

Ruth Chapman Candidate for the position of Women's Vice-President, NZLP, 2012

Kia ora tatou. I am standing for Women's Vice-President because I want to play my part in ensuring a strong Women's Sector within the Party and in ensuring that Labour is attractive to women voters in 2104.

My Labour background:

- Member since about 1980.
- Experience in rural and urban seats.
- I have taken various roles in many parts of the Party and have been chair at branch, electorate and regional level. I am currently chair of Region 6 (Otago-Southland) and a member of the Leith and Dunedin Women's branches.
- I've been a member of campaign committees in many elections, including the Otago electorate in the early 80's, Wellington Central in 1999, Dunedin West and, since 2002, Dunedin North.
- I was the Region 6 representative on New Zealand Council in the early part of the 2000s.
- I am currently a member of the Organisational Review Working Group.

My personal background:

- For the last eight years I have been employed as a mediator, assisting in workplace conflict resolution.
- Other work experience: secondary teacher, workplace trainer in a DHB, and union official (PPTA).
- I was on the Executive of the Post-Primary Teachers' Association (PPTA) for 10 years, two of them as President (1988-89).
- I have also been a member of the SFWU and the PSA and am currently a TEU member.
- I have experience on various statutory and community organisations which has broadened my perspective.
- I grew up on a farm and am still active in farm activities. I am committed to environmental sustainability and to protection of our environmental and built heritage.

What I am offering:

- The experience of participating in the Organisational Review has been both challenging and stimulating. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to meet with members in many parts of the country and to analyse and debate the issues in the Review. I would love the opportunity to be part of New Zealand Council during the implementation phase, which is an even more important task. There are particular issues regarding women's representation still to be resolved and I want to be part of that process too.
- The issue of training and supporting activists has been identified during the Review as critical. I want to be involved in developing our people so that we have strong and skilled women and men in all the roles within the Party, at local government level and in Parliament.
- I believe that I have both the experience and the skills to do justice to the role of Women's Vice President and to represent women capably. I have good analytical skills, I am comfortable in governance roles, I debate constructively, I am a good communicator.
- Most of all I am committed to Labour and to playing my part in maintaining a strong and growing Party. I would be honoured to serve in the role of Women's Vice-President and I seek your support.

I am happy to provide further information and you can contact me on angelo@ihug.co.nz

Ruth Chapman