

## Report from Super Blues National AGM

19 March, 2026

The new Chair of SuperBlues is Canterbury's Jock Muir, a strong believer in National Party values, particularly personal responsibility and aspiration. He was elected at the annual general meeting to succeed retiring chair, Colleen Singleton.

Jock's career has been largely in the health field, and he has a number of director interests in health businesses and charities including: The Heart Centre at St George's Hospital; Pegasus Health Charitable Ltd; Intus Specialist Health; NZ Flying Doctor Trust and NeuroSciences Centre Ltd.

He is married to Lauretta, with three adult sons. His involvement with the National Party began after his youngest son was Speaker Gerry Brownlee's youth MP and he himself left the public health service.

Although he was unable to attend the meeting because of a prior engagement to interview a candidate for Chief Executive of the Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue and the New Zealand Flying Doctor Trusts, Jock told the meeting through a note to Colleen that he was keen to put together a brief business/action plan for SuperBlues.

I anticipate preparing the plan will take several months as I don't know what I don't know, and I'm not keen to jump to conclusions without a solid grounding in listening to multiple views. I hope to get to visit a number of groups over time.

Jock concluded: My son recently gave me a pocket watch from the early 20th century. It is inscribed: To thine own self be true. I try to live my life that way. Onward and Upward.



### Highlights from the AGM

- Recognition of growth in Auckland and CNI by both outgoing and incoming Chairs.
- National Party Board member David Ryan's graphic portrayal of party's members' readiness for this year's election: Everyone is energised and wants to get on with it.
- Advice from David Ryan that National was ahead of other major parties in candidate selection with only six of 20 to be decided at the time of the meeting.
- Recognition of the formation of Christchurch Metro SuperBlues as a highlight of the past year, with special praise for the work of Canterbury/Westland Chair Dean Percy.

## SuperBlues Founders support Jock Muir as new chair

The change at the top of SuperBlues was highlighted by two founding members nominating and seconding Ilam's Jock Muir to the position.

Ninety-six-year-old Nancy MacDonald and compatriot Wendy Sarten, who were present at the first meeting of SuperBlues in 2007, sat together close to the front of the Karori Bowling Club pavilion for the AGM and the voting in of a fresh executive for 2026-27.

That first meeting followed a National Party review after its loss in 2002, and formation was supported by John Key. The name proposed by former Cabinet Minister Steven Joyce was adopted by the founders - Nancy, Pam Finlayson, Joan Farrance and first Chair Bernardine Pool.

Colleen Singleton, finishing 10 years as Chair, told this year's AGM: We started with two groups and now we have 37 in electorates around the country.

SuperBlues are a National Party success story. We are political. Our priority in 2026 is the re-election of the National Party as the lead partner in a coalition government. To achieve this, we will continue recruiting new members and fund raising for our local electorate and the Party.

The success of SuperBlues is that groups are based in electorates. This is a particular strength and enables them to ride the waves of change resulting from the boundary changes.

Succession planning is foremost on our minds. It is time for me to pass the baton, and I look forward to new thinking and actions to make SuperBlues even more effective as the National Party continues to lead a coalition government. We have a great new Chairman in Jock Muir to take us forward.

Officers elected to the National Executive were: Chair, Jock Muir; Deputy-Chair, James Austen; Secretary, Marion Clark; Treasurer, Graeme Sugden; Communications, Bruce Kohn; and Colleen Singleton ex-officio. Regional representatives include Elizabeth McEwan, Northern; Stephen Eichler, Central North Island; Tim Skinner, Lower North Island; with Canterbury-Westland and Southern to be named.



*Founding SuperBlue 96-year-old Nancy McDonald nominated our new Chair*

## Benefits of Membership

Highlights of SuperBlues membership were provided by regional Chair Elizabeth McEwan in her speech to the Northern Division AGM:

- Input into policy
- Candidate selection
- Gaining political insight and being well informed
- Giving people a voice and being listened to
- Meeting the Prime Minister, Ministers and MPs.

## Auckland: On the March

Auckland SuperBlues are turning up in ever increasing numbers – from 85 plus to more than 300 for electorate events with MPs attending to provide information for local voters on the Government’s approach to issues of the day.

In her report to Northern Region SuperBlues, Elizabeth McEwan emphasised the large numbers of people who want to see and hear MPs and gain first hand sensible, accurate information, rather than toxic misinformation we hear from the media and the Opposition.

It is ‘Free Speech’ at SuperBlues’ events, and everyone’s questions are answered fully and respectfully. Opinions are discussed first hand with the MPs and Ministers. I encourage everyone to invite friends to socialise with supporters and to meet with MPs and candidates.

The SuperBlues contribute the most volunteer hours and money to the Party. We give wide support to the MPs, have unlimited experience to share and enhance our electorates and membership. There are a number of electorates without SuperBlues groups. To those electorate I say: ‘get on board’.

Elizabeth had special thanks for the SuperBlues work done by Grant Knight as national secretary before stepping into the role of Northern Division Chair; and for Jerina Corban-Banks in stepping up to take over Grant’s former role.

## 2026 Regional Conferences & Annual General Meetings

Registrations are now open for our Regional Conferences and AGM’s, with early bird tickets available. These conferences are a great chance to meet others, connect, and get involved with fellow Party members.

As this is an election year, it’s an important opportunity for members to have their say, especially as we will be voting on our regional list ranking.



*Elizabeth McEwan Northern Region, SuperBlues Chair*



*Chair, Elizabeth McEwan and Secretary, Jerina Corban Banks*

**Sunday 3rd May, LNI in Solway Park, Masterton**  
LNI Conference 2026 | National Party

**Saturday 9th May, CW Hornby High School, Christchurch**  
CW Conference 2026 | National Party

**Sunday 10th May, Southern, Taieri Bowling Club -**  
Registrations/enquiries direct to:  
[southern@national.org.nz](mailto:southern@national.org.nz)

**Saturday 16th May, Northern, Orewa High School**  
Northern Conference 2026 | National Party

**Sunday 17th May, CNI, Narrows Landing, Hamilton**  
- CNI Conference & AGM 2026 | MyNational

## Tribute to Lee Mathias

Dr Lee Mathias ONZM, our policy lead, died suddenly in Auckland earlier this month leaving a legacy of change in healthcare, described as from maternity care to national policy and from governance to innovation. Cecilia Robinson, co-Chief Executive of digi-physical primary care provider Tend Health, wrote: Her fingerprints are everywhere.

SuperBlues Chair, Jock Muir: She had depth, breadth and gravitas and will be a loss to the Party, and New Zealand.

Past-SuperBlues Chair, Colleen Singleton, who, like Lee, trained as a nurse: Lee was an amazing woman. What she's done has been outstanding and revolutionary. She was way before her time.

Among Lee's roles over her years of service were chair of the Counties Manukau District Health Board, deputy chair of the Auckland DHB, chair of the country's Health Promotion Agency, involvement with Medicines New Zealand and a range of community organisations. As policy leader for SuperBlues she was able to shape many initiatives and advise on care for the aged.

Lee was a founding director and investor in Tend and Cecilia added: She combined sharp strategic thinking with deep humanity. She was direct and unafraid to challenge but always grounded in care. She understood that healthcare, at its core, is always about people – and she never lost sight of that, no matter how complex the system became.

## Tribute to Colleen

Elizabeth McEwan had a special tribute for SuperBlues retiring national chair at the Auckland regional SuperBlues AGM. I thank and acknowledge Colleen Singleton for her large volume of work and support. Colleen has been exemplary as the National Executive Chair and has given excellent service nationwide. Colleen's dedication is to be admired.



*Outgoing Chair with bouquet of flowers presented at the AGM by Deputy Chair, James Austin*

## Telephone Calling

Our Wellington telephone calling team is being regularly utilised by electorate MPs around the country to support their membership development, contact policies and to promote awareness of our candidates. We hope to establish telephonist teams in other regions and have guidance available for volunteer callers.