

## **Joanne van Polanen**

Joanne was elected as the NZFET Chair in 2017. Her involvement with the NZFET began in 2005 when she was appointed as a Judging Coordinator for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards in the Canterbury region and then as Chair of the Canterbury Management Committee for seven years. Joanne was elected to the Trust in 2010 and has held the roles of Treasurer and Deputy Chair prior to becoming Chair.

Joanne started in a part time regional role to provide time out from farming and contribute to the wider Canterbury community. Her association with the Trust continues to offer a wealth of friendships, experiences and insights through her involvement in this unique national cross sector organization.

Dairy farming was always going to be the chosen career for Joanne and husband John as they worked through the traditional progression of sharemilking to farm ownership. They farm 658 ha in the Ashburton district. Two daughters and their partners are variable order sharemilkers on the two dairy farms and two sons work in the agribusiness sector. Joanne and John farm the remaining 257ha for dairy support, beef and small seed production.