

SOUTH TARANAKI FEDERATION

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2026

SUSTAINABILITY MONTH

Hello everyone,

I hope your Spring is going well. Isn't it lovely to see the leaves and the flowers coming out again and the days getting longer. Then, daylight saving starts and we are back into the darker mornings again for a while.

The great news is our 90th Birthday celebration was a great event, thanks to all who attended and those who sent their best wishes. We opened with the National Anthem and the Aspirations. We welcomed the National Executive, North Taranaki and Rural Women to our birthday.

Our National President Suzanne Bannister and the Executive Members were fabulous to meet and talk to, they are all very down to earth, practical ladies who mixed and mingled with everyone.

Suzanne gave us an interesting address which encouraged us all to support and help grow our WI movement. Suzanne presented the 60yr badge to a very surprised and speechless Myra Gibson from Riverlea WI. Well done Myra. Suzanne then helped Phyllis and I cut the cake. The cake was beautiful to look at and to eat. A big Thank You to Bev Marx, you made us proud.

Jo Ellis presented Joy Eliason with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for her numerous years of playing the piano for WI events.

The hall looked great with flowers and table decorations. Thank You to those who were co-opted to assist with setting up on Monday. We had really good entries in the competitions and 11 pairs of Bed Socks were to be donated to Te Mahana Patea Rest Home.

We moved through our morning program with a few minutes to spare, so we asked Colleen Dryden, our National Exec Officer, to tell us about herself, which she happily did. Then we asked each of the Executive ladies to come and tell us about themselves. A real Johnny on the spot job, which they all handled beautifully. Suzanne and her Executive are great ambassadors for Women's Institute and I feel we have a great pair of hands at the wheel with a very competent team at her side.

Margie Bishop read out the apologies and then said Grace. We had lunch, boy, did we have lunch, so much lovely food, most of us went back for seconds, some for thirds, but nobody was counting. We had Mike Cameron, the master tea maker and Hannah Bishop with Andrea Smith in the kitchen. They kept the teacups filled and the dishes washed all day. A huge Thank You to Mike for all of his help with setting up and putting away and smiling happily the whole time. He looked great in Helen's WI apron! Thanks also to Hannah and Andrea.

After lunch we had a very interesting presentation from Ross Dunlop about Pioneer Women farming at Tokaora on the farm his parents and now he farms. This was after he got our technology sorted out so we could see the TV screen. The three Batten ladies with their brother worked the farm and were very innovative and progressive. Herd Testing before anyone else, putting halter identification around the necks of the animals before ear tags were invented. They had the first tractor, built huge, big silage storage silos and took photos of everything they did. A daughter of one of the Batten sisters and two of her friends, hitched their horse Judy to a wagon and travelled 300 miles over the Parapara's to Rotorua, Taupo and back home via the Forgotten Highway, an amazing trip.

Ross then helped us to play the collection of photos Margie and Phyllis composed, which showed our members at various events over the years. Then we played the video of South Taranaki Federation at work and celebrating 100 years of WI in New Zealand, sadly we couldn't get the sound up properly, so Helen held the microphone under the TV and we could just hear Phyllis speaking. Bridget presented Ross with a bowl of fruit, so he was very pleased with that. Then we had a hilarious and fabulous presentation from Margie and Phyllis of our 90 year history. Well done you two, you put a lot of effort into this. Prizes were presented to the competition winners and Thanks were given.

We finished the day at 2.30pm, tidied up and then went home to put our feet up and have a cup of tea, although some would have gone straight to the cowshed to feed calves.

A huge, big Thank You to the Federation Executive, you are a great team, you work hard, you think of everything and you have fun doing it. A pat on the back for us all.

Margie and Helen hosted the National ladies, Suzanne, Kay, Sue, Lynnette and Colleen for an evening meal at Margie's home, apparently, it was a good night with lots of laughs, stories, and wine, a great, relaxing time was had by all.

Next we have the bowls at Riverlea, 15th October, start at 10.30am. Bring your own lunch. Gordon Chisnall is the Umpire. Be prepared to have fun and a fierce competition, the winner takes all.

You need to get your team entries to Rose by the 12th of October please.

November 12th (Thursday) is International Day celebrating Japan. We are going to the Kaponga Swiss Club. Start at 10.30am to set up competitions, sales table, raffles, bring your sustainability items, knitting and money. The meal cost is \$25.00 which includes your raffle tickets. We have a Guest Speaker after lunch. It will be another great day of fun, fellowship and good food.

Can you please bring your Grocery items to the International Day for the Arts in the Park raffle in early December. The funds raised will help us with our Affiliation Fees, as our whole \$50 Sub goes to National now. We all have to stay afloat from National down to each WI, so let us get stuck in and lead the way to keep WI strong in South Taranaki.

We send our loving thoughts to those who are unwell, recently bereaved, struggling financially or personally. We are willing to help you if we can, please let us know. We are Sisters in Community Service, we are Women, we are Strong. 😊

Yours in WI friendship,

Daphne

RESULTS OF 90TH BIRTHDAY COMPETITIONS:

Cooking – Opaku Vase – 3 Square Plain Scones

1 st	Deborah Clough	Maata WI
2 nd	Leonie West	Riverlea WI
3 rd	Bev Hawkes	Manaia WI

Single Bloom – Kapuni Vase

1 st	Leonie West	Riverlea WI
2 nd	Denise Carter	Mangatoki WI
3 rd =	Deborah Clough	Maata WI & Phyllis Malcolm
		Manaia WI

Floral – Doris Hall Vase – Pavé

1 st	Lyn Gargan	Riverlea WI
2 nd	Neda Howes	Manaia WI
3 rd	Dianne Campbell	Pihama WI

Knitted Slippers – Helen Yardley Cub

1 st	Val Kerr	Maata WI
2 nd	Margie Bishop	Riverlea WI
3 rd	Gill Campbell	Maata WI

Egg Shell Art – Rangiwhia Trophy

1 st	Phyllis Malcolm	Manaia WI
2 nd	Gill Campbell	Maata WI
3 rd	Lyn Gargan	Riverlea WI

SECRETARIES REMINDERS: Bowling Team Names to Rose by 12th October.

TREASURERS REMINDERS: Please check all your accounts, bank statements etc are in order to date. National will be requesting info shortly.

HISTORIAN: Please keep those photos and articles coming into Bridget. Thank you.

WOOL CONVENOR: There is a lot of wool with members', we would appreciate if the wool blankets could be finished please as Hapū Wānanga would appreciate them. 😊 Please bring them to our International Day in November. Thank you.

OUR 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS: Sincere apologies, Helen's phone is not sending emails with photos attached at the moment, so she can't add any to this Newsletter. Hopefully next month.

We apologize for omitting the Walking Group run by Margaret Ingram for 10years from the 'Walk down memory lane' presentation.

100YRS OF WI YOUTUBE VIDEO: The link to watch this is: <https://youtu.be/p9irty69pDw>
Enjoy watching the video in your own home.

BOWLS CHALLENGE: This will be held on **Thursday, 15th October**, in the Riverlea Hall, beginning at 10.30am. **NO** morning tea. More info in Daphne's report above.

INTERNATIONAL DAY: JAPAN – Thursday 12th November. Swiss Hall, Kaponga. This year we will have a Card Table Competition. Choose 5 of the following 8 choices.

Haiku – Poem	Ikebana
Souvenir	Sushi
Greeting Card	Colour In Picture (Template to be provided)
Oragami	Japanese Fan made from a Serviette

Overall Points for effect.

Guest Speaker – Kurtis Gilmore

Please bring along items for the Sales Table, your sustainability items, knitting, Grocery Raffle contributions for Arts in the Park. Yes, we will have Raffles. 😊

106th NZFWI AGM: Monday 24th – Tuesday 25th May, 2027, at the Cosmopolitan Club, Gisborne. We are taking a van. It is filling fast!! Travel Friday 21st and return home on Wednesday 26th. Twelve beds have been booked.

DATES TO DIARY: Bowls Challenge, Thurs 15th October
International Day, Thursday 12th November, more details next month.
Arts in the Park – Saturday 5th December, King Edward Park, Hawera
91st AGM, Monday 15th March 2027, Kapuni War Memorial Hall
106th NZFWI AGM – Gisborne – Mon 24th & Tues 25th May

Happy Birthday to South Taranaki Federation & Pihama WI

Quote: *'The greatest threat to our Planet is the belief that someone else will save it' –*
"Sustainability is not a choice; it's a responsibility" - Sustain Beauty Co

Daphne & Helen

Attachments: Japan colouring picture

Apologies for no photos of our 90th Birthday. They are on our South Taranaki Women's Institutes Facebook page

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