

METHODIST MISSION AOTEAROA



Methodist Missions Aotearoa is the entity within the Methodist Conference responsible for the oversight of the church's social services. In addition, and maybe more importantly, its functions include: oversight of property, marketing, advocacy, research and monitoring.

Conference can feel rightly proud of what has been achieved over the years by the member organisations. The need has not diminished but nor has the commitment of MMA, to a just, fair and inclusive society. The reports of the various Services are attached, whether the Services are large or small, the staff, leaders and board members have been at the forefront of ensuring the values of the Methodist Church are upheld – the call to a “Theology of Life” still ring true.

This report has three major thrusts: the acknowledgment of the work of each Service and the appointment of the Boards for 2016, suggestions by MMA members regarding some significant social issues that affect the whole of country, and the report on the ‘Alliance’ model.

Housing

Housing is seen as a significant social issue for the whole country. The focus is too easily taken up by the needs of Auckland and Christchurch - while the issues facing both cities are huge and demanding, that does not mean that there are not issues and concerns across the rest of the country. Earlier in the year, MMA made a public statement on housing and the view of the members has not changed (a debate about public – private provision of housing is a distraction), the real issue is that solutions must be found to address not only the shortage of housing, but insulation and safety needs, cost, community infrastructure, and the cyclical nature of the building industry.

Children

Conference approved the ‘Let the Children Live’ programme, which drew to the Connexion's attention issues which members of MMA have been working with for many years. The strength of the programme is in its focus on local, community and parish based ideas. MMA supports these initiatives and is also involved in many of its own: early childhood education, parenting programmes, foster care, counselling, and has for some time been advocating with other groups for a change to the way in which care for older children is provided. For many people older adolescents are seen as a nuisance who should grow up. Similarly children in care are seen as the problem, not innocent victims of family stress and dysfunction. That they are often deeply harmed young people who need care, love and nurture is often forgotten. Their issues are not seen as being either important or needing to be addressed. They are therefore politically expendable. The review of Child, Youth and Family provides an opportunity to promote more family led, holistic approaches to working with children and their families through times of acute stress. Some advocacy is needed to give young people in the care system the best chance of doing well. One critical change we are lobbying Government for is lifting the age of support to children in care, from the current age of 17 to 18 or beyond. This would ensure young people are supported through school, into further education or employment to an age where they have legal status. This would go some way to preventing young people joining the growing numbers of young homeless.

MMA members believe that the Church should be very clear that current practices are unacceptable and need to be addressed by both Government departments and politicians.

Suggested decisions:

1. The report of Methodist Mission Aotearoa is received.
2. The 2016 membership of Methodist Mission Aotearoa is: (names will be presented at Conference)
3. Conference supports the work of MMA on housing and asks parishes to advocate wherever possible for an improvement in the quality of low cost insulated and energy efficient homes.
4. Conference supports the raising of support for children in care from 17 to 21 and advocates for this change to Government.

5. The report of Methodist Mission Northern is received.
6. The 2016 Board of Methodist Mission Northern membership be: Rex Nathan, Prince Devanandan, Marion Hines, David Hunt, Greg Wright.
7. Conference records its appreciation to John Murray who has been Superintendent of Methodist Mission Northern, The Lifewise Trust and Airedale Property Trust as well as serving on many other Boards within the Methodist Mission Northern jurisdiction over the past eight years.
8. The 2016 Board of The Lifewise Trust membership be: Freddy de Alwiss, Peter Glensor, Mark Gosche, Marion Hines, Dr Katherine Ravenswood, Sao Timaloa.
9. Conference records its appreciation for the services of Prince Devanandan, Nicola Grundy and Ross Taylor to the Board of The Lifewise Trust over many years.
10. The 2016 Board of Airedale Property Trust membership be: Warren Chapman, Mel Easton, David Hunt, Keith Hooper, Sue McKinnon, John Murray, Dr Hedy (Jiaying) Huang, Greg Wright, Christina van Bohemen.
11. The 2016 Board of Microwise membership be: Angus Fletcher, Warren Dalzell, John Fraser, Brian Gould, Bryce Nicholls.
12. The 2016 Board of the Ministry to the Deaf membership be: Peter Grundy, Kathy Hohepa, Jean Masters, Barry Neal, Glenn Schischka.
13. The Report of Methodist City Action is received.
14. The 2016 Board of Methodist City Action membership be: Meteisela Tafuna, Alan Grant, Muriel Leadley, John Murray, Anne Preston.
15. The 2016 Board of Tamahere Eventide Home membership be: Beverley Attrill, Catherine Dickie, George Dipross, Emma Falconer, Neville Jack, Ken Olsen, Peter Schaare, Shane Vanin, John Walsh.
16. Conference records its appreciation of Nici Scott-Savage as Manager of Palmerston North Methodist Social Services over the past six years.
17. The 2016 Board of Palmerston North Methodist Social Services membership be: Jill White, Russell Bell, John Ross, Cathy McCartney, Helen Simmons.
18. The report of Wesley Community Action is received.
19. The 2016 Board of Wesley Community Action membership be: Peter Glensor (Chair), Rev Hiueni Nuku, Senorita Laukau, Trish Hall, Fuailalagi Saleupolu, Colin Hamlin, Kena Duignan, Murray Wu, Dr Jeremy Robertson, Rev Motekiai Fakatou.
20. The report of Christchurch Methodist Mission is received.
21. The 2016 Board of CMM membership be: Jenny Keightley (Chair until 31 January 2016), Garth Nowland-Foreman, Mary Caygill, Andrew Donaldson, Indira Sirisena, Pam Sharpe, Martin Hadlee. Two further appointments to be made by the President.
22. Conference records its appreciation of Jenny Keightley for her many years of faithful service as member and then Chairperson of the Christchurch Methodist Mission Board.
23. The report of Methodist Mission Southern is received
24. The 2016 Board of Methodist Mission Southern be: Austen Banks, Laura Black, Richard Devereaux, Natalie Karaitiana, Rachael Masterton, Keith McKenzie, Julie Pearse, Nigel Pitts, Siosifa Pole.
25. The report of Vahefonua Tonga Methodist Mission Charitable Trust is received
26. The 2016 Board membership of Vahefonua Tonga Methodist Mission Charitable Trust be: Rev Tevita Finau (Chair), Rev Ikilifi Pope, Dr Melenaite Taumoefolau, Dr Maika Kinahoi Veikune, Kathleen Tuai-Ta'ufo'ou, Edwin Talakai, Palanite Taungapeau, Senorita Henrieta Laukau, Moimoi 'Ahaui Kaufonmonga, Mosese Ngauopea 'Alatini and 2 others to be appointed by the President.
27. The report of Sinoti Samoa Mission is received.
28. The 2016 Board of Sinoti Samoa Mission membership be: Malavai P-Misikei, Mataiva Robertson, Olive Amani Tanielu, Faleatua Faleatua with one more (Convenor) to be appointed by the President.

SOCIAL SERVICES

METHODIST MISSION NORTHERN

AIREDALE
PROPERTY

METHODIST
MISSION
NORTHERN

LIFEWISE

turning lives around

The Mission, as the linking Board between the service delivery arm and the financial and property arm of Methodist social services in the upper half of the North Island and Conference, has been actively pursuing the development of services in partnership with parishes especially where those services fit with the values and ethos of the organisation. This has not been an easy task as there are complex relationships and expectations to work with: relations between parish/congregation and Synod, Methodist procedures and polity, local and central Government expectations and dreams and aspirations. This does not include an appreciation of finite resources – both human and financial. However, what is important is that parishes are often not aware of their resources, often geographic, sometimes historical and local knowledge, always community.

The range and number of church and community groups which the organisations have engaged with is interesting: Auckland Central Parish, Manurewa Parish, Waitakere Parish, Papakura Parish, Birkenhead Parish, Takapuna-Northcote Parish, Auckland/Manuaka Tongan Parish, Lotofale'ia Tongan Parish, Otara Tongan Parish, SInoti Samoa, East Coast Bays Parish, Mahurangi Parish, Auckland Council, Rotorua Council, Auckland DHB, Central Lakes DHB, Tairāwhiti DHB, Rainbow Youth, Auckland District Court, Department of Justice, Department of Social Welfare, MBIE, Methodist Community Action (Hamilton), Friendship House, Liston House, Auckland City Mission, Salvation Army, Presbyterian Support Northern, St Johns Samoan Parish Ponsonby, Mt Albert Parish, Te Taha Maori, Ngati Whatua, NZ Police, Oceania, Tamahere Eventide Home, Home Builders (Warkworth), ASB Trust, Vision West, Wise Group, CAD's, BAIS (Mt Albert), Community Housing Aotearoa, Housing NZ, Cort, Manukau and Auckland Synods Property Committee, Methodist Connexional Property Committee, Auckland Community Housing Providers Network, Community Housing Aotearoa.

The organisation, with the support and encouragement of its Kaumatua and Kuia, Pio and Chrissy Jacobs, undertook a Bi-cultural Workshop – a refresher for some and a new experience for others. The staff who attended are committed to the need for on-going events which ensure the centrality of the MCNZ commitment to the Bi-cultural journey is not lost sight of.

Splice, which began as an 'idea' in the life of St James Presbyterian Parish, Aotea Congregation and Methodist Mission Northern, has been hugely successful with support coming from the Local Community Board, businesses and residents of the downtown area of Auckland City. This success was rewarded when the partners received a Community Citizens Award from the Waitemata Local Community Board. Splice is now very much a community driven initiative! The activities over the year have included regular weekly events like Yoga on High Street, Life Drawing on Queen and Music in the Square. However larger events like the youth Peace Conference finale, the Easter Chamber Orchestra and choral performance in the Auckland Art Gallery on Easter Sunday, the Karanga Mai Art Collective exhibition and the Auckland Street Choir are examples of Splice creating opportunities for community connection.

The development of Everil Orr Village has required significant pastoral support. MMN has provided this through a part time chaplaincy position that has been carried out by Jaanine Harris and Russell Rigby. Russell has now retired and is missed by the residents in particular. This is a key service and the Board will continue to explore ways of enhancing the service.

MMN is responsible for Board membership changes within MMN, The Lifewise Trust and Airedale Property Trust. During the year, and at this Conference, a number of changes will be made: Ross Taylor, Prince Devanandan and Nicola Grundy have all resigned as Board members. Their contribution has been important to the wellbeing of the Boards which they have been members of. MMN is committed to building strong Boards with appropriately skilled people and to that end the membership is regularly reviewed, and self-evaluations are undertaken.

Of significance to Conference 2015, this is John Murray's last year as Superintendent of the Boards. His knowledge of the Church and Church processes and ability to build a strong team cannot be underestimated. The Boards wish him well for his retirement.

The Mission, in agreement with Te Taha Maori, is not pursuing a replacement Superintendent at this stage. The Board's rationale was to provide space as MMA reviewed its structure and mode of overseeing and supporting social services throughout the country. The Board has made arrangements to ensure that the theological oversight of the organisation's work is not lost sight of. However, the Board is clear – with the support of Te Taha Maori – that if the need arises the 4+4 process would begin again during 2016 subject to authorisation from the President.

Lifewise

Our work in Early Childhood Education grows with a new Centre opened in Waimumu Road, West Auckland, in partnership with the Waitakere Parish. We now support 4 ECE's and have a 5th under construction, all offering affordable education in areas of low early childhood education participation.

Our work in parenting is growing including support for families going through legal separation with a new contract in this area.

We continue to work with children in care particularly under 10 year olds as our focus is supporting these children to achieve developmental milestones that match children in families. We have developed a new model of working with whole families under CYFS care and are piloting this approach in partnership with CYFS. We are active in the campaign to improve outcomes for children in care including a campaign to lift the age of support offered to children as they leave care.

Our Mental Health and Addictions Service in Rotorua has been recognised as a unique tikanga Maori service within a mainstream organisation. We have approval from Tairāwhiti District Health Board to offer our Rotorua based service to families in the Tairāwhiti area. This involved a series of hui with iwi and service providers in Tairāwhiti to establish kaupapa for engagement with Tairāwhiti whānau and support workers.

The Homelessness Service has sharpened its focus on housing support in keeping with the Housing First approach to ending homelessness. We continue to advocate for and demonstrate preventative approaches to address this growing issue. This includes the Special Circumstance Court to provide therapeutic sentencing for homeless offenders, and a trial youth supported housing project. We are leading an inter-agency process in Rotorua to address homelessness in their community. The Big Sleep Out achieved record support this year and was also run in Rotorua as an awareness raiser in that community.

Neighbours Day has gone from strength to strength under the governance of Lifewise, the Mental Health Foundation, Inspiring Communities, Neighbourhood Support, and the NZ Libraries Association. This year new partnerships such as the community website Neighbourly, dramatically increased the reach of Neighbours Day and the programme ran all summer starting with a national 'Good Neighbour' competition. It is now truly a national programme. We are keen to involve the other Missions and parishes so that our involvement in Neighbours Day also has national impact.

We have several projects underway to support decision making on the future of our work in community based older and disability care. There are challenges in the current contracts with the increased commercialisation of the contracts, leaving little room for morally responsible terms and conditions for staff. There are also however, opportunities for new partnerships and new services that add value to the lives of families we work with.

Airedale Property

Airedale Property Trust has a strong Balance Sheet and is currently managing:

- 72 residential properties
- 3 retirement sites
- 25 additional residential properties
- 15 additional commercial buildings
- Non-property Investments.

Airedale Property/Lifewise is an Accredited Community Housing Organisation under Community Housing Aotearoa's Best Practice Guide (4th Edition-April 2011). The first New Zealand NGO to achieve full accreditation (3 years) by an Accreditation Panel of the Global-Mark Community Housing. This has provided Board, stakeholders and the community with confidence in our ability to develop and manage community housing.

Work is progressing on the planned re-development of the Everil Orr Village. This Village has been a prominent landmark in Mt Albert for many years, providing care and accommodation to the elderly. The buildings in their current form no longer provide the best example of a modern aged care facility and are reaching the end of their economic life.

During 2014/15 the Airedale Property Trust and Lifewise teams have worked closely with Leigh Haven residents to reduce the size of the Complex in readiness for construction to start on the first stage later in the year. The Leigh Haven tenants had a "relocation dinner" on 6 June 2015 and without exception spoke highly of the work undertaken by the Social Workers, Building Managers and Airedale.

At Beach Haven, Airedale Property Trust and Lifewise are working with the Birkenhead Parish to build three buildings to house 15 disabled people. Whilst every endeavour has been made to expedite the project, we have been hampered by Auckland Council bureaucracy. After two years of procrastination the Auckland Council has finally recognised the political risk and appears to be expediting the regulatory process. Work should start on this project in late 2015.

The Lotofale'ia Tongan Parish's Matanikolo Housing Project has already housed 123 people. Airedale Property Trust and Lifewise look forward to working with the Parish on any Stage 2 development.

In 2015 the Property Trust is has been given the opportunity to provide community housing development and property management consultancy services to Te Taha Maori Trust. This has been an exciting aspect of our work and we hope that it will grow in 2016.

THE EMPLOYMENT GENERATION FUND

The fund continues the small business lending initiative started by John Wesley in 1746, and generally acts as a lending institution of last resort. Core business is to create employment through funding to help ventures become established. Some progress points to note during the year to 30 June 2015:

- The review of the fund and strategic plan was completed by the Management Committee and adopted by the Trustees at the 2014 AGM. The plan was submitted for consideration by the Methodist Mission Northern board, and subsequently the trustees have commissioned a further in depth review.
- At the 2014 AGM it was agreed and resolved that "Microwise" would be adopted as the working name of the fund; the legal name of the trust is unchanged. Subject to final confirmation, the new name has been registered as its Trade Mark. A Microwise web site www.microwise.nz has been created, launched and well received.

- The level of funding activity this year was not as encouraging as in 2014: three advances were made totalling \$32,500, involving six Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs; two loans totalling \$22,500 were fully repaid early. Small grants totalling \$6800 were made for special purpose assistance to ventures. No progress was made to extend the activity of the fund to the Waikato region; the decision was left on hold.
- During the year the decision was made to terminate the involvement of the fund in the Northland wind turbine project, this type of investment being deemed as outside the risk parameters of the trust.
- Recoveries from the Auckland Mortgage Trust have made slow progress and \$2746 was received; AMT are confident that the two remaining properties will be sold during the current year and business of the trust finally concluded.

The Trustees and Management Committee members at 30 June 2015 were:

Trustees

Angus Fletcher (Chair)
Warren Dalzell
John Fraser
Terry Hoskins
Bryce Nicholls

Management Committee

Terry Hoskins (Convenor)
Gaelle Deighton
John Fraser
Philip Hickling (Fund Manager)
Jay Widanagamage

LOOKING AHEAD.....

- The Trustees will continue their review of the trust, including efforts to improve its financial sustainability; efforts will continue to seek out ventures needing financial support.

The Trustees acknowledge and are extremely grateful for the ongoing support received from Methodist Mission Northern, both financially and in kind, and without which the operation of the fund would be very difficult.

MINISTRY WITH THE DEAF TRUST

Growing our Capital: The Good News is that this year our total fund increased by \$25,000



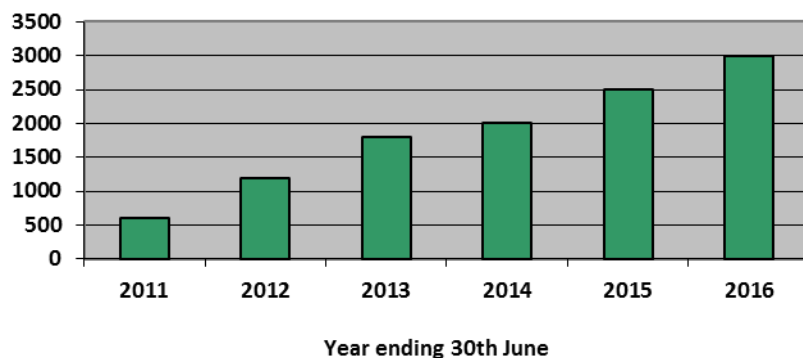
The Trust lives to give

This year will be the sixth in which we have assisted The Auckland Deaf Christian Fellowship. The grant has been set at 50% of the interest we receive from our Endowment Fund. Most donations we receive are for this fund and the assistance we give increases proportionately. The annual increases on the graph below shows the result of your giving.

For information on the Auckland Fellowship contact the Chaplain Rev. Sandra Gibbons or visit the website at www.adcfoonline.com

The web site has been expanded and the video content increased; details of fellowship activities, the leadership course, the power point services and "Thought For the Week" (now in its 15th year) are all there.

Annual Grants for Ministry with Deaf



We also support the Hamilton Deaf Christian Fellowship and this has been possible through grants from the Tidd Foundation and donations given specifically for Hamilton. We welcome the Co-operation of Rev. Nick Bruce Catholic Chaplain and the use of Hamilton West Anglican Church and St Columba's Catholic Church.

Jean Masters Co-ordinates The Hamilton Fellowship and can be contacted at jjj3jeans@xtra.co.nz or deaf@crosslight.org.nz

Jean is available to work with Deaf Members of the whole community from Crosslight Trust each Thursday. The opportunity to assist in literacy for job-seekers, interviewing and negotiating skills is growing.

Chair's comments

Thank you to all who have contributed this year with donations or practical work, especially our Trustees who freely contribute their time and expertise. The progress made and the extra growth in our funds this year is encouraging but, we still need to widen our support base if we hope to continue growing the Trust. Any help you can give will be greatly valued.

Barry Neal (Chair)

Our Financial report

Summary for the year ended 30 June 2015		
General Activities		
Communications fund Opening Balance		477
Less Charities Commission Filing Fee		(51)
Balance of Funds		426
Hamilton Ministry		
Opening Balance		2,408
Less contribution Community Worker		
Community Worker Resources		(34)
Balance of Funds		2,374
Endowment Fund		
Opening balance		80,068
Donations Endowment Fund	22,320	
Interest received	5,346	27,666
		107,734
Less Grant Made		
Lifewise - Ministry With Deaf Costs		(2,500)
Balance of Endowment Fund		105,234
Total Funds		108,034

These three remain: faith, hope, and love; 1 Cor. 13/13

Our Hope is

- that we can continue the Growth in Trust Capital
- this means that the interest we can give away (\$3000)
- and the 50% interest we retain (\$3,000) will grow.

We hope you can help us pass last year's total giving of \$13000

- we have already received \$1,000 in donations.
- our interest in beginning to grow.
- Please help us by enclosing your donation in the envelope provided.



A Special thank you to all our donors, you helped our Capital Funds grow.

Methodist Church for the PAC Grant of:	\$12,500
The Gordon Trust for Grants of: (2 years grants are shown in this year's accounts)	\$6,000
Crossroads Papakura Church:	\$1,300
Individual Donors for gifts of:	\$2,520
MTA interest 50% retained:	\$2,800

TAMAHERE EVENTIDE HOME TRUST

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

I believe this past year has been the 50th year that Tamahere Eventide Home, a wonderful outreach of the Methodist Church, has provided a great level of care to many, many older people in the Hamilton and Waikato area. Fantastic.

As has become the norm over recent years, the Chief Executive Officer's Annual Report contains significant detail relating to every facet of the operation of Tamahere Eventide Home and Village. Accordingly, as the facts have been covered, my comments will relate mainly to our dreams for the future and how we can further our mission to provide a quality, caring service for older people in a Christian environment. We are very aware that our task is to exceed expectations for the care of the elderly and have identified areas of our service we wish to extend.

1. Dementia Care

Construction is in progress to convert another of our rest home wings to a special care unit in order to satisfy demand in that area. This entails upgrading the existing rooms, converting an existing large lounge into a lounge/dining room, constructing a link between the bedroom wing and the newly converted lounge/dining room and adding a nurses station and other facilities. This project is to be completed before Christmas 2015.

2. Hospital and Apartments

At the design stage is a new building to house a ground floor hospital with a floor of apartments above. This will involve significant expense so it is intended to complete the construction in two stages. To assist with funding it is planned to sell most of the apartments on an license to occupy basis but possibly a number may be retained for rental purposes. As finances permit we have a desire to construct more rental apartments.

3. Solar Power

It is likely, after further investigation, we will choose to fit possibly a 42kW system of photovoltaic panels to the roof of the new apartments to provide solar power to the hospital and apartments. As the hospital and apartments will be heated/cooled 24hours per day with a heatpump/air conditioning system, solar panels have potential to yield significant energy cost savings.

4. Retirement Village

It is expected that the last of the villas to be built on our existing property will be completed prior to Christmas 2015. This will bring the total number of two and three bedroom homes in the village to 108. In addition, we are currently negotiating to purchase an adjacent property which, if successful, will enable the construction of a further 20 three bedroom villas.

5. Dedicated Education Unit

This is an exciting new initiative by our CEO and senior staff which will commence in July 2015 and is a joint venture between WINTEC's nursing school, Waikato DHB professional development unit and Tamahere Eventide.

Appreciation

The above items appear to be sufficient to keep us busy for the foreseeable future so I'll move on. I would like to express my appreciation to all the the following people who assist to make the Eventide Home and Village the vibrant, happening, caring place that it is:

Management and Staff

First accolade is to our Chief Executive Officer, Louis Fick, who for many years has been doing a fantastic job as the leader responsible not only for the efficient, caring operation but also responsible for ensuring that funds are available to fulfil our wishes and dreams now and for the future. A huge thank you Louis. I would also like to mention General Manager Care, Jennifer Marshall who has a natural, caring manner with both staff and residents, General Manager Support, David Mc George who sustains his enthusiasm for his work and is a great salesman of the villas. A huge thank you to you and all the other hardworking, caring members of the management team and staff. I would also like to mention our popular and enthusiastic Chaplains, Rev Anne Griffiths and Rev Colin Neal and those who have led Church Services during the past year:

Rev Hui young Han	Lyn Pinkerton
Rev Anne Preston	Ken Webster
Rev Jo Durrant	Joan Myles
Rev Len Schroeder	Catherine Dickie
Rev George Hammond	Liz Lightfoot
Rev Tony Westcott	& Ministry Assistants:
Rev Metui Tafuna	Ailsa Campbell
Rev Ellen Bernstein	Derek Woodward
Revs Lois & Edwin Clarke	Eric Russell
Rev Susan Thompson	Beulah Baker
Rev Ken Olsen	Ann Bunney
Rev Frederick Bealing	

It is interesting that seven of the above reside at Tamahere Eventide Village.

Also sincere thanks to those who lead the Catholic Ministry at Eventide:

Father Alexander	Lyn & Colin Fromont
Violet Brown	Sandy Atkins
Margaret Bartel	Graham Butler

In addition there is another sixty or more volunteers who help in various ways to make Eventide a great place to live. Thank you all for your wonderful contribution.

Trust Board

My thanks also to all the enthusiastic members of the Trust Board who I believe are doing such an excellent job.

Congratulations to everyone who is contributing to God's work in this place. You are doing a great job!

METHODIST CITY ACTION

After closing the Computer School at the end of 2013, we have had the occasional enquiry for computer training which we have had to refer elsewhere. This year we were approached by Computers in Homes, now called Web Access Waikato and have provided space for a 6 week Basic Computing programme facilitated by them. We have been interested to see that this has only attracted a very small uptake, and it has further affirmed the decision to close the Computer School.

The Classroom space continues to be well used by us through the Cookery classes and Skills for Life group. We also allow use of the classroom by Progress to Health to run a Photography group each Friday afternoon.

This year we have also run three In House training seminars on Epilepsy. This has been well attended by other social service agencies and staff from Midland Health and Work and Income.

We have enjoyed some positive media this year, which has focussed on our Cookery classes. This year we have looked at how we can improve these classes and have started undertaking induction interviews to determine 'new entrants' level of skills and fit for each class. We have also moved to stream our classes in Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced, so that people are learning at a similar pace and we can tailor the classes to suit the level of skills people already have. This is working very well and we are seeing all classes progress their skills much faster.

Cookery is our most popular programme and we have had 6 groups running so far this year. Participants come from a range of organisations, including Idea Services, Enrich +, Community Living Ltd, Family Start, as well as private individuals.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Housing in Hamilton has proved to be a significant issue in 2015. We were active in the protest against the sale of Pensioner Housing, and continue in the conversation amongst various groups about the lack of affordable and appropriate housing in Hamilton. Unfortunately there are no easy solutions, and we are not in a position to be able to provide housing or associated services ourselves.

We have recently been reaffirmed in our status as an Accredited Living Wage Employer, by Living Wage Aotearoa. Despite the Methodist Church Conference 2013 endorsing the principal of a Living Wage, we remain the only Methodist Entity to so far seek and gain an accreditation.

This means that MCA pay all our staff at least \$19.25 per hour. We have committed to paying other general contractors (e.g. lawn mowing) we use at this rate as well, which is a bit more difficult to control. This does mean however that those committing to the principal and the (Living Wage) Movement are indirectly putting pressure on other sectors of the workforce to provide a living wage for staff.

In my position as Director I also continue to be involved with the Board of the Hamilton Christian Nightshelter Trust, and as a Trustee on the Hamilton Combined Christian Foodbank Trust.

We organized another successful Neighbour's Day activity with other organisations in the London St area in March. This is a great way to bring together local businesses so we can learn about each other's services and get to know our neighbours in the city.

We organize an annual 'Brown Paper Bag Appeal' to support the Foodbank. For the 2014 end of year this was estimated at providing around \$25,000 worth of tinned and dry goods to help support the Foodbank service through the December 2014 and January / February period.

We run a Community Meal every Monday and are significantly supported by the Korean and Taiwanese communities through their volunteerism to prepare the meal. Our numbers fluctuate, and we are currently host 55-65 guests each week. They each get a hot sit down meal and enjoy the hospitality of eating in a large group and the camaraderie of seeing friends who attend most meals. This is also our opportunity to engage with people and find out what they think about the issues affecting Hamilton, and issues that affect them personally.

We run a range of programmes designed to empower and engage the community and these particularly attract the disability sector.

Our programmes are many and varied and include; Indoor Team Sport, Cookery, Art and Craft, Skills for Life, Fitness and Fun and Brain Gym+. Across at St Johns in Hamilton East, Seated Easy Exercise continues and is very popular with those attending. A really nice way to involve the local community, provide a gentle fitness programme and provide some fellowship with one of our local Methodist Churches.

Our relationship with Epilepsy Waikato Charitable Trust continues. Last year we piloted 'Cooking with Confidence' and 'Living Confidently' programmes. These have been so popular that we have continued them. Cooking with Confidence has also had sight impaired people join it. One person who successfully completed last year, brought along his friend who is completely blind and Jen the tutor has been able to accommodate her and her Support Dog, enabling our lady to fully participate in cookery.

Our highlights in the last 12 months have been to have one of our Disability Cookery Groups cater for our AGM in 2014 which was a resounding success. Our Skills for Living group recently hosted our Family Start Cookery Group in their end of course celebration.

CHALLENGES

As always, working with people provides many challenges. It is well documented in the media that there is growing poverty, or maybe it is just growing awareness of poverty issues. There are many complicating factors that lead people into a poverty situation, or prevent them from moving forward. Our role is to empower people to move forward, rather than enabling them to stay in the same place. Our ongoing challenge is to find the funding to support our classes to keep them low cost for our participants.

We rely on and appreciate funding from the Hamilton Methodist Trust and The Tidd Foundation to cover our general operational costs and then apply for community and philanthropic funding to help us with all other areas of our services. We compete with many other social services and community agencies.

For the Calendar Year to date:

796 contacts through our Cookery programmes

1623 meals served in the Community Meal.

221 Showers provided

128 food parcels given out to feed 214 people

501 volunteer hours contributed

VAHEFONUVA TONGA METHODIST MISSION CHARITABLE TRUST

The Vahefonua Tonga Methodist Mission have been working with external partners to deliver 3 key initiatives:

1. 2015 Education and Training Expo

2015 saw the return of Vahefonua Tonga's Methodist Mission's key initiative with the Education and Training Expo after 5 years where the mission's strategy was to have smaller Education and Training Expo. The change in strategy saw the mission running mini expos in Wellington, Dunedin and Tamaki.

The 2015 Expo was again held at the Lotofale'ia Methodist Parish, 32 Orly St, Mangere. The Expo opened on Friday afternoon 13th Feb 2015 and was officially launched by the Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-liga, Minister for Pacific Peoples, Minister of Corrections, Minister for Ethnic Communities, and Associate Minister of Health, and was a success which had over 800 people (parents and students) attending over the two days. A big thank you to the main Sponsors, The Methodist Church of New Zealand, Massey University and Ministry of Pacific Peoples.

2. Improving Early Childcare Education Participation

Vahefonua worked in partnership with the Ministry of Education to run Fun Days at six different congregations across the Auckland region to expose parents and children under 5 to various educational activities and inform parents of the many early childhood education option ranging from Playgroups, Early Childcare Centers to Kindergarten etc. The Fun Day initiative not only aligned with the New Zealand Methodist Church's 10 year mission "Let the Children Live" but also provided the opportunity for Vahefonua Mission and Ministry of Education to identify children who are not registered with any Early Childhood Education Provider.

The benefits from the initiative is that the resources purchased for the Fun Day is left with the congregation as initial resources for the congregation to start setting up a Play Groups as the first step in their journey to be licensed with Ministry of Education as a Play Group and ultimately later a fully funded Early Childhood Education provider.

3. Suicide Prevention Program

Vahefonua ran 7 Suicide prevention workshops with our Glen Innes, Ponsonby, Dominion Kingsland, Lotofale'ia Parish, Onehunga, New Lynn and Northcote Tongan congregations in partnership with TOKO Collaboration Group which is one of the Pasifika groups working with families and communities in the suicide prevention space. The name TOKO comes from a widely recognized youth slang borrowed from the Tongan word "*Tokoua*" which translates to brotherhood/sisterhood. It also can refer to the steering pole of the Tongan canoe (*pōpao*), symbolizing 'enabling and empowerment'.

The workshops were very successful and popular with the youth attracting an average turnout of 80+ church members and children attending the workshops. The strategy is to run the suicide prevention program at all the Tongan congregation under the Vahefonua Synod.

Board of Trustees and Representatives to MMA

Reverend Tevita Finau (Chairperson), Reverend Ikilifi Pope, Dr Melenaite Taumoeolau, Dr Maika Kinahoi Veikune, Kathleen Tuai-Ta'ufo'ou, Edwin Talakai (Secretary), Palanite Taungapeau, Seniorita Henrieta Laukau, Moimoi 'Ahau Kaufononga, Mosese Ngauopea 'Alatini, and 2 others to be appointed.

Members to MMA: Reverend Tevita Finau, Paula Taumoepeau.

Suggested decision:

1. That the report be received

SINOTI SAMOA METHODIST MISSION

Last year, Sinoti was blessed to have one of our own, Rev Tovia Aumua (who was Sinoti Samoa Superintendent at the time) appointed as President Elect of the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

Preparation for the role began and after some deliberation, Sinoti Samoa decided that I (Suiva'aia Te'o) would be the interim superintendent until the formal elections at the Sinoti Samoa AGM in July 2015. At the Sinoti Samoa AGM I was formally elected as the new superintendent for Sinoti Samoa. I am grateful to Sinoti for their support and have held the position with high regard and respect for our people. Since then we have worked really well with secretary and treasurer as well as the executive committee in all aspects of Sinoti life.

Highlights

The highlights of the year have been:

- Presentation of Certificates to 22 Accredited Lay Preachers in various district services at the end of 2014 and the beginning of this year.
- National Youth camp at Ngaruawahia (29 May to 1 June) where over 300 young people gathered with the theme MISSION CHRIST POSSIBLE (the previous camp was in 2010). Tupulaga Talavou (Sinoti Samoa Youth) farewelled the current National Youth Liaison Officers (NYLO) Filo Tu and Lynley Tai, who have held the position for the last 3 years (this was Filo's second term). NYLO have led our young people in leadership training and other activities, developing their faith and mentoring them. Two new NYLO have been elected for the next three year term beginning in February 2016.
- The KSI Workshops [Social Issues Committee] continue to take place and our people have seen the impact of these workshops on our families. We continue to support the hard work that this committee is doing for Sinoti Samoa.
- Sinoti has witnessed quite a number of our young people graduating from Tertiary Institutions and other Education providers. We acknowledge them and continue to celebrate their achievements. Some of these young people have been invited to join some of our Sinoti Samoa working committees/task groups and will have the opportunity to apply their acquired knowledge to help implement Sinoti's plans/goals.
- Annual General Meeting 2015 in Wellington – we had a successful annual meeting this year. It was hosted by the Wellington District, held at the Christian campsite in Silverstream. This was the final Sinoti AGM meeting for one of our great leaders - Rev Aso Samoa Saleupolu. The elections for office bearers also saw a change in our leadership status. For the first time in Sinoti Samoa's history, three women have been elected to lead Sinoti Samoa (superintendent, secretary and treasurer) for the next three year term. Other positions were also elected and affirmed for the next three years.
- Two of our young people represented Te Haahi o Weteriana o Aotearoa at the YATRA Leadership Seminar on developing youth leaders which was held in Cambodia.
- Induction services for Rev Suivaia Te'o (Mangere Central Parish and Sinoti Samoa Superintendent), as well as for Rev Utumau'u Pupulu (Waitakere Parish) were held in February this year.

Strategies

Stand Alone Superintendency – our Sinoti has set a strategy in place to have a half time superintendent commencing in February 2017, with the assistance of the PAC Endowment. The Sinoti finance committee will also look into other ways Sinoti can raise funds towards this.

Sinoti has also set a process for Parish Reviews for 1st and 5th year, and that the findings of these reviews are conveyed to parishes involved and a copy be kept for Sinoti records.

Climate Change – there is going to be a Workshop for climate change, and our leaders have been involved in the planning. Sinoti has offered \$2,000 towards this good course, and our people are encouraged to attend.

Komiti Tofa Mamao – this is our Visioning committee which is equivalent to Council of Conference. Sinoti has formed this committee and entrusted it with the responsibility for visioning that will help church growth. They are to work closely with convenors and different committees for the success of the Sinoti vision. They will look at an action plan especially the opportunity of theologically reflecting in the Ministry together and will look into Mission projects that will lead our Sinoti into the future.

Social Issues Committee [KSI] - have had their professional development in January this year, and are looking forward to the next one in 2016. They have also encouraged Sinoti to have Survival Kits prepared for crisis times.

Sinoti Building Project – Sinoti has met with Lifewise in regards to their building project and asked for their assistance and expertise. Lifewise is happy to assist and had some work for both our committee and themselves to look in to, to prepare for the next steps of this project.

Properties – the need to consider the future of some of our buildings in the light of earthquake strengthening requirements remains a challenge. Some parsonages need repair / renovation to meet church requirements. Some churches require new halls to be built.

Challenge and looking forward

- Sinoti Samoa has been challenged and encouraged by our Tupulaga Talavou (Youth) to organise and plan activities and programmes for children and young people to put in action the 10 year focus of the Church to 'Let the Children Live'.
- Tupulaga also asked Sinoti to change a Section in the Sinoti Constitution in order to go with their plans of having a biennial youth camp commencing in 2017.
- The School of Theology for Presbyters will be from 11-13 February 2016 and the Induction service of all new Sinoti Samoa office bearers will take place on Sunday 14th February.

Sinoti Samoa is looking forward to 2016 with anticipation and excitement.

WESLEY COMMUNITY ACTION

Our Mission – *Just and Caring Communities.*



Our Creed – How we bring out the best in people

We are working for a just and caring society
We believe positive change is always possible
We work in partnership with people,
We listen actively
We respond with honesty and openness
We remain open to challenge, change and growth

We work ...
...As members of communities
...Out of compassion
...As facilitators of positive change

Looking back on last year: what we learned

- **People on the margins IS our mission** - nice words and platitudes only take you so far – we need to engage in the hard work of not giving up on people. Wesley Community Action has a sound reputation of working with people many groups pass over. This includes young people bounced around our care system, old people hidden and ignored in their local communities, and groups moving in and out of prison.

- **Privileging the voice of the powerless is key** – how we talk about the people we work with, how we engage with them and how we share information with them is essential to their healing journey. The dominant systems in New Zealand, despite the rhetoric, are not empowering of people experiencing stress and hardship.
- **Redesigning our organisation to be adaptive and responsive** – We need to work hard at creating a culture and systems that ensure we are at the service of the people needing help. This is easy to say but challenging to put into effect. We are making progress in this area.
- **Individual and systems change is linked** – Wesley is not a ‘service provider’ or ‘social service’ organisation. Wesley is about transformation – of individuals and society – that is the gospel message, and that is why Wesley exists.

Looking to the future – the challenges and opportunities

- **A more effective ‘Alliance’ of Methodist Agencies** – WCA is pleased that a report and plan is in progress to create a more connected and smart national approach to Methodist ‘Social Services’. This change is critical for the on-going effectiveness of our work and needs to balance local focus with smart nationally joined up resources.
- **What does innovation in Aged Care look like? Future of Wesleyhaven** – We continue to firm up a plan for Wesleyhaven that looks to the next 40 years and how this asset can support our mission in a viable manner.
- **Creatively responding to changes in Government policies and approaches** – the reality is that Government policy impacts significantly on our work. Wesley will respond to the significant changes that have been signalled by government informed by our mission and approach – ‘The Wesley Way’.
- **Distributing Wealth** – we need to have a wider conversation about how society distributes our wealth. New technology will continue to increase productivity and we need a renewed collective agreement on how the wealth of our economy is shared while maintaining efficiency. This is wider than the ‘living wage’ movement and needs to reassess our tax system, benefit system and financial system.

More details found at www.wesleyca.org.nz

PALMERSTON NORTH METHODIST SOCIAL SERVICES

No report available for 2015.

CHRISTCHURCH METHODIST MISSION

Our Vision: A just and inclusive society in which all people flourish

Our Mission: To promote and enhance the dignity of all people through:

- *providing compassionate care, support and empowerment of those most vulnerable in our community*
- *building communities, neighbourhoods and a wider society that are fair and inclusive*
- *challenging injustice and promoting hope*



Dignity for Older People at WesleyCare

Vice President Arapera (Bella) Ngaha and Ruawhiti Pokaia from Rehua Marae opened and blessed the first stage of the new WesleyCare hospital for older people on 21 June 2015. This includes 60 rooms with ensuites, the kitchen, laundry and chapel. The old WesleyCare building (previously known as Fairhaven) is currently being demolished to make way for a further 40 rooms. WesleyCare is increasingly being asked to care for adults of all ages who are dying and therefore is using one of the Marblewood units (8 units with separate bedroom and lounge) for palliative care.

Whānau Support

The Mission's social workers, psychologists and budget advisor have supported approximately 1 000 children and their families/ whānau in the last year. This includes children who have been taken into care of Child, Youth and Family, their parents and foster parents. A multi-disciplinary team continues to work in schools, providing child mentoring, group work and home-based social work.

Aratupu, the Mission's early childhood education centre continues to provide high quality, affordable education and significant support to low income families.

Post-Earthquake Support

The impact of the earthquakes continues to be felt with many children struggling with anxiety. The Mission is coordinating a large multi-agency 'Parent Support Package' which recognises that many families have been significantly disrupted by the earthquakes or preoccupied by insurance/rebuilding issues. The package aims to support and connect parents through a number of different initiatives.

Two Earthquake Support Coordinators continue to work with people still trying to resolve insurance or rebuilding issues. Finding accommodation while their repairs are undertaken is a challenge for many older people so the Mission has made space available at Wesley Village.

Working with Parishes

The Mission is committed to working closely with parishes and has recently joined with the New Brighton Union parish to establish a Community Development initiative with families. The Mission is also talking with a number of local parishes about the possibility of locating the Mission's services in parish premises.

The relationship with the Nelson/ Marlborough/West Coast Synod is also being strengthened and work is being undertaken with the Synod to identify the most effective use of the Green Gables Trust Fund which is for social development in the region.

Housing

Housing, in particular unaffordable rents, is the biggest issue impacting many people the Mission works with. Community housing is therefore a developing area of work and the Mission has recently become a registered Community Housing Provider. Housing is provided at Wesley Village (24 bedsits, 12 villas and a small number of units at Marblewood) and at an inner-city complex for 8 families. The Mission has also been contracted by the City Council to lease 6 homes from private landlords for young people and families who are homeless. We are currently exploring the purchase of three new two bedroom cottages for families affected by mental health issues.

Strategic Plan 2015-2018

This new plan outlines the direction of the Mission in the next four years and includes the completion of WesleyCare hospital, continuing to grow community housing, a stronger emphasis on neighbourhood development and working collaboratively with parishes to create a just and inclusive society. During this period, the Mission will relocate its services so that they are visible and accessible.

METHODIST MISSION SOUTHERN

Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei

Seek the treasure you value most dearly: if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain



Nothing in life is as important as being loved and cared for as a child.

Someone who has been raised to respect others and themselves, who has been cared for and sheltered from harm, who knows that life is nonetheless sometimes painful, who understands that the rewards for persistence are so much greater than the rush of instant gratification, stands a far

better chance of coping with life's challenges than the child brought up with only a surplus of material goods.

Nothing, of course, guarantees success, but a person's ability to deal with the misfortunes life dishes up, is immeasurably improved by a childhood cultivated with love and skill.

So what can we say of ourselves when we meet high levels of childhood poverty (27% nationwide), one of the worst child death rates by maltreatment in the OECD, and notifications to CYFS quadrupling in the last decade?

Firstly, we can say that there are groups within our society that have adversity served up to them in far greater volumes, with far greater frequency, than others do.

We have sustained a high level of unofficial unemployment and a low average wage rate for decades. We have looted people from our provinces to fuel our one international city, Auckland, and have created a property bubble that is now equal to nearly half our annual economic growth. We have deregulated our labour market to the point where zero-hours contracts are seen as normal for people living in one of the world's most unaffordable cities. We have one of the most variable within-school achievement rates in the developed world. Forty percent of those living in poverty are in full time work.

Secondly, we could remember that resiliency, that ability to bounce back from adversity, is a finite thing. Resiliency is drained by the constant decision-making that poverty demands. It is battered by those who take to the media to dismiss whole classes of people as "feral" or "bludgers" or to dog whistle to those who do. It is stifled by helping agencies who swoop in to fix things, and it is shredded by the bureaucratic maze we offer the poor when they seek help.

Yet with care, attention and skill, resiliency can be nurtured and grown. Confidence and dignity can be restored. Solutions and strengths can be uncovered and deployed. Lives can be returned.

Over the last five years, the Mission's journey has been to improve how we work with people, so that when they leave the room we can know that they've gotten what they came for, that they are able to move forward in their lives, that they are more resilient – regardless of how long we've spent with them – than when they walked into the room.

This is certainly not something we could have said of ourselves just a few years ago! But it has been an expensive journey. When we started our change process, the returns on our investments were *double* the rate they are now. The Global Financial Crisis turned over \$600,000 of our investments into \$0. Our "market" of Otago Southland has seen funding progressively stripped out and sent north as the Auckland population has grown, and with our region's size there is much work but very little "scale" (cost advantages that come from being a large operator). A change in government saw year after year, entire funding lines cancelled nationwide, often with only a few months' notice, costing Methodist Mission Southern hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Conference will know that Methodist Mission Southern has run losses for some years now as we have invested in our ability to do the work right. We have been fortunate to have the spiritual, emotional, and practical support of the parishes of the Otago Southland Synod and our Treaty Partner, Te Taha Maori.

We advise Conference that the investment made and the risks taken are now starting to pay off. We do better work now, and we do it more quickly. What used to take months of engagement, takes weeks. The people we work with tell us: *finally, help that worked!*

We are securing more contracts (work and funding), and we are regularly asked by other agencies to help them figure out how to do their work better. Our services are now spread well beyond our original Dunedin base into North, Central and South Otago, and Invercargill.

For the first time this year we are able to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and have implemented an investment policy to secure the future of the investment portfolio that has so supported our journey.

As we have rebuilt our agency, we have learnt that if we offer the people we work with their dignity back, use our skills to help grow their resiliency, and focus on their goals; their achievements will stun us both. That is a payoff that is worth far more than the cost of our investment.

Suggested decisions:

1. That the report be accepted.
2. That the Board for Methodist Mission Southern for 2016 be: Julie Pearse (Chairwoman), Austen Banks, Keith McKenzie, Natalie Karaitiana, Rachael Masterton, Nigel Pitts, Richard Devereux, Siosifa Pole, and Laura Black (Director).