

Dairy Women's Network



Annual, General Meeting 20 October 2010 Chair's Report on Year 1 June 2009 to 31 May 2010

Success at meeting our goal for the year of increasing participation in our various learning events, regional group networks and leadership opportunities have driven growth opportunities in these areas creating exciting prospects for the Dairy Women's Network future in its pursuit of the Network's vision to maximise the roles of women in the New Zealand dairy community.

Many thanks to our Prime Funder, DairyNZ, whose significant funding enables us to provide a high standard of relevant learning opportunities through Dairy Days and Regional Groups, plus leadership training for the convenors of those groups. We have particularly appreciated the support of Tim Mackle and Mark Paine and their DairyNZ team. We have welcomed the valuable support of our Prime Sponsor, BNZ Partners - and their enthusiastic team.

The Network also values and has appreciated the support of our sponsors and Network Partners: AgResearch; CRV AmBreed; CRS Software; Donaghys; Meridian Energy, Intervet/ Schering-Plough Animal Health, Dairy Exporter and Farmside. Thank you also to all our conference and Dairy Day sponsors.

The Dairy Women's Network innovative educational opportunities have been successfully led and managed for the Board by Lynda Clark for the last seven years in her role as General Manager. Her hard work during that time significantly contributed to DWN being regarded as a credible and influential group in the dairy industry. These successes led to the requirement for a full time role that Lynda was not available for. On behalf of the Board and dairying women our thanks to Lynda for her outstanding accomplishments as General Manager and we look forward to her continuing contribution in a Trustee role. Her significant work developing future growth opportunities to build on the momentum of the successful March financial capability workshops holds a promising future for the Network.

Our thanks also to Mary Gough, Office Manager, for her hard work and efforts. Jillian O'Neill, our Marketing Manager has done a superb job promoting our Network, and working closely with sponsors to develop long term business relationships. Our thanks go to Cathy Seal, who diligently supports our valued email network. Michelle Wilson has also played a pivotal and valuable support role for the Regional Group Convenors and the conference committee.

The need and relevance of helping dairy farmers expand their financial skills was evident with our March Dairy Days being well attended. I attended three of these in the South Island and it was encouraging to hear first hand, how helpful and practical the women found these events. Similarly, our May conference in New Plymouth provided learning opportunities that challenged our women with a 'Dairying to be You' theme - so many thanks to Taranaki conference committee. The enthusiasm and commitment of our Regional Group Convenors, and their groups, ensures that both learning and support

networks at a regional level play a valuable role in our Network as an important part of our package of providing professional development for dairying women at a national level. Our progression compares well to the Australian situation that Michelle Wilson and I learnt about when we were invited to the Australian National Women in Dairy forum in March where I spoke on leadership and our Dairy Women's Network successful evolution over the last twelve years.

Cathy Brown was appointed to the DWN Board in October 2009 and has made a valuable contribution. The Board's succession planning has resulted in the two further new Trustee appointments of Chris Stevens and Toni Laming – who we look forward to working with.

Of special mention is the retirement of Willy Geck, at the end of May. Willy was a DWN founder and Trustee for the last twelve years - during which she was also Board Chair from 2005 to 2008. Willy's exceptional leadership and service provided the foundation for the growth opportunities we celebrate at this AGM. Also retiring after this AGM is Sue van der Poel, a Trustee for nine years, including Audit & Risk Committee Chair since 2008. Sue has made an outstanding contribution to the governance of DWN and has generously shared her expertise at numerous learning events over the years to help dairying women. My sincere thanks also go to fellow Trustees Christina Baldwin, Lynda Clark, Angela Fullerton and Katrina Knowles for your support, contribution, and commitment to DWN. I step down as Chair after the AGM and regard it as a privilege to have had this role since 2008. A special thanks to Deputy Chair, Michelle Wilson, who has provided great support during this time. There are exciting prospects ahead for DWN so it is particularly pleasing to have someone as capable, progressive and committed as Michelle as the incoming Chair.

We acknowledge and greatly appreciate AgMardt's funding of the Institute of Directors' courses for several of our Trustees during the year, including my attendance at the Chair's two-day course, in November. This funding assists our Board's desire to govern in accordance with 'best practice'.

Our Board also appreciate the help of Annette Ryan from The Effect, and Neil Richardson, to progress our strategic work to be a sustainable business endeavouring to maximise the role of women in the New Zealand dairying community.

Robyn Clements - Chair

Dairy Women's Network Trust Board