

NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

"Encourage Effective Communication"

Supplementary Report

(Continuation from page B(ii)6)

It is my pleasure to bring you the annual report of the NZ Methodist Women's Fellowship for 2012-13.

For the executive committee it has been a challenging year for us all but we have learnt many things along the way as we have aimed to work through our theme to "*Encourage Effective Communication*"

The members of the executive are: Marie Smith – President; Akanesi Havea – Treasurer; Merrill Baker - Secretary/Liaison Link/ Vice-President; Tongi'aepau Nuku – Uniting Congregations Link; Fa'afetai Fa'alogo – Diaconate/NCW/ Vice-President; Brenda Baker – Minute Secretary; Lute Taufalele-Vute – Missions; Lise Malaeimi – World Federation Link; Helen Kim Scholar

During the year a number of our Fellowships have been saddened by the death of a member and we do pay tribute to the many ways that these women have contributed to our lives and the life of the MWF.

In particular there are those who have served on a previous NZMWF National Executive:

Kath James – 1968-70, 1988-90
Beryl Paine- 1980-82
Flora Litchfield 1980-82
Noeline Hoddinot – 1982-84
Alison Beeston – 2004-2006
Ruth Le Couteur - 2006-08

'These are a few of the women who led us,
we know there have been many more
We name but a few, yet we honour them all
those women who went on before.'

Membership

The establishment of the Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma Women's Fellowship District at the Inauguration of the Fijian and Rotuman Synod was a very special and moving occasion held at Wesley Church Taranaki Street Wellington on 16th March 2013. It was a privilege to attend and welcome Unaisi Tikoinaka as its President and we look forward to their involvement in the MWF.

Communication

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with members of the Mafutaga Tamaitai Sinoti Samoa at their meeting in Auckland in April. Invitations to visit other Districts and groups have been received and we look forward to sharing these occasions with you. Merrill Baker and I were able to attend the PWANZ Business Meeting in May in Wellington.

President's letters and Bulletins have been sent out regularly by email to Districts. Districts then forward the information on to the Fellowship groups. All these are available to be read or downloaded from the Methodist Women's Fellowship web page of the Methodist Church www.methodist.org.nz.

Available on this site is information about the Kurahuna Fund and the Friendship Scholarship Fund which have money available to assist Maori and Pacific Island girls attend secondary school in New Zealand.

The Smethurst Fund is available for women in Methodist or Uniting Congregations with a

Methodist component, for courses, lay leadership training, some tertiary academic courses.

Funds distributed this year:

Kurahuna \$6,300

Friendship \$6,130

Smethurst \$22,938

SPECIAL PROJECT and Other Funds Distributed

Each year we join with the Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand – PWANZ - to support a New Zealand Project and an Overseas Project, which is selected with the assistance of Christian World Service. Not only is this a fundraising effort but also an opportunity for us all, Fellowships and Congregations, to learn about the background of the group and the country where they are based.

Our thanks to all Fellowships and Parishes who contributed so generously to enable these gifts to be made.

2012-2013 Special Project:

\$9,000 For the Disability, Spirituality and Faith Network in New Zealand

\$25,971 For the Ama Takiloa programme run by the Tonga Community Development Trust.

2013-14 Special Project: 'A Brighter Future at Home and Abroad'

NZ Women's Refuge, in conjunction with the Brainwave Trust, will provide specialist training to 100 new Women's Refuge Child Advocates who will work with parents to teach them parenting techniques and skills to help their children develop in the best possible way.

The Women's Centre in Sri Lanka which works with young women workers in the Free Trade Zone factories. is the overseas project. Many of these women have been displaced by war and face discrimination and exploitation by factory owners and landlords.

\$2,726.25 from the sale of Used Stamps to Mission and Ecumenical Appeal for 'Water for Goldie College'

\$2,382.75 from the Medical & Education Fund went to the Missionary Children's Home in Bangalore.

Fellowship groups throughout the country also contribute financially to local congregations and a wide variety of community and educational groups. The time and effort involved in this is appreciated.

WIDER INVOLVEMENTS

WFM & UCW (World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women)

New Zealand women take interest and active role in the WFM&UCW.

In particular Leu Pupulu from Auckland is World Treasurer.

Lynne Scott of Christchurch is President of the South Pacific Area.

Lise Jubilee Malaeimi of Auckland/Wellington is the Helen Kim Scholar.

\$3,812.00 has been contributed to the various World Federation Funds.

The *Tree of Life* – news bulletin of the WFM&UCW is now forwarded by email to Districts.

The *South Pacific Area Seminar* is being held July 2014 in Brisbane and 33 NZ women will attend.

The NZMWF is a member of **NCW (National Council of Women)**. Many women throughout the country are active members of NCW. which gives us the opportunity to be very involved in many

social issues that affect our communities.

Pacific Women's Watch – based in Auckland is becoming more active and we have two representatives.

World Day of Prayer – The 1st Friday in March and many throughout NZ join in this international service.

COUNCIL 2013 – 32 women attended the biennial Council held at El Rancho, Waikanae 6-8 September

Rev Cornelia Grant conducted the opening service. Special Project funds were presented to Gillian Bell from the Disability, Spirituality & Faith Network and Michael Earle from CWS for the Ama Takiloa Centre. Michael presented NZMWF with a Tapa Cloth from the women of 'Eua Island east of Tongatapu.

DISTRICT REPORTS presented show the wide variety of activities that are included in fellowship programmes – Bible Study groups, Craft Groups, Speakers, Memoirs groups- Family History, Health and Family Issues. All are aware of the Methodist focus to –'Let the Children Live'.

Concern was expressed at the amount of violence shown in Tv programmes and people are asked to write to the Commission about the specific programmes.

There are Liaison links between Districts and Fellowships and contacts with Ministry Students.

Although the membership is declining in some areas it is important to be aware of people's changed circumstances, recently shifted or retired, women who are often needing to make new networks.

This is a time to invite women to join with a group or congregation *to be an 'Invitational Fellowship'*

Olive Tanielu from the Mafutaga Tamaitai Sinoti Samoa was elected the NZMWF President for 2014-2016.

Sunday morning we joined the Raumati Congregation of the Kapiti Uniting Parish for a Communion Service. Mataiva Robertson spoke about the Violence Awareness seminars that are being held and the Interfaith Conference at the Bossey Institute in Switzerland.

On 1st February 2014 it will be 50 years since the Methodist Women's Missionary Auxiliary (MWMU) and the Guild Fellowship joined to form the MWF. We will celebrate this during the coming year.

Together we continue in our daily lives to make a Christian witness in home, church and community.

'You call us to be the light of the world.
May we not hide our light but shine so all can see your love shining through us.'

Marie Smith
National President (2012-2014)

Suggested Decision:

1. That this report be received.