

# Dairy Women's Network



## Annual General Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011

### Chair's Report on Year 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2011

Dairy Women's Network driving force is to elevate dairy women's skills and leadership presence in the New Zealand dairy industry through enhancing and empowering women.

Dairy Women's Network would not be able to achieve this without the valued support of our Prime Funder Dairy NZ, whose funding allows us to continue to deliver innovative learning events such as Dairy Days and to commit to connecting and inspiring women in dairying through our 23 Regional Groups.

We would like to Thank Mark Paine and the Dairy NZ team for their continued support of Dairy Women's Network.

Our Relationship with Prime Sponsor BNZ is going from strength to strength, with the opportunity to work alongside the BNZ team at Fieldays and to have dairy women in the regions to attend the BNZ " Women in Agribusiness " course's shows we share the passion for people and business.

DWN value the commitment from our stable of Network Partners; AgResearch, CRV AmBreed, CRS Software, Donaghy's, Meridian Energy, MSD Animal Health, Dairy Exporter and MilkHub. Without our Network Partners support we would not be able to continue to deliver learning and development pathways for women in dairying.

Thank you also to our Conference and Dairy Day sponsors', we appreciate your support.

There have been a number of changes in the Dairy Women's Network office over the past year, July 2010 Lynda Clark stepped down as General Manager after a seven years of leading the organisation and her team through significant growth.

Dr. Nita Harding joined us as full time General Manager in July, we wish to acknowledge the valued contribution Nita made to Dairy Women's Network in the time Nita was with Dairy Women's Network.

We were fortunate to have Lynda Clark join us again as Temporary General Manager from January until June 2011 whilst the Board went through the process of recruiting a CEO.

Lynda, we cannot thank you enough for the commitment and dedication you have given to Dairy Women's Network. We are fortunate to have Lynda stay with us as a Trustee.

We would also like to thank Mary Gough, Office Manager for her continued hard work, Jillian O'Neill, Marketing Manager who continues to add value to Dairy Women's Network through promoting our brand and strengthening the relationships with of Network Partners and sponsors.

Rachel Singh joined the team as Event Manager to help with the delivery of the "Cashbook to Cash flow" dairy days. With funding from Dairy NZ we were able to deliver 20 extra dairy days, these very successful dairy days were project managed by Lynda Clark, Thank you to Lynda and Rachel for ensuring these days were a huge success.

This year we were fortunate to secure funding from Dairy NZ to employ a National Convener Support person, Fiona Heberley from Masterton has been working closely with the 23 Regional Convener's and Co-Conveners over the

past twelve months supporting the conveners in their role as volunteers in their dairying communities.

Thanks must go to Cathy Seal who continues to support the email network.

Marie Marshall from Balclutha was appointed to the DWN Board in October 2010, Marie's contribution to the Board as Chair of Audit & Risk has been invaluable. As part of the boards succession planning we have recently appointed Robyn Judd from Oamaru, we look forward to working with Robyn as a Trustee. Both Marie and Robyn have been Regional Conveners in their areas.

Sadly this year we farewell one of our founding Trustees, Christina Baldwin. Christina has brought a wealth of wisdom & knowledge to the Board table and has been an outstanding mentor for many Trustees and dairy women.

The Board have continued to focus on ensuring all Trustee's have a good understanding of governance, as this assists our Board's desire to govern in accordance with 'Best Practice'. A number of Trustee's have attended Institute of Directors training, including my attendance at the one week Company Directors course. We would like to acknowledge and thank AgMardt for the funding which has allowed Trustees to attend these training's.

We would also like to thank Sue Lindsay, for leading the Board through the strategic planning process, with Sue's knowledge and support the Board know that Dairy Women's Network will continue to be the premier forum for women in the NZ dairy community, expanding the potential of dairy women in a changing environment by providing inspiration, learning and connection.

Michelle Wilson – Chair

Dairy Women's Network Trust Board