

## CONTACT US

Seeking help early can reduce issues before they become unmanageable. If you or someone you know in the rural community needs help call **0800 287 077** or kindly contact a Coordinator.

**DIANNE MILNE:**

**P:** (03) 738 0038

**E:** bob.milne@xtra.co.nz

**ROSS BISHOP:**

**M:** 027 444 1580

**E:** rossbishop@xtra.co.nz



**DIANNE MILNE** CHAIRPERSON/COORDINATOR

A fourth generation West Coast farmer Dianne has been chairman of the West Coast Rural Support Trust since its inception in 1998 in response to “the big wet”. Involved with Federated Farmers for nearly 30 years and President of West Coast Province for four years, currently an executive member. Member of West Coast RAHC (now TbFree). Dianne with husband of forty four years Bob has been farming at Aratika since 1981.



**ROSS BISHOP** SECRETARY/COORDINATOR

With more than 20 years experience working with West Coast farming families and their businesses, Ross has a good understanding of the issues they are facing. A self employed agricultural consultant, he works closely with farmers to develop cost effective solutions to farming problems. As Coordinator for the West Coast Rural Support Trust he is the first point of contact for rural people requiring assistance.

**TRUSTEES:**

**JOHN CLAYTON**

WAIMUNGA, IKAMATUA

**PAUL BERRY**

ATARAU

**JOHN O'CONNOR**

BULLER GORGE, WESTPORT

# RuralSupport

WEST COAST

*When circumstances beyond your control lead to a rural business crisis—be it financial, climatic or personal—the West Coast Rural Support Trust is ready to assist.*

*The Trust's Coordinators are rural persons with local knowledge and experience. Services are free and confidential.*



**0800 287 077**

[westcoast.rural-support.org.nz](http://westcoast.rural-support.org.nz)

## ABOUT US

The West Coast Rural Support Trust is part of a nationwide network of Rural Support Trusts that can assist rural individuals and communities during and after extreme weather and other declared adverse events. They are able to access Government adverse event funding and utilise support from many Government agencies to help rural individuals and communities get back on their feet.

The Trust members are local rural people with a wide range of experience and knowledge in dealing with challenging rural situations. The Trust coordinators are specially trained to travel to where they are needed. Contact is one-on-one at a location of your choice.

*The unique circumstances of rural life can only be truly understood by rural people who share the same challenges.*

## HOW WE CAN HELP

First and foremost the West Coast Rural Support Trust is about rural people helping rural people and communities to cope during difficult times.

The Trust and its coordinators are skilled in assisting rural people through adverse events such as flooding, drought, snowstorms, and also financial, animal welfare, and personal crises. The Trust is well connected with rural networks, Civil Defence, local and central government agencies, making the Trust well placed to get things done that might be difficult for individuals.

### MORE SPECIFICALLY THE TRUST:

- **Can help during and following an adverse weather event:** The Trust is directly linked into local civil defence and can provide you with information and assist you in getting emergency or on-going help. This may include movement of stock, financial support, labour or other needs during or following an adverse event.
- **Can help facilitate and advocate:** The Trusts coordinators can help by facilitating assistance from financial organisations, government agencies, and farm management consultancies.
- **Support during personal, environmental, and/or financial difficulties:** The coordinators are trained to help find ways to manage these types of rural challenges. Often all that's needed is someone to talk to and listen to your problems. They may assist with referrals to appropriate professional help for stress management, mentoring, financial and farm management counselling.

***Services are free and confidential.***

