

WI NEWS TE PĀNUI

Issue 10 July 2026

Founder: Miss A.E. Jerome Spencer
OBE, Homemaking, Co-operation
and Citizenship.

Patron: Her Excellency the Rt Hon.
Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO,
Governor General of New Zealand.

President: Suzanne Bannister
Chair – Mealing Estate Trust, Chair
– Barbara Wood Memorial Trust

Theme: Reconnect & Rediscover Project: Involvement in Your Community
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Committee Members

Sue Clark

Vice President, Honorary
Secretary and Barbara Wood
Trustee

Kay Brabender

Vice President, Handcraft
Officer and Barbara Wood
Trustee

Lynnette Beirne

Handcraft Officer, Mealing
Estate Trustee and Assistant to
Honorary Finance Officer

Helen Cameron

Honorary Finance Officer and
Barbara Wood Trustee

Bank account numbers:
The New Zealand Federation of
Women's Institutes
03-0518-0013797-000

Barbara Wood Memorial
Foundation
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Mealing Estate Trust
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Meaning behind Te Pānui

To announce, notify, advertise,
publish, proclaim.

Important Dates

2026

August – Medical Research Fund

September –Sustainability Month

October – WI Awareness Month

November - International Month

December – End of financial year



**Supporting the conservation of our
history**

President's Report

Dear Members,

Welcome to my first report as your National President.

I would like to introduce and welcome your National Executive Committee.

Helen Cameron is Honorary Finance Officer, with Lynnette Beirne to assist her. Sue Clark is Vice President, Honorary Secretary, and Te Panui editor. Kay Brabender is Vice President, Handcraft Officer, with Lynnette to assist.

Thanks goes to Colleen who continues running the National Office.

We thank the previous team of Jude, Adrienne and Jess for all their work over the past two years.

Also, the AGM team for the organisation of 105th AGM in Christchurch.

This is where your brand-new NEC committee began!

At the beginning of July, we all met for the first time. We did not know each other at all, so the first evening we began to discover a little bit about each other.

**“You need to know the person before you know the worker.
We can then work together as a Team!”**

Then on Thursday it was down to business at the office in Brandon Street.

A challenge for us all. Firstly, we had to organise our NEC Roles.

Our Liaison areas were sorted out. So, you should hear from your NEC member soon.

We have thought and talked about a Survey/Poll for members to tell us what support is needed in our communities. What WI can do to be involved? This has been sent out to members.

Please discuss these questions at your meetings. Send your comments and thoughts into the national office by 31st August.

We need to know what our members want! We want to be able to get out in our communities and become more visual! We want ideas for a national project to get WI publicity in your communities! We need to gain more members!!

We need your ideas and support. We Need You!!!

There were discussions about our 106th AGM in Gisborne, already. Dates are Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th May 2027. There is to be a dinner on the Tuesday evening.

What about the Challenge Trophy, yes, it is happening on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd February 2027 in Whangarei. More details to follow.

Our thoughts go out to those regions that have had a battering with the adverse weather events recently. Close to home, our farm has slips with fences and tracks damaged. In Northern Hawkes Bay, South Wairarapa, Marlborough, Kaikoura, North Canterbury and Otago there has been substantial damage to infrastructure and on farms. We know that it is going to take a lot of work, money and time, to recover from this. Then, after all the flooding and slips, there have been earthquakes!

Stay safe and take care out there. It is still very slippery and there are lots of falls happening with bruising and broken bones.

Keep warm. It is nice to see the sunshine, which is slowly drying up the soggy ground.

Yours in WI Friendship

Suzanne Bannister
National President

Office News

Kia ora koutou

Another Annual General Meeting over and another new National Executive Committee. This time with more members to share the load at the national level. An NEC newsletter was sent out to all members with an email address on our database on 13 July. Please share this with those who cannot either download or access the internet.

Feedback from members has been requested from the NEC as they look to meet the needs of the members as well as raising the profile of the WI. Please ensure you get your response into the office (exec@wi.org.nz) by 31 August. This has also been sent out via the database listing.

A few federation newsletters still have the previous theme and project in their heading. The theme for 2026-2028 is 'Reconnect and Rediscover' and the project is 'Involvement in Your Community'.

When paying invoices – please quote the invoice number in your payment as this makes it clear what your payment is for.

Remember to promote the photo book 'Women, Home & Country' at your local level. We have many more books in storage which can be accessed by you going into your local bookstore and requesting a copy using the ISBN number

978-1-991436-06-1

Thank you to those who purchased the book at the AGM in Christchurch. Our website showing all the Home & Country magazines (since 1929) plus photos, scrapbooks, national minutes and memorabilia is up and running. You can view these treasures at wi.recollectcms.com It is well worth a look.

Until next time Ka kite ano Colleen Dryden, Executive Officer

Financial Report

Hello Members

No doubt you have fires roaring and are enjoying a quieter time through the winter months.

I am your Honorary Finance Officer and Lynnette Beirne is my assistant - your financial team for the next two years.

You are aware that our audited financial statement for year ended 31st December 2025 was still outstanding at our AGM in May. Moore Markhams (our auditors) have advised that they intend to complete the audit by 31st July 2026. They have supported an extension with Charities Services as our annual return, with completed audit, was due on 30 June 2026.

Unfortunately, eight WIs/Federations have created this issue, so we have worked with them and Moore Markhams to have the issues resolved.

We have asked the question of WIs and federations if they use Xero. Our thinking is that this may help when it comes to filing your returns in January next year for the 2026 year. Many have already replied to Colleen, our Executive Officer, that they do use Xero so we will investigate this further. Please reply to Colleen if you have not already done so. We are endeavouring to make the filing of your returns smoother. At our meeting in Wellington Yolande Tsinavos, our account manager from Findex, explained in detail our draft CPR. It was very informative from both sides, and we are gaining a better awareness of our financial situation.

Do remember August is Medical Research Month, any support financially would be most appreciated. Ovarian Cancer Research is one of the 'secret' cancers that isn't talked about as much as it should be. Perhaps you can have speakers in that vein in August.

Keep warm

Helen Cameron, Honorary Finance Officer

Winds of Change on the West Coast

And so we move into April.... I don't know about you, but this year seems to be moving through at a great rate of knots, helped along maybe by a couple of cyclones and weather events generated in a further remote area of the world and chunked our way so we don't feel left out!!!

But the West Coast is very resilient, and we have probably had more than our fair share of fine days this summer/autumn. We are not complaining but one slightly overcast day in particular last month was spent demolishing the peace and tranquillity of Shantytown, our local historic village.



Wonderful Women's Institute had a combined 'big day out' celebrating our new look West Coast Area Group in our new look T shirts as we all gradually come to terms with the new approach to 'running the show' here.

It's not a particularly easy job reinventing yourself, and much discussion has been going on between a selected few on ways to approach the running of various competitions and displays that have been the backbone of Institute here for many a long year. With our reduced numbers there is not quite the intense competition between Institutes as once was (probably due to the fact that some no longer exist...) so now more collaboration is the preferred approach to ensure our place in the community is maintained.



We had a fun day, obviously taking photos in strategic places, and making use of various olde world

equipment left out round the village for patrons to play with...so we did! Arorangi made the most of the bar in the hotel (typical.) whilst several others had a dice with their luck at the gaming table.... (Just where is this 'institution' headed I ask...). Judy Wood couldn't resist a chat (which she is so good at!!!!) through the old phone box. Remember those phone books.... we had good arm muscles then!



Women in a group have so much fun and many laughs - it's good therapy! I'm hoping that as we work together running our Anne Stewart Rosebowl, and any craft days, that the underlying madness may diminish the idea of a lot of olds sitting knitting, and more young women will see the opportunity to break out of their daily routine. With so many stresses on today's young families it's good to show some light at the end of the tunnel.... could be interpreted as insanity do you think...!!

The West Coast Area Group is looking good, very enthusiastic about approaches to future events, and we even have some tech savvy members who are projecting plans ahead to give us goals to work towards. All positive stuff.

So here we go..... moon landings anyone!!!



100 Years Young



Durham WI (North Taranaki Federation) members enjoying a morning tea with Peggy- third from right

Peggy Topping has lived in Inglewood all her life. Peggy was a homemaker – as well as looking after her family she had a large vegetable and flower garden. She was very talented and would try her hand at anything. Painting, concreting, wallpapering, cake decorating, sewing, cooking, knitting and crocheting. She loved to do tramping, photography and travel overseas. Aside from her family, Women's Institute has played a big part in her life. Nowadays at nearly 100 years old Peggy still lives in her own home and her daily activities include maintaining her vegetable and flower gardens. Peggy passes the time away also doing crocheting. Over the past few years, she has donated many knitted items to the Durham WI to be passed onto worthy organisations. Peggy has recently received her 40-year Service Award.

Last week a little group of us were able to visit Peggy and had morning tea with her to celebrate this remarkable milestone. Would you believe that she is on no medication! We are very proud of her.

NZFWI Archives: Recollect Website

Have any of you visited the site after the presentation at the 105th AGM in Ōtautahi Christchurch?

Have you searched in the “Home and Country” editions to find that illusive recipe that you were looking for? Perhaps you know the names of the members in the many photographs?

Have you a story to share? Drop us a line to the Heritage email (address below) with your information. It will help us tremendously as we start our input of the metadata.

Over the last few years, several W.Is and federations have gone into recess, and their “Goods and Chattels” have been rehomed. If you have a record of where your Minute books, banner and any other precious items have been deposited (a local museum or library) please would you let us know via the Heritage email. We can then write this information up on Recollect for future reference.

The Recollect site is an exciting project and a significant resource of the NZFWI organisation. Having your input will ensure that we have the correct information about our archival historical records and data. The NZFWI continues to play an important part in society today throughout Aotearoa. We remain constant in supporting our communities as we have done over the decades. Having this dedicated Recollect platform enables us to share with the world – which is pretty amazing.

(Screenshot: part of the front page: <https://wi.recollectcms.com>.)

Heritage Team: Toni Brumby, Sue Clark, Vicki Meyer, Mary Reet and Jude Vaughan.

<https://wi.recollectcms.com>

Email: nzfw.heritage@gmail.com

A Little Piece on Japan

There is a road crossing in Tokyo where every time the lights change, about 3,000 people surge across with dizzying urgency. That is the entire population of Geraldine, unleashed in all directions every couple of minutes! There are queues for tourist sites, there are queues for food, there are queues for travel and there are queues for entertainment. This is possibly the most popular image of Japan, however there are places so secluded there are no people.

The landscape in Japan is rugged and mountainous with over 70% consisting of mountains, volcanic ranges and dense forest. One such place is the Nakatsu Gorge on the island of Shikoku where the only sound is of water- a river and waterfall. Check it out on the link below

<https://niyodoblue.jp/en/introduction/nakatsugorge.php>

Another peaceful spot, albeit popular, is an onsen. This is a traditional natural Japanese hot spring where pools are separated by gender and traditionally bathing suits are not encouraged (although tourists seemingly prefer wearing togs). You must shower before entering but it is to be noted that many onsens forbid tattoos.



So not all hustle and bustle in the country of 122.4 million people.

Sources: *The Post*, 20 July 2026; Google Nakatsu Gorge and onsens

Hokitika Fun Day



The Kokatahi/Kowhitirangi WI ladies recently hosted the West Coast Area Fun Day in Hokitika. This was attended by our neighbouring Buller Ladies as well as our Area WIs of Paroa and Arorangi. The Buller ladies showed dedication to get to the day as they had to divert through Reefton due to the Coast Road being closed with a slip.

The theme for the day was Head Adornments and Val Bowater from Paroa WI was the outright winner. (Top centre photo)

A shared lunch, lots of raffles and fun games made for a great day of friendship. To finish the day, we played the dress up game and everyone had to tell us a bit about themselves when they were chosen to select an item from the centre or steal from others' piles. The winners from the fashion parade at the end were the farm hands Judy Wood and Trish Creagh.