

# e-messenger



The Methodist Church of New Zealand  
Te Hahi Weteriana O Aotearoa



*“Our Church's Mission in Aotearoa New Zealand is to reflect and proclaim the transforming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and declared in the Scriptures. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God in the world. The Treaty of Waitangi is the covenant establishing our nation on the basis of a power-sharing relationship, and will guide how we undertake mission”.*

**Web Site Address: [www.methodist.org.nz](http://www.methodist.org.nz)**

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March 2005

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# OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

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## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Greetings

The past month has involved me in a number of meetings and in issuing interim guidelines for presbyters who wish to apply to become Civil Union celebrants. The guidelines also outline the steps for parishes that may want to consider whether their buildings can be used for civil union ceremonies. Congregations, parishes, rohe, and synods are encouraged to discuss theological, social and community issues relating to the Civil Union Act during this year. The Faith and Order Committee has been asked to prepare resources to help guide the Church's discussion during the year on these issues, and to bring a report to Conference 2005.

Kay and I enjoyed a trip to Christchurch, to be present and participate in the service and celebrations in Dunsandel to launch the new Central South Island Synod. It was a joyous occasion. I know people in other parts of the country will be watching this development with interest. We also reconnected with our roots, when earlier in the day we took part in the morning services with the Redcliffs and Sumner congregations and were their guests at a luncheon.

This past weekend has seen a selection of people from a “cross section” of our church, meet together in a hui on ministry. The gathering at the St Francis Retreat Centre in Auckland has been an exciting time of discovery. Very ably facilitated by former Presbyterian moderators Bruce Hansen and Marg Schrader, all present were encouraged to get out of their comfort zone as we explored the ministry and mission of our whole church. What it has been and what it could be in the future. As a result of the process followed, a considerable amount of information has been collected. This has been passed to the Board of Ministry, for the board to consider as it strategises and plans to meet the future ministry needs of our church.

Grace and Peace be with you,

**Ron**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT:**

Mobile is a good word to describe my life style over the past month. In good heart is a good phrase to describe the Methodists I have met at many different kinds of events.

It was a privilege to attend and to preach at the Service of New Beginnings and the Induction of the New Chaplain at Wesley College on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Wesley is a school every Methodist can feel proud of and the calibre of the young people who welcomed visitors and took part in events was outstanding.

Following that visit I travelled to Dunedin for two Inductions which were held at Mosgiel on Tuesday 8th. Weather very wet for a time and very hot. Church crowded, wonderful atmosphere, wonderful event, well done Otago/Southland.

Next stop Feilding to take part in a joyful celebration to inaugurate the new Manawatu Regional Executive which will be responsible for the oversight of the six parishes currently without appointments. Brave new directions set by the Synod and enthusiastically supported by a large crowd of folk from around the Manawatu.

Next stop Canterbury and a preaching visit to Rangiora on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>. Feb. In the afternoon I attended the service at Dunsandel to mark the amalgamation of the North and South Canterbury Synods which are

now known as the Central South Island Synod. This was a meaningful event with a stone from each parish being used to great effect in the building of a cairn symbolising their becoming one Synod.

Final event for reporting at this stage was the Hui on Ministry that was held in Auckland over 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March. This three day Hui was an encouraging, enlightening, and deeply spiritual occasion which resulted in significant information being prayerfully presented to the Board of Ministry for their consideration.

I have felt greatly encouraged for the life of our church through the people I have met, and the things I have seen and heard at each of these significant events.

With warmest greetings and may we all be blessed afresh this Easter as we journey in remembrance with Jesus the Christ through the events of his death and resurrection.

**Kenneth**

# CONNEXIONAL BITS 'N PIECES

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## Connexional Office Accounts Department

Because of the changes there have been in the Connexional Office, an updated contact list for the Connexional Accounts Team is included for your information.

### Accounts Department Contact Details:

Financial Services Manager – Leah Scales, 03 364 9433 Em [leahs@methodist.org.nz](mailto:leahs@methodist.org.nz)

Assistant Accountant – Sarah Andrews, 03 364 9428 Em [saraha@methodist.org.nz](mailto:saraha@methodist.org.nz)

Fund Administrator – Gail Smith, 03 364 9432, Em [gails@methodist.org.nz](mailto:gails@methodist.org.nz)

Fund Administrator– Gaye Hamilton, 03 364 9436, Em [gayeh@methodist.org.nz](mailto:gayeh@methodist.org.nz)

Fund Administrator – Stacey Cochrane, 03 364 9434, Em [stacey@methodist.org.nz](mailto:stacey@methodist.org.nz)

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### Are you interested in researching Family Trees?

*Matthew Harris (son of Deacon Margaret Birtles), is able to help you in your search for information about Family Trees, or anything about your Family History. contact him at 15 Main Road Ohaupo 2452, or [mjhfls@jayhoo.co.nz](mailto:mjhfls@jayhoo.co.nz)*

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*The Methodist Connexional Property Committee* thought that this article on Anti-Tag paint may be of interest to Parishes (from Resene).

“The artistic yet unauthorised activities of street artists in the form of unwanted tagging is an anathema to any paint system, with pristine walls drawing in would-be taggers each keen to add their mark.

Identifying the need to minimise the effects of tagging but still maintain a welcoming family feel, the Oranga Community Centre in Oranga, Auckland combined Resene colour with anti-graffiti for the perfect solution.

Outside the weatherboards gleam in a fresh coat of **Resene Uracryl 403** tinted to **Resene Marzipan** (pastel yellow oxide) matched by louvres in **Resene Uracryl 403** tinted to **Resene Guardsman Red** (bright red). The beauty of raw concrete is preserved with a finish coat of **Resene Uracryl 403 Clear** for a natural anti-graffiti finish. **Resene Uracryl 403** is a high performance two component finish coat with excellent resistance to abrasion, moisture, petroleum solvents, mineral and vegetable oils, alkalis and acids. The sophisticated combination of aliphatic urethanes and urethane reactive acrylic resins gives an anti-graffiti system unsurpassed for gloss and colour retention.

Complex hues combined with the natural look of timber dominate the interior, with corridor walls of **Resene Lumbersider** satin acrylic tinted to **Resene Tasman** (silvery grey), **Resene Rivendell** (grey green), **Resene Tea** (muddy neutral), **Resene Napa** (grey beige neutral), **Resene Navarone** (camel beige) and **Resene Black White** (blackened white) joined by stained chipboard finished in Resene Teak wood stain and floors protected by Resene Uracryl.

Bright, bold and anti-graffiti tough on the outside, local art talent will be finding a new gallery for their work.”

# **Board of Administration Methodist Church of New Zealand**

## **Insurance Fund**

By now you should have received Parish / Groups quarterly insurance invoice for the period 15 February 2005 to 30 April 2005.

The period is 14 days shorter this quarter as the Church's insurance year is changing from ending on 15 May to ending on 30 April.

For those who pay their insurance premium annually and have therefore paid to 15 May 2005 a credit note for the 15 days "overpayment" will be provided and set off against the annual premium notices to be dispatched in May.

This instalment is due to be paid by 15 March 2005 and for those paying by direct debit the premium will be deducted on Tuesday 15 March 2005.

### **Building Cost Increase**

In the November newsletter we noted the significant rise in building costs over the last few years and we acknowledge those groups who have taken the time to review their insurance cover and advise the Insurance Fund of the necessary changes. If you have not had the opportunity of reviewing the adequacy of cover for the property covered by the attached invoice, we recommend you take a few moments to consider the likely outcome of a significant fire or flood and whether the sums insured would enable the property to be appropriately replaced.

### **Claims**

Comment was made in the November newsletter about a rural church that had suffered fire damage but where a total loss of the property had been avoided by the alarm system activating. Over the Christmas period a further potentially serious fire was detected by the Church's alarm system and the damage kept to minor smoke damage of the ceiling and the replacement of a small portion of the carpet.

The Assessor who helped the Church with the repairs noted that without the alarm system the fire would have gained a total hold on the property and in his opinion, the building and all contents were likely to have been lost.

The Insurance Fund remains committed to the installation and maintenance of basic security and fire detection systems. Over the decade the systems have been installed in church buildings the systems have demonstrated their worth on numerous occasions, saving both treasured buildings and their history of personal and Church occasions and many hundreds of thousands of dollars of insurance claims.

### **Renewal**

The Insurance Fund is starting to look to the renewal of the insurance policy for the 2005/2006 year and on the basis of the information currently provided does not believe that any increase in insurance premiums will apply. To a very large part the ability to control insurance premiums at what are highly competitive rates for the cover provided are a direct consequence of the care and attention to the maintenance, security and protection given to Church property by local congregations.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONNEXION

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## 'Journey to Easter'

A programme of New Zealand music and poetry

Sunday 20 March, 7 pm to 8 pm,  
'Off the Street' Arts and Theology Centre,  
Wesley Broadway Church, Palmerston North

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**Rev. Dr Lynne Wall** (Ranston Lecturer in Biblical Studies) is taking two workshops at Trinity College:

**Worship Leadership ~**  
**Friday 29 April, 7pm**

**Introduction to St Matthews Gospel ~**  
**Saturday 30 April, 9am**

These workshops are open to anyone interested in a contemporary understanding of worship and biblical studies – ordained or lay leaders of worship.

**Free admission.**

Lynne is guest preacher at Wesley Broadway, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 10am.  
For further information contact John Thornley (06) 356 9681

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**Wesley Wellington Parish**  
**75 Taranaki Street**  
[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)



**125<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration**  
*of the opening of the present church*  
**25-27 March (Easter) 2005**

For information contact the Parish Office:

Ph: (04) 384-7695 Fax: (04) 382-9708

Email: [gen.wesley@clear.net.nz](mailto:gen.wesley@clear.net.nz)

Postal address: PO Box 6133, Marion Square, Wellington

METHODIST CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND SYNOD  
School of Theology

**“Has the Rock on which we stand crumbled?”**

presented by

**Rev Dr Clive Pearson, Uniting Church of Australia**

**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**Rugby Street Church, Cnr Rugby Street & Papanui Road**

Clive Pearson teaches theology and ethics in Sydney (United Theological College & Charles Sturt University). He has initiated specialist courses in the public nature of theology, ecotheology, diasporic/migrant/second generation theologies and theology with a youth hermeneutic. He has written on faith in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand from the perspective of Christology. Some of his recent articles have been concerned with exploring how we understand faith in a post-Christendom world in terms of the metaphors of exile, dislocation and diaspora.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

- The Metaphors of place
- Where are you from?
- Between a rock and a hard place
- In praise of exile
- Living in diaspora
- Imagining Faith
- Fragments for the Way

**Evening Public Lecture:**

‘Si[gh]ting Christ Down Under’

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

- Imagining Christ
- ‘Shooting Jesus’ (analogy of making a film)
- Trading places, shifting terrains, mixing metaphors

Numbers are limited – please register as soon as possible  
Gold Coin donation

*Registrations to: Viki Forscutt:*

*Phone (03) 364 9427 / fax (03) 364 9439 / email: [vikif@methodist.org.nz](mailto:vikif@methodist.org.nz)*

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**Methodist Central South Island Synod – School of Theology  
Registration Form**

Rev / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ e-messenger March '05 \_\_\_\_\_

# Board of Ministry

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## Youth Appointment

It is with pleasure that the Board announces that we have appointed Te Rito Peyroux as Facilitator Taiuiwi Youth Ministry replacing Lagi Samoa Saleupolu who concluded her work at the end of January.

Te Rito is an active member of the Kingsland Trinity Rotuman congregation having been a member of the Auckland Central Parish from birth. She is a graduate of the Auckland College of Education. In recent times she has worked well with people from different parts of the church including Te Taha Maori, English speaking, Sinoti Samoa, Vahefonua Tonga and Wase Wase ko Viti kei Rotuma I Niu Siladi.

Te Rito sees communication and dialogue as important areas of development. She will be working from Church Offices 409 Great South Road Penrose Auckland and can be contacted there by phoning (09) 571 9144 or by emailing [tauiwiyouth.methodist@paradise.net.nz](mailto:tauiwiyouth.methodist@paradise.net.nz)

## Hui on Ministry

A gathering of 43 invited ordained ministers and lay leaders from throughout New Zealand covering all ethnic groups met in Auckland from 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March. Marg Schrader and Bruce Hansen led a process which supported working through the many aspects by engaging our minds, creativity and deeply held and shared wisdom in a sustained conversation exploring:

- the background of where we have come from
- what is distinctly Methodist
- the Theology and practice of Ministry
- what is ministry and what tools are needed
- what are the essential things that we wish to see for ministry and mission in the Methodist Church
- what are the cornerstones of our theology of ministry and mission
- how will we do ministry and mission in the future

The time together was a spiritual experience and journey acknowledging people's experiences. This came to a point at the end when all the words were gathered up and a conscientious symbolic action of handing over the notes of the conversations to the Board took place in the closing act of our time together. The Board was asked to consider these carefully as it strategises and plans for the future ministry needs of the Church while acknowledging some of the hurts of the past and some of the hopes for the future.

Next steps:

- The Board will be holding a special meeting this week to receive the offering that has been made and to determine how it will process the information.
- Participants may share their reflections with their parishes and synods.
- The Board will provide feedback through the Connexional process as it formulates ways of developing and resourcing ministry which will best serve the mission of Te Haahi Weteriana for today's world.

# NZ METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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## SMETHURST TRUST FUND

We have pleasure in making available the 2005 Application Form and Information Leaflet.

**All previous Application Forms are now outdated.  
PLEASE DESTROY.**

We request that the Application Form which follows, be printed and displayed so that a photocopy of the Application Form can be made available to applicants as required.

### **ONLY THE 2005 APPLICATION FORM WILL BE ACCEPTED**

The Smethurst Committee value the co-operation of Presbyters in providing a Reference. All applications require the Presbyter to furnish a Reference in support of the funding request as per Information Leaflet (2005).

Please read:

Revised Information Leaflet (2005) or Information Leaflet Administration No 108 *Receivers of Inheritance* (pp 13-14) in determining eligibility for assistance. Where the applicant is a Presbyter or partner of a Presbyter, a District Superintendent will be the Referee.

### **Closing dates for Applications for 2005;**

**20 March    20 June    20 October**

**No late Applications will be accepted.**

*Mary West*  
Convenor Smethurst Committee

# SMETHURST TRUST FUND

ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

## INFORMATION LEAFLET (2005)

This Fund offers financial assistance to

- (a) Women from Methodist Parishes and Uniting Congregations with a Methodist component within the Methodist Connexion of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- (b) Indigenous church workers in the South Pacific.

Applicants are expected to be actively involved in the life of the Church.

Courses of study will not need to be specifically theological, but grants will not be given for any study or training which is contrary to the beliefs and principles of the Methodist Church.

APPLICATIONS FORMS may be obtained from your Presbyter or District Women's Fellowship Secretary

- (a) Name
- (b) Address
- (c) Phone number.

***Ensure that you use the current application form~***

APPLICATIONS will be received at any time for events or study still to be undertaken. If you require acknowledgement of this application please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

### TYPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

#### 1. **New Zealand women:**

- (a) Attendance at conferences, courses, seminars etc. (Church Conferences and Methodist Women's Convention are excluded)
- (b) Retirement Koha to Deaconesses under the former Order.
- (c) Home Setting students.
- (d) Lay leadership training and ongoing education.
- (e) Assistance may be given for tertiary academic courses provided the application includes proof of satisfactory progress; and is not for the first year of study. (*ie* coming straight from Secondary School).
- (f) Assistance is not given for Secondary Education.
- (g) Assistance is available for those in need of "time out", rest, or relaxation.

#### 2. **Indigenous Church workers of the South Pacific:**

- (a) Women to study in Pacific Island colleges, or in New Zealand, if the required course is not available nearer to their home setting.
- (b) Fare for those studying in New Zealand for
  - (i) home leave if the course is more than one year
  - or (ii) spouse to visit New Zealand for a brief stay during the time of a course provided that the course is for not less than six months.
- (c) Secondary or tertiary education (preferably in their own country) for children of Presbyters or Church workers.

#### 3. **Emergency Grants:**

A small provision may be made for emergency grants.

*The final decision on all grants will be at the discretion of the  
Smethurst Committee.*

The Methodist Church of New Zealand  
Te Hahi Weteriana O Aotearoa



**SMETHURST TRUST FUND**

**ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**APPLICATION FORM: (Revised 2005) Only current application forms accepted**

Fill in this form using black pen and send relevant information with TWO current References to:

Mrs Mary West

Convenor Smethurst Committee

8 Sherwood Drive

HAMILTON Tel: (07) 8505711 [Em] [maryw@west.net.nz](mailto:maryw@west.net.nz)

**IMPORTANT:**

This application will be acknowledged only if you enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

**REFERENCES:**

(each on a single A4 sheet, one side only, black pen/typed).

Current References supporting your application are required from:

- (i) Your Presbyter/Minister or District Superintendent } neither of whom should  
(ii) Another person } be related to you.

**NOTES:**

Each application must be for ONE PERSON only. Decisions are made in April, July and November. Applications will be returned for resubmission, deferred or declined, if insufficient information is given. Where assistance is require for more that ONE YEAR, applicants will need to reapply each year. If applying for a grant for continuation of a course of study, applicant MUST submit a copy of grades achieved to date for such course.

**Application for:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Miss/Mrs/Ms/Rev/Dr/Deacon)

(Christian Names)

(Family Name)

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of Dependants:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Marital Status:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Children:** \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied for assistance previously from Smethurst? Yes [ ] No [ ]

If 'Yes' – under what name? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you applying for assistance for yourself? Yes [ ] No [ ]

For what reason do you require financial support? Tick the appropriate box.

Course of study [ ] Conference [ ] Seminar [ ] Workshop [ ] Other [ ]

If 'Other' please specify clearly:

**Total Cost involved** \$NZ . Assistance requested from Smethurst \$NZ

Breakdown of Costs: Travel: \$NZ Course \$NZ Other \$NZ

Assistance towards travel costs will only be given for the cheapest fares.

2. Are you applying for any other assistance?

If 'Yes,, please specify source(s) and amount. Yes [ ] No [ ]

3. Are you eligible for Student Allowance(s)

If 'Yes', please give details and amount(s), etc. Yes [ ] No [ ]

4. Have you received any other assistance?

If 'Yes', please specify source(s) and amount. Yes [ ] No [ ]

5. Are you in full-time paid employment? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Are you in part-time paid employment? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Are you actively involved in a Methodist Parish or Uniting Congregations within the Connexion? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Please give name of Parish.

The Methodist Church offers a variety of courses. Have you explored these options?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

Give details of the course, seminar, etc. for which assistance is required.

Name of course \_\_\_\_\_

Place of study / event: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates /length of study /event: \_\_\_\_\_

Write in your own words why you are making this application. To help the Committee please include information about yourself, family and financial situation, and the way you see your experience relating to the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Haahi Weteriana 0 Aotearoa. (use additional A4 page if necessary).

**N.B. CLOSING DATES for receipt of applications: 20 March, 20 June, 20 October**

Late Applications will not be considered. In the event of your course/study/travel not eventuating please return the grant promptly.

The Committee request a progress report or reflection at the conclusion of the course/event.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Names & addresses of those supplying References must accompany this application:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

# Ecumenical News & Views

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*Ecustics*, an occasional newsletter of the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand

**Number 103/5    March 2005**

**"TRULY I TELL YOU, UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS INTO THE EARTH AND DIES, IT REMAINS JUST A SINGLE GRAIN.."**

John 12:24

The decision to end the life of the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand, was not easy. It required the letting go of an entity that had been created with much hope, the dream of many people who felt passionately about Christians working together to bring the Gospel's transforming love to our part of the world. CCANZ held a unique place in the landscape of this country, living out the vision of Ecumenical dialogue and action. The painful conclusion was reached that the present structure had to die in order for a new vision to take root.

With nothing on the horizon to replace it, this decision was courageous indeed. The words of Jesus were put into action: Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies..... With the winding up of CCANZ a journey of faith began.

Central to this journey was the formation of a "think tank" with representatives drawn from a wide spectrum of Christian traditions. This group, known as the Strategic Thinking Group, was entrusted with the task of seeking that new vision. Through dialogue, consultation and prayer they are seeking to discern the path for the ecumenical journey of the 21st century. It is a huge responsibility and a task unlike any other.

A report about them has just come to hand and can be accessed on the CCANZ Web Page [www.ccanz.net.nz](http://www.ccanz.net.nz) and will be included in full in the next printed copy of Ecustics. As part of their work they have asked that the whole church, in all its variety, join with them in prayer and have prepared helpful resources for use in our churches. These are also on the Web Page and have been sent to all the member churches of the CCANZ.

This is an important milestone. Share in prayer, in enthusiasm and support them in this task.

Rev Diane Miller-Keeley  
**Presidium**



*Ecustics*, an occasional newsletter of the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand

**Number 103/5    February 2005**

**From Hamilton 1965 to Cape Town 2004**

Our memories were revived and our energy level was lifted when this letter arrived in our e mail

*Greetings friends,*

*I just want to say a special Thank you for the faithfulness of people associated with CCANZ. Back in 1965 as a new believer, I attended the NCC 5th Ecumenical Youth Conference in Hamilton and all these years later continue in the Faith. The words of Dr Alan Brash addressing the Conference have remained deeply etched in my mind "God loves all people always equally" Representing New Zealand at a world Conference in Cape Town last December, I became aware of new challenges with humanities inhumanity to itself. I am thankful to be part of the wider family of faith sustained by our Loving God.*

*Sincerely yours*

*Allen J Little QSM, JP  
World Blind Union Representative  
Association Of Blind Citizens NZ  
ABCNZ web site: - [www.abcnz.org.nz](http://www.abcnz.org.nz)*

Allen has responded to our invitation to tell us more about the Cape Town Conference:

### **That the Blind may See.... !**

..... Cape Town South Africa and the 6th General Assembly of the World Blind Union are fast becoming a memory. Even though the world has moved on, the people remain..... The WBU is the only organisation entitled to speak on behalf of blind and partially sighted persons of the world. It represents some 180 million blind and visually impaired persons from about 600 different organisations in 158 countries. The WBU is a non-political, non-religious, non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation with consultative status within the United Nations. It is divided into six regions. New Zealand belongs to the Asia Pacific Region and has two country representatives, "Maaka Tibble" and "Allen Little"

"Attending the General Assembly was a worthwhile undertaking. It was an amazingly inspiring and enlightening occurrence from which I learnt much", Allen said, "Blind and vision-impaired people around the world are achieving great things despite adversity and incredible challenges. The drive which keeps blind people going and achieving in the face of adversity and difficult circumstances is something powerful to witness. It was an incredible amalgam of humanity including 290 women and 311 men, 388 of whom were blind or vision impaired.

Reporting back to the **Association Of Blind Citizens (NZ)** who sent him to this Conference, Allen Little said "It occurs to me that passing verbose resolutions in global forums is one thing and ensuring practical outcomes from those resolutions is another.... " There is much which can be achieved when people of good will work together for the common good of all.

Allen has strong cross cultural interests and believes in building a better world through promoting inter ethnic respect, love and understanding. He has strong working relationships across Asia, Africa and many Arabic/ Islamic countries.

Ngairie Lennox  
Executive Secretary  
Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand  
P O Box 22 652  
Christchurch  
Web Page: [www.ccanz.net.nz](http://www.ccanz.net.nz)  
Email: [admin@ccanz.net.nz](mailto:admin@ccanz.net.nz)  
Phone: 64 3 377 2703  
Fax: 64 3 377 2702

## **CWS**

### **0.7% Campaign**

CWS is asking people to support the point seven campaign calling for the New Zealand government to keep its promise on aid. A petition was launched on 2 February 2005 by New Zealand's major aid agencies, including CWS. The petition is calling on the New Zealand Government to commit to a timetable to increase its spending on aid to 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015 in line with its earlier promises to help reduce global poverty. The petition is due by 31 March 2005. CWS is calling on New Zealanders to show their support for the eradication of global poverty by signing the petition. Copies of the petition and fact sheet are available direct from the website: <http://www.cws.org.nz/Campaigns/07-Campaign/Default.asp> or from the CWS office. They have also been posted to all parishes and we ask that people please promote them wherever possible.

### **Tsunami Appeal**

CWS is most grateful for the strong support from the churches to this appeal. So far it has raised over \$590,000 and the donations remain steady. However we are very conscious that the needs are still very great as people deal with the long term trauma and the loss of livelihoods. Many of CWS's partners continue to attend to the pastoral needs of the victims. Please continue to keep all those affected in your prayers.

As the attention of the world moves on CWS is concerned about plans for reconstruction now that the most urgent needs have largely being met. There is much talk in the affected countries of moving people from their traditional livelihoods in coastal areas. For communities who have lived for centuries by the sea this is unthinkable. CWS's partners in India and Sri Lanka are particularly concerned that the voices of the people themselves are heard and that they can determine their own future. While groups like Neythal based in Nagapattinam, South India continue to meet urgent needs they are also supporting the local people as they face an even more uncertain future, which is more likely to favour commercial sectors.

Similarly in Sri Lanka, long time partner MONLAR, is challenging the government reconstruction plan which aims to build 15 new cities to house the victims of the tsunami. While construction is prohibited within 100 metres from the sea, they are allowing a special exemption for tourist operators to rebuild hotels. This plan if accepted will force about 800,000 small scale fisher folk and their families from their traditional livelihoods, making way for tourist enterprise and large scale fishing operations.

More information on CWS's response can be found at [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz), including worship resources and material for donating to the appeal. Display material is also available from CWS, P O Box 22 652, Christchurch or [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz). The next editions of @world and Youth Topics will feature material on emergencies. They will be distributed later in the month. Donations to the appeal are still welcome: 0800 74 73 72.

### **New DVD/Video Study**

A Refugee Life which is supported by study material, The Faces of Palestine, is now available from Christian World Service. It is an opportunity to hear firsthand the experience of a Palestinian refugee and in the second part learn about the work of CWS partner, The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches. As DSPR is the overseas project of APW and MWF this year it will be of special interest. The video or DVD and study material are available from [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz) or phone 0800 7473 72. A full video catalogue is on line: [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

## **BOYS BRIGADE 50TH BIRTHDAY ~**

The 1st Warkworth Boys Brigade will be celebrating fifty years of continuous Christian activity in Mahurangi on the weekend of 10th/11th September.

The programme will include a canoe race on the Saturday and an "old Boys" dinner with audio/visual sequel, on Sunday a parade and band led march through the village to Sunday morning service at Warkworth Methodist church.

The invitation is given to all who have an interest in BB to attend. Especially those who formed part of it's life over the past fifty years.

The events will celebrate the fifty year birthday, will give thanks to God for the transforming of lives and will give thanks for the contribution of those leaders who committed themselves to this cause.

We hope you will take this as a personal invitation to come and be involved.

More details will follow later.

Michael Dymond. (chaplain)

**Presentations from the Climate Change Workshop** held on 7<sup>th</sup> February are now available for viewing on the CSRI web site at [www.csri.org.nz](http://www.csri.org.nz)

We hope to include the report from Sally Garrett shortly.

Regards  
Heather King  
Secretariat  
CSRI