

## The National Rural Women's Coalition – Council Members



### Ms Karen Tully – Chair NRWC

- *Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women*

Karen Tully lives in Charleville in South West Queensland and is a Director of the *Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women*.

Karen has proactively sought a number of rural and remote representational positions where she uses her skills to connect and network at a local, state and national level.

It is through this involvement that she currently **Chair of the National Rural Women's Coalition**.

She also serves as a Board Member of *Rural Solutions Queensland*, which administers the *South West Rural Financial Counselling Service* and a Director of *South West Natural Resource Management*.

Karen grew up on a cattle and grain property near Tara, (Queensland) where her family still lives.

Apart from three years living overseas, Karen has spent her entire life in rural and regional Queensland, and appreciates the wonderful liveability and unique lifestyle that is enjoyed by residents in rural communities.

Karen has a Bachelor and a Master of Education; a Diploma of Financial Markets; a Certificate IV in Business (Governance) and Training and Assessment and is a JP.

Currently, she is the Director of *Mulga Solutions*. This consulting business services people and organisations in rural and remote Queensland by providing direction and energy to various projects in a range of fields including, short and medium term project work in research and concept development, event management and training.

Karen is a mother to two young children, and together she and her husband run an independent rural merchandise business and a beef breeding enterprise. Prior to moving into the consulting field, she worked in rural and distance education for over twenty years as a teacher, Deputy Principal, Research Officer and Principal. She is inspired by visions of what could be.

The big picture of the future in rural and remote Australia is one that energises her.



**Dr Patricia Hamilton – Deputy Chair NRWC**

- *Australian Women in Agriculture*

Dr Patricia Hamilton is currently **Deputy Chair of the National Rural Women's Coalition**. She is also the President of the *National Australian Women in Agriculture Ltd* and has served the organisation as a National Learning Coordinator, Company Secretary and Editor of the newsletter, *The Buzz*. Each of these positions has given her the opportunity of working with a team of women committed to developing a dynamic organisation, which aims

to strengthen the adaptability, resilience and sustainability of their rural communities.

Patricia is a retired sheep farmer, a retired Secondary School Principal and a life-long learner who willingly shares these passions. She currently lives with her husband, Geoff, on Yorke Peninsula, South Australia.

Patricia has a BA (Hons) in Anthropology and English and a PhD in which she recently explored how the learning activities of the Australian Grains Industry's National Partners in Grain Project increased women's participation in family farming businesses and in leadership positions in their industry. She also considered why, when rural communities are faced with challenges and change, women and young people are seen by industry stakeholders as the key to efficiency, increased profitability and productivity and sustainability in agriculture. She believes that there is a need for strong and informed voices in responding to the challenges currently facing us.

In 2009, Patricia was acknowledged on the South Australian Women's Honour Roll in recognition of her dedication and continuous commitment as an advocate and mentor for rural women and youth across the country. Patricia has been able to combine her knowledge and experience from a diverse career to design and implement training programs for women who live in rural communities. Patricia's involvement in research and evaluation with rural industries and communities has equipped her with a wide range of research and evaluation processes and experiences to be a valuable resource to maximise the contribution of rural women to sustainable, resilient and profitable rural industries and communities.

She believes that individuals can achieve whatever they want if they have the desire and vision.  
Remember: Be passionate—people die from the cold within.



**Mrs Anne Whalley – Treasurer NRWC**

- *Women's Industry Network – Seafood Community*

Anne Whalley is the former National President of WINSC, Qld Director and Bundaberg Branch President of WINSC. She has been involved in WINSC for the past 7 years, as an inaugural member of the Qld Body and as a voting delegate on the National Rural Women's Coalition on and off for several years. It is through this involvement that Anne is the current **Treasurer of the National Rural Women's Coalition.**

Anne married into the seafood industry 37 years ago, raising 2 sons, who in turn have fathered 4 granddaughters and 1 grandson. She is a partner with her husband in a wild harvest of seafood business based in Bundaberg, as the Business Manager for this operation as well as a part-time operating theatre receptionist at a local private hospital. She has been involved in the medical profession for over 26 years and is very passionate about rural, regional and remote health services and access to these services for people in these areas of Australia.

Anne has lived along the Queensland seaboard all her life, having worked on the family trawler from Cape Flattery in the north, to Bundaberg in the south, catching coral reef fish and mackerel, prawns, scallops, Moreton Bay bugs and several species of crab until she decided to become a mum.

She is very committed to highlighting the socio-economic impacts of fisheries closures on fishing families and was invited to deliver a paper at the Inaugural International Marine Protected Areas Congress in Geelong in October, 2005 to an audience of 875 delegates from 80 countries.

Anne attained her Advanced Diploma of Business Management in April, 2003, completed a Building Rural Leaders course in Bundaberg in 2006, has participated in an Australian Institute of Company Directors Workshop, has a Certificate IV in Seafood Industry (Aquaculture) – to conduct a self audit of a quality system, Certificate III in Business Administration – Medical Terminology, and another Certificate III in Business Administration to create electronic presentations.

Anne has a Statement of Attainment for a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) based Food Safety Planning certificate to develop a Food Safety Plan.

Her outside interests extend to being a Member of the Steering Committee for the FRDC People Development Project, member of Zonta International, a committee member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Local Marine Advisory Committee Bundaberg Region, and coordinator of the World Rural Women's Day Event in Bundaberg for the past 5 years.

Anne is heavily committed to the seafood industry and campaigns tirelessly to promote the ecologically sustainable and environmentally safe practices of the wild harvest operations they are involved in as well as the benefits to the consumer of fresh local seafood. She is passionate in her pursuit of an improved image for the seafood industry.



**Mrs Irene Mills AM OSJ – Secretary NRWC**

*- National Rural Health Alliance*

Irene has lived all her life in rural Australia as a farmer, active community member and advocate for sustainable rural communities and lifestyle enhancement of rural people. She has worked tirelessly as a Hospital Board member for the retention and improvement of Health and Aged care services in small rural communities.

While Chair of Friends of the National Rural Health Alliance 2003 -2008, Irene was member of the Alliance Council and a board member.

She was elected as a representative for the NRHA to the NRWC in 2004, and is currently the **Secretary of the National Rural Women's Coalition.**

Irene is also Chair of the Avon & Western District Health Advisory Council; Secretary of the Dalwallinu Telecentre and in Jan 2009 was appointed to the Rural Regional & Remote Women's reference group in WA. She has previously chaired a Ministerial working party to review Governance of Rural Health Services in WA and was a member of the WA Active Ageing Task Force. In 2007 & 2008 Irene was a mentor for the Young Rural Women's Leadership program.

As Chair of WA Country Hospital Board Council Irene has represented rural communities at numerous forums and on many committees and presented papers at numerous workshops and conferences and had a paper published in the Rural Health Journal of Australia. Irene chaired and established the first Multi Purpose Health Services Pilot in Australia.

In 1996 Irene was awarded an Order of Australia AM for her services to Rural Health and Rural Communities, then in 2001 was recognised as Volunteer of the Year by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia.

In 1998 the St John Ambulance in WA awarded Irene a Servicing Sister medal for her services to humanity. In 2003, Irene presented a paper on Aged Care in Small Rural Communities at an International Conference on Ageing.

She is dedicated to improving the health care services administered to rural, regional and remote areas.



**Cr Darriea Turley**

- Australian Local Government Women's Association

**Alwyn Friedersdorff**

- Australian Local Government Women's Association

**Val Lang AM**

- Australian Women in Agriculture

**Cr Lesley Young – Immediate Past Chair NRWC**

- Country Women's Association Australia

**Heather Wieland**

- Country Women's Association Australia

**Michele Deshong**

- Indigenous Women Representative

**Maria Anderson**

- Indigenous Women Representative

**Clare Sutcliffe**

- National Rural Health Alliance

**Julii Tyson**

- Women's Industry Network – Seafood Community

**Sandra Stoddart - Executive Officer NRWC**

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