy, etc

Communications Officer: 3 days a week, in charge of publications, marketing, member services, journalism, media

Administration Officer; Manages the office, administration, member management, meeting organisation

Accounts Officer; 25 hours a week, accounts support for RWNZ and AHH with the accountant and finance chairperson

Sponsorship Officer; 10-15 hours per week, sponsorship/ fundraising

Rural Bulletin Contractors; X 2 up to 100 hours per month between them.

National Council Members each have areas of policy that they oversee.

National Conference:

This is held each year in May, each region taking turns to host it. Conference is an opportunity for members to get together and network with each other. It is where a lot of business is conducted and the AGM is held, where remits are heard and voted on. Delegates only vote on financial and constitutional matters, and all financial members present may vote on general matters. It is where workshops are held, competitions are held and award winners announced. It is also where National Councillors and National Presidents are elected when the positions arise. It is also an opportunity for members to have a voice with open forum sessions. Originally it was run as a conference, then for a number of years, an AGM where delegates only attended, was run alternatively run with a conference for all members. However the decision was made to go back to annual conferences as many members enjoy going for the social aspect as well as the business sessions.

Rapid Response Teams:

All members have the chance to be on rapid response teams. These are members on email whom the National Executive Officer sends items she needs feedback for submissions, or that there could be a need for RWNZ to follow up and act on. At present not enough people are not responding, in a number of circumstances there were no replies. This is a chance for members to get their view point across and needs to be promoted more strongly to the members how important it is that they respond, even to say that they have no viewpoint, so that the NEO knows that the emails are read. It needs to be done via email as often answers are required in a short turn around period, and normal post would often be too slow. It is also a lot more time efficient and less cost over email.

International Officers:

These are at both Provincial and National level, mainly involved in matters pertaining to the relationship with ACWW and any other international matters that relate to rural women.

Provincial-

- To co-ordinate between the Provincial and the National International Officer and national Office by receiving, reporting on and filing material from National, and recording and reporting on activities in the local area.
- They pass onto members reports of projects and general matters of interest undertaken by ACWW.
- They are responsible for regularly reporting to the National International Officer, so a report of RWNZ activities for ACWW can be sent to the ACWW Office in London, or included as an article in the Countrywomen magazine.

- They are to encourage the observation of International days such as the International Day of Rural Women, held in October, and other matters such as the International Years of e.g. Natural Fibres (2009) and the Potato (2008). Also to encourage the Branches and Provincials to learn more about the Country of Study, such as Latvia (2008-2009) and USA- Arkansas (2009-2010). And they promote understanding of between countrywomen around the World and are actively involved with visits to the Provincial area by overseas visitors.
- Also to encourage members to participate in International competitions such as the Cora Wilding Trophy, and to enter the Talbot Trophy for the Provincial Officer who by her report initiates, stimulates and carries out all avenues of international work of RWNZ in her area.
- They also need to support the Coins for Friendship Fund and make members aware of other international funds such as the Overseas Travel Fund, which pays for the RWNZ delegation leader to attend World ACWW conferences.

National: as well as being involved in overseeing the above activities they

- receive copies of all correspondence and other material from ACWW and other international organisations that is sent to RWNZ national Office
- Ensure reports outlining RWNZ activities are sent to ACWW Head Office for inclusion in the Book of reports at the World Triennial Conference and the South Pacific Conference
- Ensure where possible a delegation is sent to the South Pacific Conference and the World Triennial Conference
- Include an article of International interest in general mailouts from Head Office
- Are influential on choosing the Country of Study and type of competition for the Cora Wilding Trophy.

Access Home Health:

Access Homehealth is a nationwide community based not for profit organisation and is a wholly owned subsidiary of RWNZ. It is one of New Zealand's largest home healthcare organisations. It has a nationwide network, providing services to both urban and rural areas.

History:

It was established in 1926, its heritage going back to the early WDFB Bush Nurses and the Homecare Scheme. Funding was originally raised through emergency assistance and the "Community Chest".

In 1945, the first Government subsidies were paid

In 1990, there were major health reforms, leading to major contractual changes and the expansion of contracts.

When WDFB was rebranded to RWNZ, there was separation between the charity and the business activities, and the WDFB Homecare was also rebranded to Access Homehealth.

Following this was the growth of Access Homehealth into a reputed national provider of home based support services.

Services provided include:

Domestic assistance, personal care, child care, assessment services, nursing services, meal preparation, carer relief, sleepovers, shopping and housekeeping.

The National Office is in Wellington, there are three area offices, two administration offices, fifteen branches and around 2700 employees. Access Homehealth also runs Amida training from Christchurch.

Access Home Health's Prime Purpose is:

To provide an integrated quality care service in association with other health professionals to all parts of New Zealand. This includes providing a national rural service but requires a metropolitan presence to be commercially viable long term. Surplus earnings to be utilised for projects and activities that meet the criteria of the strategic plan of RWNZ (strengthening rural communities) and are in accordance with the Charitable Trust Legislation.

The Prime objective is- to ensure that all rural families have fair and equitable access to quality homecare support and services. To give effect to this aim, quality services will be provided to all communities to enable subsidisation of the additional costs in providing the same level of service to rural communities.

The secondary objective is- to generate profits for charitable purposes.

Access Homehealth works with the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards, GPs, ACC and other organisations. It is an accredited member of the New Zealand Home Health Association.

The broad aims of Access Homehealth are to provide services that restore, maintain or promote health, and to facilitate self-care in a client-specific way.

Its Core organisational values are:

Service:

- Customer Focus-The ability to anticipate and influence client's needs and wants and provide services that meet their short/ medium and long term needs
- Communication and interpersonal skills

Professionalism:

- Teamwork- The ability to effectively contribute to the establishment, maintenance and success of work teams, focused on achieving individual, team and organisational objectives.
- Leadership-The ability to create a shared understanding of requirements in the work environment and through influence, enabling team members to fully contribute to team and organisational objectives.

Enterprise:

Continuous improvement and initiative- a proactive approach to opportunities that have the potential to improve the outcomes and performance of a specific region or the organisation as a whole.

Amida Training:

Wholly owned by Access, it is a NZQA accredited training company with significant industry training capability. All new support workers are trained to at least CSSITO Foundation Skill Level 2. It is contracted by the Ministry of Health to develop a "Virtual Classroom" training programme. AHH encourage and support all staff to further their knowledge and skills through training.

AHH has its own newsletter for Access Homehealth staff - "Totally Accessible". It is available on the RWNZ website under the Access Homehealth tab.

Accommodation:

Honda House:

Honda House is situated in Hawkestone Street, Wellington, next door to RWNZ headquarters. It is owned and operated by RWNZ as a bed and breakfast.

The original Honda was bought through a bequest to RWNZ from Dr Agnes Bennett OBE and named after her childhood home in Sydney. This was sold and the present Honda was purchased in 1962.

The house was built in 1929 and contains many original features, including stained glass windows and wood panelling and the staircase.

It is situated close to Parliament, the railway station and Lambton Quay.

It is used by both RWNZ members and the public. RWNZ members receive reduced tariffs

Email: HondaHouse@xtra.co.nz

Telephone 04 4737670

32 Hawkestone Street, Thorndon, Wellington

Harris Cottage:

Harris Cottage is situated on the Whangaparoa Peninsula, and is approximately a 40 minute drive from Auckland. It is close to eight beaches, two regional parks, a leisure centre and a number of restaurants.

It is ideal for a family holiday as it sleeps six, and a cot & highchair are available. All equipment, except linen is supplied.

RWNZ members receive reduced tariffs.

Bookings Fay Keane Email: thekeanes@xtra.co.nz

Telephone 09 4280471

21 Brightside Rd, Stanmore Bay

Ballot forms were sent out to all members at the beginning of 2009, with the options of selling all the buildings (National Office, Honda House and Harris Cottage) or not selling them. The vote was in favour of National Council selling the buildings. This will not happen straight away, but it will be gone into thoroughly before any decision is made. However, Harris Cottage is no longer available for rent.

In early September, an offer was accepted for Harris Cottage, and so it has been sold. The new owner is going to retain the picture of Miss Harris on the wall, as well as the copy of the Women's Creed.

However it is still business as usual for Honda House.

Policies and Submissions:

RWZN believes that:

“All New Zealanders have a right to fully participate in society”

“No New Zealander should be disadvantaged because of where they live or work”

RWZN also believes that the main causes of disparity for rural New Zealanders, their families and their livelihoods are:

- Lack of access to effective telecommunication services
- Distances to other services
- Shortages of a strong rural workforce
- The inequity of population-based funding
- The unintended negative impacts of legislation/policy

RWZN often reminds those it is in discussion with that only 14% of those living in rural communities are directly involved in agriculture, and that the other 86% are either involved in a large range of services essential to supporting rural communities, or non rural related ventures. And so decisions made affect more than just the farmers, but their families and all those who have chosen to live in rural areas.

Rural Women New Zealand Policy Goals:

Rural Women New Zealand policy priorities are to ensure that

- Rural New Zealanders' voices are heard in all legislative decision making processes
- Legislation is developed that improves the well being of rural communities and reduces disparities
- Rural communities have equal access to all services
- The wellbeing of rural communities is taken into consideration from the beginning of legislative development
- Policies that are working well are retained, and not changed for ideological reasons

Rural Women New Zealand policies support the following main issues:

-Education:

Issues including- school transport, technology, Rural Education Reference Group, primary and secondary schooling, the Correspondence School, early childhood, tertiary and special education.

RWZN Concerns: - Rural education is compromised by distance, isolation, workforce recruitment and retention difficulties. Legislation and policies often do not reflect issues specific to the rural community

RWZN Recommendations: - That equitable access to education services for rural students is actively sought in all legislative development and implementation by:

- Placing greater focus on the development and retention of a skilled and multi-disciplined rural education workforce
- Developing flexible and innovative outreach services in any education policy
- Public funding of community and home-based early childhood, primary and secondary services, public funding of the first tertiary qualifications
- Recognising that telecommunications, including broadband, is part of the national infrastructure and providing for equitable access and pricing for all New Zealanders

-Introducing realistic boarding bursaries for rural families.

RWNZ Supports:--Broad and generous access to lifelong learning opportunities for rural communities

- Public funding of a rural education adjuster to ensure equitable and effective access to early childhood, primary and secondary education services
- Adequate subsidies for transport services and boarding bursaries for rural families
- The development and retention of a skilled, multidisciplinary rural education workforce
- Co-ordinated use of rural education facilities and resources
- Development of flexible, innovative outreach services for rural communities
- Delivery of education programmes designed to meet the needs of rural women

Health:

Issues include- rural health services, adult health, agricultural health and safety, public health, mental health, genetic modification, older persons, disability, maternity services and children's health.

RWNZ Concerns: - Rural Health problems are compounded by difficulties in recruitment and retention of a multi-disciplinary health workforce.

Access to specialist services is constrained by time and distance

Agriculture has one of the highest levels of workplace accidents

Telecommunications are inadequate for telemedicine service options

RWNZ Recommends; - That creative and diverse policies are implemented to avoid negative impacts on rural communities including:

- Funding of a well trained rural health workforce supported by mobile and outreach services
- Provision of alternative funding streams for threatened services
- Increasing funding for effective preventive programmes and first line treatment services
- Introducing comprehensive farm safety programmes as part of the rural school curriculum
- Developing infrastructural requirements for telemedicine options

RWNZ Supports:-

- Healthy family, community and farm safe initiatives
- Public funding of a comprehensive range of home- based and community based primary health services
- Public funding of a rural health adjuster to ensure equitable and effective access to primary and secondary health services
- Recognition of the importance of rural women's work as caregivers- paid or voluntary
- Development and retention of a skilled multidisciplinary rural health workforce
- Co-ordinated use of rural health facilities; and integrated care across primary, emergency, maternity, mental health, older persons services, home support and specialist services
- Development of flexible, innovative outreach services for rural communities

- Stability in health governance and administration to reduce overhead and restructuring costs.

Social:

Issues include- access to services, women and the law, income support, social welfare, family and the law, violence and abuse, consumer rights and standards, and privacy and human rights.

RWNZ Concerns: - Government and other contributing agencies do not always consider the impacts of policy and legislation on rural communities. Many good initiatives fail rural families because they are under-resourced.

RWNZ Recommendations: - That rural access to services is improved by:

- Policies that encourage diverse and thriving rural communities
- Encouragement of opportunities for collaboration with different agencies to achieve policy goals and ensure that they impact equitably on all communities
- Initiatives to strengthen rural families and communities are appropriately resourced
- Improved support services for older people and people with disabilities who are marginalised due to distance from services
- More investment in recruitment and retention of a strong homecare workforce

RWNZ Supports:-

- Initiatives to strengthen families and rural communities
- Recognition of the value of women's work
- Effective access to quality childcare for rural families
- Equity of access to governmental, legal, financial and social services
- Equitable entitlements to parental leave, and other benefits for rural women
- Measures to reduce violence and crime in rural communities

Land Use:

Issues include- agriculture, alternative rural enterprises, energy, environment and conservation, genetic modification, forestry, telecommunications, transport and roading and local government.

RWNZ Concerns: - Perceptions and values of policymakers relating to land use impacts may differ from those of landowners, whose priority is a productive, responsibly managed unit. As a result property rights are being eroded

RWNZ Recommendations; - That economic and environmental objectives for sustainable land use are encouraged and supported through:

- Investment in diverse, sustainable energy technologies as a political priority
- Legislation and policy structures that are developed in partnership with farmers and land owners
- Funding of land-based industries research and agricultural scientific research to a level reflective of its contribution to this country's economy
- Legislation that guarantees security of tenure

RWNZ Supports:-

- Public funding of land-based industries research and agricultural extension services

- Initiatives to diversify land use and rural economies
- Integration of economic and environmental objectives for sustainable land use
- Zero waste strategies
- Equity of access to high speed, quality telecommunications
- Development of efficient, distributed energy technologies for rural communities
- Publicly owned and funded rural transport networks

Other Recommendations:-

Rural Impact Assessment:

- Consultation needs to be undertaken with rural organisations such as RWNZ and Federated Farmers during legislative & policy development
- Alternative solutions need to be found when good public policy fails rural communities.

Effective Local Government:

- There is a priority to ensure rural representation on local bodies
- Local bodies need to involve rural communities and businesses in local decision making
- The impacts on rural communities must be recognised when developing policy
- There needs to be increased opportunities for the rural voice to be heard

Road Safety:

- All children have the right to safe travel between home & school
- All school buses need to have distinctive signage and lights to indicate that children are alighting
- Drivers need to be continually reminded of the speed limits when approaching and passing schools and stationary school buses

Climate Change and the Environment:

The threat to society from climate change and environmental impacts requires sustained action by all New Zealanders

Legislation and policies need to reflect and support rural communities' efforts to reduce the carbon footprint

Responsible stewardship needs to be supported in consultation with the agricultural community

Submissions:

The Process of choosing and presenting submissions:

RWNZ tends to focus on calls for submissions or discussion documents that fit within the four portfolio area of Education, Health, Land Use and Social, however there others that may sit outside that.

An issue is perhaps raised by a RWNZ member, national councillor, or the National Executive Officer is advised by people such as her policy contractors, finds information on the internet, or information is sent to her from other various sources.

The RWNZ submission process policy is as follows:

The National Executive Officer contacts the relevant portfolio people and if they say to proceed-

The NEO contacts a policy contractor or if time is tight, or it is a brief submission, the NEO will do the work.

The Rapid Response Team are contacted for feedback
 Research is done
 The feedback is collated, researches etc
 Writing of the submission begins
 The first draft is sent to the portfolio people
 The second draft is written
 The final version is put together and sent, these days usually by email
 A copy is sent to all National Councillors
 If it is going to a Select Committee, it is held over until it is heard; otherwise it is put up on the RWNZ website immediately

An important part of this process is the Rapid Response Team. These are members of RWNZ who are preferably on email as this is the quickest, most efficient way to send and receive information. The NEO emails out to the team the relevant submission information, and it is the job of the Rapid Response Team to send back any information they might have, their own personal experiences, stories and experiences of other people and any other bits that may help in the submission process.

Submissions made recently include:

The Domestic Violence (Enhancing Safety) Bill- made to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee
 The Broadband Investment Initiative- made to the ICT Regulatory Group, Ministry of Economic Development
 The Proposed Regulatory Framework for Unpasteurised Milk Products- to The NZ Food Safety Authority
 The Draft Maternity Action Plan- to The Ministry of Health

The RWNZ website contains the list of submissions made and their contents
 Members are consulted on a wide range of topics.

It is often members who have a concern in their area who voice it, and the issue is found to be more widespread, so RWNZ can follow up and act on this issue and bring it to the attention of those who can act on these issues. Having a national voice in the right ears can bring about results that individuals or branches may not be able to achieve on their own.

Alliances and Strategic Partnerships:

There are a great number of Government departments, Non- Government Organisations, Corporates and other organisations that RWNZ has built strong relationships with over the years that it has been in existence. These are the organisations that help RWNZ strengthen rural communities in a number of ways.

Government Departments that RWNZ works with include:

Ministry Of Women's Affairs
 Ministry of Health- Especially the Rural Health Desk
 Ministry of Education
 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
 Ministry of Transport
 Police

Other Associated Organisations include:

The Correspondence School

Safe kids- RWNZ have a large network to get the Safekids message across, such as the Firewise campaign, Water Safety campaign, and Hot Water Burns campaign over the past few years. Of course the two organisations are working closely on the school bus safety campaign. Safekids have provided the material, such as posters, magnets etc and RWNZ have helped to distribute them. Offers, such as discounted life jackets to RWNZ from the Warehouse in 2007, have been another example of working together to keep our children safe.

Maori Women's Welfare league

Institute of Rural Health

College of Midwives

The Rural Medical Immersion Programme and the Aotearoa Rural Health Apprentices (ARHA) - The umbrella organisation for the Matagouri Club from Otago University. RWNZ help find billets for health science students who need accommodation during the rural placement of their training. By being billeted by rural communities means the students don't need to feel isolated and lonely away from home, and hopefully the experience of living in these rural communities will encourage students to consider working in rural health after graduation.

The other rural health clubs under the ARHA are: Grassroots in Auckland, Country Scrubs in Christchurch, and The Boot in Wellington.

The objectives of this scheme are:

To promote the benefits of working in a rural setting

To promote a network of health workers within rural New Zealand

To encourage health workers to be involved in rural issues

To encourage sharing of positive experiences and ideas nationally

Rural Communities have difficulties recruiting and retaining health practitioners.

Research shows that by giving the health science students exposure to rural health practice, more will consider rural health as a career option.

RWZN members have also billeted students on the Rural Medical Immersion Programme for a number of years. This is a scheme originally started by Dr Pat Farry, the medical director of Te Waipounamu Rural Health Unit of the University of Otago.

The students are placed to work and live alongside doctors in rural areas rather than the traditional study at one of the four main tertiary hospitals, so they get to interact with patients from first contact to treatment, which includes visits to rural and tertiary hospitals.

Of the six students in the original pilot scheme due to graduate four intend to spend their second post graduate year in smaller provincial hospitals.

It is hoped to extend the billeting to other groups in the ARHA to more than the pharmacy students and doctors to include physiotherapy, dentistry and nursing.

The RWZN offer of help by either billeting or finding accommodation is seen as very positive by the ARHA as it recognises the importance of good rural experiences in attracting health professionals back to rural areas and it helps overcome the difficulties for students finding accommodation in rural areas during their placements. Some placements such as pharmacy are for a week, physiotherapy is eight weeks. Longer placements, such as for trainee doctors interested in becoming rural GP's is for three months and GP registrars have five months rural rotation.

It is hoped that those placed in rural situations will realise the positive side to living and working in rural areas and will consider returning to rural areas when their training is complete.

Life Education Trust- many branches and provincials make contributions to this trust which delivers health based education programmes to primary and intermediate school children

Public Health Organisation

Plunket- A new pilot scheme is being set up in three areas presently in South Taranaki, South Canterbury and South Otago.

RWZN members will open their homes to families with babies to meet and make appointments with Plunket. This scheme will not replace the home visits, but it will provide a support group and network for families, at the same time having a private room for consultations with the nurses. For some families who have no family close, this will provide support and friendship to help out.

Rural General Practice Network-

Kindy Association

St Johns

Playcentre Federation

Massey University- Leptospirosis group fundraising and awareness campaign

Telecommunications Network

Child Poverty Action Group- A group, as the name suggests that focuses on child poverty. RWNZ have highlighted the problems of many rural children living in poverty and the access to dental services and schooling, especially areas such as the Far North, where there has become a huge problem with access to dental services and so the health of the children's teeth has become a major problem. It also has highlighted the lack of information on access to services such as medical & social services to the migrant population.

Corporate and Business and Sponsorship:

Telecom- A major sponsor of RWNZ, including National Conference and the Rural Bulletin. RWNZ had Telecom have also been in talks about rural broadband.

Bank of New Zealand- A major sponsor of RWNZ, the sponsorship deal announced in 2008 includes National Conference, support for members to attend BNZ seminars such as Women in Agribusiness, the Enterprising Rural Women Award.

Landcorp- Sponsors of the RWNZ Wellington Experience for the past 18 years and the Rural Bulletin.

Meat and Wool New Zealand-Sponsors of annual directorship course, or in 2009, two places on the Kellogg Rural Leader's Programme. Also one of the sponsors of the Rural Bulletin.

ACC – Strategic partners in safety. This includes the Rural Safety Days launched early in 2009. They also help sponsor National Conference and have awareness stands there for such things as deafness and fatigue. ACC has also been an important partner in the RWNZ campaign for school bus safety.

Associated Organisations:

ACWW: The Associated Country Women of the World

ACWW is the largest international organisation for Rural Women and is active in over 70 countries.

Working in partnership with its members worldwide, ACWW offers mutual support, friendship and practical support.

It is non-sectarian, non-racial and non party political.

It unites countrywomen of the world who share and learn from each other for the benefit of all.

History of ACWW:

Late 19th Century- rural women's groups were set up independently. Communication between these groups gradually enabled more country women to come together in friendship and work towards similar goals

London 1929- International conference of rural women held under the banner of the International Council of Women.

Vienna 1930- Conference decision by the International Council of Women to form a liaison committee of rural women's organisations

Stockholm 1933- The committee becomes the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

ACWW Aims:

- Raising the standard of living of rural women and families through education, training and community development projects
- Providing practical support to members- helping women's groups set up income generating schemes
- Supporting educational opportunities for women and girls and the elimination of gender-based discrimination
- Giving rural women a voice at international level through links with UN agencies

ACWW Priorities:

Status of Women- including Women's Rights
 Status of the Girl Child- including children, family, work/labour, refugees/migration
 Health- including HIV/Aids, land mines, ageing
 Education
 Communication

ACWW works closely with the United Nations and speaks for rural women and homemakers at UN meetings, and keeps the UN informed about the work & concerns of its members.

It keeps its members informed about UN developments and helps them identify areas where they can become involved in supporting or actively participating in UN initiatives.

It informs members of help available from UN sources, and administers grants given by the UN for particular projects

ACWW also has consultative status with:

FAO- Food and Agricultural Organisation
 UNESCO- UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
 UNICEF- UN Children's Fund
 UNIFEM- UN Development Fund for Women

ACWW Projects:

ACWW Actively supports a whole range of development programmes in rural communities through its Projects and Trusts Funds including:-

Leadership & skill training, nutrition/education projects, literacy and basic education programmes (including family planning & HIV/AIDS awareness), small business initiatives and small-scale agricultural, income generating schemes such as:

"Water for All" Fund- supports clean water and sanitation projects providing water tanks, bore wells and hand pumps

“Women Feed the World” Fund- supports subsistence food production, co-operatives, training in appropriate agricultural techniques and credit saving schemes

Projects Fund- A general fund supporting projects worldwide to improve living conditions

Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund- Scholarships and courses in home economics, welfare and citizenship for leaders working in rural communities

Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund- Advanced training in organisation and leadership

Nutrition Education Fund- Promotion of good nutrition, improved hygiene, food production and child-care

Capacity building Workshops- Helping to strengthen rural women's organisations

ACWW Structure:

ACWW's Office is in London

Its structure is World President

2 Deputy World presidents

Nine Area Presidents representing:

East, West & Central Africa; Southern Africa; Central & Southern Asia; South East Asia & Far East; Canada; USA; Europe; South Pacific; Caribbean, Central & South America

Member Societies & Individual Members

ACWW holds a World Conference every three years

At this triennial conference voting delegates elect incoming officers and specified committee chairmen, as well as policies are decided on

These chairmen are in charge of the following committees: Agriculture; Finance; Projects; Promotions & Publications; Triennial Conference; United Nations

Area Conferences are organised by the Area Presidents during each triennium

ACWW is financed by:

-Annual dues paid by member societies & individual members

-“Pennies for Friendship” Are the main source of income, and are donated voluntarily by members. They support ongoing expenditure and provide the foundation for all activities

-Donations, Legacies & Grants

Membership:

Membership can be as an individual or as a group

Members will receive a copy of “Countrywomen”, the ACWW magazine quarterly.

This covers ACWW news, international projects, ACWW & UN conferences & initiatives, and member feedback.

Website: www.acww.org.uk

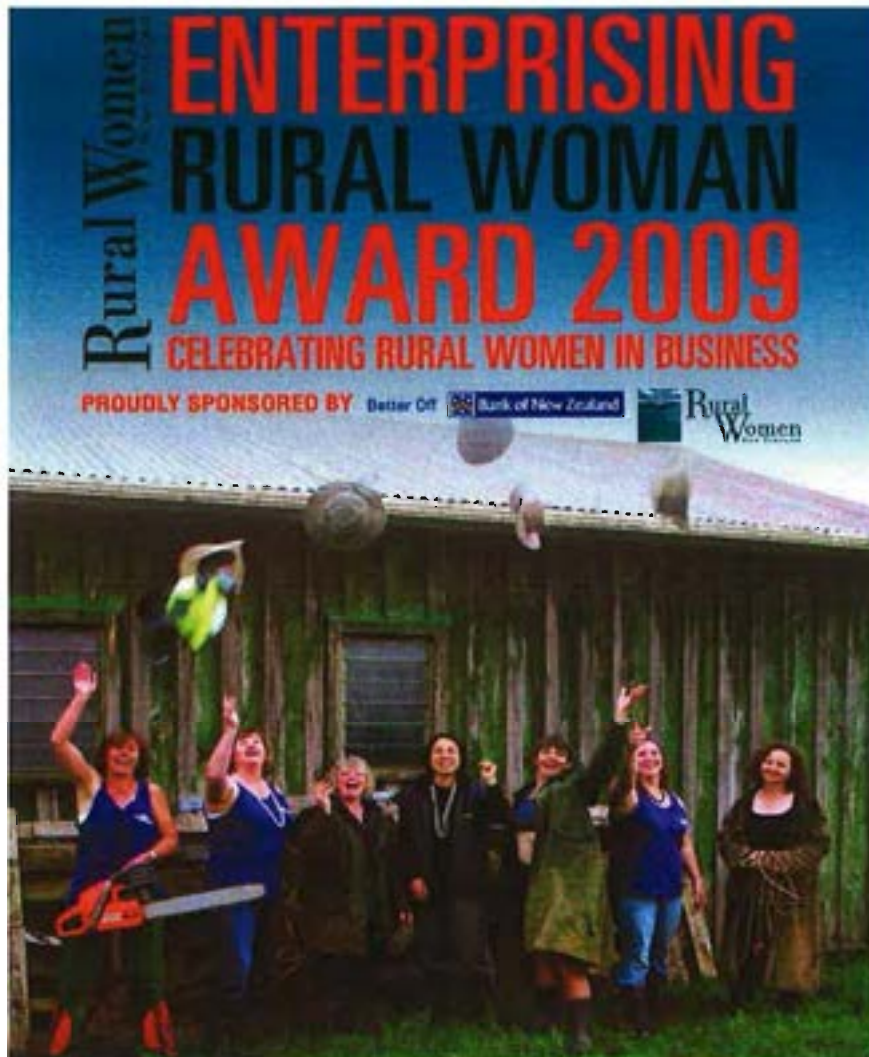
RWNZ, as WDFW joined ACWW in 1933 and has been involved since. Rural Women Branches collect coins or "pennies" for friendship each year to send for overseas projects.

Provincials have Provincial International Officers to encourage efforts by members. Members often attend South Pacific and International Conferences, and RWNZ has been represented on these councils.

Each year the International Officer recommends the "Country of Study" to National Council, who then makes the decision. It is tried to base it on where the Triennial Conference is being held, or a country with ACWW members in it.

National Initiatives:

Enterprising Rural Woman Award:



This was launched at the National Conference at Blenheim in 2008. It was launched to celebrate rural women entrepreneurs and the efforts made by rural businesswomen to run their own successful businesses. It is to be awarded to an outstanding rural business woman running her own enterprise.

It was set up to find a new way to promote RWNZ in a positive way to forward thinking women in business, as well as other potential members.

In launching the award, RWNZ is recognising those women who have had an innovative idea, been passionate about it and made it work. It realises that rural businesswomen often have to overcome additional geographic and technological challenges on their way to running successful businesses.

The award puts into action the aim of strengthening rural communities, as well as offering great opportunities to promote RWNZ, and lift the organisation's profile. Members have been encouraged to promote this award amongst their friends and acquaintances that run small businesses in their homes, on their farms or in retail or commercial premises. There were numerous press releases throughout the year to promote the award, especially to those women who were not members of the organisation.

The award is a great opportunity for the entrants to promote themselves, whether they become finalists or not, as the media has showed strong interest in running stories about the entrants.

All entrants receive one year's free membership to RWNZ and will receive RWNZ publications, including emails until the end of the year of entry.

Entry is free.

Sponsors are:

Rural Women New Zealand

Bank of New Zealand

Access Homehealth

Rural News Group

Precision Print & Design

Entry Criteria: Entrants must-

-Own or operate a small business based in a rural area with 10 or less fulltime equivalent staff. It may be operated from home, farm, retail or commercial premises.

- Have owned or operated the business for at least two years. ("Operated" meaning haven a business premises, home office or a substantial number of clients.)

Judging:

The Judging panel will consist of the RWNZ National President, a commercial advisor and a business professional.

Three finalists will be chosen by the Judging Panel

The three finalists will need to be available for an interview with the Judging Panel and to give a short promotional presentation about their businesses (maximum 10 minutes)

The Judging Panel will look for:

Innovation and enterprise

Product and service quality

Economic inputs into the rural community

Clear evidence that the business is moving forward and there is a plan for future growth

Strong financial performance

Marketing and promotions

Evidence of environmental awareness

Staff management and development

Meeting compliance requirements

Points of difference

The panel will also take account of referee attestations

Prizes:

The first prize winner will receive the BNZ award: \$1500, a trophy, and the opportunity to attend a BNZ Women in Agribusiness course.

The first runner up will receive the RWNZ/ Access Homehealth Award: \$500 prize money and \$500 of printing and design work from Precise Print & Design Ltd

The second runner up will receive the Propaganda Award: \$500 for marketing work from a company of the finalist's choice.

All finalists will have the right to use the Enterprising Rural Women of the Year Award logo on their business stationery and promotional materials for one year.

There will be significant exposure through the media. It represents a significant opportunity for the businesses to be showcased and recognition to be gained for those businesses.

2009 Enterprising Rural Woman Award:

As 2009 was the inaugural award, it was totally unknown how it would be accepted and how many entries would be received.

In the end, there were 46 entries from all over the country and a real variety of businesses were represented.

The three finalists selected were:

- Jan Bolton- Kaiangaroa Roding Contractors Ltd
- Jenny Bargh, Kiri and Kath Elworthy- Tora Coastal Walk
- Beverley Forrester – Blackhills

The Judging Panel Consisted of:

Margaret Chapman RWNZ National President

Theresa Gattung Wool Partners International

Amber Quinnell BNZ

To celebrate the inaugural awards, a function was held at the Banquet Hall, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, on Friday 15th May, in the early part of the 2009 National Conference, hosted by MP Sandra Goudie, who is also a RWNZ member. This was attended by the finalists and families, Conference delegates, judges, sponsors, MP's and other invited guests.

After each finalist gave the audience a presentation of their businesses, the awards were presented.

First: Jenny Bargh, Kiri and Kath Elworthy- Tora Coastal Walk

First Runner Up: Jan Bolton- Kaiangaroa Roding Contractors Ltd

Second Runner Up: Beverley Forrester- Blackhills

The inaugural awards seem to have been a great success, with a huge amount of media coverage in many publications, including business magazines, rural papers, local papers, many profiling entrants and the organisation.

The Winners- Tora Coastal Walk- The benefits to them and their Communities:

The three ladies involved in the winning business were not RWNZ members, and knew very little about the organisation before being encouraged to enter by Paddy Twist, from the Rural Bulletin, as she and her husband have a holiday home in the area, and knew a lot about both the Tora business and RWNZ. The entry was completed right at the height of the busy season for the walkway.

The biggest benefit for the business was the element of self review involved in completing the entry, looking at aspects of the business that weren't normally examined. An example given was of the accounting system used, as a balance sheet had to be provided with the entry, since then an accounting package is being set up to make this easier.

Of course the most tangible benefit is that the publicity has generated more bookings. The frustrating thing to the team is that much of the media interest is from the rural/agri sector whose readers are not necessarily the target market.

On a more personal level, the win has meant validation that all the hard work has not gone unnoticed, and has all been worthwhile, a real pat on the back, with some friends and family suddenly taking notice of what the ladies have achieved.

Their profile has been lifted rurally and locally. They were invited to put a discount voucher in "goodie bags" at the recent "Fashion Weekend in Martinborough" something many businesses were wishing to do. They were chosen to be part of this due to the win. It was the first time they got to use the ERWA logo. They have also been approached to speak at upcoming functions, and believe the benefits will be ongoing for some time.

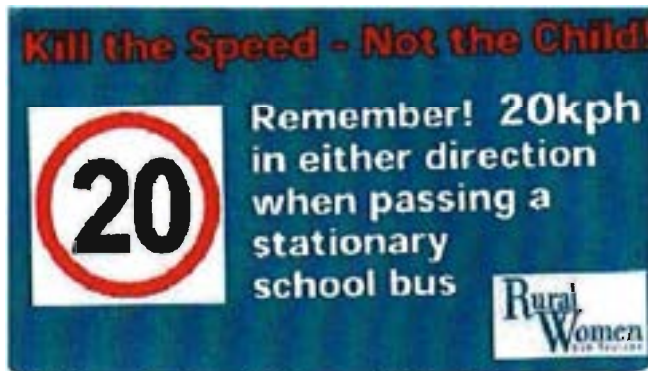
The local community will benefit financially as more people come and do the walk. Most walkers spend at least one night locally in either Martinborough or Greytown, go shopping, eat out and buy wine. The immediate district may not benefit hugely other than the local mailman as more bookings means more carrying for him, and perhaps the odd cleaning job.

The team believe that rural women entrepreneurs will be encouraged by this inaugural award, that there is an organisation that is looking after the interests of rural women, and they will be encouraging businesses they know of to have a go at the awards next year.

The entering and winning of this award has changed their perspective of RWNZ. They didn't really know anything much about the organisation, but their perception was one perhaps of members spinning & knitting and learning about helping on the farm. They did notice at the awards night that a few younger members were needed, and that perhaps an image overhaul to encourage younger members to join. They like the idea of the organisation supporting rural women, and their interest in the organisation has been sparked, and will be keen to promote RWNZ the organisation and ERWA the awards.

School Bus Safety Campaign 2009:

Kill the Speed- Not the Child



With the deaths of three children in 2007 who were killed shortly after getting off school buses, and a further fifteen children seriously injured, RWNZ launched a campaign to see more done to keep rural children safe when travelling on school buses. It was begun with a remit to National Conference about speed past rural schools, and then this other matter quickly came to the fore.

RWNZ is calling for a multi-faceted approach to preventing school bus related accidents. They are pushing for high visibility vests, annual school safety programmes for children and parents, driver education and visual means of alerting other drivers that a school bus is stopping to let passengers alight, and they all may play a part in avoiding more deaths and injuries.

RWNZ raised its concerns with the Ministry of Education, Land Transport New Zealand, the Bus and Coach Drivers Association, Safekids, the Police and MP's. There has been a strong message of support from the NZ Parent Teacher's Association for the organisation's stand.

One of the main issues of concern is the 20kmph speed limit when passing a stationary school bus in either direction. The concern is that people don't remember this from the road code, ignore it, or don't register that they are passing a school bus and have to slow down.

RWNZ has called for school buses to be equipped with flashing lights that would activate when the doors open for school children to get on or off. This would warn drivers from a distance they need to slow down when travelling at open road speeds. They also want to see "20kmph When Stopped" signs on school buses as well as the "School" sign to remind drivers. There was also a partnership between RWNZ and Totalspan promoting their "Undercover Kids" bus shelter programme to promote and provide new bus shelters along rural bus routes in "safe" places.

Some schools already require all children travelling on school buses to wear high visibility vests, and branches around the country have been raising funds and donating vests to schools.

RWNZ have produced A3 posters which can be transferred to corflute signs, to be attached to bus shelters, and a pull up screen the size of the back of a bus for use at field days and promotions and stickers showing 20km in a red circle to highlight the legal speed past a stationary school bus.

There are also stickers, fact sheets and brochures, as well as "pop up" buses to hand out to schools and parents to highlight the campaign.

New Zealand Beef and Lamb Demonstrations:

Each year, Beef and Lamb Ambassadors, who are top class New Zealand Chefs, are employed to give a number of beef and lamb cooking demonstrations throughout the country. Each RWNZ region gets the opportunity to organise and host a number of these, and branches or provincials are asked to host them. They are a good opportunity to see new, interesting ways to prepare and cook different cuts of meat. In 2009, the emphasis is to be on the cheaper cuts.

They are also a way to raise the profile of RWNZ to non members, as well as encourage them to join by giving members a preferential rate to attend.

Rural Safety Days:

Set up to be a partnership between RWNZ and rural schools and communities and supported by ACC, Injury Prevention Waimakariri and Safe Kids Trust.

It uses the Down the Back Paddock learning programme developed specifically for schools that have students that live in a rural farming community. Its aim is to boost understanding of the many hazards in a farming environment.

It covers such things as Animal safety, ATV's, Firearms, Poisons, Water Safety, Civil Defence, Road Safety, Rural Fire, and Home Security. It is a flexible plan and is for each school to focus on areas relevant to their needs.

There is a "Safety Days for Country Kids" C D with information on possible safety modules, draft letters and certificates on it, as well as a brochure with information for presenters and organisers.

ACC have provided a booklet with guidelines for organising rural safety days for children to use in conjunction with the other material.

Funding is available through ACC to assist with costs of running a rural safety day until the end of June 2009.

Leptospirosis Fundraising and Awareness Campaign:

This was launched at National Conference at Rotorua in May 2007 by Sherrill Dackers, the retiring National President.

It was to be a one year fundraising campaign to raise funds for Massey University's Faculty of Veterinary Science to continue researching the disease.

The funds were to be raised through RWNZ branch, provincial and regional initiatives, as well as individual donations. It was to be combined with the raising of awareness of the disease, that it is not only the disease of dairy cows and pigs, but also in deer, sheep and beef cattle. Also that the shift in risk is from dairy workers to meat processing workers.

The theme for the campaign was "Look Lively for Lepto". National Office produced stickers and posters for groups to promote the campaign. In April 2008, "L" Week was held as a final wind up to the campaign with a concerted effort across the country for fundraising and raising awareness.

The final amount raised was \$107,500.

Events:

"L" lunches with food all starting with "L"

Awareness Evenings

Garden Parties

Coin Trails

Raffles

Garage Sales

Bottle Auctions



We hope that the Campaign has raised awareness of Leptospirosis locally and nationally, that farmers, meat workers, health professionals and other people with the possibility of contact or diagnosis of the disease have a better idea on how it can be contracted, and what the symptoms are.

Also that the work at Massey will come up with new ways of prevention of infection and other ways to lessen the impact of this disease to both animals and humans alike.

RWNZ will be available to network between all interested parties, and will have Massey keep them in the loop, so the information can get out to the media, members and others. The major role will be information and the link between Massey and the public.

NB: See Appendix 5, page 124; for background on leptospirosis; the disease, the history of leptospirosis campaigns, and what Massey University is trying to achieve with their research.

Education:

RWNZ offers the following education opportunities:

National Bursaries and Grants:

Application forms, eligibility criteria, and closing dates are available on the RWNZ website or from National Office.

Secondary:

Secondary School Boarding Bursary

- Two available
- \$900 per year
- May be applied for children entering either years 9 or 10 (3rd & 4th form) who have to live away from home to attend secondary school
- Payable for a maximum of four years

Year 12 or 13 Boarding Bursary

- A one year bursary available to year 12 and 13 students
- \$900 per year
- Payable for one year

Nellie Schroder Boarding Bursary

- \$900
- Awarded biannually

Florence Polson Secondary Bursary

- \$1000
- Payable for one year

Tertiary:

Tertiary Bursary

- Maximum of two
- \$1000 for one year
- Financial need, the reasons for the course of study and the intended use of the qualification are taken into account when awarding the bursaries

Tertiary Resource/ Textbook Grant

- Maximum of five
- \$500 for one year
- To assist with the purchase of resource materials, including software

Diamond Jubilee Agricultural Tertiary Bursary

- \$1000 for one year
- Available to a student studying full-time in any agricultural field

Hawke's Bay Agricultural Tertiary Bursary

- \$1500 per year

-For residents of Hawke's Bay for students enrolled full-time in a course of at least one year in the agricultural, horticultural, veterinary, bee-keeping, aqua farming, viticulture or silviculture fields

RWNZ Access Homehealth Bursary

-\$3000 per year

-Available to a student enrolled in a study course related to health care, who wishes to further their studies in the health and/ or disability fields, with a particular focus on the provision of services to the rural sector

Other Grants:

Education Fund

- Up to \$500

-For second chance learning available to people over 25 years of age

-RWNZ wishes to offer people the opportunity to extend their education or training in order to improve their skill levels.

-Applicants need to indicate the benefit of their study to the wider community as well as their own personal development

-Preference will be given to those living in smaller centres or rural areas

Ruby Stokes Grant

-\$500 bi-annually

-For students whose study will benefit the wider community as well as their own personal development

-For students residing in smaller centres or rural areas on the West Coast

Scotlands Te Kiteroa Charitable Trust

-Up to \$1500

-For individuals, groups and organisations in country areas and rural towns

- For projects and activities in the following categories:

Welfare of children and the elderly

Community

Conservation

Education; e.g. playcentre equipment, furniture, training

Community Fund Grants

-Up to \$1000 per grant

-To provide financial assistance to persons or groups where there is an identified urgent need

-May be awarded to assist families in time of national disaster such as flood, fire etc. Or to assist the elderly, the young, or any family or person for their particular need

-Applications to be made by RWNZ members only, but may be made on behalf of another person or group

RWNZ Regional Liaison Group Grants

-Funds are to be allocated to activities within the following categories;

Emergency assistance- homecare, childcare, disaster, health support

Education- meeting attendance, subscriptions, speakers, information purchase

Community development-help with projects, including new initiatives

Volunteer expenses-travel, enrolments, charitable activity costs
Leadership training- communication, general leader upskilling

Other Opportunities:

RWNZ Wellington Experience:

Held once a year in February, this is designed to introduce potential RWNZ leaders to National Office and to experience Wellington, visiting government departments, such as Education Department, Ministry of Women's Affairs, and Ministry of Health parliament and other important partners to RWNZ, including the Police and Telecom. This has kindly been sponsored by Landcorp for 18 years. And the final visit is to Landcorp national office.

Up to 3 representatives from each region are selected to attend the three day event. The participants learn about leadership, writing newspaper articles, they each present a small presentation.

They meet the National Office staff, as well as learn about Access Homehealth.

It is a platform for the participants to do networking and build up contacts within the organisation.

Kellogg Rural Leader's Programme:

In 2008, RWNZ was offered the chance by Meat And Wool New Zealand to send two members on the 2009 Kellogg Rural Leader's Programme.

Women in Agribusiness:

BNZ have sponsored places in a Women in Agribusiness course for RWNZ members.

Competitions:

Each year a number of competitions are held and the results are announced at National Conference. Some are for reports produced by office holders and groups, others for individuals to enter, with the topics for each announced each year.

Honora O'Neill Trophy:

For the best Provincial President's Report.

This trophy was presented by Mrs Honora O'Neill, a National Life Member from Canterbury, who passed away in 1992.

Judging Criteria:

The report must be a well presented document summarising the activities of Branches and Provincials.

Activities should portray the Objects of RWNZ (Constitution Rule 4) being fulfilled.

Points will be awarded for:

Involvement of branches/ Members

Support of RWNZ Members

Community Service

Liaison with community

Good public relations

Presentation of the report.

Lady Blundell Competition:

Presented by Lady Blundell, ONZ QSO, National Life Member, who was Patron of Wdff during her term as the wife of the Governor General of New Zealand
Competition for the most innovative project completed alternatively by a Branch or Provincial during a two year period

The trophy will be awarded annually provided that the entries meet the criteria.

This project may be a one-day or an ongoing activity that is in addition to the usual members' range of RWNZ activities.

The project may involve social work in the community, district improvements, seminars, promotion of RWNZ etc

Details on the project must be clearly handwritten or typed in double spacing on one side of the paper only. Display and other supporting material may be submitted. The entry will be returned after judging.

The number of members in the Branch must be included.

Talbot Trophy:

Presented in 1987 by Mrs A D (Ginny) Talbot CBE, National Life Member, and National President 1981-1984. It is awarded to the Provincial International Officer who, through her report, initiates, stimulates and carries out all avenues of International work of RWNZ in her area. The trophy is awarded annually.

Cora Wilding Trophy:

Miss Cora Wilding (Kaikoura Branch) presented this cup in 1953 for competitions in debating between Branches. "The aim being to bring about greater understanding especially between our eastern neighbours and to promote world peace".

Before the trophy was actually competed for, the concept changed to a speech contest then in 1956 became an essay contest.

Later, it became varied in subject for competitions such as essay, scrapbook, or handcrafts. Many entries have been sent to countries in South East Asia or distributed at International Conferences.

Each year the topic is chosen by National Council and announced in the general circulations.

The Tarrant Bell:

Presented in 1982 by Mrs Val Tarrant OBE, National Life Member, and was National President 1978-1981.

It was firstly a debating competition held over a two year period from Branch through to Island Finals, with the finalists from each Island competing at the Biennial Conference.

Since the National Conference in 1991, the Tarrant Bell has been a Public Speaking Competition.

The topic is chosen by National Council and announced each year in the general circulars.

In 2009, the Tutaenui Wooden Bell was announced to be for the best first time speaker from 2010.

The Marlborough Short Story Competition:

The competition is open to all amateur writers who are RWNZ members and who have not won this competition for the previous two years, or had their writing published- apart from contributions to newspapers or RWNZ articles.

The story must be a minimum of 1000 words and a maximum of 1500 words.

The title is chosen by Region Three and announced each year.

The winner is presented with the Marlborough Tray and a book voucher.

This competition is sponsored and managed by the Marlborough Provincial.

Olive Craig Competition: "Member of Excellence"

Criteria:

Must be a financial member of RWNZ

Must not have received any RWNZ award for service to the organisation (excluding Branch/ Provincial Honours)

Must not be a paid employee of the organisation

Must have actively lifted the profile of RWNZ in the community

Must demonstrate exceptional support for the Aims, Objects and general philosophy of RWNZ

Year Book Photography Competition:

Each Year members are encouraged to send in photos taken through the year showing aspects of rural and family life, and a number of these have been used in the yearbook publication. The front page and back page photos were the winning photos winning not only the prize money of \$100 for first and \$50 for second, but the kudos of the prime positions for the photos. A coffee table book is in the process of being put together with the photos sent in over the last few years.

Awards:

Bar of Honour: Branch/ Provincial- may be awarded to a member who has given loyal and willing service to RWNZ, by resolution of the Branch or Provincial

Service Award- May be awarded to a member who has given faithful service to RWNZ

Life Member- Branch/ Provincial- may be awarded for outstanding service to RWNZ, by resolution of the Branch or Provincial

National Life Member- awarded by National Council in recognition of especially outstanding services to the organisation. Mainly for outgoing National Presidents or someone who has made a huge contribution at National level. Has voting rights at National Conference

National Member of Honour- normally presented to someone serving at national level. Has voting rights at National Conference.

Publications:

Women Alive!

This is a monthly RWNZ e-newsletter. It is designed to keep members updated with recent and upcoming events, news items, hot topics and updates on the four focus areas of health, education, land access and social issues.

Rural Women

This is a quarterly journal that is broad based, with features, guest columns, book reviews and RWNZ news items. It is read by members and many other organisations with which we have regular contact.

The RWNZ Express

This is a relatively new publication and is produced quarterly and is the national "internal" printed newsletter designed for members. It focuses on news from branches and members, information about national council meetings, RWNZ campaigns and more. It replaced the General Circular that was formerly distributed to branch contacts.

The RWNZ Year Book

This has been the annual publication, highlighting a snapshot of some of the key events that were held in the regions and nationally throughout the past year. This is a high quality publication featuring winning images from the yearbook photo competition. It was decided that the 2008 would be the last yearbook.

RWNZ Website

This contains information about RWNZ's campaigns, current issues, events, contacts, bursaries, accommodation, links to our publications and more. It has the RWNZ business directory on it. This is a free online listing for members to promote their enterprises. Businesses are listed under the following groups:
 Accommodation and Tourism
 Business, Training and Professional Services
 Art and Crafts, Retailers, Manufacturers and Distributors
 Food, Health Products and Services
 Rural Services, Landscape and Horticulture, Livestock
 It also features a Members Only area with membership resources including ideas for activities, promoting your group, RWNZ merchandise, stationery, the Constitution and National Conference proceedings. It can only be accessed with the correct username and password, which is available from National Office.

Rural Bulletin:

Originally M A F began printing the Rural Bulletin in 1992, but ceased its publication in 2006. Due to the public outcry at its cessation, RWNZ made the decision to become its publisher. It aims to provide rural people with an opportunity for informed decision making and to enable them to have a say on issues that affect them. It is a free publication eleven times a year and is accessed by a wide range of groups such as RWNZ members, media, Central and District Government departments, businesses, schools, and community groups, and often is forwarded on to others, an estimated 300,000 people read it. 3000 copies get sent out

electronically, approximately 900 are posted and many are downloaded off the website.

The information it contains includes: discussion papers, new Government policies, business, environmental and financial matters, transport, safety and education information, information for charitable organisations, opportunities for funding and networking, and some information not found elsewhere.

Sponsorship for the Rural Bulletin is gratefully received from Telecom, Farmsafe, Landcorp, Meat and Wool New Zealand, NZ Lottery Grants Board and Sargood Bequest.

However, there is a shortfall in the cost of publication, which is covered by RWNZ. This is not sustainable, so other solutions are being sought, or the organisation may have think seriously about ceasing its publication.

Women in Farming and Women in Agribusiness Groups:

The Women in Farming programme was set up in 2002 by farming and professional women with the aim of facilitating sheep and beef discussion groups for rural women. The first group, King Country Women in Farming was set up by Jenny Lancaster, who noticed the small number of women attending farm field days. She realised that field days don't suit the way women work, or their schedules. She set up the first women's discussion group in Taumarunui, and the idea spread from there. The WIF groups were provided with seeding funding from the Sustainable Farming Fund for three years. They were also supported by RWNZ as well as FMG and other companies providing sponsorship and support. In 2005 an evaluation was carried out, and the project reviewed. SFF decided that unspent funds from the first funding period could be carried over and additional funding was provided for the establishment of new groups. In June 2007, SFF funding was ceased.

The aims of WIF/ WAG are:

To provide information, educational programmes and social opportunities for rural women involved in agriculture, horticulture, forestry or any other farming or rural business, through discussion groups, field days and training days

To increase profitability and sustainability of New Zealand farms by increasing women's knowledge and confidence so that they can;

Contribute more fully to their farming business

Increase the implementation of appropriate technology; improve profitability and sustainability of their farms

Increase their participation and involvement in traditional extension opportunities

Increase their involvement in the agricultural industry, by upskilling and gaining confidence

Increase the profile of farming women in the media

Build networks that increase opportunities available to rural women, thereby increasing the long term sustainability of rural communities.

The reasoning behind Women in Farming:

Women make up fifty percent of most farming practices, but do not participate in traditional learning and extension opportunities. Women make up less than 10% of attendees on traditional farm extension days. Research has identified a number of reasons for this including learning styles, childcare issues, and the perception that only one person from the farm should attend. Some women feel intimidated in male-dominated learning environments, and if they do attend, they ask very few questions. Farm consultants have commented that they see a real difference on those farms where both partners are actively involved with the economics of farming. The previous low exposure of women to extension means that the payback to their upskilling will be enormous

Some women on farms do not have agricultural backgrounds and therefore see little benefit in attending events that focus on the latest technological advance. Instead they need programmes that are tailored to their needs. Women in Farming groups organise their own learning programme, tailored to their own learning needs and delivered in a family friendly way.

Some women are active participants on the farm but would like to develop more specialist skills in order to develop their own niche farming business

Knowing that other women in the group are applying their skills to their farms gives women confidence

Rural women do many things, many done for the betterment of others. W I F groups offer the opportunity for women to value themselves and evolve on a personal level. Upskilling women and building networks helps the farm business become more profitable, sustainable and resilient in times of trouble, as two heads are better than one.

In 2002, there were eight groups set up, and by January 2008, this had grown to sixteen. These groups have not only been sheep and beef farmers, but also Women in Agribusiness Groups and small block holder groups.

Originally a list of workshop topics were identified in the SFF contract such as pasture quality & feed budgeting, animal health and genetics. The workshops were focused on practical farm skills and were usually two day events. The groups developed and organised their own programme and schedule of topics and also organised trips away, mostly in consultation with the group members. Since 2004, a broader range of workshops were offered, adding some personal development workshops to the practical farming skills and farm business skills workshops. Topics include animal health & nutrition, calf rearing, parasite control, feed budgeting, soils & fertilisers, and business structures, or more practical skill days such as ATV and chainsaw safety days, dog training & animal handling days. The move has been to more half or one day workshops as two day workshops were often not suitable due to such things as childcare needs and time constraints.

Formats of the groups are similar, but there is some flexibility, especially over the role of a facilitator. The format of the groups includes:

Facilitators: These are paid positions and the facilitators are employed by some WIF or WAG groups. These facilitators were originally paid by the SFF funding, but after the funding ceased, any groups wishing to continue with these must fund them themselves. Their role was or is to be responsible for running the meetings and ensuring the ongoing motivation of the group, as well as operating in a professional manner. The role of the facilitator, if one is employed is decided by the group's management committee.

Management Committee- made up of the following:

- Convenor/ Chairman
- Secretary/ Treasurer
- Committee members

In the beginning, these groups were run independently as Women in Farming, but in 2006, they were included under the RWNZ umbrella. The reasoning behind this was the group needed a legal identity for funding purposes particularly for the Sustainable Farming Fund. RWNZ also provided an established administrative structure which aided the WIF groups. Each WIF group set their fees to cover costs, which includes the annual membership for each group member to RWNZ, giving the members access to the support and resources available to all RWNZ branches and members. At the start of this relationship, there was some resistance to this in the beginning as some WIF members believed RWNZ had little to offer them, possibly as they had preconceived ideas of the organisation, or knew little about the

organisation, such as the resources available on the website, or the support role of paid staff at National Office and the Regional Development Officers.

Some groups starting up recently are combining WIF/WAG group features with those of RWNZ branch features, giving the members of these groups both options, so appealing to a wider range of women. Many still operate independently, or have members who are dual members of both types of groups. Women with any level of farming experience are welcome to join, as groups cater for a diverse range of backgrounds and skills, from those actively involved in running a farm to those new to rural life.

It must be realised that these WIF or WAG groups have a different skill level and different resource requirements to the traditional RWNZ branch and these need to be addressed so these groups can continue to grow. Many of the skills and resources are probably already available amongst members, and these members need to be encouraged to share these with other groups and members. A survey done in 2008 recommended the creation of a national forum to enable WIF and WiAg to: share their strengths; develop feedback, evaluation, planning and facilitation resources appropriate to the WIF/ WAG concept; a database for speakers, and the assigning of a National Councillor to oversee and support the WIF/ WAG groups and their programmes.

From the project evaluation surveys done in 2005 and 2008, the following has been shown:

The SFF seeding funding has enabled the WIF/WAG groups to fill an important gap relating to both the learning and networking needs for rural women farmers
WIF/WAG has been a very positive experience which participants are keen to continue, even with the cessation of SFF funding, indicating a high level of enthusiasm, expectation, confidence and satisfaction

WIF/WAG groups will continue to have a positive impact on farm productivity

The networking that is fundamental part of WIF/WAG will be making a contribution to rural social cohesion

The success of the groups is due to competent facilitators, dedicated convenors and supportive membership

Many women are now attending more mainstream discussion groups

The broader application of the original WIF project for women sheep and beef farmers to farmers involved in other aspects of farming shows the relevance of the programme for the participants

The special focus WIF/WAG groups have of offering farm education and farmer networking as self- sustaining community groups complements the political/ social focus of traditional RWNZ branches

The WIF/WAG groups are proving to be proactive and perhaps the way the RWNZ organisation needs to be looking if younger members are to be encouraged to join. The traditional RWNZ branch does not always appeal to the younger, often professional women in our rural areas, who require more out of an organisation than just the social side. There is a need to try and remove the "them & us" perception that is still prevalent in some areas. The synergistic effect of joining the WIF/WAG practical and social strengths as well as their skill base with the political and social community support strengths of the RWNZ should lead the organisation forward and help it grow and strengthen.

In July, the Regional Development Officer for Otago, Pat Macauley was appointed as the National Co-ordinator for the RWNZ's Women in Farming Groups. Her goal is to strengthen the groups and their links with RWNZ locally and nationally.



GPS on Horseback-how to use GPS and some of its applications



Learning about farming alpacas

Adversities: Floods, Droughts, Snow, Fires:

Floods:

The storms and floods of 2004 in the lower North Island were a huge catastrophe, with towns, villages and farms inundated with the deluge of water, mud and debris. Vast expanses of water covered what was normally green farmland. Houses in urban & rural areas were filled with the floodwaters, some families losing everything. Stock were swept away, or left with no food, there was no power to milk the cows, if the sheds weren't covered in water, and some domestic animals disappeared in fright as homes were evacuated.

RWNZ members were quickly into action, finding homes for those evacuated. One member took in over 40 people during the worst of the floods, and even without power she and a band of helpers managed to feed between 50-100 people a day. She also took trips down to Scott's Ferry, a small settlement near the mouth of the Rangitikei River, to feed homeless cats and dogs and help reunite them with their owners.

Another member, Dawn Nietzsche, the Minister of Scott's Ferry Church, who too played host to evacuees. Once the floodwater receded from the church, she barrowed the silt out & set up services while the church dried out.

Members of the local provincial provided food for the civil defence, Police and other workers, often too busy to think about this. They helped gather clothing, bedding and other essential items that many people had lost. They saw and experienced the devastation first hand. They were there to help in many ways.

Many RWNZ groups outside the region, with donations of food, clothing and household items, and a flood fund from donations from individuals, branches and provincials from around the country raised almost \$40,000 in donations and goods, with a similar amount then granted to mayoralty funds from the Government allocation.

Messages of support were received from members to members, that they were "the sunlight amidst the rain" as quoted by Jacky Stafford, then Region 4 Councillor, whose whole region seemed under water.

Goods were sent to her and to branches direct. These included: baking, clothing, books, plant vouchers, farmers vouchers, ladies pamper packs and a variety of other goods.

The difficulty came when distributing the fund, as there were so many people affected; there was not enough in the fund to go around. So all applications went through Jacky, as National Councillor, who relied on members to inform her of a need.

Grants and funding included:

- Supporting Red Cross funded gatherings
- Rural Family Support Trust- counselling and administration
- Victim Support
- Plant vouchers and compost
- Tickets to events, movie passes
- District get togethers
- Books for schools and playgroups
- Plus many other items

The Red Cross donated money to support community gatherings organised by RWNZ to provide the opportunity for people to talk about their troubled and share

their experiences. The first of these was at Opiki, on the Manawatu River, attended by 200 locals and cleanup workers, including army personnel, who temporarily became part of the community. Speeches and thanksgiving prayers reflected the goodwill that these people now shares.

As a note, although we were not at that stage involved in RWNZ, the Piopio district did a collection of household items, and loaded up a truck and trailer with wire, gates, and hay. We used contacts within RWNZ to get these to Mangamahu, where it was greatly received. We were shown around some of the land, from which the floodwaters had receded, and talked to those affected.

Drought:

During the droughts of 2007-2008, which affected much of the country, RWNZ National Office helped fund neighbourhood support meetings which could take any form, such as an outing for neighbours, barbeque, or an evening get together, giving \$150 per group.

In 2008, RWNZ members organised get togethers with speakers, barbeques, coffee mornings, and pot luck dinners, so people gathered to support those affected and to share lessons learned.

MAF in 2009 has allocated another \$1500 for another 10 community events to support those affected, with the opportunity to apply for further funding.

A drought blog was set up on the website for those who wished to communicate their thoughts.

Snow:

When the heavy snow in 2006 fell throughout the South Island, especially Canterbury, RWNZ again got into action.

Central Southland members "baked up a storm" and put it on a plane for the families affected by the snow. The members "wanted to do something" when they saw the plight of the rural people dealing with the coldest weather in the region for 60 years. The members of the Provincial got baking, and free transport was arranged with McDowell's Transport. Eight cartons of fruit cakes, loaves, biscuits and honey were organised and packed up in under four days.

Ashburton RWNZ members and husbands were organised to deliver the baking along with food from the Red Cross to many farming families, who still had six inches of snow after 4 weeks. The families visited were overwhelmed with the generosity. It was also an excellent chance to see how people were coping, and to report back to the relief co-ordinators, as members found families still without phone or power and water pipes frozen.

These visits would have helped relieve a little of the stress felt by such an adverse weather event, just by showing that someone cared by delivering some baking, being a friendly ear, by helping out with the children or in any small way.

A social get together was planned for Anama branch's district to support farming families dealing with the aftermath of the weather. The snow had highlighted the isolation of some people and the need for neighbours to know each other better. So the RWNZ ladies want to build on this community spirit created by adversity.

Fire:

The Victoria Bush Fires of 2009 will be remembered for their ferocity and the huge death toll. RWNZ called for donations that were to be sent direct to Red Cross, or other assistant groups who are assisting the victims, so there is no record of what

the members will have donated, but it is sure to be significant. National Office has called for offers of holiday homes for the victims to use to get a break away from the devastation and to have a rest.

National Council also agreed to contribute financially to the appeal with \$5000.

Other:

There are many other cases of RWNZ members helping out in times of adversity- House fires- raising funds for victims, donating goods and food, helping with accommodation etc

Sickness/ injury- transport for families to visit loved ones in hospital, doing house & farm work, providing meals, taking care of children and other deeds to take the pressure off the people and families involved

When there is a tragedy, sickness or any adverse situation facing an individual, family or community, if RWNZ is there and knows about it, they are sure to be helping out in some way to try and make life a little better or easier for those involved, whether it be financial, time, goods, meals, catering or baking, or any other way that is needed.

Activities and Events:

This survey was done for the groups to showcase an event or an activity they were proud of running, or believe was a big success, or was something that was a benefit to the community. There were also some groups that sent in activities that they had done without using the survey form.

The Triple F Challenge

"Fitness, Fun and Friendship"

24, 25 26 April 2009

In 2007, the first Triple F Challenge was held and was such a success, the planning committee decided to hold it again in 2009. Pat Macaulay, who is the RWNZ's Regional Development Officer for Otago, and organiser of the rail trail, has put together a great opportunity for those keen to do the trip.

The Triple F Challenge is an event organised to ride or walk the Central Otago Rail Trail, setting off from Clyde and then pedal or walk the historic rail route to Middlemarch. The biking group complete the whole trail over three days, while the walking group cover around twelve kilometres a day.

"It's a great way to boost members' fitness, as well as bringing women together from throughout New Zealand for fun and friendship" says Pat.

Not only do the participants get to do the rail trail, the organisers have added extra experiences and entertainment along the way.

On the first day, Raelene Bates of Dunedin joins the Challenge at Clyde for the day, and is the guest speaker at Omakau the first evening. Raelene was the athletics Team Manager for the Beijing Olympics and athletics Field Coach/ Team Manager for the Beijing Paralympics. She will also manage the athletics team to the World Championships in August in Berlin. There will be a collection of donations that will be accepted by the RSA.

The Mayor of Central Otago District Council will send the participants off after lunch provided by Cromwell RWNZ.

On the second morning, the participants will mark ANZAC day with a short service in Omakau before heading out for Ranfurly.

That evening there is a visit to Naseby's international curling complex to enjoy a "hot time on ice".

The third day, the 26th, sees the riders and walkers head off to finish in Middlemarch. At the finish Middlemarch Plunket will be taking photos of the finishers and will be serving "bubbles, nibbles and a well deserved cuppa".

The riders and walkers get to see the magnificent Central Otago autumn colours and visit interesting places on the way, such as the Hayes Engineering works at Oturehua.

Other fun activities include the dress code for both evenings: "Tracksuits and Tiaras or Jeans and Jewellery".

Why the event was held:

For the participants experience fun, fitness and friendship as well as enjoy the scenery of the rail trail. It was an opportunity for RWNZ to lift its profile to participants and the communities along the trail. The event had been so popular in 2007, that it was decided to hold it again. It gave the participants chance to challenge themselves while enjoying the hospitality of the area.

Who took part:

There was an organising committee of 5 and eighty participants aged from school age to over 80. There were a mixture of men and women, members and non-members in the riders and walkers and their support crews. They came from all over the South Island, some from the North Island, and one from Australia

Why did they take part:

For a challenge

To meet new people

To do it with a group of friends or family

To do the rail trail, see the scenery, and another way to see another part of the country

For something for themselves, time out

For fitness

As support for other walkers and riders

The benefits for the participants:

Increased fitness, better health, from training and the event

Meeting new people and creating new friendships and renewing old ones

Spending time with friends and family

Achieving a goal and meeting a challenge, a real sense of achievement

Doing something new, such as curling, or biking with a group

Seeing new parts of the country, learning its history

That it was all organised for them, they just had to turn up with their gear & do the event.

Networking on RWNZ issues with other members

Enjoying time out from normal life

A tick for the "bucket list"!

Lots of laughter and fun

Personal growth

Team building

How this Triple F event, and the Rail Trail will help strengthen and benefit rural communities:

Economic;

For those businesses supplying accommodation, food, beverages and other services along the trail and nearby

For those groups fundraising in conjunction with the Triple F and other events

The word of mouth and goodwill encouraging other people to visit the area and do the trail

Employment opportunities

New business opportunities

Increased visitor numbers

Social;

The social contacts made

Networks strengthened

Raising the profile of local groups

Exchanging of ideas and experiences and new ideas created for communities,
 brainstorming sessions along the trail
 Community pride and the revival of small communities
 Bringing communities together, uniting them with a common theme
 Awareness of issues in other communities to your own

The benefits to RWNZ:

Raising the profile of the organisation amongst the participants of the Triple F and the communities along the Rail Trail- who we are, what we do

New members from those on the trip not already members

The networking of those from different groups, the swapping of ideas and the discussion of issues

Changing of people's perception of the organisation to a more positive one, showing it to be vibrant, forward thinking and helping strengthen rural communities

Showing us to be a fun group of women that care about our communities

The enthusiasm and energy created and ideas swapped and created going back to branches and groups helping them grow and move forward

Good publicity in the media and the communities

Summary:

A well organised and run event that appealed to a wide range of people, of all ages and from all over.

The effort that went in to making it relaxing for the participants really paid off, with the evening entertainment adding to the overall fun of the trip.

The information sent out to participants was very clear and all information covered.

The feedback from the participants was all really glowing, with all really enjoying the experience, especially the social aspect and the friendships made or renewed, as well as the satisfaction of meeting the challenge and doing the rail trail- for the fitness and seeing the sights along the way.

For those not members of RWNZ, they got to see an organisation that was strong, friendly and very supportive of the rural communities. Many of them would have had their perception of the organisation really changed by meeting the members and seeing and hearing what the organisation. Possibly some current members may have had their perception changed too.

It was an event that certainly achieved the aim of "strengthening rural communities" in a number of ways. Firstly financially for the businesses that was used along the way, such as the accommodation places and food places visited, as well as the tourist destinations and the voluntary organisations helping along the way. Of course there will be further benefits as the word of mouth gets out and other people come to the area to do the Rail Trail, or just to visit.

Then there is the social issue of the event, it sounds as though there was lots of laughter and fun along the way, plenty of support for each other and lots of networking between people. There would have been lots of information exchange between RWNZ branches and ideas and schemes swapped and initiated along the way. New friendships would have been forged and old friendships renewed and strengthened.

The participants would have been fitter after doing the trail as they will possibly have done lots of training beforehand, and doing the trip would help, so overall health and energy levels will be better. And the fact that participants accepted the challenge and

did the trip will be good for their self esteem, achieving goals or having attempted something new.

Well done to Pat Macauley and her team for organising this Triple F Challenge. By the sounds of it, there are already some looking forward to 2011 and the next challenge.

Is this something other groups within RWNZ can look at and perhaps run along similar lines to do a similar good job of raising RWNZ profile, while at the same time helping strengthen other rural communities?



2009 Triple F participants at Ranfurly railway station



Triple F group crossing the Muttontown Viaduct

Other Group Events:

The Event: Health Awareness Evening

Held: Ilam Church, Marton 7 May 09

Organised by: Rangitikei Oroua Provincial

The event: Initially it was to target men but changed to any age or gender. It consisted of health speakers- a Doctor, a Dietician, a mental health worker

Aimed at: any age or gender

How many people responded: 47

The reason behind the event: It was an idea floated after a Regional Consultancy group meeting

On a scale of 1(unsatisfactory) – 5 (excellent) how well did the event achieve what it set out to: 4

There was good feedback from those who attended. It was a social night in a very good venue. People were offered soup and buns at 6-30, the meeting at 7-15 and supper afterwards. Both doctor and dietician enjoyed the evening.

Yes, it strengthened the community by having men and women from Marton and Bulls who felt the warmth of the occasion. Even the local Lions club came on board with a donation and Red Cross sponsored an advertisement. Local papers published pre-event and afterwards. It was very successful.

The Event: Leptospirosis Awareness Seminar

Held: Bulls RSA Room, 2008

Organised by: Rangitikei/ Oroua Provincial

Type of event: A panel of professionals- a vet, a doctor, a research team leader and a researcher- firstly gave verbal presentations, then had question time, followed by supper

Aimed at: The rural workforce, employers, wider industry i.e. meat works managers

Who attended and how many: RWNZ members and partners, other community people, CMP (meat works) managers Young Farmers rep, approx 90 people

The reason behind the event: Concern with the increased incidence of leptospirosis throughout the country outside the familiar dairy industry

It scored "8" on the 1-5 scale for achieving what it set out to do. The feedback from the panel was immediate and very positive. The GP was delighted to discuss the bacterial infection with the researchers. The vet thought the questions from the floor were insightful

It strengthened the rural community in a number of ways. CMP has made its works available to the Massey Research Team to collect data if need be. The doctor will be better able to diagnose the disease, and has taken that back to his group practice.

The provincial worked together to achieve something. It provided a forum for the professionals to meet, exchange information and further widen their experience.

It was a reminder that knowledge is not magically handed down through the generations- each 10 years or so there is a need to transfer important information.

Coming together at the provincial level also strengthens the ties between RWNZ members

Other projects that Rangitikei Oroua Provincial has been involved in:

Adna Poppe Memorial Bursary- Adna Poppe was involved in Federated Farmers, YFC and was a Dominion Councillor for Wdff. When she died in 1985, it was decided to provide a Bursary for young people. Initially it was for the course at Flock house, Bulls. When that closed it was for an agricultural or horticultural course at any recognised tertiary institution. An "Edna" concert and a garden walk with twenty five gardens was held and the money raised started the fund, which has been added to over the years. Numerous young people have benefitted from the interest, over \$20,000 has been awarded over the time, \$1000 this past year.

A Social Issues Evening- "If it should happen to me" with speakers including a banker, lawyer, funeral director, police, & victim support.

A Monster Garage Sale bringing in \$3000 for the leptospirosis appeal

A genetics versus organic day

Mother's Day Breakfast Raffle

Always a social time as RWNZ cater in the best ever way.

The Event: Women in Farming activities

Held: Monthly

It is aimed at: Women in hands on farming and interested women

Numbers attending: 4-20

The winter education event was well attended, but extra money is needed to continue to pay for higher charges

It has strengthened the rural community by providing a forum for women hands on in farming as well as support and education

Women often have to work on farm and they have been well educated in their own area before marriage. They need the education and support to achieve. The feelings of support and friendship and at times knowing there are others out there on those awful (weather) days.

The Event: Food tasting evening

Held: In Ashburton 2 years ago

Organised by Provincial

The Event: A food tasting evening with a recipe book produced with the dishes.

Who attended: Men and women- a very full hall

The reason: Fundraising for Leptospirosis

The event was scaled 5 on achieving what it set out to do, as many people have asked when the next one is.

The event strengthened the community as members and non members all attended.

The Event: A Light hearted Lepto Lunch

Held: Kahurangi Function Centre March 2008

Organised by: Pakawau RWNZ

Kind of Event: fundraising and awareness of leptospirosis in the district

Aimed at: the Golden Bay community, especially farmers

Numbers responded: 50

The reason behind the event: Leptospirosis fundraiser, awareness campaign as part of the national campaign

The event scored a 5 on achieving what it set out to do because it raised a lot of money, brought people in to the meeting who knew nothing about lepto, or wanted to find out more, had a lovely lunch, lots of laughs and a good social event.

It strengthened the community by being educational as people (including members) learnt a lot. Articles about leptospirosis and the event were in the local newspaper. No new members but it was a good day socially and promoted RWNZ the organisation

The Event: Luncheon for the senior citizens of the community

Held: At a members home in October each year

Organised by branch

Event type: A catered luncheon- the money does apply for monetary assistance from the region e.g. Liaison. The branch has a phone list and prior to the event, contact is made and the invitation offered. The branch hires a marquee for a sit down lunch, non alcoholic drinks are provided. The branch runs a raffle table to help with costs. As a thank you to the guests they are given a small gift to take away e.g. a bottle of jam, sweets etc

Aimed at: Past members, senior citizens of the community who have either moved into the city or still reside in the area

Number responded: Normally about 55 invites are sent out, normally cater for about 40

The reason behind the event: Originally staged to mark World Rural Women's Day, but it was so popular it has continued

The activity would rate a 5 on achieving what it set out to do. From the constant chatter which prevails each year it is seen as a real catch up time and looked forward to by the guests.

It strengthened the community because for the senior citizens still living within the rural community it gives them the feeling they still belong. It gives them the chance to discuss any issues of concern which from time to time they pass on to the branch. It is also seen as a type of welfare catch up- even if they can't make it, it gives the members a chance to make contact them and have a good talk.

The Event: Helen Moulder show

Held: Piopio Memorial Hall late April 2009

Organised by: Waitanguru Branch

Type of Event: Entertainment

Aimed at: Adult audience

Number attended: 80

The reason behind the event: Make money and have a good time

The event scored a 5 on achieving what it set out to do; because money was made a good time was had

It strengthened the community by all working together

The Project: The Awatere Further Learning Scholarship- A book scholarship for tertiary study

Available: Annually

Organised by: Awatere Valley

The structure: The scholarship was set up from the proceeds of a book entitled "The Awatere Valley Today and Yesterday", published in 1988. It was so popular, a second printing was done. The proceeds were invested and the principal had grown over the years with further donations. The interest is distributed annually as a scholarship.

It is for those under 25 who have lived in the area from Molesworth to the sea, and Dashwood Pass to the Ure River, for a minimum of five years, and not been awarded it before.

The annual value is \$700 to be used to assist with the funding of books and fees. When being awarded consideration is given to- motivation, academic qualifications, sporting ability, community involvement, C.V presentation, and interview skills. The book is in the process of being updated for the third time to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the province. Because of the changes in the lower Awatere due to the grapes, they are only doing Dashwood to Molesworth at present.

The Project: The Kourawhero Hall

Organised by: Kourawhero Branch

The Kourawhero area is southwest of Warkworth. Formerly a dairying area, it is now down to three large farms and small blocks.

The RWNZ branch held their meetings in the relocated school "hall" for up to sixty years. One of the members acted as the voluntary custodian and caretaker.

The hall had no proper running water, long drop toilets, a simple kitchen and a large meeting room. Many locals went there for Sunday School, learnt to dance, played table tennis as well as attended family celebrations.

In the late 1990's Rodney District Council decided it did not want these small rural halls anymore. So RWNZ joined with local residents to save and restore the hall. The branch started fundraising, sharing the profits with the hall. Activities included community dinners, street stalls, car boot sales, art and craft day and a garden ramble. Other funds were received from the likes of the Lion Foundation. Even the Council awarded funds to get the sewerage on, plumbing the water, and the building repaired and painted. RWNZ members painted the kitchen, got the men to install the donated joinery, found crockery and glassware at op shops, got a grant from Scotlands Te Kiteroa Trust to help put in a new stove, bought a set of cutlery, were donated a fridge from Hospice, donated microwaves, and were able to feed the volunteer workers.

The hall is now used by more people in the community and they as well as the RWNZ branch have a more efficient enjoyable meeting place

The Project: Breast Cancer Calendar

Organised by: Winchmore Branch

This 2008 Calendar raised more than \$26000 for Breast Cancer Research. The ladies of the Branch "bared all" for the calendar along the lines of "Calendar Girls". Each month had a photograph of a member doing all sorts of rural activities with items placed in "strategic" places, with a little saying on each, such as "itching to harvest" and "all sewn up". This effort earned the Winchmore Branch the Lady Blundell Trophy for Best Branch Project at the 2009 National Conference.

Over the years they also have had district dinners, new resident coffee mornings, new resident mothers and preschooler get togethers, progressive dinners, taking along prospective members. They have also put out newsletters twice a year, had a district quiz night and a district Christmas spit roast meal, run rugby trips for the district and in conjunction with the community college, and had classes at the local hall. They have also run the junior debutante ball.

The Project: the "Welcome to our District" sheet

Organised by: Wharepapa South Branch

This is an information sheet that is produced by the branch to welcome newcomers to the district and to let them know about the branch and what they do.

It used to go on the tables at the Midwinter Christmas dinner, so everyone received on, old member and non member alike. The Welcome In dinner is no longer held as in the past, as it was followed so closely by the Midwinter dinner.

So the sheet is now popped into the mailboxes of newcomers, either by mail drop, by hand, or left on the table at places visited, all depending on the circumstances. It is aimed at the new people in the district and is delivered to 60-80 people each year.

The feedback is always positive, and other branches have borrowed the format for their use. It is a good way to put the branch out there and the non members appreciate what the branch does.

WELCOME TO OUR DISTRICT FROM THE WHAREPAPA SOUTH BRANCH OF RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND WHO ARE WE?

We are local women of various ages, diverse farming experiences and wide-ranging backgrounds. We include women who work off the farm. We include women who run a business from a rural setting. Some are retired from farm life but still reside in the district, reluctant to move away from a strong community.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Our women:

Meet regularly to share friendship, have fun and maintain the strong bond that is the hallmark of this community

Rally around families in need - giving practical assistance as well as emotional support

Organise Community events and activities

Support the various activities in the district

Publish and distribute the local Rural Support Group Contact List

Care about each other

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Organise a yearly Programme of activities which, in the past, has included shopping trips, a local art & craft exhibition, Mid Winter Christmas dinner and Welcome In, Raft Race, holiday programme for the kids, guest speakers, and even cooking demos!

These activities target a broad band of people – women, women and partners, children, and families.

WHY DO WE DO IT?

We have an interest in making our community a great place to live. We believe that by having a group like this, communities stay in touch. When groups such as ours close down – the community starts losing touch. The sense of belonging is such an integral part of why we all live here. We all seem to be so busy these days but by joining us and becoming involved we can ensure that camaraderie and cooperation provides the cornerstone of a strong and vibrant network.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

Join us!

Subs only \$35.00 from October 2009. Now to September – be our guest!

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Fun and friendship, plus access to information, training, new skills, funding and expertise.

For further information –

Contact – Sue Hall Wharepapa South Branch President
Waipa/King Country Provincial Secretary

Telephone: 8722470 or email: supacann@xtra.co.nz

DID YOU KNOW?

Rural Women New Zealand is a vibrant organisation which has a National Office in Wellington.

RWNZ is an organisation with an impressive history of making a difference in rural communities.

Rural Women take action on issues such as health, education, land care and social issues. They liaise with government ministers and officials, industry boards and rural groups, and are regularly consulted by ministers for their views.

Rural Women carry out surveys that provide government officials with real data on rural communities.

We lead action on issues that affect rural communities.

Each year we award a number of educational and community grants to assist a range of rural students – from secondary level to those seeking second chance education.

We offer sponsorships to Women in Agribusiness Workshops and Director's Courses, and a variety of training opportunities including The Wellington Experience. Access Homehealth Ltd is wholly owned by Rural Women New Zealand and provides homecare services in rural and urban areas.

We help you develop new skills and access information.

You can be involved as much or as little as you wish, either as a Branch Member or as an Individual Member.

Is your rural business a winner? The Rural Women New Zealand Enterprising Rural Woman Award is a new award that recognizes an outstanding rural enterprise.

By joining RWNZ your Subscription allows the organisation to continue to advocate for rural families.



STRENGTHENING RURAL COMMUNITIES

Wharepapa South has also begun "Burgers and Beers" each Friday night during August 2009 to get people together over calving. It is BYO "booze" and the branch is selling hamburgers, steak sandwiches, hash browns and a sweet.

If these get together make a profit for the branch, that is a bonus, but it is not the reason for holding them.

The first of these were a huge success with 60 adults and children attending. It achieved its aim, with people sitting, talking and relaxing with each other.

Beat the Winter Blues...

Burgers & Beer

Sick of winter?
Need time out?

Every Friday night of August

have a burger and a beer at the Hall.

RELAX & CHILL!

Moan about the weather, lack of feed, mud...the Boss!

BURGERS SUPPLIED, B Y O BEER!

& Kids drinks

Burgers available from 6.30 – 7.30 pm

Burgers - \$5.00

Steak Sandwich \$4.00

Hash Brown \$1.00

Sweet - \$3.00

Doors open at 6.00 pm

Feral Kids cause indigestion!

Well behaved children accompanied by parent(s) welcome.

Kids DVD starts 7.00pm

Organised by Wharepapa South Branch

'Strengthening Rural Communities'

By looking at these activities, it can be seen that there are many different ways for groups to help strengthen their local communities, the social theme seems to run through most of them and appears to be an important aspect whether the activity is a fundraiser or awareness campaign, or helping the local community.

NB: See Appendix 3, page 120 for Activities questionnaire.

Branches:

Branches were invited to fill in a questionnaire about the length of operation of their branch, the general age of members, how the membership dynamics had changed over the years and what activities and events they ran to help strengthen their communities, and how they can help these communities in the future.

Bonny Glen/South Makirikiri:

Operating for 74 years (since 1935)

Members aged 65-100 years of age

Membership has changed over the years due to the younger women fulltime working or involved in sport or other activities.

Activities & Events – Supporting Provincial with all their fundraising and community seminars

They are unsure how the branch can help further in the community due to the age of the members. It would help if younger members joined to take over.

Brightwater:

Has been operating for 78 years (since 1931)

Current membership: 18

Membership numbers have fluctuated over the years, and the average age of members has doubled, most are retired nearly half are widows.

These changes may be due to the younger women being in paid employment and cannot attend daytime meetings. With better roads and transport more interests can be followed

Activities and Events:

Beef and Lamb demonstrations

Collecting goodies for Hospice wish list

Fundraising for hospice & community hospital

Making, stocking and delivering toilet bags to hospital for patients who arrive with nothing

Making and stocking toilet bags for rape crisis counsellors for women to use after their hospital appointments

Collecting for charities

Running a stall for Daffodil Day

Taking part in Red Code Day for sustainable living

Communities have benefited from this involvement financially and by getting comfort and caring

The branch can further help these communities by continuing to do the same. The members need to be active where they can.

Crossroads:

Has been operating for 50 years (since 1959)

Current membership: 23

There were originally 40 members, mostly late 20's-30's, and a couple of 50 year olds, whose partners were farmers.

The change is due to the ease of transportation, women working off farm and having many other interests.

Activities and Events:

Care and craft- cooking
 Braille- collecting door to door
 Catering for community emergency needs
 Red Cross- Biscuits for Christmas parcels
 St John's & air ambulance- monetary donations
 Hospice- monetary donations
 Waikato hospital- knitting for premature babies
 Save the Children- monetary donations
 Plunket- collect door to door
 Blind Puppies- monetary support for raising
 Rest homes- Picked kiwifruit, donated surplus fruit
 Fundraised for disasters e.g. Australian bush fires
 Entertained Villa 13 boys from Tokanui
 Entertained Freeman Home residents
 Life Education bus- monetary donation
 Flood relief- Hay/ silage/ monetary donation
 Communities have benefited from this involvement with friendship, support, "many hands make light work"
 The branch can further help communities by still offering friendship and support to community organisations

Hills and Riverside:

This group was formed in late 2008 after a post drought luncheon, and it was officially formed in December 2008.

The members range from mid 20's – 70, but mainly in the 30's -40's. The group has grown since formation as the area has suffered another drought after not fully recovering from the previous one. There are 20 ladies on the contact list, with approximately 14 attending each meeting.

They enjoy meeting up with the others who understand what is happening on the farms, and others connected with farming, and meeting up with their neighbours. They have organised and run a safety day on June 5th

Kawhia:

The branch has been operating for 70 years (since 1939)

Current membership: 20

The branch numbers have gone down, then remained static, gone down again and are now static. Sixty years ago there were 70 members. The members now are mostly retired women.

The reasons for this include improved roading, power and telephone. Wives of shopkeepers or those in business don't join women's groups now, they go to town.

Activities and Events:

Donations-

Kawhia Wharf Pontoon Society

Claire Pilkington Trust

Red Cross

Air Ambulance

Muscular Dystrophy

School For Books

Save the Children

Kawhia School

Kawhia medical equipment
 Wheelchair for the Medical centre
 Plunket
 Dr John
 Kawhia Rugby Club
 Kawhia Search and Rescue
 Waikato and Kawhia Hospices
 Kawhia Fun time
 Kawhia Education Trust
 Stroke Foundation
 ECG Machine for Medxus
 Kawhia Oncology Unit
 Flood relief
 St Johns
 Kawhia Emergency Services
 Arthritis Appeal
 RWNZ Lepto fund
 Freeman Court Rest home
 Children's play ground equipment
 Trees for Kawhia fire brigade & school grounds
 Donations to many individuals for various reasons
 Other National fundraisers
 In the early days activities included:
 Helping obtain a school dental nurse and clinic at Kawhia School
 Involved in school bus services
 Involved in getting a resident district nurse
 Involved in having a visiting doctor
 This list speaks for itself how it the community has benefited from the branch
 The branch believes it can help the community in the future in a small financial way
 only as physical help is limited due to the age of its members

Kiripaka:

The branch has been operating for 61 years (since 1948)

Current membership: 10

Membership has declined over the last ten years, within the last two years, three former members have moved out of the area.

The general age of the group is in the 60's-70's with one member aged 80. Of this four members are widows – one with a farm, another with an orchard, another member works full time and one part time.

Why? When the branch was established in the 1940's it was a strong farming area close to Whangarei. Over the years, the city boundaries have expanded and much of the land has been subdivided or rezoned into lifestyle or orcharding, so full time farming is virtually non-existent. The majority of new residents to the area still work in some capacity. Originally WDFW as it was then was the only women's community interest group in the area, but the close proximity to the city now offers many alternative interest groups for women.

Activities/ Events:

Previous participation in "rally days" with other branches

Members involved in the YWCA

Assisted with the annual blind collection

Fundraising for the 1st lepto appeal

One of the first branches to be involved in the establishment of the Life Education Trust

Glenbervie School- organised social events e.g. fancy dress parties, donated books to the school library, provided plants for landscaping

Ngunguru School- donated trees for the "shade" programme

Financial contributions to the Glenbervie Community Hall for various refurbishments.

The branch has life membership to the hall

Association with the local health camp

Assisted with latest lepto appeal

Assisted at Dargaville Field days

Fundraising for the Northhaven Hospice

Financial member of the local National Council of Women branch

Assisted with various street collections

Donations to Women's Refuge & the regional rescue helicopter

Hosts an annual luncheon for past members, senior citizens etc are invited

Members are aware of the need to be up with the play when it comes to local body issues, concerns are discussed at meetings and submission have been made to the local councils in relation to environmental concern. One member is on the Tutukaka Coast ratepayers Association and another is actively involved with the "Save the Sandspit" campaign.

The communities have benefited by the previously strong community interaction, with rural welfare a priority. Because of member limitations, the branch finds it difficult to offer active assistance, and if possible prefers to assist local interest groups financially. The branch has raised issues with the local body authorities, so it sees itself in its own way being a spokesperson on environmental issues within the area.

In the future, the branch feels it can benefit the community by being prepared to take up with the local bodies any issues which they feel to be to the detriment of the local community, as most of the members have lived in the area for many years and are concerned about the lifestyle and environmental changes taking place.

Korakonui:

The branch has been operating for 73 years (since 1936)

Current membership: 18

The members' age is now generally older as there are no new members coming along

This may be due to the younger ones being more involved with school age children's activities

Activities/ Events:

Knitting baby singlets/ booties & beanies for the neo natal unit

Knitting bedsox for hospice patients

Donate to local charities

Money donated to local school bus fund

Money donated to Westpac Rescue helicopter

Luncheons to raise money for specific charities

Communities have benefited from this involvement because:

The donations fund their programmes

The local school bus is kept running

The neo natal are kept warm

The hospice patients appreciate their warm sox
 The Westpac rescue helicopter is helped to keep in the air
 The branch can help in the future by more of the same- e.g. MONEY!

Manapouri/ Te Anau:

The branch has been operating for 52 years (since 1957)

Current membership: was 7, has since closed

Some of the members were original members. The membership aged as the years went by. A few were younger as they had been involved in RWNZ (or WDFP) when they came to the area. They were mainly retired farmer's wives, settler's wives or farmer's wives.

The older people are still loyal to these groups, but the younger people are working and have too many options for entertainment.

Activities/ Events: In later years there were not so many as the members were older

Catering at stock sales and other events

Donating funds

Books to local schools

Collecting for blind and other organisations

Cake stalls

Life Education

Equipment for local medical centre

Assisted families in need

Housekeeping

National fundraisers

Meals on wheels

In the 1960's and earlier, Te Anau was a "frontier" town in many ways. RWNZ (WDFP as it was then) was a huge help to the wives in the area- not just the farming wives. Fundraising brought community, fun and funds.

A younger group has started up in the area, and the members enjoy the interesting activities.

Mangapiko:

The branch has been operating for 59 years (since 1950)

Current membership: 11

The branch began with at least 25 members, nearly all the women in the district came. Now, seven of the members live in town.

There are now too many choices, travel is easier and many women are working off farm.

Activities/ Events:

Welcoming in district picnics

Catering for sales

Raising funds for community projects

Flower and craft shows etc

The local community benefited by being brought closer together by these activities.

Mangatangi:

The group has been operating for 76 years (since June 1933)

Current Membership: 11

Membership has gone up & down over the years, and members are nearly all older members of the farming community with the exception of one or two members.

The reason is that most younger women work and because where once farmers had workers had workers, these house are now rented to people who often are not community minded.

Activities/ Events:

Patriotic Funds during the war years

Catered for weddings, birthdays, parties and funerals

The Drama Festival which used to be held by the Lower Waikato branch of WDFP

Supported the Lepto funds both times

Helped needy people in advent of fires

Supported flood and fire victims here and in Australia

Supporting young ones in bursaries

Maruia:

Has been operating for 65 years (since 1944)

Current membership: 11

Number have decreased and the age of the members has risen. Not many under 50 joining up. Some members still actively farming, others retired.

In the Maruia valley, farms have been sold and dairy farms gone in owned by corporates, so there are younger single staff not interested in joining anything and people are more mobile than they used to be.

Activities/ Events:

Catering local events

Organising pot luck teas

Fundraising for community projects etc

Communities have benefited from by the branch helping out when needed, catering for local events. Money raised and goods donated to the community have been a benefit to them and local groups.

The branch can help these communities in the future by keeping the branch going, keep making donations to different things, bringing the community together for different occasions and get together is important in the changing community.

Oparure:

The branch has been operating for 58 years (since 31st March 1951)

The branch started with 34 members in 1951, and by 1955 there were 60 plus members for 8 years. Oparure Hall was central with members from up to seven roads coming. With ageing membership and a drift to retirement in Te Kuiti, meetings were held in member's homes there. Now no members live in surrounding areas of Oparure. Almost all members are aged 80 plus.

The reasons for this are the loss of "community spirit"- hard to define. Though the greater area was fractured with children going to different schools, the community combined for lots of events.

Ageing- with selling farms or new generations taking over, it's hard to convey to the next generation the need for district social interaction when transport to town is much more readily available.

Activities/ Events:

Farewelling locals

District morning teas

Leptospirosis- raised \$300 at a shop day & supported luncheon at Piopio

Prem baby unit knitting- several times

Brook Park tree planting in commemoration of Waitomo District Centennial

Provided stereo player to Hillview Home
 Friends of Hillview- subscribed for years
 Support of Maungatautari project
 Backed the applications of local students for tertiary grants
 Provided food parcels for Family Support food bank- many times
 Funding towards covered walkway from the helicopter pad to Te Kuiti hospital
 Provided funding for curtains for Pakeho hall building when it was removed to Te Kuiti High School
 Regular contributions to Heart Foundation, Starship Burns Unit, Cancer Society, Air Ambulance
 Support- financial and in kind to four families whose houses were destroyed in fires.
 Attend all Provincial activities as they occur
 The community benefited by the members or their husbands and families were often responsible for district activities such as farm discussion groups, children's Christmas parties, tennis club, eeling competition in the Mangapu river.
 Having left the district, the branch is really in no position to help this community.

Pakawau:

The branch has been in operation for 73 years (since 1936)

Current membership: 22

Membership has diversified from being all farm wives to less than half farm wives with more retired, small block women, also there is overseas people as well as Kiwi- a very broad range of opinion especially on environmental issues.

This is due to Golden Bay changing, more women work, transport has improved and there are more groups for women to join. Golden Bay has a large lifestyle and retired population

The group is experienced to assist in organised activities.

Did cups of teas over two days for a school reunion over Easter

Do catering for weddings, birthdays etc, the group is very keen to do this and have ladies who are good at the "food thing"

A group where women who are new to the district can meet other women- very important

The branch runs a card evening every 2nd Saturday, providing a social night for a regular group of players and is a fundraiser as well

Provides education to the Golden Bay Community- the school bus safety programme, leptospirosis awareness campaign with speakers at lunch events

Ongoing support to the small local rest home- cooking visiting, birthday celebrations, vegetables etc, fundraisers etc

Fundraising for the community- students on Spirit of Adventure, overseas aid projects, leptospirosis campaign, leprosy, mental health, Fred Hollows, donations to various organisations

Social network- monthly meetings, speakers, a mystery trip most years, shopping trips over the hill, Christmas lunches etc

Contact and friendship with other women, to widen our circle of friends, many retirees move to Golden Bay & want to get out and meet people & do things

Support network-e.g. one lady who moved to the district knowing no one, so the RW ladies became her support network & her "family". She was a member for years and when she died, the branch even arranged and conducted her funeral, with members contributing and leading the service. This shows how special these relationships are which build up over the years.

Lobbying- writing letters on lots of issues- midwife services, broadband issues, police concerns, council processes.

Speakers are arranged regularly to talk to them about issues and the members can learn

Each election (local body & national) arrange a meet the candidates evening in the local hall & chair a Q&A session

Contact with local community services- supporting food bank and community chest funds

Members attending such things as Wellington Experience- to learn more. A learning opportunity and a valuable link to National Office and issues.

Most members have attended RW conferences at either regional or national level.

Those who attend are enthused to know they are part of a bigger body and we have connections to national office staff and other RW all over New Zealand- they are not alone

The communities have benefited by having a social network in the area for ladies to meet and do things together. Also having an experienced and keen catering group helps as in small rural districts catering businesses are not easy to get. Having a diverse group of members is strength as the community gets to see both sides of an "argument". The strong relationships forged are an important strength of these small isolated communities. The meet the candidate evenings provide opportunities for the locals to meet the candidates that they would not get otherwise. Members attending Wellington Experience & Conferences are strengthened themselves which helps strengthen the communities

The branch sees the strengths of RWNZ fall into three areas:

Social – in widening our circle of friends, and providing support for each other

Political- lobbying and having our say, going to conferences etc

Community- fundraising, catering and support to local events/ places

Activities/ Events:

Fundraising

Social

Support to rest home

Regular monthly meetings

Conferences (regional and national)

Harvest Festival

Funerals

Writing submissions

Speakers

Catering

Social, political, fundraising, community support

The community has benefited from this involvement, as people come to the branch to do catering, as they know they do a good job and are available right in the district.

It is a social network especially for women new to the district. As a lobby group writing letters on behalf of rural people. Fundraising helps schools, kids to Spirit of Adventure, and other local needs

The branch can help the community in the future by more of the same- more social activities, more publicity of RWNZ and the branch and hopefully attract more members (especially in the younger age group)

Pokuru:

The branch has been operating for 60 years (since 1949)

Current membership: 26

When the branch started, the members were young mothers who came along with their mothers, now these members have grown old. There are 4 members around 40ish, all partners off the land

The reason for this is that the young mothers of the district are working off the farm, and lifestyle blocks

Activities / Events:

Care and craft baking

Catering for clearing sales, Fonterra meetings and show group days

Support the local school- financed the reconstruction of the flagpole, tree planting, judging at flower shows, manned a stall at the fair- funds to the school

Made and donated curtains for the local hall

Donate money for a heat pump at the playcentre

Members took a part in organising the local 100 year Centennial

Fieldays helping- alas no more

The community has benefited from this involvement with:

Warm happy playcentre mums and children

Flagpole- children need a sense of proud New Zealanders

Happy, fed farmers and happy wives

Any increase in trees is good for the environment and shelter for children

Care and craft baking- making the elderly feel happy and content

The branch can further help the community by continuing support to the school.

Pushing for more buses due to overcrowding- the wheels are in motion- and the 20kmh past buses campaign. The playcentre will ask as they know the branch is there for support.

Rangiwaera/ Taihape:

The branch has been operating for 55 years (since 1954)

Current membership: 14

To begin with the members were young farming wives. The members are now older- 35 + mainly farmers wives. It is hard to attract younger members as the wives are often working. Women in Farming attracts them as it is more hands on. Also women's roles have changed.

The reasons for this include the rural downturn, and starts with Roger Douglas & the Labour Government.

Activities/ Events:

Petition on the loss of the rail service

Raising funds for Leptospirosis research

Two law seminars

Regional Conferences

Catering for lunches for seniors

Monitoring/ lobbying Homecare improvements, school buses

The community has benefited by the branch providing awareness, education and information to it

The branch can further help the community by monitoring and lobbying on local issues and by encouraging Women in Farming.

Scott's Ferry:

The branch has been operating for 48 years (since 1961)

Current membership: 17

Membership has remained fairly steady. Permanent landowners have been involved from the beginning, and are the backbone. Most members come to most monthly meetings. They are farmers or farmer's wives, and all but three are retired. This is because the younger women are working off farm or on farm. The perception is that RWNZ is old fashioned.

Activities/ Events:

The provincial holds events that the branch joins in with:

Bus trips

Education seminars e.g. leptospirosis, health

Film outings

Monster garage sale

Raffle selling

Annual craft competition

Potato growing competition

The branch events include:

Serving at social events e.g. Bulls Friendship annual event at the town hall, funerals

Occasionally catering funerals (for members partners or close friends)

Support Hospice (donations, goods)

Visit new mothers (with knitted garment)

Support local playgroup (donation of toys)

Occasional donation as they arise

Community annual barbeque

The community has benefited by the branches support both physical and psychological

The branch can help the community in the future by just continuing.

Seafield:

The branch has been operating for (since June 1931)

Current membership: 13

The branch started out with 13 at the first meeting peaking in 1962 with approximately 50 members, dropping to 30 in 1984, 20 in 1992 to the present level of 13. Most members are aged between mid 60's – 90, only two in the 40-50 age group. All have been at sometime involved in the farming scene.

The area used to have smaller farms which over the years have joined together.

People that retired to town, some still attend the meetings. Dairying has changed the area and young ones with children head toward their school centre, as the local school closed in the mid 30's

Activities/ Events:

Children's Christmas parties

Pot Luck lunches

Open meetings

Craft days

This showed the community that there is still an organisation in their area if they still want to take part in it, and there was a nice local hall that could be used at anytime.

Te Rore:

The branch has been operating for 62 years (since 1947)

Current membership: 20

There are now fewer members who are much older, mostly retired farmer's wives and widows

This is because the younger women now drive to town or city to work. Farms are being subdivided into lifestyle blocks. Once children leave school the women's interests change

Activities/ Events:

Care and craft baking

Entertaining rest home residents

Collecting for Braille week, IHC

Donations for food banks, flood victims

Raising money for leptospirosis

Responding when asked to for help for victims of fire, flood, and drought

Knitted and donated prem baby wear to Waikato Hospital, happy socks for cancer survivors, woollen blankets, jerseys, hats etc to Operation Cover Up, baby singlets to Plunket

Lobbied council about roads and school bus safety issues

The community has benefited from the branch's involvement because it has made other organisations aware of RWNZ and what they stand for. Most people know where they can come if they need help

The branch can help these communities in the future by continuing on as usual, changing if need be

Tutaenui:

The branch has been operating for 76 years (since 1933)

Current membership: 40

At the start in 1933, there were 30 members. In 1965, there were 68 members ranging from young mothers to great grandmothers a wonderful mix of ages for everyone. Now most members are of mature years though three new members could be considered "young". Many are retired, although ¼ could be on the land. There are a number of reasons for this. A playgroup started and the young ones felt they did not need WDFW/ RWNZ. Farms amalgamated, so fewer people living on the farms and in the district. Women have become involved in other organisations e.g. school committees which once were a man's domain. And women are now working off farm.

Activities/ Events:

Annual children's Christmas party

Out of town visits to places like Wattie's cannery and a freezing works

Involvement in the new Tutaenui Hall in 1972

ACC sponsored Field day- learning e.g. chainsaw safety

Suffrage Year- produced an area history book- "Tutaenui, Garden of the Rangitikei".

There were so many photos and history left unused, that three volumes of "Tutaenui Families" were produced. There was a big social occasion at the launch of the book, and the proceeds went into the hall extension.

Three country fairs were held- Cot Death, the first Leptospirosis appeal, and Cancer research. Recently there was a twilight fair for community donations

2004-RWNZ organised a large collection of necessities for those who were flooded out. Later a social evening was held to raise spirits when things settled

Annual pot luck Christmas or winter dinner for locals- this year a speaker from Hospice, \$1000 donation made to hospice.

Annual plant auction- very popular among gardeners

World Rural Women's Day celebrated

Catering, e.g. for local Marton Shearing Sports

The community has benefited as the branch acts as a sort of "bush telegraph". Women rally around in times of sickness or bereavement. The local papers do write-ups about the branch's activities.

The branch can help the community in the future by "keeping on keeping on"! By inviting the locals to join in the dinners and fairs, to come and listen to interesting speakers and to attend the social occasions e.g. the Christmas dinner. Have the flood and drought type evenings

Waitanguru and Districts:

The branch has been operating for 4 years (since 2005)

Current membership: 19

Numbers have stayed around the 20 number, less are being active members at the moment. There is representation from new mums to grandmothers

The branch feels it needs to actively include everyone and have meetings that appeal and get people involved

Activities/Events:

Leptospirosis fundraising and education

Culture to the community with the Helen Moulder show, which was also a fundraiser

Community support with a fair day for house fire victims

Applied and received grants for a family in need in conjunction with another local charity club

Education days e.g. chainsaws

Social and educational meetings e.g. physiotherapy, painting, SPELD and pampering

The community has benefited from the branch involvement financially, socially, educationally and also have been very well fed!

The branch can help the community in the future by continuing to support the community as needed, making the district aware of available grants, and being aware of topical issues and trying to research them as full as possible.

Wharepapa South:

The branch has been operating for more than 60 years (since the 1930's)

Current membership: 28

The numbers have been steadily growing; there are some younger members these days that see all the good the branch does

These changes are due to the times and the changes in society

Activities/ Events:

Organise:

A yearly programme of get -togethers, some social, some skilled based, for a wide base of women, children and the family

The completion and distribution of the Rural Watch Directory and Emergency Contact System to keep the district safe in an emergency

The meeting to get the St John's First Response Unit training course underway and contact lists

Baking for families in need and local elderly groups

Meals for those families with mum in hospital, or recuperating

Spontaneous events as the need arises, cultural e.g. a musical show, an educational event etc

Support other groups in the district- the local hall society, local school & PTA, the District House Society, Operation Christmas Child- a NZ wide operation to get Christmas gifts to the children in underprivileged countries

Types of activities:

Raft race

Quiz nights

Midwinter Christmases

Welcome In nights

Meal and Movie nights

Visits to a local or international show

End of year celebrations

Rock climbing and holiday programme for kids

Card making nights- stamping up- making greeting cards with stamps

Rock 'n' roll night

Coffee and cake, & dessert nights

Shopping trips to Auckland at Christmas on a hired bus

Arty trip to Splashy at Horotiu to hand paint & fire ceramics

More activities each year, and when a fresh injection is needed each road gets a different month to organise an event/ outing/ get together, advertise it and run it- they have had some fabulous things happen this past year.

The community has benefited by the branch having provided the community with a platform for times together as a district. The branch probably organises more things than the school, hall society and sports clubs. When people come together they feel supported.

The branch can help the community in the future by being open to whatever challenge comes their way. And by being prepared to step up and become leaders or helpers or supporters- whatever are required.

Section Two:

Surveys:

Perspectives of RWNZ in the present from Members, Branches and Non-members.

Ideas for the future and for the growth of the Organisation.

A number of surveys were sent out to Members, Branches and Non Members to assess the perspective of Rural Women New Zealand amongst members and the communities in which they belong, to see what changes are needed for the organisation to survive and grow in the future.

They also were designed to find out what members feel about the organisation at present and what they felt would benefit it in the future.

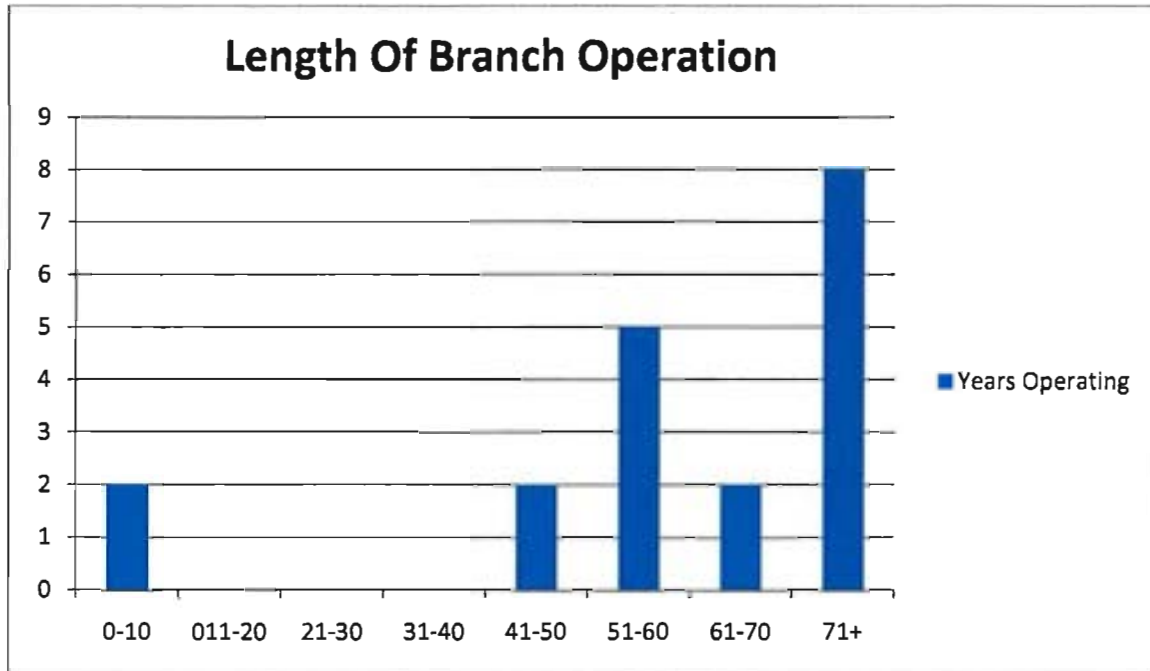
Branches were asked on what changes at either Branch or National level would help them in the future.

Non members were asked on their perspective on RWNZ, to see what their views were and what the organisation needs to work on if it is to encourage new members to join.

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Branch Survey:

This survey was done to see the dynamics of branches, how they have changed over the years, what they have done to help their communities, what they believe they can do to help these communities in the future and what they and national office can do to ensure they are still active in the future.



Looking at this graph, it can be seen that most of the branches that responded were set up in the earlier years of WDFW, and have been going strong since then. The area of concern is the big gap corresponding to the 1970's- 2000, when there appears little action on getting new groups up and running. The question there is were the current branches strong and no need for new branches, or were there gaps in the organisation? With the new branches starting up, is this because there was no existing branch there, or was there a need for a new type of group to appeal to a different group of women?

The membership numbers in many of the respondent branches, especially the more established branches, was dropping or static, but the age of members was increasing. Those with a varied age group seemed to have a membership base which was on the increase.

What changes do the branches believe need to be made at Branch and National level to ensure the branches are still active in the future?

One of the main replies was we need to be more attractive to younger members, and get younger ones to join. The concerns of this were that the branches need to look at holding and doing different things to attract them. Also, those younger members are not always interested in becoming office holders, leaving the workload with a

dedicated few. The younger ones need to realise the work done at National level affects them more than they know.

More publicity and promotion is required, at local and national level. When using the media, especially for things such as ERWA, it needs to be more than just rural, so it seen as more than just for farmers.

The branches need to be changing with the times and stay relevant to the communities in which they operate, to and operate in the broad spectrum of the views of the community. They must be prepared to listen and quickly assess what they can do to help.

The subscriptions were a concern amongst some branches, and it was suggested not to let them get too high, keep them at a reasonable level

Another suggestion was to get the RDO's take a more active role regionally, it was seen that the RDO's are helping the branches who should know what they are doing and how to do it. The branches should assist the RDO's on high profile presentations and promotions in the region.

The branches need to offer what they are by having "welcome ins" to all the rural people not just the farmers.

There needs to be more activities amongst RWNZ groups

There were some notes of concern. We need to look after our current members and not write off the older members.

A number of the more mature branches were unsure of the future, as they struggle to attract new members. One is happy just to be a social group, joining in activities, RWNZ and local the best they can. Another struggles due to the demographics of the area, with the reluctance of people are too reluctant or too busy or not interested in joining a group such as RWNZ. Another branch is unsure, but sees the branch finally falling into recess, which is a shame when area like this used to be very strong RWNZ areas.

There were a few suggestions aimed more at National level, such as a more comprehensive handout to new & prospective members- (Who is RWNZ? What does RWNZ do?)

It was suggested that the Constitution needs modernising

Also costs could be cut by using services such as teleconferencing

The big point made is that National Office needs to keep in contact with branch levels, they need to come down to the grass roots members and hear what they have to say, and listen to the younger members of the organisation because they are the future of the organisation.

It can be seen from the lists of activities and events sent in by branches that they do a fantastic job in supporting and strengthening their communities, often by fundraisers, dinners, knitting, baking, catering, collecting for charities, helping schools, playgroups, playcentres etc financially and with time, helping individuals in crisis, or financially. The list goes on. The branches also hold many interesting activities for their own members and support them as they need it, as well as supporting provincial and national initiatives. One of their main roles is of course a social one for the members and the communities in which they operate

A concern is that branches, and provincials, seem to give a large number of bursaries and scholarships out to groups and individuals, but are the following type of questions being asked by these groups to the recipients:

How about coming along to one of our meetings?

What do you know about RWNZ?

How about joining?

Have you got any skills that we could benefit from?

What approaches are made to groups such as playcentres or playgroups to try and attract them along to RWNZ? Maybe a fun event to get them in? Have branches thought about giving a membership away to encourage them along?

There seems to be a lot of money donated to them, as well as schools etc, they should be encouraged to see the other benefits of being a RWNZ member. Why not "push our own barrow"?

The use of media seems to be a strong point- can the branches make more use of their local papers, not just rural publications, to showcase what they do, and to increase their public image- does the area actually know who RWNZ is and that there is a branch in the area. In some cases the answer is NO!!

A number of branches are "aging" – their members are "mostly retired" and are struggling to attract new or younger members and some will soon be in danger of going into recess. Some do not seem worried about this as they see it being a sign of the times, others are more concerned about it, and wish to rectify it and keep going.

Some of the branches said that younger women work, so cannot attend day meetings. Can they be accommodated by the odd evening meetings, or changing to evening meetings? Or is there a possibility of a new group supported by the existing group, but that is more suited to these prospective members? Branches need to be flexible, or in areas that the members don't want to change their format, perhaps try and set up a new group.

Are the branches being inclusive? Making sure they are welcoming anyone who shows an interest in the group and not just those farming. They need to remember that only 14% of those living rural are directly involved in agriculture, the other 86% are either indirectly involved or not at all, are they being invited to come along?

Are the groups child friendly? Mothers may not always be able to leave children behind, or do not wish to, so are they still encouraged to come?

Branches are often the only contact the community has with RWNZ, so we need to make sure the branches are portraying the right perception to these communities and are helping RWNZ achieve its mission statement of strengthening rural communities by following the organisation's vision, goals and values. As can be seen, many of these branches have been going for a long time and have a great history behind them, and members have a great lot of knowledge that they can share. We need to support these branches and members and acknowledge their contribution, while encouraging and supporting new groups and members. There needs to be networking between branches to encourage the swapping of ideas, knowledge and information, as well as supporting each other when the need arrives. This is where Provincial meetings, and Regional and National Conferences are important to encourage the networking and social ties and to keep grass root members up to date with what is happening locally and nationally.

The communications sent from national office such as Rural Women Alive and The Express are important as are Regional Newsletters. It is an opportunity for all members to see and hear what is going on in RWNZ at all levels, and the opportunity for members and branches to let the rest of the country know what they have been doing.

National Office can give out lots of help and advice and do publicity of all kinds, and RDO's can be there to help as well, but it is up to the branches and the grassroots

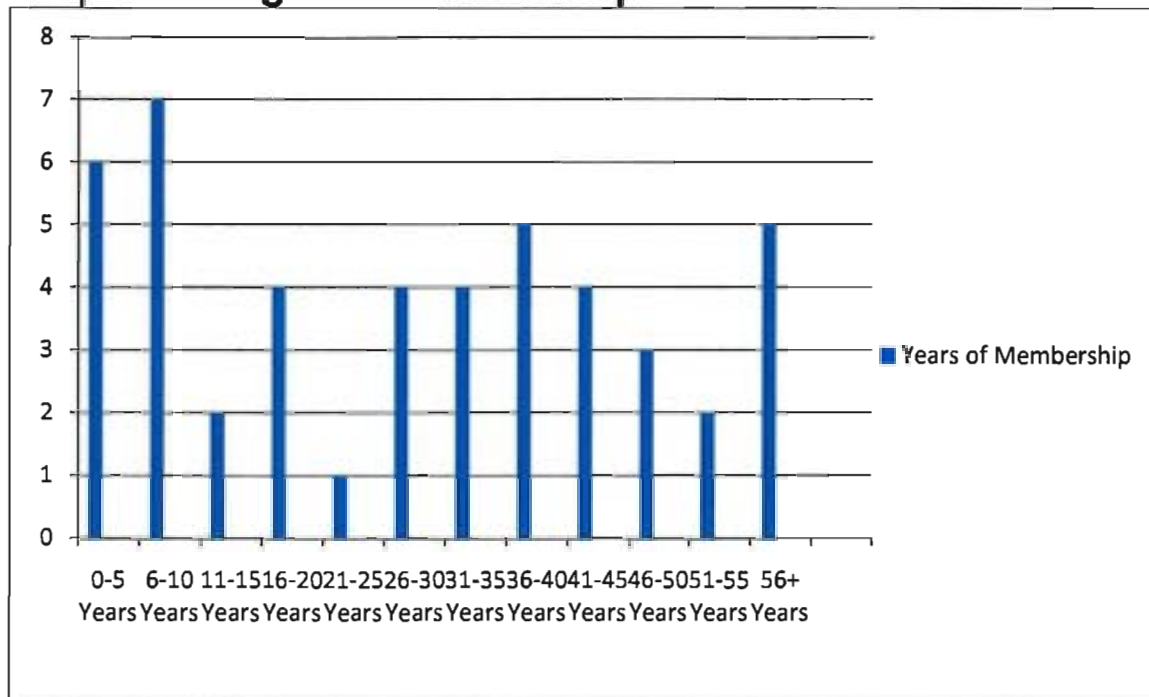
members to do their part too, to keep RWNZ going and flourishing and helping strengthening our rural communities.

NB: See Appendix 2 page 118 for Branch/Group questionnaire.

Members Perspective of RWNZ:

This survey was designed to find out why our members joined, their understanding of RWNZ's aims, policies and structure, if and how RWNZ strengthens rural communities, the most enjoyable or most beneficial aspect of being a member of RWNZ, and finally the direction RWNZ should be headed and what the organisation can do to improve their performance.

Graph 1: Length of Membership-



The length of membership of members ranged from a few weeks up to long serving members, the 56+ years were 59, 2 @ 60, 62, and the longest serving was a member of 71 years.

Of these, three were dual members of both RWNZ and WIF, three were solely involved in a WIF group, the balance were solely RWNZ members. There were 2 members who were part of branches, but have now become individual members, one that was an individual and has joined a branch, and one an individual member, only recently joined up.

Why did they join?

The main reason for joining appears to be a social one these include:
 To become part of the community and get to know more people
 Young brides getting to know the ladies in the community
 Young Mums having a chance for an outing
 Companionship, friendship and enjoying the company of other women
 Getting to know local ladies
 Meeting like- minded people
 Networking opportunities
 It was the thing to join in some communities
 For learning skills

Meeting other rural women involved in the day-to-day running of farms
 For the political and lobbying
 Having an interest in rural issues and wanting to be active in doing something about them
 Having an interest in farming
 Going to WIF for work purposes
 It felt like a good organisation to join
 For the cooking, flowers and craft competitions
 Often they were taken along or invited or encouraged by a friend or neighbour to join, family members such as mothers, mothers-in law, or daughters. Often they were new to the district and it was the opportunity to meet people. One lady joined because her local branch helped her out and so that encouraged her to join.
 The WIF members were more likely to join for the practical side of the organisation, but the networking and social side was still important to them.
 Newer members often had seen the good work that the organisation does, and could see the advantages of joining, as well as going to enjoy the social side

Understanding the RWNZ Main Aims:

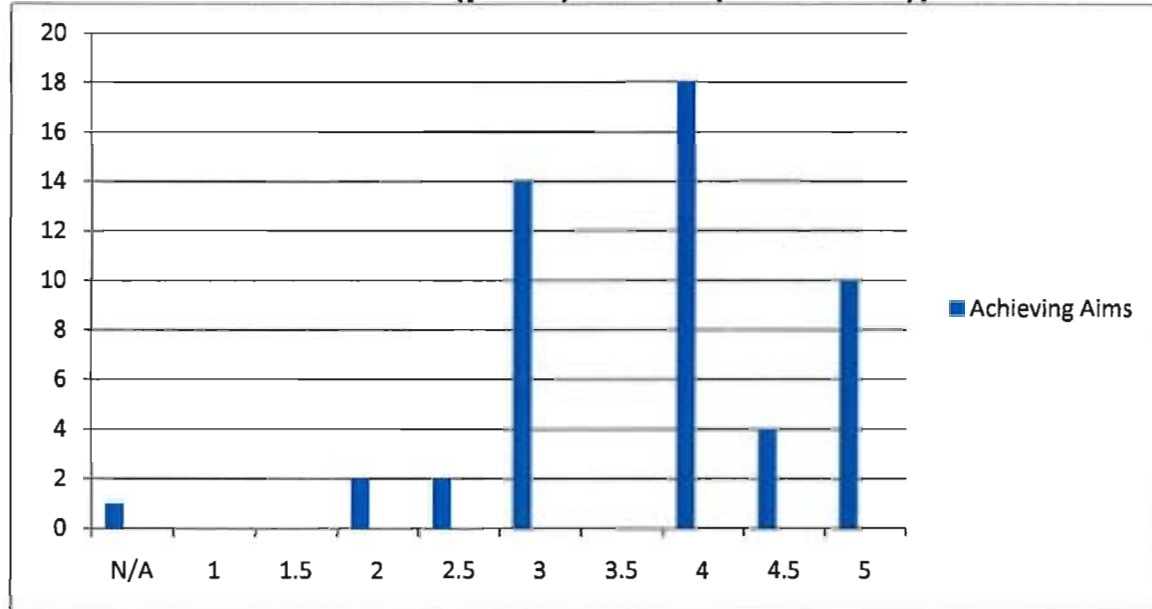
Most respondents had a good grasp of what the RWNZ aims are. Their replies showed the following to be what their understanding of the aims to be:

Strengthening rural communities
 Advocating for rural communities
 Creating a social network for rural women
 A voice from the rural community that is listened to by the powers that be, including ministries and Government
 Support networks
 To better conditions of women and children living in the country- helping families in rural areas
 Being of service to the rural community
 Service to women's issues
 Lobbying on behalf of rural people- for the retention of rural services
 To bring to the attention of the Government (local and central) the needs of rural areas
 Encouraging rural women to be active in their communities
 Publicise concerns of rural inequalities
 A watchdog for legislation
 Awareness e.g. Leptospirosis campaign
 Lobbying for changes- school bus safety, health, homecare, roading etc
 Help countrywomen, give more opportunities to rural women and families
 Work with Government to better things especially for New Zealand women in farming
 Help in the face of disasters such as floods
 Help and support members of the community in good and bad times
 A voice for women in rural areas- a political voice
 Care of families and neighbours
 Companionship
 Community involvement
 Access to Government departments
 Financial support for various causes- raising funds for local projects
 Providing assistance to those in need in their communities
 Educational opportunities, including bursaries

Access Homehealth

Joining groups such as ACWW to be able to help rural communities world wide

How Well do You Think RWNZ Achieves its Aims (Based on a score between 1 (poor) and 5 (excellent))



Some respondents gave more than one answer for this, as they split their answer into sections.

The reasons given could be split into two main areas- National and grass roots.
National Level

Politically the team are doing a great job- having their say and are heard

There is an effective network and communication with decision makers

Issues are well researched and presented

Good rapport with Government and the pressure is kept on them

We are a voice who is heard

National initiatives and campaigns for research and education on such things as leptospirosis and school bus safety

Access Homehealth

An ear in the community that is able to achieve aims

More political today in achieving ways to help rural women

Using policy analysts who help national Office watch for new policies affecting rural people

The submissions made to Government by National Office on our behalf

Executive do well bringing problem areas to the fore

Education- bursaries for isolated students

For those interested in National Office work, very interesting

There is an avenue where members can voice concerns which can be taken to

National Office and submissions made

Comments from RWNZ spokeswomen are made on many issues and the politicians are listening

Nationally there is a very good relationship in the Wellington network of movers and shakers including Ministries and Governments

Nationally an excellent job done considering the small administration base and elected are volunteers and funding is always an issue
National Council has to strive to communicate leadership, confidence and motivation to the members

RWNZ is an effective lobby group widely recognised by such as our MP's
The organisation lost touch with communities in the 70's & 80's, but now is stronger, proactive and a structure which meets the aims and attracts members & supports aims at all levels- not perfect, but heading in the right direction

National Office has been unresponsive to questions, problems and issues put to them, operating on a different agenda to which local members expect them to, such as the sale of the building and how it was handled

Locally-

The effect branches have is varied due to diversity

Branches extend the hand of friendship to newcomers to districts and branches

Fellowship of the organisation is great

Only a small part of the rural community are members of RWNZ

Support network –i.e during the floods- comes from RWNZ all over the country

Local events held, such as health evenings

Branch members get to hear and read about what the organisation does

Some branches exist purely for their local membership- social and help out when the time arises. Others are very active locally and nationally, take opportunities, such as at election time, to question politics and policies nationally and locally

Members may be aware of the issues, but the community is not

Branches of elderly members do not appeal to younger prospective members which creates the old ladies network perception

Socially in communities it can be very successful

Younger women work and RWNZ members' interests are different- we need to promote WIF or a similar type of organisation or group

In the past they provided support for younger women with children, sharing wisdom, experience and skills of older country women

Communication between branches and National Office not always good

Press releases not published by the local newspaper. Should the branch secretary forward these, or does the National Communication Officer do it, or is the newspaper not publishing

There is a wish for National Council to local branches to let the country understand what the organisation accomplishes. There is a confused idea- assumption that it is an old ladies club- which must be overcome, it needs youth and enthusiasm

There is a perception of older women- we need to overcome this

Branches do not get feedback from National- branch meetings become social events instead

Reports are not always being printed in papers- so the organisation is not getting the publicity unless it is for outstanding things

People moving into the district do not always know about the organisation

Communication from Head Office to Provincial and Branches most informative of the current issues being actioned

Some areas achieve better than others- very strong RWNZ membership often grows an area

Rural communities have changed, are not as isolated and tight knit. RWNZ members are older and not a true demographic

As a voluntary organisation it is dependent on the commitment and interest of its members

Many branches are stagnant- a social outing for retired old ladies, many of whom live in town

Locally some areas RWNZ are struggling, there are diverse backgrounds and it is hard to get young women into a group that meets its needs, RWNZ group is old- 70's-90's, and not doing a lot to uphold aims

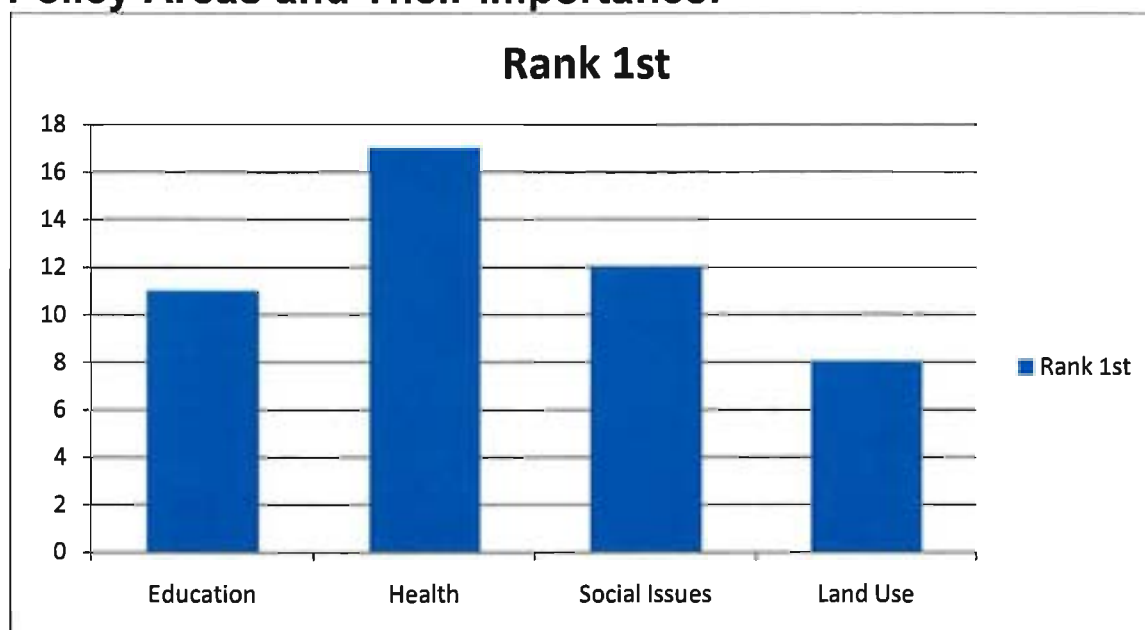
Local groups are conscious of the community and do whatever is needed

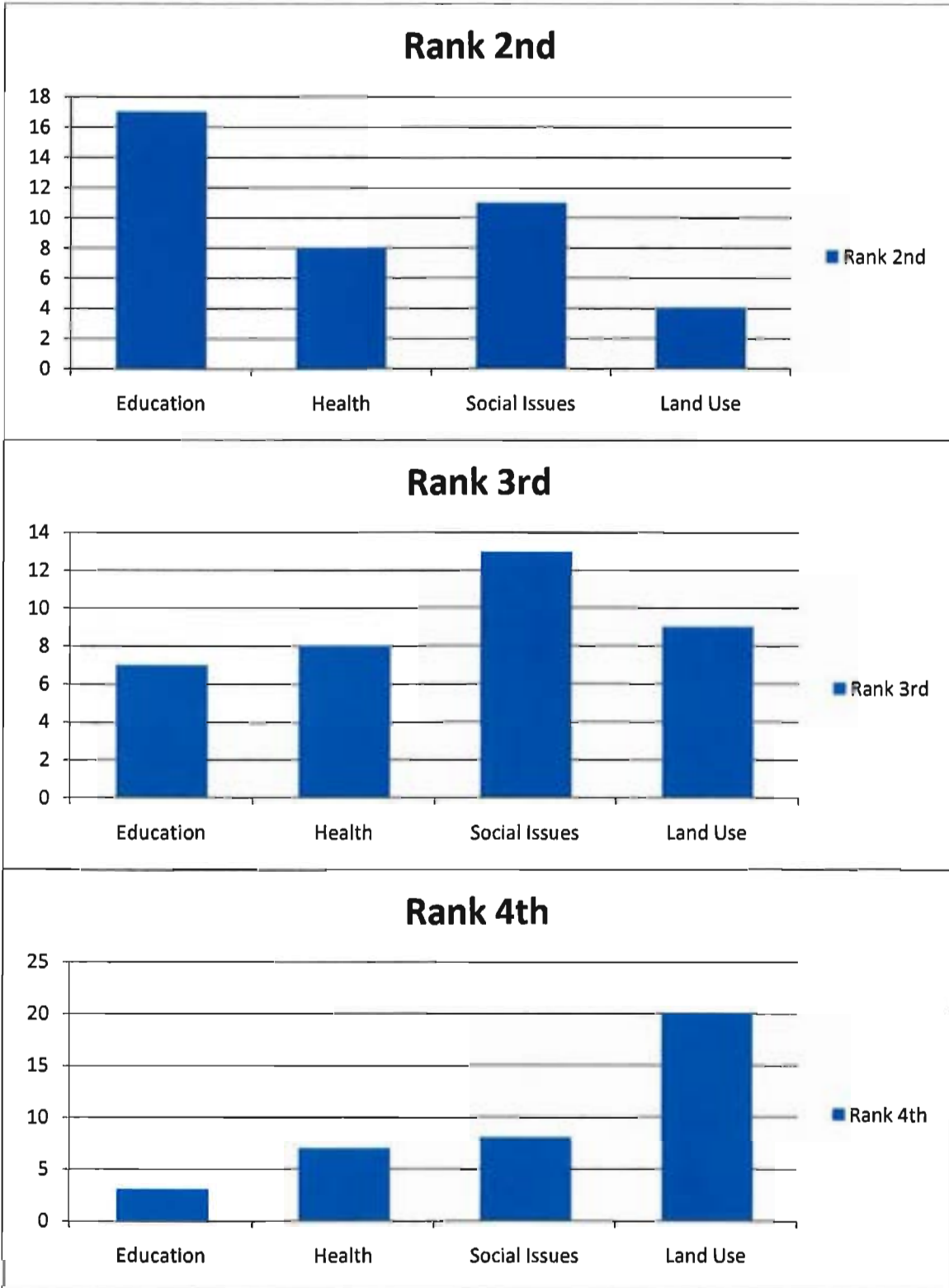
This shows that the respondents believe that at the National Level, there is good work going into the achieving the aim of strengthening rural communities, that our voice as an organisation is getting heard by the decision makers in Wellington, and that a difference is being made for the rural people of New Zealand. The national initiatives such as the School Bus Safety and Leptospirosis campaign have made a huge impact on the awareness of these issues nationally.

However, when it gets to a branch level, there are variations in the ability of groups to achieve the aim of strengthening their communities, perhaps due to lack of membership, active members or the age and health of their members. Some groups exist purely as a social group whereas other groups are very conscious of their local community and are continuously working in it.

It is a two way thing, with National Council needing the branches and grass roots members to get behind their national campaigns, and the branches need the support from National Level for their initiatives and issues.

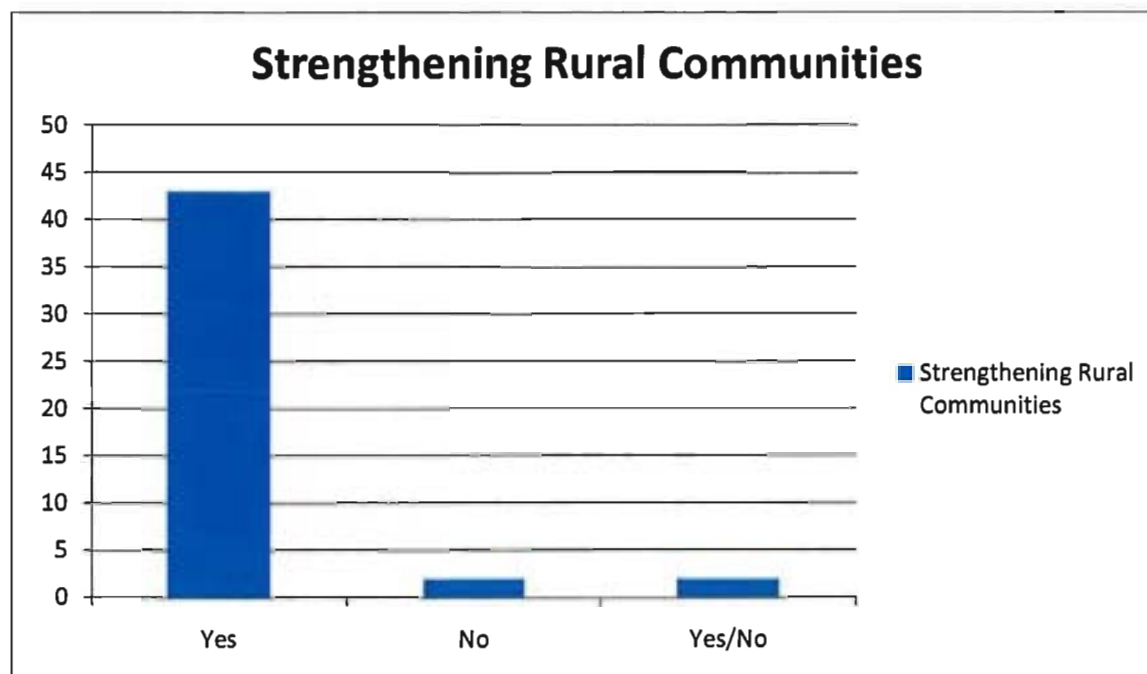
Policy Areas and Their Importance:





This shows that Health is seen as the most important policy area, followed by Education, then Social Issues, and Land Use was seen as the least importance. Although some respondents had a reason for ranking some all the same, and a number stating they believe all the policies were equally important and work together mutually.

Do you think RWNZ helps strengthen rural communities?



How Does RWNZ strengthen rural communities?

The positive answers to this can be divided into three areas, National level, Local level and overall

National:

The advocacy, lobbying and promotion of issues
 The contact with ministries and government
 Being a voice for rural

Local:

A meeting place for women
 Being aware of local issues and problems and try to rectify and support where possible
 Catering functions
 By doing things or having events for the community as a whole, being a service to the community
 Support and friendship
 Stepping in when help is needed and helping in those times of need
 WIF/RWNZ groups providing opportunities for learning
 Some way of those new to an area to get to meet others

Overall:

Networking – bringing a range of people together, socially and educationally
 Being proactive on issues, and endorsing and implementing policies and solutions to issues
 Bettering conditions for rural people
 The fundraising and awareness projects

However there were a number of negative replies or replies voicing concern over how RWNZ does strengthen rural communities. These showed concerns about the following:

Changing dynamics with more women full time working, or working off farm not having the time, and so the number of committed available members has dropped, and these women have other interests, so have to choose where to spend their time

Some areas do better than others

There is seen to be room for improvement

The organisation need to get women to join to improve, as those present members & the organisation have a lot to give and more members would help

RWNZ has lost its ability to be a strength in areas

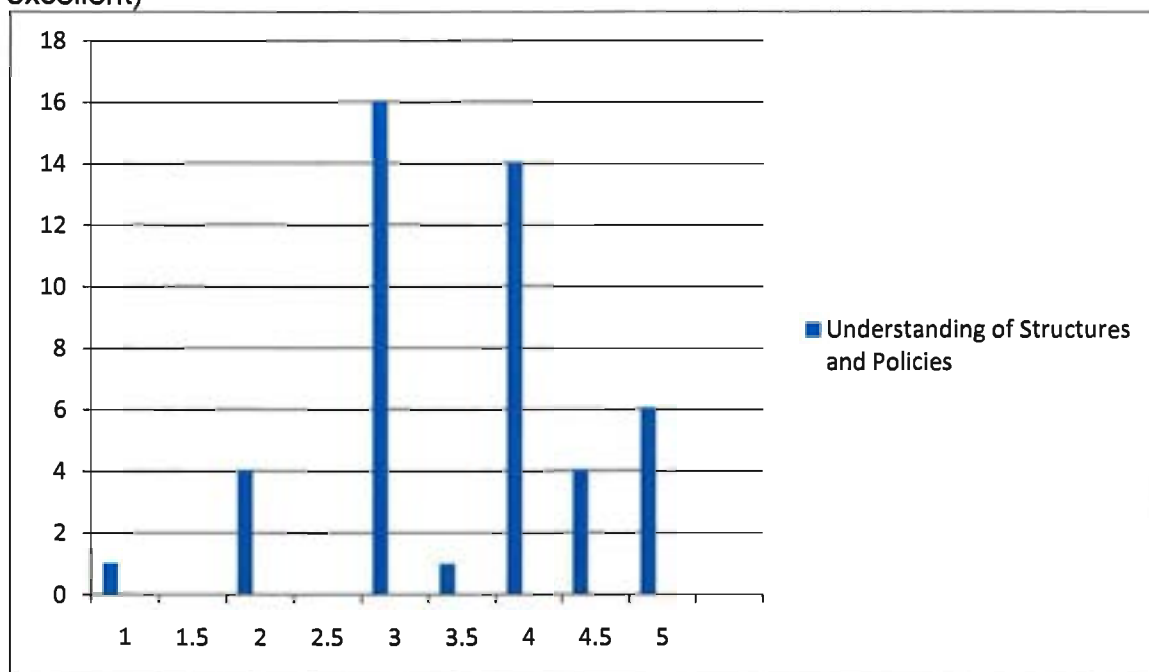
Having a membership of older women means it has the “old women’s network” perspective in areas which counts against getting new members, and often the interests of the older members and younger prospective members is very different

Mature years and health problems mean some branches are not as effective now as in the past

Some branches feel that they are trying hard at their level, but feel they are lacking support, and are finding it hard to see the National Office support at grass roots level

So it can be seen that the majority of respondents believe RWNZ is helping strengthen rural communities at both National and local level, but there is room for improvement. Obviously there are areas in the country which are weak, due to low membership numbers, and having branches of solely mature members in these areas need to be encouraged to be appealing to younger members or have new groups set up for these prospective members, with strong support from the other branch, provincial, RDO’s and National to encourage them to get involved in matters locally and nationally.

Understanding of RWNZ Structures and Policies (1: poor – 5: excellent)



What would help you to understand these better?

There was a similar vein to many answers here and it looks as though it needs to be a “two way street” like in many cases. Following are a few ideas that came up for helping the members become more up to speed with the RWNZ structures and policies:

Perhaps some type of road show, with national council going out to the grass roots members, speaking to branches, having seminars or have members learning from their peers in a social atmosphere rather than a meeting environment. So members learn about their councillors and what they do, and what National Office does.

A number of respondents said they needed to do more reading and homework of their own to learn about the policies and structures

Another point raised was the need to get involved more, and increase attendance whether it be at branch level, provincial, regional or National, and by attending Regional & National Conferences, or getting on the rapid response teams

Another idea was to have a new member introduction to the organisation as well as a pamphlet explaining all the terms and structure etc of the organisation, and let the members feel comfortable asking for the information

The magazines emails and publications were seen as an important tool in getting the information out, perhaps needing to include a regular item explaining policies etc. It is then up to the members and branches how they use the information sent.

Plenty of communication both ways was a strong point, better discussion of policies and how the organisation structure works and how National Office operates. Also more straightforward responses to issues raised by members, so that all involved are satisfied with the result

An issue raised is a concern of a “them and us” culture between National Council and Grassroots members, which needs to be addressed

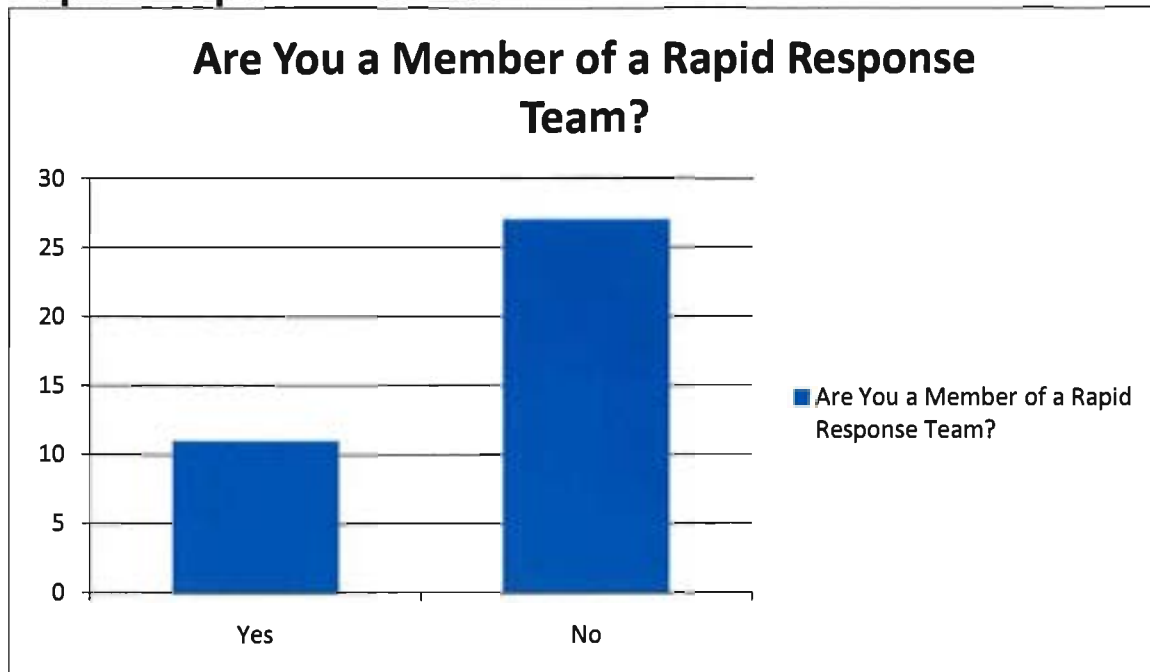
Some members may not be interested in learning more about the structure and policies, as they are only in RWNZ for the social side, or age and health is a problem to some, even with good levels of communication

A wider range of members need to be encouraged to get involved. Those members who have been involved for a long time possibly need to step aside and let others participate more, so they too can get a better understanding of the organisation

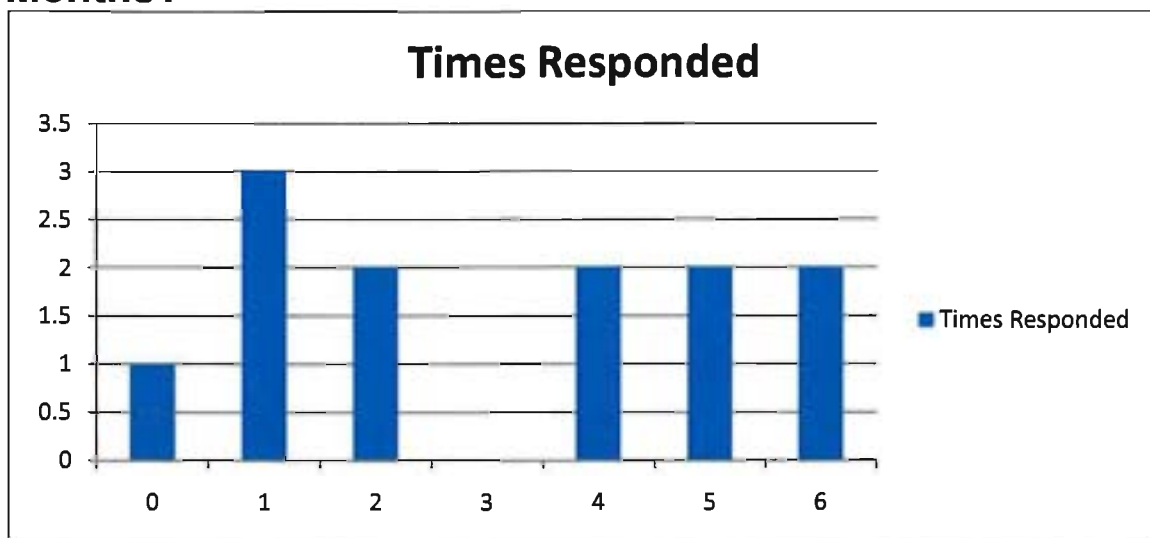
By looking at the rankings and the issues raised, it can be seen that there is room for improvement in the understanding of the structures and policies of RWNZ. There seems to be a need from the members to get National Council out to the grass roots members to avoid the “them and us” gap that has been mentioned, and so members who have some interest can learn more. Newer members need to be given more information and encouraged to participate at all levels of the organisation.

National Council and National Office needs to make sure the information is readily available, and be open and let members know what is happening, then it is up to the members what they do with it.

Rapid Response Teams:



How Many Times Have You Responded in the Last 12 Months?



A few issues were commented on, which need to be considered when looking at the Rapid Response Team concept. Looking at the figures of those that responded, it makes it look as though there a huge majority of members that are not part of the team, or don't respond.

A lot of those not signed up were those who have been members for a long time, and some may not be interested in responding.

There is also the issue that some members are not on email, so cannot respond.

There was also the comment that time was an issue and members were too busy, or have enough time to respond.

There was a concern that sometimes there is a difficulty understanding what is being asked, or not enough understanding of the issue being considered. Other members responded saying that it is a great scheme, some have yet to respond as they have only just joined, or plan to join up, others try & respond regularly, or as many as they can help with.

What is the most enjoyable, rewarding of being involved in RWNZ, or what has been of the greatest benefit of being a member?

The strongest emphasis in answers to this question was in the social side of RWNZ. The following are the areas of enjoyment, reward and benefit as seen by the respondents:

Making friends, socialising and fellowship, being with like-minded women, forging bonds

Meeting ladies of the district, or at Conferences

Fun and pleasure, having a good time and a laugh with other women

Being able to help communities or people as a group

Gaining knowledge through speakers, learning new skills, whether practical farm skills or other

Challenging themselves, such as taking office, or as part of a group challenge, gaining self-confidence, or seeing other members grow in confidence

The incredible opportunities, such as personal development, going on the Wellington Experience, or other training and leadership opportunities

The support given in tough times

Making a difference

Doing something for themselves

The opportunity to make a difference, and to influence public and political decisions

Being part of an organisation that feels that people matter

Knowing that National Office is in contact with Parliament on rural issues

RWNZ direction, what could it do, or do better:

Respondents had many ideas to pass on; the main messages were to get back to Grass Roots, and to appeal to younger women.

The following are the types of suggestions made by the respondents:

At National level;

National Office needs to be able to relate to the corporate, high tech world, but still not get too high flying and become too removed from the members

They need to listen to and stay in touch with the grass roots members

Keep focused on what is happening down on the farm

Still follow the political aspect of advocating for important rural issues, keep up the understanding of the political processes

Need to put a long term plan in place to achieve the goal set of increased membership

Keep up the media coverage

We need a strong voice commenting on appropriate issues especially from our Council, in particular the President

Keep up the advocacy and lobbying of government and fighting for the rights of people living in rural areas

Lift the profile; more is needed, not just in rural & farming areas, but also in other publications. Use ERWA winners on TV – morning TV etc. Promote ourselves more
It may be getting a little political for some members, there needs to be a good balance

Smarten up Head Office

Make sure the right people become councillors

Make sure of the right skills and attributes at Council level- governance and financial etc

Could there be provision for independent councillors who bring skills to help run RWNZ

Make sure Council and the councillors are open and transparent with issues

Councillors need to be reimbursed fully, or receive some type of income, so those who could be competent councillors but presently could not afford to do so, would not be counted out

The remit on corporate membership a good one, a good opportunity for other organisations to become interested in RWNZ and vice versa

The financial planning needs to be looked at

Councillors need to become more involved with membership growth in their areas

Maybe more activist calls rather than diplomatic ones need to be used for really important issues

National Office needs to make sure it communicates with members and respond to members concerns. There are times that they not only have to drive but follow

Support the WIF groups

National Council and National Office are doing an excellent job and should receive credit for what they do and achieve, keep it up

Branches;

Time is often hard to find for members to do all things

Groups need to find some fun social activities with little input

More WIF and dinner groups are needed- keep it fun. Women are busy and they want something for their time, such as learning new skills or social networking

Some branches have tried things but their membership is getting old

Need to be more proactive in their communities

RWNZ as a whole;

Look at the past and treasure it, but we need to move forward

Needs to be more flexible, open minded and reasonable liberal, keep up to date and be ready to include things, ideas and people not considered before

Technology such as email and internet should be used more for communication, as some people don't have time for or need meetings the same

We need more members, not just rural or farming

We need more profile

We need to increase the membership, especially younger members

Need to encourage active membership, especially for new and prospective members

The organisation needs to be as simple as possible and be portrayed as a positive, vibrant group of people

Does the Creed need looking at- is it still appropriate in today's multicultural society

We need more togetherness and communication between office holders and ordinary members; it is a two way thing
 RWNZ needs to set up some type of self evaluation system- how do members feel, are subs viewed as value for money, do members feel valued by Head Office
 Effective leadership and communication are keys to success
 More commitment to leadership training. Perhaps in a level before Wellington Experience, having training at branch and provincial level, as well as on things such as meeting & business protocols
 Have more combining and working with other organisations such as Federated Farmers
 Encourage youth and young families
 RWNZ could play a better role in improving the relationship between rural and urban
 Have a farm holiday scheme available to urban children, to give them a bond, understanding and empathy with the rural lifestyle
 The older women's group image needs to change, however there must still be a place for the loyal, older members who remain with RWNZ
 It needs to be up to the younger members to drive change

The main messages from this are the need for communication and with National Council really getting in touch with what the members want for the organisation, and how they feel about issues. It also means the members need to contact Council or National Office with issues and feel comfortable that they are really being listened to and that their opinion matters. We need to be up with the play with the corporate and high tech world, without losing sight of our background and who we are advocating for.

Also that the organisation as a whole needs to appeal to a younger more diverse type of member, the old women's image has to go if this is to really happen. We need to honour the older members, but we need to look to the younger members if we want to forward and survive.

We need to lift the profile of the organisation to the country and promote ourselves whenever we can. Training, especially in leadership, communication meeting protocols at all levels would help us to encourage members to become more active, as they would feel more comfortable in taking on roles. We need to encourage members who are keen, so they feel valued.

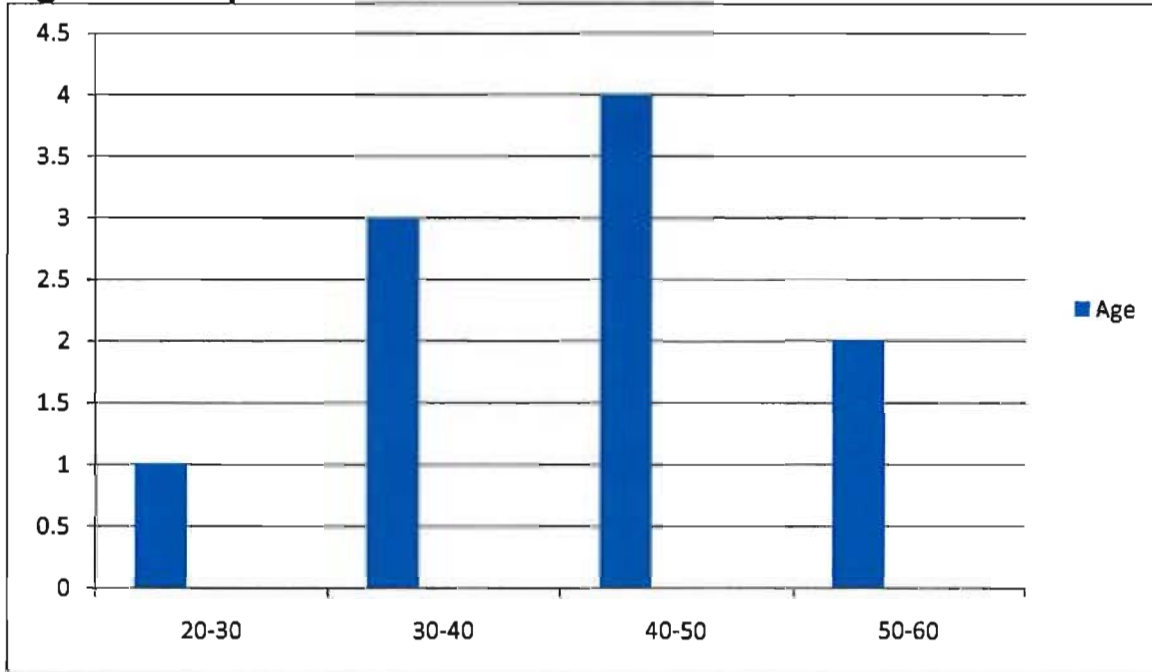
Groups, meetings, members themselves need to be more flexible, as what works in one area may not work in other places. We have to tailor meetings and groups to each specific group and their wants and needs if we wish to continue growing membership. The modern women have less time to attend things and so will choose what the best fit is for her, and we need to address this. The WIF/WAG, dinner groups and a combination of styles may be the way forward rather than the traditional RWNZ meeting. Let the young ones lead the way forward, without forgetting the heritage and history and the great works done by our older members.

NB: See Appendix 1 page 116 for Individual questionnaire

Non Member Survey:

This survey was designed to find out what those not involved with the organisation knew about RWNZ, what their perception was, which of the RWNZ policies were of most importance to them, and whether they had any interest in joining.

Age of Respondents:



Although there were only a few respondents to this questionnaire, their ages were well spread.

What do you know about RWNZ?

Most of the respondents had a fair idea of who RWNZ is as an organisation. Some of the responses included:

For women who share an interest in rural life

Provides support, friendship & training,

Provides support in tough times such as floods

Makes submissions on topics affecting the rural sector

A rural women's network throughout New Zealand

An organisation that lobbies government for better conditions such as health & education for rural families

Holds social events to help hold communities together

Was Wdff, now RWNZ- new name new look

Raises awareness & does fundraising

Looks after the wellbeing of those in rural communities

An organisation of rural women passionate about communities, education and interaction with like-minded people.

Two had very little or no idea about the organisation other than it was a rural women's network throughout New Zealand, a network of like-minded rural women.

One didn't know it existed despite bringing up four children in isolated and rural situations.

Perception of the Organisation:

A positive thing to be a part of, a great social support network

Provides a social network and a place for women to learn more & participate in rural initiatives, as well as opportunities for personal growth

A network of rural women who meet to socialise and learn about rural matters

Mostly older women involved, for mature or middle aged women rather than the younger age group

Well organised and been around for a long time

A support network for farming women- mainly drystock

Provides assistance, information and socialising

Involved in lobbying

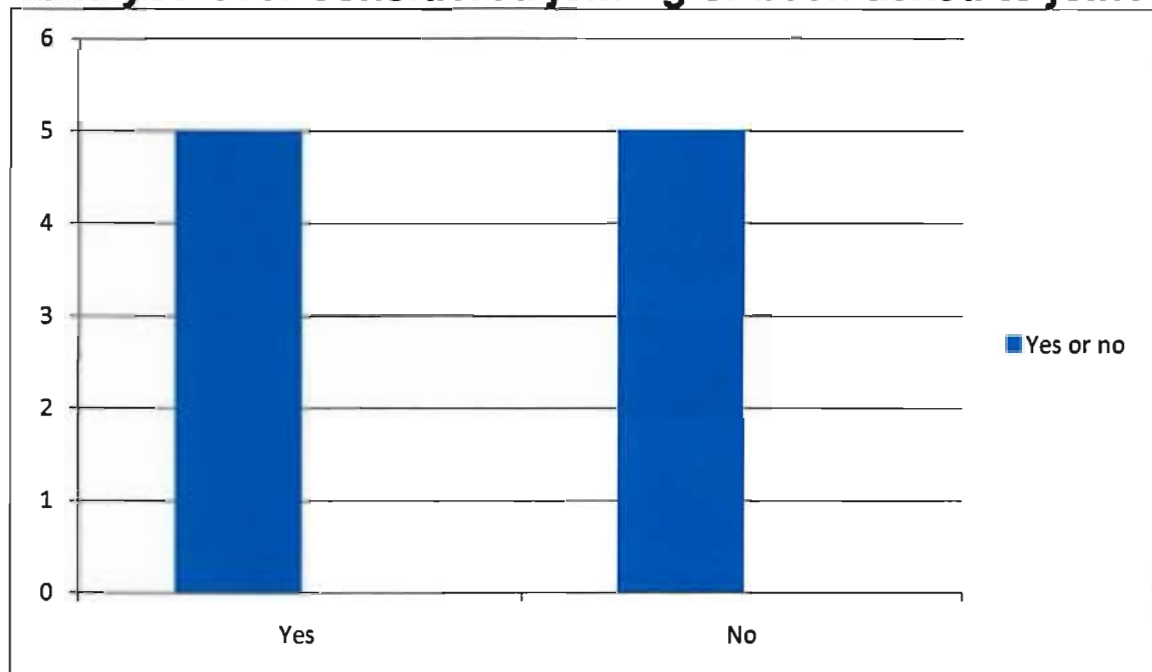
Offers support for people in their area

Has updated its look so it should appeal to younger women, as well as those who have been long time members

Older ladies knitting and or baking – CWI

A worthwhile organisation looking out for the rural community

Have you ever considered joining or been asked to join?



Reasons:

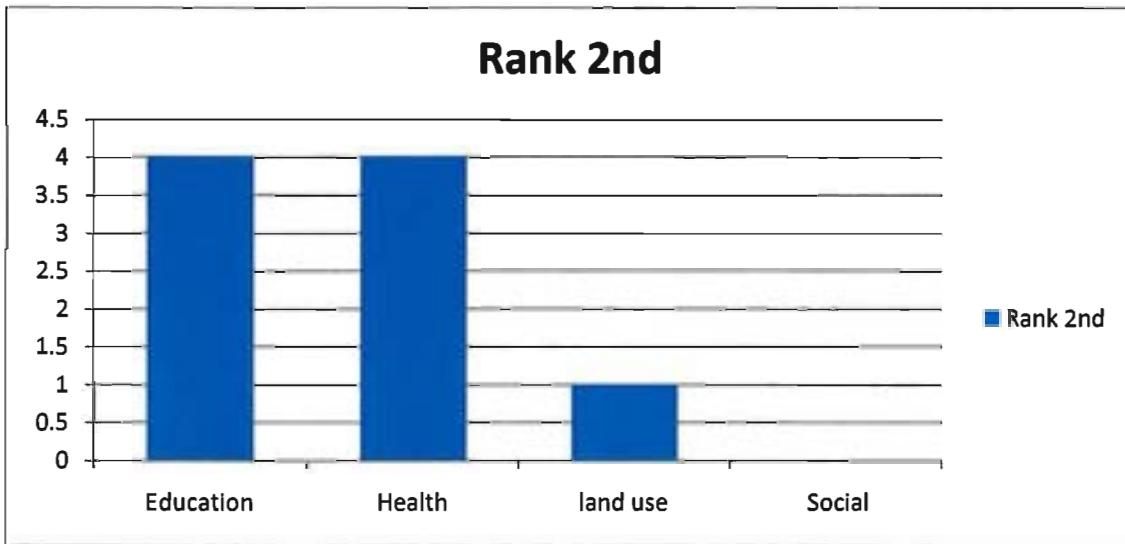
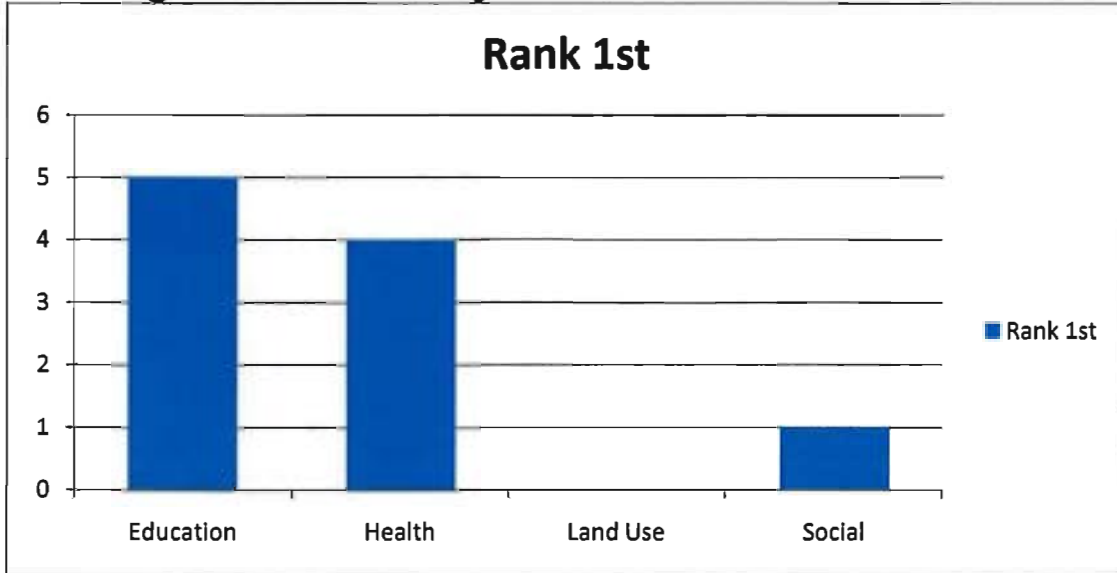
The main reason here was time commitments to other organisations, family and farms

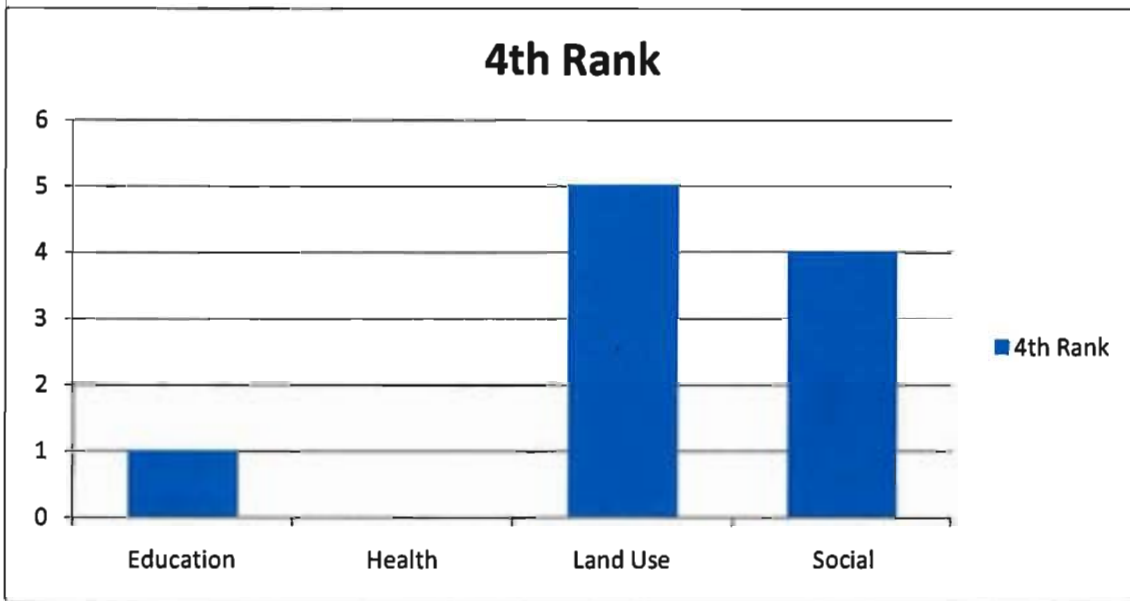
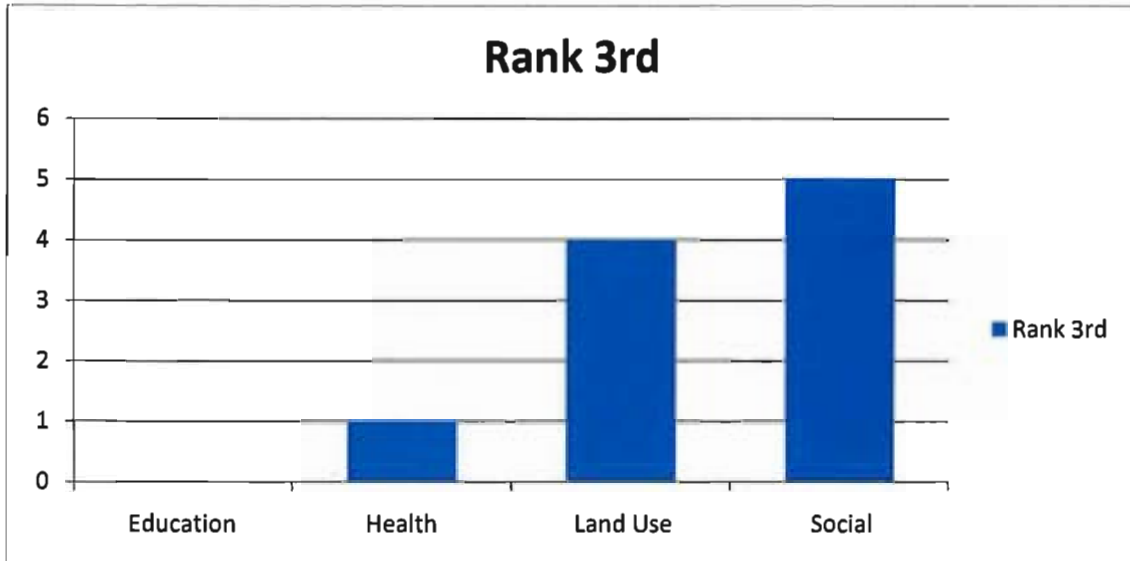
Others included thinking they were too young to join, the age perception

The local WDFW branch folded because it didn't suit the younger women

Local group too interested in baking, gardening competitions and "good works" rather than getting involved in things like school buses

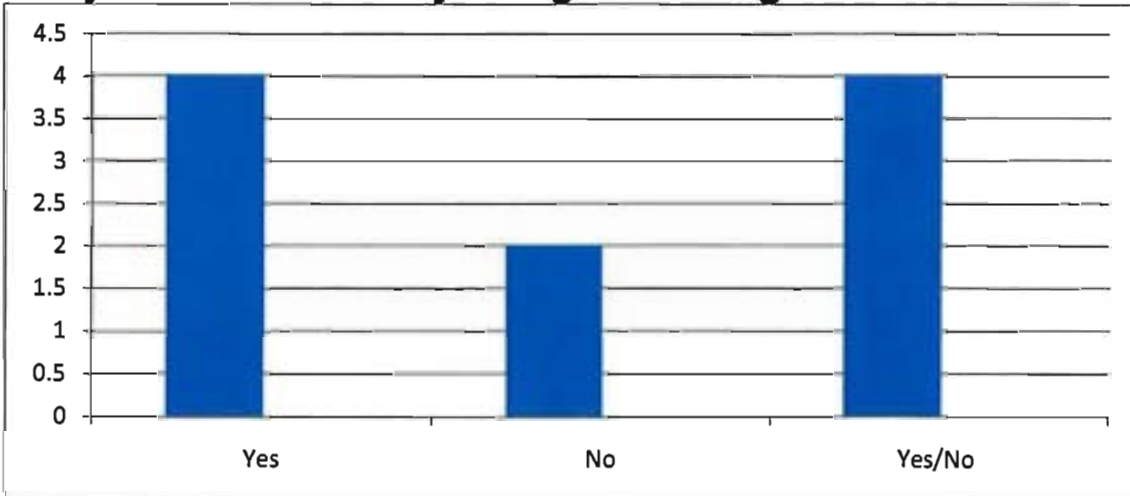
Ranking the main Policy areas:





One didn't rank as she felt they were all as important as each other

Are you interested in joining or finding out more?



Those that said yes did so because they believed that:

Being a women in a rural community it may be of benefit, the desire isn't strong, but is interested in finding out more

They would like to find out more about the activities that RWNZ get involved in
Active members who serve their community can only be beneficial to the health and survival of their communities

They would like to meet local women & those from other districts

Those that said no because:

Life is very busy & the focus is on family & farm

Working fulltime and a little baby- no time

Nearest group over an hour away

Would join a local group, but life is too full at present

Too busy a life, when things slow down, will look at it

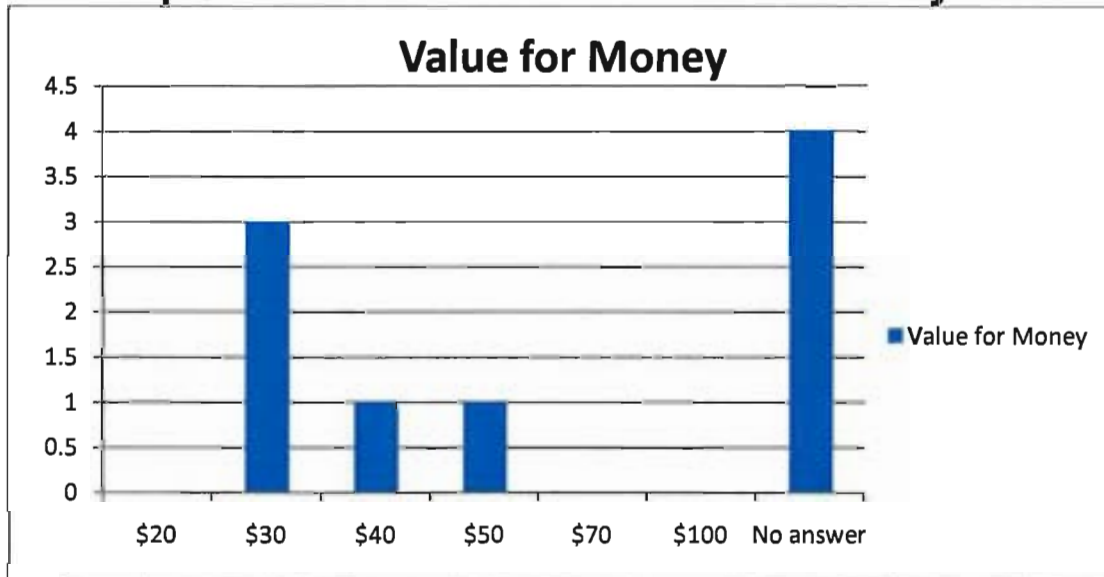
Those that had a yes/no answer said:

They were happy to learn more about RWNZ and how Dairy Women's Network can work alongside RWNZ for the best for Dairy Women

Not too keen to join at present- may be later in life

They would find an enjoyable aspect to what RWNZ is all about, but no time at present

Subscriptions- What would be value for money?



Most believed that the amount suggested it was a reasonable amount to pay

Those that did not give an amount found it hard to answer the question as they were unsure of what they would get for their money, it was hard to quantify.

One respondent understood that RWNZ receives funding from the government from taxes.

Conclusion:

Most of the respondents knew something of RWNZ and what the organisation does. However- the perception tended to be that while the organisation did good work as well as being a positive social network, it was perceived to be for older women and for farmers.

A large number of women who I have talked to but who did not fill in survey forms did not know about RWNZ, even though they either lived in rural communities or had an rural interest.

Half the respondents had been asked to join or considered joining, but their perception of RWNZ had put them off, or that they were too busy with other commitments.

The policies with the most importance were education and health, similar results as the member's survey, followed by social issues, then lastly land use.

Those that were interested in joining were so because of the social aspect and being part of the community

Those that were not interested at all and those that were a bit interested, but not just yet, said so, as time was the limiting factor, as there were other commitments requiring their time and energy

The majority of the respondents were unsure of what was value for money for the subscription as they didn't know what they would get for the money, but the others thought the value was close to our current subscription.

So, from this, it can be seen that RWNZ are seen by those not already involved as an organisation that does good things for the community socially and with its advocacy work. The perception of the organisation needs to be drastically updated if it wants to appeal to these non members. It needs to promote itself as an organisation for all ages and backgrounds, and that it needn't take up too much valuable time, but a good excuse to get out and be part of the local social network, and that it is real value for money to join.

NB: See Appendix 4 page 122 for Non Member questionnaire.

Conclusions:

RWNZ has been operating since 1925. It has a long proud history of supporting rural communities throughout New Zealand. The aims and objectives have changed little through the years.

RWNZ operates basically at two distinct levels- National and Grass Roots, but each supports the other in many ways and mostly work well together. The national initiatives such as the Leptospirosis campaign and School Bus Safety campaign prove this. It shows that the branches can get in behind issues that affect the whole rural community, and make these successful. It shows that those at National level see these issues that affect the communities and have the skills and contacts to make these campaigns work.

At the National level, RWNZ is seen as professional, with a strong voice in the ear of the policy and decision makers. This shows the high calibre of those on National Council and the staff at National Office. These people are the ones meeting and discussing issues with the decision makers, and making a difference. They are often the only point of contact that ministries or other organisations have with RWNZ and they make sure the professional, but caring and down to earth, image is retained. Much of the work they do is recognised by those policy and decision makers and organisations as very important.

The organisation offers great opportunities through bursaries, grants and training to both members and non members. There are many chances for personal growth within RWNZ; by becoming an office holder, taking part in competitions, attending conferences or training such as the Wellington Experience, even assisting at activities and events organised by branches is good for personal growth. The social networking opportunities from taking part in the aforementioned and other RWNZ activities are also very important aspects. The financial help to individuals, families and communities from the bursaries and grants and other fundraising activities have been instrumental in helping improve opportunities for the recipients. The awareness campaigns over the years have made a difference to rural health, wellbeing and safety.

Access Homehealth is an incredibly important part of RWNZ, as its profits are used to help RWNZ maintain its charitable status by providing financial grants and to keep the organisation operating as the professional organisation that it needs to be. Access's own work as a home health provider ties in well with the RWNZ aims and visions.

At Grass Roots level, RWNZ is seen as an organisation that helps the communities it is based in, as the local branches will be the only contacts most non members will

have with the organisation, and it is the good works and activities that these branches undertake within the community that form this opinion. This is where the personal approach is important and activities are tailored to the needs of the communities.

However, the perception is that the organisation is for older farming women, many branches are struggling because of this. Many branches are aging and do not appeal to the younger women, their meetings may not suit, or their activities do not appeal.

In many areas there are many women who have never heard of RWNZ, or do not understand much about the organisation. There are lots of women who live rurally but are not actively farming, they are working from home, in town or looking after children, and often these women don't know about RWNZ. There is huge potential within this group to attract new members and start new groups.

Some members worry about the gap between Grass Roots members and National and it is getting too wide. They see National getting too "corporate" and the focus there is not really in line with the branches. They don't think enough contact is made between National Council & National Office and the grass roots members and they are losing touch with their members.

The organisation as a whole needs to look at update its image to become more appealing to younger members and especially those who have an interest in rural, but not necessary involved in farming.

Recommendations:

That RWNZ needs to become more proactive at attracting younger members and those who are rural, but not farming. It needs to look beyond its traditional members and activities. These women can bring a variety of new skills, talents and ideas to the organisation.

Branches or groups need to become more flexible to accommodate the needs of prospective members, and if this is not suitable encourage the initiation of a new group more suited to encourage new members. With many women working these days and with wide ranging interests, groups need to cater to suit these women. The groups need to make sure they are child friendly, so mothers can get to meetings.

More use of the media to showcase what RWNZ does, as branches and at a National Level. This means not just rural, but general circulation media to lift the profile of the organisation. This is not just newspapers but electronic and online communication. RWNZ needs to use these to showcase what the organisation achieves and to show the exciting innovative activities and events that happen as well as the traditional ones. RWNZ needs to get more publicity for the advocacy work that is done to show it is not “just tea and scones” but an organisation making a difference.

Try and remove the common misconception of RWNZ as for older farming women just baking, flower arranging and having cups of tea, and replace it with a more vibrant image of women getting out and doing things for themselves and their communities politically educationally and socially.

The concept of “them and us” as seen by some grass roots members needs to be addressed. Those at National level need to make sure that the members feel valued and listened to. The members need to feel comfortable with what is happening at a National level and that they are being included in the processes taking place. There needs to be plenty of communication and transparency in both directions. National Office needs to keep up the communication to the Branches and Members, and Branches and Members need to keep National Office informed of issues and things they believe to be important.

More interaction between National Office and National Council and the Branches would perhaps be of benefit- Councillors and Staff going out to the branches in some form of roadshow to meet members and discuss issues, so that more people get to meet them and discuss things face to face. Give a face to the names at National Office so the members feel more comfortable approaching them.

The advocacy work done is extremely important and this needs to continue, and the pressure kept on the decision makers to recognise the needs of rural New Zealand. The national initiatives implemented from a national level need to continue and the Members need to continue supporting these campaigns whether they are awareness campaigns or fundraisers or new competitions. The members need to be aware of issues in their district and let National Office & National Council know as it may be an issue that needs to be dealt with on a wider scale. Members need to become more involved with the Rapid Response Teams so the policy analysts, National Executive Officer and National Council have real input from those the issues are affecting.

The good work done by the Branches supporting their communities needs to continue, but perhaps they should expect a little more in return by these recipients or their families being encouraged to join RWNZ. Throughout each year many thousands of dollars are given away, many hours of time and goods donated by members to individuals, schools, and community groups, but very little seems to be asked in return from these recipients, especially at Branch level. Some of these seem to think of RWNZ as “easy money”, as they are required to do little for their return. Groups need to ask these recipients, or family members to perhaps attend meetings to speak about why they needed the support, or how it benefited themselves or their organisation or attend functions to find out more about the organisation as a whole and be encouraged to join. Perhaps a few free memberships could be considered- not a huge cost.

New, innovative ideas for fundraising and raising awareness of our organisation need to be considered as well as the tried and true. Examples of this are the “Triple F Challenge” organised by Pat Macauley and her team in Otago, the Breast Cancer Calendar from Winchmore, or simpler events such as the “Burgers and Beers” evenings set up by Wharepapa South. Perhaps the setting up of some kind of networking forum, perhaps on the RWNZ website so groups can submit ideas that have worked for them and other groups can borrow the idea to try themselves.

More use could be made of Regional Development Officers to promoting the organisation and finding innovative ways of attracting new members. Perhaps the employment of someone to help existing branches and start new groups alongside existing ones or new branches in areas where there are no branches, this could become part of the new RDO's job description when their positions are reviewed.

Personal Summary:

Rural Women New Zealand is an incredible organisation. It does great work for the rural people of New Zealand and certainly achieves its aim of strengthening rural communities. But even a great organisation has some room for improvement. In the short time I have been involved I have got a huge amount out of having been involved in all aspects of the organisation, such as the National awareness and fundraising campaigns, National Conferences, educational opportunities such as the Wellington Experience and the Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme. Then there are all the grass root activities such as dinners, catering, fundraisers, and attending meetings learning the art of massage, about different countries, and other skills and knowledge. It is the networking and social side that is so important to all members. The old saying of "what you put in is what you get out" This certainly applies to RWNZ- the more you get involved, the more you get out of it, whether it is life skills, friends, fun or many other great opportunities.

I believe we need to remember and recognise all the good work that has gone on before, since the organisation began in 1925, but we need to look forward to the future if we are to be around for the next 80 years and beyond. The perception of being a group of mature women who just drink tea, knit and bake is holding us back. This will take some time and some work to overcome this, but we need to if we are going to attract new members. I believe this is starting to happen and there is a great mix of experience and enthusiasm coming through. Long standing members need to encourage new members to take on roles, take responsibilities and make decisions to really get them involved and take ownership of the organisation. Groups need to be proud of the things they do, whether it is for themselves, their communities, or as part of a national initiative and promote themselves more. Pat yourselves on the back Rural Women New Zealand members; you are a great bunch of women and part of an organisation that does make a difference. Rural Women New Zealand really does "strengthen rural communities".

References:

Rural New Zealand Publications:

- RWNZ Express
- Rural Women
- RWNZ Manifesto
- RWNZ Plan for the Future 2008-2010
- RWNZ Constitution
- RWNZ Info Pack
- RWNZ Policies Handout
- RWNZ Website- Submissions, policies, bursaries and grants, business directory, Access Homehealth, accommodation, Enterprising Rural Woman Award,
- "Kill the Speed not the Child" information booklet,
- Membership Benefit information sheet,
- Enterprising Rural Woman Award entry form and information sheet
- Leptospirosis Information fundraising campaign 2007, need to know information
- Rural Bulletin
- Women in Farming/ Women in Agribusiness Group Start up Kit
- RWNZ Song and Creed Sheet

Women in Farming Programme- 2008 Evaluation of a Sustainable Farming Fund Project- Report 2008. Paddy Twist, Little Creek Consulting.

Leptospirosis- Reducing the Impact on New Zealand Workplaces- A Report on "Opportunities for reduction of the incidence and severity of occupationally acquired leptospirosis in New Zealand"- Barry Keenan, for the Department of Labour, August 2007.

Leptospirosis in Meat Workers: Sero-prevalence and Risk Factors- Dr Jackie Benschop, Associate Professor Cord Heuer- EpiCentre, Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences College of Sciences, Massey University, December 2008.

"And So We Grew" – The Story of the Women's Division of Federated Farmers of New Zealand 1925-1950- Publications Committee of the Women's Division Federated Farmers 1950

RWNZ Logo, Region map, Enterprising Rural Women Award pamphlet, "Kill the Speed, not the Child" Sticker, "Let's Beat Leptospirosis" Sticker:
All Courtesy RWNZ National Office

Photographs:

First National Conference- "And So We Grew"

2009 National Conference – Kirsten Anderson Photography, Wellington

Women in Farming: GPS on Horseback, Learning about Alpacas- Mary-Anne Goddard

2009 Triple F participants- Lesley McIntosh

Appendices:

Appendix1- Member's Individual Response

Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme Questionnaire

Does RWNZ strengthen rural communities?

My name is Fiona Gower and I am a RWNZ member and was the fortunate recipient of a place on this year's Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme. As part of this course, I am researching on the impact of RWNZ in the communities they serve

The purpose of the survey is to find out about how RWNZ achieves its aims and goals, and how much members and rural communities understand about the organisation.

This questionnaire should take about 20 minutes to complete. I recognise that your time is important and have kept the questions to a minimum. Your answers will be combined with other responses, and no individual response and no individual respondent to this questionnaire will be identified in any report.

Your help in making my project a success is much appreciated. I thank you in advance for your help and your time.

Please email the completed questionnaire to fionaandterry@xnet.co.nz or post to:

Fiona Gower
600 Waikaretu Rd
RD5
Tuakau 2695
Fax/ phone: 09 2329711

Please return by the 20th June 2009

Are you a member of:

RWNZ Yes/ No Branch:

Length of membership:

WIF Yes/No Branch:

Length of membership:

Individual Member Yes/No Length of membership:

Why did you join?

What do you understand to be the main aims of RWNZ?

On a scale of 1(no understanding) to 5 (excellent understanding), how well do think RWNZ achieves these aims?

Please give any reasons for your answer:

Please rank the following policies in importance to you (1=most important 4= least important):

Health Social Issues Land Use

Education

Please give reasons for your answer:

Do you think RWNZ helps strengthen rural communities? Yes/ No

How?

On a scale of 1 to 5 how well do think you understand RWNZ structures and policies?

What do you believe would help you understand these better?

Are you a member of a rapid response team? If so, how many times have you responded to a request for feedback in the past 12 months?

What to you is the most enjoyable and or rewarding part of being involved in RWNZ? What has been the greatest benefit of being a member? Have you a personal story to tell?

In what direction do you believe RWNZ should be headed? And what do you believe RWNZ could start doing or do better to further improve their performance?

Other Comments:

Appendix 2- Branches

Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme Questionnaire

Does RWNZ strengthen rural communities?

My name is Fiona Gower and I am a RWNZ member and was the fortunate recipient of a place on this year's Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme. As part of this course, I am researching on the impact of RWNZ in the communities they serve

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Fiona Gower
600 Waikaretu Rd
RD5
Tuakau 2695
Fax/ phone: 09 2329711

Please return by the 20th June 2009

Branch Questionnaire:

Branch Name:

How long has the branch been operating?

How many members have you presently?

How has membership changed since beginning? Numbers, general age of members, members & partners professions

What do you believe are the reasons for this change?

What activities/ events have your branch been involved in within your local or wider community/ies?

Please use a separate sheet of paper for this, as I realise this list may be long.

In what ways do you believe these communities have benefited from your involvement?

How do you believe your branch can further help these communities in the future?

What changes do you believe need to be made at Branch and National level to ensure your branch is still active in the future?

Appendix 3- Events and Activities:

Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme Questionnaire: Does RWNZ strengthen rural communities? (Events)

My name is Fiona Gower and I am a RWNZ member and was the fortunate recipient of a place on this year's Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme. As part of this course, I am researching on the impact of RWNZ in the communities they serve

The purpose of the survey is to find out about the activities and events RWNZ members have been involved in that help rural communities in some way, and what they achieve.

This questionnaire should take about 20 minutes to complete. I recognise that your time is important and have kept the questions to a minimum. Your answers will be combined with other responses, and no individual response and no individual respondent to this questionnaire will be identified in any report. If a branch or provincial would like to be part a feature on what branches do for their local communities, please fill this form in and indicate you would like to take part.

We hope that you will answer the questionnaire in an honest and frank manner. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and your investment of time.

Please email the completed questionnaire to fionaandterry@xnet.co.nz or post to:

Fiona Gower

600 Waikaretu Rd

RD5

Tuakau 2695

Ph/ Fax 09 2320711

Please return by 20th June 2009

Have you attended or helped organise any RWNZ event or activity? Yes/ No

Event Details:

Where was it held?

When did it happen?

Who organised it? E.g. branch, provincial

What kind of activity/ event was it? E.g. structure, programme

Who was it aimed at?

Who attended and how many? Or how many people responded?

What was your involvement?

What was the reason behind staging the event/ activity?

On a scale of 1 (unsatisfactory) to 5 (excellent) how do you believe the event/ activity achieved what it set out to?

Please give your reasons:

Do you believe it strengthened the rural community? Yes/ No

If so, how do believe it was this achieved?

Other Comments:

N. B. Please don't feel that you need to select one event. If you have lots of activities as many branches will have that you would like to mention, please do. Branches may prefer to choose a few main events for this questionnaire, and then perhaps write a separate sheet with other activities that help their local communities.

Appendix 4: Non Members**Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme Questionnaire****Does RWNZ strengthen rural communities?**

My name is Fiona Gower and I am a RWNZ member and was the fortunate recipient of a place on this year's Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme. As part of this course, I am researching on the impact of RWNZ in the communities they serve

The purpose of the survey is to find out about how RWNZ achieves its aims and goals, and how much members and rural communities understand about the organisation.

This questionnaire should take about 20 minutes to complete. I recognise that your time is important and have kept the questions to a minimum. Your answers will be combined with other responses, and no individual response and no individual respondent to this questionnaire will be identified in any report.

Your help in making my project a success is much appreciated. I thank you in advance for your help and your time.

Please email the completed questionnaire to fionaandterry@xnet.co.nz or post to:

Fiona Gower
600 Waikaretu Rd
RD5
Tuakau 2695

Fax/ phone: 09 2329711

Please return by 20th June 2009

Non-members:

What do you know about RWNZ?

What is your perception of the organisation?

Have you considered or been asked to join before?

If so, what prevented you joining?

Please rank in order of importance to you (1= most important 4= least important) the 4 main policy areas for RWNZ: Education Health Land Use Social

What are your reasons?

What is your age group? (Please circle one) 20-30 30-40 40-50 50-60 60-70 70+

Would you be interested in joining or finding out more about RWNZ? Yes/ No

Why or why not?

What do you believe you would consider as a value for money membership subscription for RWNZ? (Please circle your answer)

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$70 \$100 other (please state)

What are the reasons for your answer?

If you did consider joining, please let us know what suits you for the following:

Meeting times

Activities

Type of meeting

Things you might like to learn about

Activities or skills you may like to share with others

Appendix 5:

Leptospirosis Background:

What is Leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis is an acute generalised infectious disease caused by *Leptospira* species. It is primarily a disease of wild and domestic animals, and humans are infected through direct or indirect contact with infected urine. It is the world's most common Zoonotic disease, and New Zealand's most commonly occupationally acquired infectious disease. Its incidence in New Zealand is high in comparison with other temperate developed countries. This is possibly due to our higher animal numbers, environmental factors, soil types and the effects of co-grazing species on our farms.

The main species, serovars in New Zealand that affect people are *Leptospira hardjo* and *Leptospira pomona*. In 2005, of the 67 of the 86 cases recorded, *L hardjo* accounted for 46 cases (69%), *L Pomona* 13 cases (19%), *L.ballum* 6 cases (9%) and *L.tarassovi* 2 cases (3%). *Hardjo* is the more prevalent spira as it is more host adaptive than the other spiras, so it will stay in the host longer, and so is shedded more, and so is found in higher levels in humans.

The disease is transferred by bacteria. The bacteria is shed in the urine of infected animals, such as sheep, cattle, deer, mice, rats, hedgehogs, possums and rabbits and infects people by entering the body through cuts & cracks in the skin and mucous membranes of the eyes, nose & mouth. Diseased animals are understood to shed more organisms than chronic carriers, so are more important sources of infection. In the farm situation, animals may continue to excrete the organisms for months if not years.

The disease is spread in water and mud contaminated with infected urine. Flooding and irrigation can be significant means of spreading the disease on farms.

Farmers, farm workers, vets, and meat workers are at highest risk from contact with infected urine or kidneys, and contaminated environments such as water and stored animal feed.

In people, the mildest form of leptospirosis is a minor flu-like sickness, but the severe form, which is the majority of cases, causes very serious symptoms, such as severe headaches, high fever, nausea, muscle pain, mood changes, jaundice, and kidney damage. The main organs affected are the kidneys, liver and lungs. About half the people with severe infection are hospitalised, and there can be permanent complications from kidney or liver damage. Really severe cases may lead to renal & respiratory failure and in some cases to death.

It takes a long time to recover, and infection can persist for a long time and is not cleared by immunity.

Diagnosis is not easy. Because clinical symptoms are flu-like, there is under reporting of the disease as the sufferer is reluctant to go to the doctor, and perhaps there is not awareness by the doctor of the risk of leptospirosis. A blood test is required to identify the disease, however there is an accuracy problem as the test looks for antibodies, which will not be present at the acute stage, when the disease has just started, they appear 2-3 weeks later, often as the symptoms are easing. However, effective treatment is available once leptospirosis is detected; this usually kills & removes the bacteria.

It is difficult to estimate the cost to the individual and to the nation, due to reasons such as; the under reporting of the disease, the variability of recovery time, which can be anything from 3-4 weeks to 6-8 months or longer, the amount of people requiring hospital treatment, and the duration times.

The average case results in 6 weeks away from work @\$25/hour for 40 hours per week = \$6000 per person in wages. On average each case requires \$1500 in direct medical costs, so an estimated cost of \$7500 per person, can be considered, so if there were 121 cases each year, as per 2008 it would cost in the vicinity of \$907,500 per year.

This is only the direct financial cost. It does not take into account extra financial costs to the person suffering, or to the family and friends of the person, and the other services used to help in rehabilitation. It also does not take in the physical and emotional costs to all those affected directly or indirectly by the disease.

Prevention of infection by humans can be increased by: protection from a urine contaminated environment, such as water, urine or stock feed. This can be achieved especially in meat processing plants by wearing protective clothing; or by the prevention of infection in animals that would contaminate the environment. This can be assisted by the use of vaccines, which are available for cattle, sheep, deer, pigs & pets. Vaccination needs to be begun in very young stock before being infected and annual doses repeated for it to be prevented, as once infected the vaccines reduce shedding, but do not remove the bacteria from the kidneys.

Personal hygiene also plays an important part, such as washing hands.

The Pilot Study:

This was undertaken at Silver Fern Farms Takapau plant, in the Central Hawkes Bay. The plant processes mainly lamb & mutton from November to June each year. Since 2006, bobby calves have also been slaughtered for a six week period in July & August. It employs about 780 staff at the peak time.

This pilot scheme consisted of a cross-sectional serological study involving blood sampling and interviews. It was done to determine the sero-prevalence of leptospirosis and the risk factors for sero-positivity amongst meat workers at this plant.

The first visits were to the plant in November 2007 to inform the staff of the proposed study and to find volunteers for testing. The response was pleasing to all, and there were 242 out of about 700 tested in February and March 2008. Workers from all areas of the meat works were included, including those in less exposed areas, such as the cutting floor and boning room.

Each volunteer was blood sampled and interviewed at the same time. Questions covered included potential exposures at work such as the length of time worked, the position at the plant and the use of personal protective gear. Other factors were included in the questions such as age, other exposure to livestock, through work or leisure, or contact with wildlife.

The blood samples taken were tested for sero-prevalence (the presence of some form of leptospirosis serovars, meaning some level of infection).

All data was treated in confidence, and participants were notified of their serum blood test results within two to three weeks of sampling. Most (92%) consented to having an independent occupational physician receive a copy of the results to ensure medical advice and follow up for sero-positive workers.

Results showed that of the 242 workers tested, 23 (9.5%) showed positive titres to either Pomona (13 positives) or Hardjobovis (9 positives) or both (1 positive). Twenty three workers reported a previous leptospirosis infection between one & thirty five years ago. And fourteen of these (58%) had positive titres in this current study. The workers had a high level of compliance with the use of protective clothing. Workers were well aware of the requirements to use gloves, glasses and face masks while working in a potentially exposed environment, and reported they did so, and this was confirmed by investigator observation

Significant risk factors for sero-positivity were the position of work in the plant, ethnicity, and home killing. The highest risk was associated with position on the chain, with those that work in the stunning area having 85.21 times the odds of being sero-positive when compared to those in the processing area or yard, followed by those in the gutties- kidney area (53.21 times the risk), then slaughter board end (22.84 times the risk). The study shows a concerning factor that those at the high risk area of stunning do not wear the face masks that those in the gutties-kidney section must, even though they were exposed to urine from the animal's fleece and urination at the time of stunning.

Most cases of leptospirosis reported have been of the Hardjobovis serovar, but the study showed more positive and generally higher titres to Pomona, it accounted for 58% of the positive titres in this study.

This study analysed only the two main serovars, Hardjobovis and Pomona, this may have led to an underestimation of the true sero-prevalence. The serovar Ballum, traditionally associated with rodents in New Zealand, was responsible for 19% of human cases in 2007, and Copenhageni, has been shown that it can act as a sporadic host in deer, so both of these could have possible transmissions from livestock, and lead to infection.

After this study was completed and the results analysed, and as it was just one plant, the researchers recommended that the survey be extended, and the study be a baseline for other occupationally exposed groups involving other livestock species, such as in slaughter houses as well as groups such as farmers and farm workers, veterinarians, and technicians.

2009 sees the start of further testing, beginning with the retesting of the Takapau plant from April 2009, as well as other processing plants around the country, to further investigate the risks to the workers.

A number of other studies are to get under way in the near future, such as going on to farms which have had cases of leptospirosis reported in workers, farmers, or others who have been on the property. This is to see the factors that could cause the infection, including wild animals.

Another part of the study is to see why the numbers of beef cattle infected are up, whether it could be caused by grazing mixed species (i.e cattle and deer) in the same paddocks, whether the increased movement of stock has caused increased infection, or whether the awareness is a lot higher than in the past. The sustainable farming fund has been applied to for the study of whether vaccination of other stock can help decrease the incidence of leptospirosis in sheep, rather than having the expense of vaccinating of sheep, which farmers cannot see the benefits of.

The Massey University veterinary laboratory is looking at and comparing tests for leptospirosis, including the ones for different strains and serovars, to find quicker, easier and more accurate tests, especially for humans.

At present, there is no quick or cheap test for animals, so it is not viable to test livestock before slaughter so workers know which are mobs that are infected, so

there is no benefit in this, so the prevention of the disease by vaccinating young stock on farm, so they are not infected coming into the works, and increasing the awareness of workers on how to avoid the dangers of things such as urine splashes still seem the most viable way if avoiding the infection of humans.

The study will benefit New Zealand, especially rural communities by showing the evidence of the risks of infection, leading to policies and guidelines being produced, as well as the awareness of the disease. The diagnostic tests being worked on will aid in the more accurate reporting of leptospirosis.

Also on farms, farmers, workers, their families and indeed visitors need to be aware of the disease and practices to minimise infection of stock and of humans.

History:

During the 1970's Leptospirosis was mainly the concern of dairy farmers and pig farmers and was at very high rates, peaking at 875 cases reported in 1974. New Zealand was the country with the highest incidence of leptospirosis notified per year. In 1979, 3000 workers were tested, 30% of dairy and pig workers showed evidence of previous infection, compared with 10% of meat inspectors and 5% of meat workers, the majority of occupationally acquired leptospirosis in the meat industry was from handling infected pigs or carcasses.

In the 1980's it was still considered the occupational disease of people who milked cows, with 34% of dairy farmers tested having the antibodies associated with leptospirosis infection.

In February 1984, a leptospirosis awareness week was launched with radio programmes featuring "Lepto Losers"- case studies from sufferers from Hamilton, as well as a TV programme. At the same time, farm visits, phone calls, farm meetings and discussion groups were help to raise awareness of this disease.

In 1988, 72-83% of infection of workers in meat works was from pigs, the balance occurred from handling cattle at home. No figures were available on deer then.

RWNZ, then known as WDFE initiated a fundraising campaign in the 1970's-1980's for research into vaccination and management regimes for the control of leptospirosis in pigs and dairy cattle. Between the years of 1984 and 1988 helped raise approximately \$150,000. This money assisted in the publication of 57 leptospirosis research papers by Massey University.

The research and resulting vaccination programme introduced for dairy cattle and pigs, and the educational campaigns put in place contributed to a significant drop in the notified cases in humans from 875 in 1974 to fewer than 200 in the 80's.

Now, most dairy cows are vaccinated for leptospirosis (estimated 90%), and pigs also are encouraged to be vaccinated, with major pig processing plants not accepting stock from properties which cannot produce a vaccination certificate.

However, very few beef cattle, deer, or sheep are vaccinated; even though the research done shows that there is a higher presence (83% of deer herds tested in early 2000's showed evidence of infection) that realised.

The statistics of cases over the years shows the shift in the people most at risk from leptospirosis. It has gone from a disease of dairy farmers to one which puts meat processing industry workers at high risk. In 2005, of the 82 cases where occupation was recorded, 39 (47.6%) worked in the meat processing industry, and 36 (43.9%) were farmers, farm workers or stock truck drivers.

The highest regional incidence of notified cases has been in the Hawkes Bay with figures of 13.1 per 100,000 in 2004, and 8.4 per 100,000 in 2005, compared to the national figures of 2.3 and 2.1 respectively. So this area has become an area of

interest to agencies such as Department of Labour and ACC. There are a number of possibilities for these higher figures: possibly due to the number of processing plants in this region; and that the doctors are more aware of the disease and so know to look for it. It must be noted that there was a doubling of the rate of Leptospirosis in humans between 2007 and 2008, going from 66 in 2007, to 121 in 2008. This may be partly due to increased awareness of the disease and the higher reporting rate. In 2007, a meat worker died of leptospirosis, and as there had been an increase in the numbers of meat workers contracting the disease, in 2007, 47% of notifications were from the meat processing industry. This led to RWNZ reviving the fundraising campaign to help fight this disease at their National Conference in Rotorua in 2007. This was a one year fundraising campaign to raise funds for Massey University's Faculty of Veterinary Science to continue their research into the disease. It was also an awareness campaign to highlight the disease.

There were many branch, provincial and regional projects and initiatives as well as individual donations, which raised \$107,500 for the research, and helped raise awareness of further risk factors of the disease, which many people were totally unaware of.

The money raised is helping pay for two doctorate students at Massey University, who are involved in a co-operative study between Massey University's Epicentre and meat company Silver Fern Farms

Rural Women New Zealand:

Strengthening Rural Communities

RWNZ for Dummies and New Members

Fiona Gower

Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme 2009

RWNZ For Dummies (and new members)!!

How many times have you sat at a meeting as a new member, whether a RWNZ one or any group, and had those around you talking in acronyms and terms that mean very little to you, but to them it is second language? You sit in silence not wanting to ask what it is all about, thinking it is better to sit in silence and appear a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.

At RWNZ we welcome you to ask the questions if there is something you are unsure of- we have all been there, and many of us are still learning as we go.

This little pamphlet is designed to help a little by giving you a brief description about who RWNZ is and the main RWNZ terms, so hopefully you will feel more comfortable about taking part and getting involved.

Mission Statement: Strengthening Rural Communities

Vision: The leading organisation that enriches rural communities for all New Zealanders

Goals: To become

- The leading rural organisation with a strong committed membership, working for strong sustainable rural communities
- The respected voice of rural New Zealand families and communities because RWNZ understands and addresses social economic and environmental aspects of rural communities
- A resource partner for rural development initiatives
- A financially sustainable organisation

Values: RWNZ and its members are-

- Forward thinking
- Focussed
- Flexible
- Professional
- Inclusive

Activities: - Advocating for rural communities

- Keeping communities informed on rural issues
- Fun, friendship and lots of great activities
- Practical skills, workshops and leadership training
- Bursaries, scholarships and grants
- Homecare services through Access Homehealth Ltd

Main Policy Areas: -Education

- Health
- Land Use
- Social

National Office:

Address: 30 Hawkestone St,
P O Box 12-021
Thorndon
Wellington

Phone: 04 473 5524 0800 2 JOIN RWNZ (0800 256 467)

Fax 04 472 8946

Email: enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz

Website: www.ruralwomen.org

History: The first meeting was held in Wellington in July 1925, when some wives of Farmers Union delegates met in the Tudor room at the D.I.C. They met and discussed the conditions under which many farming women live. And so the WDFU Women's Division Farmers Union was formed. By the first conference in 1926, there were 100 members. By 1950, there were approximately 25000 members and 650 branches.

In 1946, the name was changed to Wdff (Women's Division Federated Farmers). And again there was a name change in 1999 to RWNZ (Rural Women New Zealand). This was done as there was a common misconception that Wdff was part of Federated Farmers, which it has never been, and also to encourage any women with an interest in rural to join, not just those farming.

In 2009 there are about 300 branches with approximately 4000 members.

Terms:

Access Homehealth- A nationwide community based not for profit organisation wholly owned by RWNZ, and one of New Zealand's home health care organisations. It was established in 1926 back in the days of the Wdff Bush Nurses and Home Care scheme.

When Wdff became RWNZ in 1999, the Homecare scheme was rebranded as Access Homehealth, and has grown to a reputed national provider of home based support.

Services provided include: domestic assistance, personal care, child care, assessment services, meal preparation, carer relief, sleepovers, shopping and housekeeping.

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)- The largest organisation in the world for rural women, active in over 70 countries. Its aims are to raise the standard of rural women and families, provide practical support for members, support educational opportunities for women & girls, and give rural women a voice at international level. RWNZ has been involved with ACWW since 1933. Membership is either as an individual or as a group. "Pennies for friendship" are the main source of income.

Associate Member- Someone who is interested in RWNZ's activities and purpose, but does not wish to be a participating member, does not have voting rights.

Bar of Honour-Branch/ Provincial- may be awarded to a member who has given loyal and willing service to RWNZ, by resolution of the Branch or Provincial.

Branch, or Group- A group of members who regularly meet under the name of RWNZ, and share a common interest in helping strengthen rural communities.

Branch/ Group Member- Someone that has paid a sub to a branch or group. A member can belong to any number of branches, but can only hold office and have voting rights in one branch only.

Buff Book- This booklet is sent out to Branches and Provincials before National Conference- it contains the following for Conference: the Agenda; the list of members of National Council; all annual reports for Regions, Portfolios, International and other groups where RWNZ has a representative; any remits for National Conference; at the end it contains a list of National Life Members, National Members of Honour and RWNZ Service Award Holders.

Bursaries and Grants- Available to both members and non members. These are secondary and tertiary bursaries, study grants, and grants for community based projects. See the RWNZ website or the RWNZ info pack for complete details.

Business Directory- Found on the RWNZ website. This is a free service to RWNZ members to list their business on. Sections are: accommodation and tourism; business, training and professional services; arts and crafts, retailers, manufacturers and distributors; rural services, landscaping and horticulture, livestock

Competitions- There are a number of these for RWNZ members that are competed for by an individual or a branch holder, and either run at or awarded at National Conference. These include public speaking, short story writing, craft and activity reports. The competitions and guidelines for each are found on the RWNZ website.

Constitution- The set of rules that RWNZ must abide by. The only way to change a rule is by a remit to the AGM at National Conference

Corporate/ Non Government Organisation (NGO) Member- A new type of membership for any corporation or NGO that has an interest in RWNZ activities and purposes. They do not have any voting rights.

Coins for Friendship- see Pennies for Friendship.

Creed- The Women's Creed that RWNZ uses. It is recited at branch and provincial, as well at conferences. It is the base for RWNZ values.

Express- A relatively new magazine put out quarterly by RWNZ it is an internal newsletter aimed particularly at members, including news from branches and members and information from council meetings, national campaigns etc.

Financial Year – National- 1st January – 31st December
 Branch/ Provincial- 1 October- 30 September
 Annual Subscription covers 1st January- 31st December

Harris Cottage- A holiday cottage on the Whangaparoa peninsular that was available for rent to members and non members, although members got a special rate.

However, with the special ballot held, the decision to sell was made. So the cottage recently been sold in September 2009.

Honda House- A bed and breakfast villa in Wellington located next to National Office. It is available to anybody, but members get a special rate. With the special ballot held it is to be sold at the appropriate time, but it is business as usual for it.

Individual Member- A person who does not belong to a branch, by choice, or because there is not a branch near them, but wants to belong to RWNZ.

Info Pack- A pack that contains much of the information a member or branch needs to operate. It contains terms of reference, guidelines, bursary and grant information, forms, competitions, and other items. It is available as a hard copy or it is all on the RWNZ website.

International- Mainly involved with our relationship with ACWW, as well as other international matters that relate to rural women. It covers such things as the Country of Study, International Day of Rural Women and other matters such as the International year of Natural Fibres (2009) and the Potato (2008).

International Officer- Provincial- Co-ordinates International matters between the Provincial and National Office. Duties include encouraging the participation of members in observance of International Days, competitions such as the Cora Wilding Trophy, and supporting the Coins for Friendship Fund.

-National- To oversee all International matters pertaining to RWNZ, especially in relation to ACWW. To co-ordinate reports from Provincial Officers for sending a report to ACWW Headquarters of activities by RWNZ members, and include International information in general mail outs to RWNZ members. To encourage on a national scale all members to take an interest in International matters and to encourage observation of the International Day of Rural Women. To ensure where possible a RWNZ delegation attends ACWW South Pacific and the Triennial World Conferences
To help choose topics for the Cora Wilding Trophy and the Country Of Study.

Enterprising Rural Woman Award (ERWA) - A new initiative from National Office to celebrate the skills and diversity of rural women entrepreneurs and business women, and to promote RWNZ to these potential members. It designed to be awarded to an outstanding rural business women running her own enterprise. It was first awarded in 2009.

Liaison Group- See Regional Liaison Group

Life Member- Branch/ Provincial- May be awarded for outstanding service to RWNZ by resolution of the Branch or Provincial

- National- Awarded by National Council in recognition of especially outstanding services to the organisation, mainly reserved for retiring National Presidents, or those who have given a huge contribution at National level such as Finance Chairman for maximum term.

Linking Meeting- These are held between provincials within a certain part of a region. It will not be for the whole region. They are designed to get these provincials networking and swapping ideas.

Member- Any person who has paid an annual subscription to RWNZ.

National Conference- Held annually in May, usually in alternate islands and differing regions. It consists of the AGM and business sessions, awards, networking and socialising, workshops, speakers, etc. A good chance for members from all over to get together.

National Communications Officer- The person at national office in charge of publications, marketing, member services, journalism and media

National Council- This is made up of the National President, National Finance Chairman and the seven National Councillors. This meets quarterly plus brief meetings pre & post Conference, plus conference calls when necessary.

National Councillor- Each of the seven regions has an elected National Councillor, elected by the Region, who can serve up to 4 terms of 2 years each.

National Executive- This is made up of the National President, National Vice President and National Finance Chairman. Only called in an emergency.

National Executive Officer- Is in charge of advocacy, policy, human resources, management, etc

National Finance Chairman- Oversees and is responsible all financial matters for RWNZ, such as budgets, investments and accounts and is ex officio on all National-based committees. Must have served on National Council before taking this role, and can serve for 3 terms of 2 years.

National Member of Honour- Normally presented to those who have served nationally in some form, e.g. National Councillors.

National Office- Located in Hawkestone St, Wellington. It houses the paid staff and what is necessary to run the organisation and where council meetings etc are held.

National President- Must have served in National Council for at least one year, and may hold the office for 3 years.

Pennies for Friendship- The main money earner for ACWW, now often known as Coins for Friendship. These are donated voluntarily by RWNZ members at individual, Branch, Provincial, and National level and sent to ACWW.

Pink Book- This booklet is sent out to Branches and Provincials before National Conference. It contains the following for Conference: Finance Chairman's report, Honda, Harris Cottage, Scotlands- Te Kiteroa, and Access Homehealth reports and

all finance papers (balance sheets, Income and Expenditure, Investments, etc). Often it lists the number of members in each Region.

Policy Areas- Education- Includes school transport, early childhood, primary, secondary schooling, Correspondence School, tertiary and special education.

Health- Includes rural health services adult health, agricultural health and safety, public health, mental health, genetic modification, older persons, disability, maternity services and child health.

Land Use- Includes agriculture, alternative rural enterprises, energy, environment and conservation, genetic modification, forestry, telecommunications, transport and roading, local government.

Social- Includes access to services, women and the law, income support, social welfare, family and the law, violence and abuse, consumer rights and standards, privacy, human rights.

Provincial- A group of branches/ groups within a boundary, they meet quarterly.

Rapid Response Team- Any member can be a part of this team, as long as they have access to email. The National Executive Officer sends out items she needs feedback on for submissions, or something that may need acting upon, and it is up to the team to respond with their stories or impressions.

Region- An area made up of branches/groups, provincials, individual members and associate members, there are seven regions in RWNZ, each with an elected National Councillor.

Regional Conference- These are held within each Region either annually or biannually, depending on the Region. They consist of such things as business sessions, speakers, workshops, networking and socialising.

Regional Consulting Group (RCG)- the old name for what is now known as the Regional Management Team.

Regional Development Officer (RDO)- A paid employee of RWNZ. Each Region has funding for a number of hours per week, etc for this role. The aim of the RDO is to attract new members and lift the profile of RWNZ.

Regional Liaison Group- Liaison- Designed to act as a link between Access Homehealth and the communities. They are elected or nominated groups within a region who are responsible for the allocation of funds for charitable purposes and to assist Access Homehealth concerns within the region. They also support a wide range of community projects through their grants. Mostly meet twice a year.

Regional Management Team (RMT)- An elected or nominated group of members who assist their National Councillor with the Regional Year plan and regional activities and are responsible for consulting with members. It is a sub-committee of National Council. Its purpose is to extend RWNZ horizons, initiate new approaches to RWNZ activities and increase RWNZ membership. Members may serve three consecutive terms of two years. Mostly meet twice a year, once to set the Region's plan for the year.

Remit- Constitutional- Any remit covering a matter relating to the RWNZ Constitution, can only be brought up every second year.

-General- A remit covering any topic not constitutional, can be brought up any year.

Rural Bulletin- Printed by MAF until 2006, then RWNZ began publishing it due to the outcry at its cessation. It aims to provide rural people with an opportunity for informed decision making and to enable them to have a say on issues that affect them. It is a free publication eleven times a year and is accessed by a wide range of groups. The information it contains includes: discussion papers, new Government policies, business, environmental and financial matters, transport, safety and education information, information for charitable organisations, opportunities for funding and networking, and some information not found elsewhere. However, there is a shortfall in the cost of publication, which is covered by RWNZ. This is not sustainable, so other solutions are being sought, or the organisation may have to think seriously about ceasing its publication.

Rural Women- This is a quarterly journal that is broad based, with features, guest columns, book reviews and RWNZ news items. It is read by members and many other organisations with whom we have regular contact.

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) - Our great organisation.

Scotlands Te Kiteroa Trust- Two of the WDFP rest homes, Scotlands and Te Kiteroa were sold in 1980 and the money lent to the Scotlands Te Kiteroa WDFP Charitable Trust, set up in 1982. It provides the Charitable Status RWNZ requires. It provides grants each year for projects and activities taken on by individuals, groups and communities.

Service Award- May be awarded to a member who has given faithful service to RWNZ

Subscription- A sum determined by National Conference and paid annually by members.

Annual subscription covers the period 1st January – 31st December.

Website- This contains information about RWNZ's campaigns, current issues, events, contacts, bursaries, accommodation, links to our publications and more. It has the RWNZ business directory on it. This is a free online listing for members to promote their enterprises. It also features a Members Only area with membership resources including the Info pack and Constitution

Wellington Experience- Held every February, it brings up to 3 members per region to Wellington to see National Office, meet with some government departments and other strategic partners to RWNZ. It has been designed for potential leaders. There

is also sessions on leadership etc, and gives an opportunity for networking amongst participants. It has been sponsored by Landcorp since its inception 18 years ago.

Women Alive! - A monthly RWNZ e-newsletter. It is designed to keep members updated with recent and upcoming events, news items, hot topics and updates on the four focus areas of health, education, land access and social issues.

Women's Division Federated Farmers (Wdff)- The name of the organisation between 1946 and 1999.

Women's Division Farmers Union (Wdfu)- The original name of the organisation when it was started in 1925 until 1946.

Women in Agribusiness (Wag) – Groups set up along the same lines as the WIF groups, for anyone interested in any agribusiness, such as horticulture, small block holders, etc.

Women in Farming (Wif) - Set up in 2002, with the aim of facilitating sheep and beef discussion groups for rural women. The group came under the umbrella of RWNZ in 2006 to provide a legal identity for funding purposes and to provide an established administrative structure. Designed to provide practical learning opportunities for those actively working on farm, as well as a social network. Some are working independently, others are combining WIF and RWNZ activities.

Yearbook- This has been the annual publication, highlighting a snapshot of some of the key events that were held in the regions and nationally throughout the past year. This is a high quality publication featuring winning images from the yearbook photo competition. It was decided that the 2008 would be the last yearbook.