WI NEWS TE PĀNUI

Issue 11 September 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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Meaning behind Te Pānui

To announce, notify, advertise, publish, proclaim.

Important Dates

2026

September –Sustainability Month

October – WI Awareness Month

November - International Month

December – End of financial year

President's Report

Dear Members

Welcome to the first days of spring. Misty mornings which turn into sunny days. To daffodils, freesias, magnolias, rhododendrons, gamboling lambs, calves, ducklings. All signs of spring with new life and beginnings. We thank members who have replied to the NEC Survey. We will collate the answers and discuss them at our next meeting. The outcomes will be sent to members with ideas and projects to get into our communities and become more visual! The Challenge Trophy is on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd February 2027 in Whangarei.

At the end of July, I had the privilege to be invited to attend the Rural Women's Centennial Celebration finale morning tea at Government House. So, when going to Government House you need to clean your white rural car! The day before, after work, I sat in a queue for 40 minutes, so that I would have a shiny clean car. Then I drove home, well our rural road is often used as a laneway for some farmers taking stock to other parts of their farms further down the road. Our house is at the end, and there had been a mob of sheep and cattle very recently that used our road. Consequently, my white car was splattered!

It was a wet Wellington day, Past President Jude and I went along. What a lovely lot of happy, chattering ladies entering the gorgeous building, along the corridor to the ballroom. Such beautiful sparkling chandeliers. The room was set up with round tables with 8-10 places. You were met and told which table you were at. Lots of talking as rural women were catching up. I was introduced to the Rural Women National President Heather Sorenson, National Council of Women National President Suzanne Manning and Federated Farmers Vice President Sandra Faulkner. It felt pretty inspiring to meet these leading ladies of other women organisations, each table had one of the chairs that had been embroidered by NZFWI, Rural Women and local needlework groups across New Zealand areas back in 1951. Women were busy looking for their town or area chair. The tables had tiered plates ready for the High tea. There were introductory speeches. Dame Cindy Kiro spoke and welcomed us all. She then went to every table, sat down and talked briefly to everyone at the table. Lots of networking was going on. Ladies from all around New Zealand. A very memorable day, for my first official outing as your National President.

Since July there continues to be lots of work going on to learn about our organisation and our NEC roles. We have had a zoom meeting. Two newsletters have been sent out. We are endeavouring to keep in touch with our members. We have all been in contact with our liaison areas either by phone or email. Our areas are on the NZFWI website on the Members Page. Please be in contact with your NEC member if you have any queries, concerns, or suggestions. They will get in touch with you as soon as possible. We are here for you. We need to know what is happening out there.

There are lots of influenzas. pneumonias, and other illnesses around at the moment, causing staff shortages in workplaces, and schools. Affecting the elderly right down to children. Remember to keep warm and keep your fluids up.

Time is not measured,

by the years that you live,

but by the deeds that you do,

and the joy that you give

Yours in WI Friendship

Suzanne Bannister

National President



EO Report

Kia ora koutou

The 2027 diaries are under development and will be sent out as soon as they have been finalised. There will be no increase in price where possible although the cost of postage has gone up this year.

Our Consolidated Performance Report has finally been audited and was sent to Federation Presidents and WI Presidents, where there is no federation. It is also on the Members' page of our website under the 105th AGM papers.

There have been many celebrations of long-standing federations and WIs over this year. 90 years ago, WIs were being set up all over the motu(country) to cater for women in predominantly rural communities who gathered to share with others. Congratulations to those who have celebrated / are celebrating a significant milestone year. I attended the South Taranaki Federation celebration of 90 years with the NEC and enjoyed being under the mountain on a beautiful spring day (with the delicious (and I mean it) smell of silage on the air!).

The NEC survey was well received and there will be comment regarding the outcome after the NEC have had time to read the numerous responses. It is turning into an over 50-page document.

Finally, as we move into daylight saving, we can look forward to later sunsets and perhaps a BBQ or two. Enjoy your WI friends and meeting times.

Until next time- ka kite

Colleen Dryden, NZFWI Executive Officer

Financial Report

Hello Members

And yet another month has flown by. I am delighted to report that we have received the Audited Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2025. We were required to request another extension to 31 August, which was met with the signing of the required documents. We are working to put actions in place, so this does not happen again this year. But we must all work together to ensure this. We are very indebted to our Past Honorary Finance Officer, Adrienne Allen who continued to work three extra months to get us over the line and to complete the due process.

We have contracted Brenda Bolland from Hokitika to work with us as Frances did last year to collate all financial information from treasurers before being passed onto our accountants. We are hoping that this year will be more streamlined as the Federations and WIs have a better grasp of what is required if an audit is requested. Yes, some of the Federations and Institutes will be chosen again. That is always beyond our control. Brenda has had a broad financial accounting background during her working life and has been a contract consultant for large companies working remotely for some of these roles. As

she is a new member of the Kokatahi-Kowhitirangi WI, she may have a better grasp of who we are and what we do, so this should help her understand our organization. I am very grateful to our Assistant Finance Officer, Lynnette Beirne who has helped with contracting Brenda for this role.

Two points I would like you to consider action now is to check that you have suitable invoices on hand that have been given to you and or dockets for reimbursement to members, which clearly show who it is from and what has been spent. Also, to scan your signed minutes each month, so in the event that you are one of the 'chosen' WI's or Federations to be audited, then you are ready to go.

Our plan is for information to come in quarterly, so there is no mad rush at the end of the year. We will be in touch very soon to advise you of what we need to help Brenda begin collating the finances. Yes, we will be on catch-up this year, but we envisage a streamlined process from 2027.

Yours in WI friendship

Helen Cameron, Honorary Finance Officer

Handcraft Report

Hello Members,

The response from members has been wonderful with regards to suggestions for future Conference / AGMs. Thank- you for sending them in. There have been a number of queries about the Edna Way cup - Knitted Knockers. The Official pattern that members have asked for can be found at www.knittedknockers.org.

A copy of the pattern would have been put in this issue of Te Panui, however, it is 3 pages long.

The theme "Four Seasons" is to contain all the seasons - not just one or two.

The waterfall greeting card finished size includes the 'pull cord'

Don't forget that you can get 10% discount from Ashford's until the end of the year. Any further queries don't be afraid to ask.

Kay Brabender & Lynnette Beirne

Members Contributions

Arorangi WI, West Coast Area

Arorangi WI celebrated a Pink Ribbon Breakfast on Friday 22 May at our member Chris Black's home. Fourteen members were up early to join together and raise money for this worthwhile cause. Pink was the colour of the day and members enjoyed fresh fruit salad with an array of cereals. Our host Chris made delicious Danish pastries, and we enjoyed croissants with cheese and ham. We finished this off with a cup of tea/coffee/fruit juice.

A wonderful way to start the day and over $500.00 was raised, for Breast Cancer



Arorangi Members looking pretty in pink



Annette Smith & Erin Williams deciding what to have for their breakfast

Riverlea WI, South Taranaki Federation

Riverlea WI, enjoyed an outing and lunch at Opunake organised by our hostesses, Roberta and Catherine on Wednesday 5 August. We visited The Beatles DOWNunder Museum and had fun on Abbey Road. Then, we had some free time around the shops before lunch at The Sugar Juice Cafe. Yummy food, great chance to catch up plus we were joined by three visitors - prospective new members fingers crossed!











Riverlea WI, South Taranaki held a Community Potluck tea on Friday 31t August at Riverlea Hall. We decided to bring back our popular pre-season event after letting it lapse during Covid - 'Reconnecting & Rediscovering' involvement in our community.

Invites were sent via text and into letterboxes. We had a good attendance despite some families being involved with sport and other activities. The multi-draw raffle for Medical Research was well supported. A lovely evening of shared food and banter.

Taumarere-Opua WI, Whangarei Federation

Taumamere-Opua W I held a cake stall for Cancer Foundation and raised a staggering $1,548.30.

Well done ladies great looking sponges (Ed)









South Taranaki Federation Tour

We had our tour of the new Cancer Centre at Taranaki Base Hospital and what an amazing building it is. Beautiful on the outside and spectacular inside, so elegantly presented, lots of lovely wood paneling, the artwork on the walls, the hanging light shade depicting Maui and his brothers and the healing power of water. We can be very proud of all our efforts in supporting this wonderful project. We were shown the $5.5 million Radiation Treatment Machine and all the movements it can make. The Chemotherapy Drip Stands we donated, the trolleys we paid for, and we were told how much the nurses appreciated these trolleys which make their jobs easier. We then went to the new East Wing and wow, what an eye-opening building that is. The reception area is amazing, again lots of wood paneling, and the artificial plants create a warm atmosphere. The stairs have had a few issues with elderly people having falls on them, so they are being altered for safety. The main entrances are spectacular and again we can all be very proud of this new building; it is a huge asset to Taranaki. There were 25 of us on the tour, Grant Carter from the Taranaki Health Foundation and Deena, the Taranaki Cancer Centre Manager, were very gracious hosts and made it a very special visit for all of us. We were joined by ladies from North Taranaki WI's, which made it even nicer. For those that wanted to go and couldn't, I am sure we can organise another visit as Grant and Deena are keen to show as many people as possible through this building.









North Canterbury Federation of Women's Institutes 2026 Craft Day

Our Craft Day was held on 16th July at the Woodend Methodist Church Hall. Twenty-two ladies gathered to have a go at various crafts. We had tutors teaching waterfall cards, decorative tassels, Tunisian crochet and crochet mice. In the afternoon Verina Thirlwell and Rachael Hannah came to show the ladies patchwork cushions and English paper patchwork. Some of our members stepped in as tutors for this successful day. Joan Quigley (Kainga WI and Pegasus Woodend WI) taught how to make her crochet mice, Raylene Page (Kainga WI) taught the basics of Tunisian crochet, Carole Giles (Masons Flat Hawarden WI) on behalf of our tutor Linda Tayles, who was unavailable on the day, taught decorative tassels and Tania Dickman taught waterfall card making. We really appreciated the time that our tutors and demonstrators took in helping us have a go at some of the crafts that are part of the National Competition Schedule for 2027. Hopefully this will encourage members to enter for the Competition next year.

Raylene Page, President, North Canterbury Federation of WI



Clockwise from Left: Joan Quigley (centre seated) teaching crochet mice, Ladies having a go at Tunisian crochet, crochet mouse, decorative tassel and waterfall cards.

Wainuioru WI, Wairarapa Federation

Wainuioru WI members from Wairarapa Federation have been busy knitting TV Slippers.

With the help of some friends, we knitted 77 pairs. We took them along to Lakeview School Junior Syndicate in Masterton and distributed them. There were lots of happy faces with snuggly feet. We were not allowed to take full photos but enjoyed the fun organising the children into circles and taking photos of their happy feet. They were excited to receive their very own pair of slippers, so that they would have warm feet during the cold days.





From the Editor

Hi All,

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the Waimate Federation's Eisteddford. The following was read as a poem, converted from a song written in 1930 by a local Studholme farmer, Peter Hunter, whose wife was a CWI President. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

They have asked me to tell you a bit of a tale,

Well, it's not very short and it won't go stale,

They have asked me to tell you something that's new,

Well, then I say, I don't mind if I do.

In every district there's a CWI,

Where they run down their hubbies till the poor beggars cry.

Their stories they tell fairly beat the marines.

In fact, they are nothing but talking machined.

They meet every month to buy, swap or sell,

And when they are gathered their tongues go pell mell,

They put on great spreads at their afternoon teas,

While hubby's at home eating biscuit and cheese.

And then there's the visits they pay everywhere,

And chatter like parrots with those they meet there,

While hubby stays quietly home to save rows,

And when they get home, he has finished the cows.

Now pieces of string, I am sorry to say,

Tie up hubby's pants so they don't blow away,

While the wife is at Institute making a mat,

Which will mostly be used by old Tabby the cat.

Now institute ladies look round and you'll see,

Your hubbies are looking as henpecked as me.

They're frightened to speak, cos their mind's not their own,

You've got them subdued so they'll stay quietly home

Now all you poor fellows they call married men,

You can stay quietly home like an old clucking hen,

Darn socks and mend trousers and make apple pie,

While ladies are attending their CWI

All single men, please lend me your ear,

And I'll tell you something you're likely to hear,

If you want to stay happy the rest of your life,

Make sure you don't marry an institute wife.

A Japanese Dish to Delight

15-Minute Miso Butter Ramen for One



Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons (28 g) unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon (20 g) white miso paste
- 1 clove garlic, grated or finely minced
- 1 1/2 cups (360 ml) tap water
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 1 (3-ounce; 85 g) package. instant ramen noodles, seasoning packets discarded or saved for another use
- 1 medium baby bok choy (about 2 ounces; 60 g), cut into 1-inch pieces (1 cup)
- 1/2 teaspoon sweet chili sauce, plus more for serving, optional
- 1/2 teaspoon light brown sugar, optional
- Soft boiled egg for serving, optional
- Sliced spring onions for serving, optional

Method

1 In a 10-inch pan, melt butter over medium heat. Whisk in miso and garlic; cook, stirring constantly, until miso is smooth and garlic is fragrant, about 1 minute. Whisk in water and soy sauce and bring to a simmer.

2 Add ramen noodles and cook, stirring occasionally, until noodles are just softened, about 3 minutes.

3 Add bok choy (or other green vegetables) and cook, stirring occasionally, until bok choy is tender and sauce has thickened slightly to coat noodles, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in chili sauce and brown sugar, if using.4 Transfer to a large bowl. Top with the eggs and spring onions, if using. Drizzle with more chili sauce, if desired. *Credit: Serious Eats*

5 Enjoy!

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