

Chairs report - 2006 AGM

26 Oct 2007

The Network for Women in Dairying

Annual General Meeting 18 October 2006

Willy Geck - Chair's report

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I present the Chair's report to this the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Network for Women in Dairying.

The reporting year has been filled with many very exciting accomplishments and events.

The first being the commissioning of Colmar Brunton to conduct the very first of its kind telephone survey of 250 dairywomen through out New Zealand.

The results of this survey confirmed some our thoughts with credible statistics on how women learn. Their receptiveness to information and its distribution and their time restraints and commitments were some of the areas that were highlighted.

Women were identified as the "gatekeepers" for the farm and that they were a powerful channel for getting information through to the farmers.

The survey also provided the Network with some valuable knowledge as to which areas of the dairy farming business, these women would like more information. As a result, the Network conceived and held its inaugural round of Dairy Days in 8 centres throughout New Zealand last November. These were very successful with an average of 42 participants attending each Dairy Day.

For me the "piece de resistance" of the year was the follow up article on the survey in the National Business Review and the Network feature on the ASB Business programme on TVNZ. What a great achievement for the Network. Most leading newspapers also featured articles on the survey.

Following an approach by the UK dairywomen's email group to join our email group, the Network is quickly heading towards its 10-year goal of becoming global with having among its participants women from the UK and Australia.

The Board's and my grateful thanks must go to our General Manager, Lynda Clark. Her expertise, eye for detail, knowledge and work beyond the terms of her contract have been instrumental in developing and promoting the Network's professionalism and programmes. Thank you, Lynda.

We also acknowledge the support of Samantha Palmer and Cathy Seal

We value the continued support of – The National Bank as Prime Sponsor, Ambreed, Ballance Agri – Nutrients, Computer Concepts Rural Solutions and Ancare as our Network Partners and all our conference sponsors.

The Network also acknowledges the funding support of Dairy InSight. Without this funding we would not be able to deliver the programmes that help educate and develop the Dairy Women of New Zealand to add value to the business of dairying.

At this time there are other people I would like to acknowledge for their input to the Network. Thank you to the Regional Group convenors who work voluntarily to help the women in their regions. Also I would like to extend a thank you to both the participants of the Regional Groups and Dairwn email group and also to the Conference and Dairy Day organisers and attendees.

We are grateful to our lawyers Simon Makgill and Lisa Ware of Lewis' in Cambridge, also to Annette Ryan of The Effect and to Neil Richardson who have helped the Board with our Strategic planning. We also acknowledge

Our accountants Hammond & Moir in Te Awamutu.

Last but certainly not least I would like to pay a very huge tribute to all the members of the Trust Board. Christina Baldwin, Robyn Clements, Sue van der Poel, Angela Fullerton, Sheryle Henderson, Hilary Webber, Monica Hutchinson, and newer Trust Board members Michelle Wilson and Sue Trezise. Your many many hours of voluntary work, support, enthusiasm and commitment cannot be measured and without it the Network would not be where it is now – a credible and respected organisation in the dairy industry.

This year has seen the resignation of Patti O'Boyle.

At this time it is with huge regret and heartfelt thanks that we must say goodbye to resigning Trust Board members Hilary Webber and Sheryle Henderson.

Hilary is a co-founder of the Network and has been heavily involved for the last 8 years. During this time her leadership, energy and vision has helped create this dynamic organisation.

Sheryle has also been an integral part of the organisation and her expertise in IT has been invaluable in developing our website.

You will both be greatly missed.

This year the Network has achieved many milestones in participant growth and activities and innovation. The challenge will be to continue to innovatively assist women to add value to the business of dairying.

Thank you