

Supplementary Tributes

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Donald Heaton Bennett

1928 – 2015

Donald was born on the 4th September 1928 in Hastings. He was the elder's son of Walter and Linda Bennett. Don's Dad Walter died when Don was aged 12. His Mum and her 3 sons (Don, Graeme and Geoff) moved to New Plymouth in 1940. The move was at the well-meaning insistence from the rest of the Bennett family who resided there

In 1945 Don left school and for an apprenticeship at the Taranaki Herald in the printing department.

Hi future was to work alongside people as a teacher and Social Worker. After teacher training college and taught at Benneydale and then Mangorei school in New Plymouth

1965–1968: Moved to Whangarei – worked for The Department of Social Welfare as a field officer

1968 – 1973 Don was in Papua New Guinea working for the United Church as a teacher and Principal of the United Church Primary School at Hoiebia, Tari in the Southern Highlands. This was an appointment on behalf of the Conference, responding to the need of our partner church in the Pacific

At the conclusion of his appointment in Papua New Guinea Don returned to New Plymouth workin for The Department of Social Welfare as an adoptions officer

Donald and his wife Gwenda (deceased) adopted four children (Boys) Murray and Ross and the (Girls) Kaye and Christine and were blessed to have their own (daughter) Robyn in 1972.

Don was a caring and loving person not only to his own family but to his church family as well.

He was very active in the life of the church. He was accredited Lay Preacher in 1950 and he retired in 2007. 57 years of preaching the word of God.

Don passed away peacefully on the 3rd August 2015 at Tainui Village Rest Home. His funeral was held on the 7th of August 2015 at the New Plymouth Methodist Centre.

Anthony (Tony) Dale

Died April 2015

Tony Dale was an active member of the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa. Within his local Parish (Wellington) he provided financial help and support. He helped shape a new direction for the Parish and guided them with a calm and happy disposition. This was a key ingredient of a diverse parish with a multicultural community. He was busy in Church life in terms of providing accounting and administration advice.

When Tony's and Carol's children were young, Tony coordinated children's activities for the Wesley 10am Congregation and was a member of the Leaders' Meeting from 2000 - 2002. He was also a member of the Leaders' Meeting in 2013/2014 and Congregational Treasurer. He then took on the task of Stewardship Recorder. Tony represented the congregation at the Lower North Island Synod. He was also involved in the organisation of the 2012 Conference. Tony was an enthusiastic member of the Parish and used his leadership skills in running events.

Tony also provided significant input into two significant national Committees of his church: The Methodist Connexional Budget Task Group and Methodist Connexional Financial Review Committee. This Review Committee is tasked with the review of financial accounts within the

Methodist Church. In 2015 this amounted to over 1600 pages for over 140 entities within the Church. His wisdom and experience provided this committee with a new way of thinking about the possibilities for the future. Tony was looking at streamlining and “decluttering” what had happened in the past to not only improve performance but to make things more transparent. The Budget Task Group in addition to developing strategy for and allocating the annual National Budget was also asked to form a ‘think tank’ to imagine and scope new futures for the Church. Tony excelled at this, pushing the other members of the group to see beyond and to imagine new futures. The report and its outworking is part of his living legacy.

His willingness to provide support to staff within the Board of Administration on financial reporting issues was always gratefully received and as Peter van Hout has remarked, “Tony was always on the end of the phone and it always amazed me that I could pick up the phone and talk directly with a Chief Executive of a Public Service and always receive a warm reply.”

Lana Margaret Lazarus

1970 – 2015

Kua ngaro i a tatou he taonga

Lana Margaret Lazarus was born on 22 January 1970. Belonging to the iwi of Ngati Kuri, Ngapuhi of the Hokianga region, Ngati Paoa and Waikato, Lana was raised in Beach Haven on the North Shore of Auckland. She was nurtured by her parents Evalene and Tom Haula and was the youngest of 5 siblings.

Lana attended karakia at Whakatuora centre in Mangere and at Te Kopua Wairua, firstly at St Paul's in Northcote, then to St Luke's. In recent times as Minita-a-iwi she took regular service in the homes of some of the members in Birkenhead. Within Te Taha Maori her rangatahi involvement as a member of Rangatahi Planning Committees enabled her to offer support to local, national and ecumenical youth and young adult ministry development.

Lana had a wealth of knowledge and experience within church circles gained through her employment within Te Taha Maori which had begun when she first left school and joined the Maori Division Church Office team. Under the guidance, first of Ruawai and Joy Rakena and later strongly influenced by Te Rua Winiata. She was the Administrative Manager for Te Taha Maori offering a committed service of more than 25 years. Lana was very approachable and worked well with others. Her warmth and openness were widely appreciated throughout the Connexion.

As an Administrator she had an eye for details and an ability to meet timelines.

As a communicator she had an ability to understand a situation and convey that understanding to others. Her love and commitment to this church and in particular Te Taha Maori and the bicultural journey were clearly evident in all she did. Lana expressed her faith and love for others in the great care she took in attending to any tasks allotted to her.

Lana was a Past Vice President, 2009/2010 alongside President Alan Upson. Her outreach was wide and engagement on several Boards and Committees spans many years. A member of Council of Conference for 17 years, Lana served as Co-convenor from 2001 - 2008, a task which she performed with excellence, bringing her strong organisational skills, perception, insight and the capacity for facilitating wise decision-making to task.

Using her skills and expertise Lana served as a member of Hui Poari, Kurahuna Scholarship Fund (Convenor), Te Runanga Whakawhanaunga I Nga Haahi o Aotearoa, Mission & Ecumenical Board, Media & Communications Endowment Fund, Wesley College Trust Board, PAC Distribution Group and several others. As a member of many 4+4 appointment panels and bicultural workgroups, being open to discussing the possibilities of engaging in Bicultural relationships factored into much of her work.

Lana's ecumenical journey began in 1996 as a youth attending the Conference on World Mission

and Evangelism in Salvador, Brazil and as a youth delegate to the WCC 8th General Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1998. She later served as a member on the Communications Advisory Group (CAG) of the World Council of Churches (WCC). The church offered Lana travel opportunities which she embraced whole heartedly sharing the learnings and experiences with us all at various times and events.

Lana always maintained a deep seated concern for listening to 'grassroots' perspectives. She had a capacity to listen and advocate for youth, women and indigenous spirituality and theology, laity perspectives in which all had equal value and opportunity. Her wide range of gifts was matched by her generosity of spirit.

Amongst her community involvements Lana was the National Assistant Co-ordinator for Aoteara Maori Netball Oranga Healthy Lifestyles (AMNOHL) and Rohe Co-ordinator/Executive committee member for Poi Tarawhiti O Te Raki Paewhenua (North Harbour Maori Netball). While Lana had a great love of netball, her overarching love was for her whanau. A devoted daughter she was laid to rest in her whanau wahi tapu Pukewheki in Taheke, Hokianga.

Moe mai ra e te tuahine

Jean Margaret Rickard

1915 - 2014

Jean Margaret (Moston) Rickard, Queen's Service Medal (QSM), 19 December 1915 to November 2014.

Jean and Malcolm Arnold Rickard were married in the Hataitai Methodist Church in March 1940 and initially lived in Oriental Bay but most of their married life Jean and Malcolm lived in Hataitai. They had a daughter Patricia (Tricia). In 1949 the Methodist Church Conference approved the Constitution of the Methodist Women's Guild Fellowship. Jean was actively involved and was the local president from 1955-1959. A lot of time was spent in fundraising for items mainly for the Parsonage but also for the Church. Jean was a skilled embroiderer. She was very hospitable and was renowned for the dinner parties she gave when Malcolm, who was Director of Music at both Hataitai Methodist Church & Wesley, Taranaki St., had special musicians visiting. In both congregations Jean was a member of the choir and contributed to the life of the congregations.

In 1962 Jean was inducted as the National President of the MWGF and when the Guild joined with the MWMU to form the New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship she was a Vice-President for one year. Jean was the MWF Representative on the Christian Education Board. When the Fellowship group at Wesley Taranaki Street no longer met as an affiliated group, she instituted monthly luncheons in the Chapel to maintain contact and fellowship.

In the 1998 Queen's Birthday Honours she was awarded the QSM for her contributions to the Community. Even when she shifted to Ropata in Lower Hutt she continued to take an interest in the various Church activities.

Jean died in November 2014 and we give thanks for her life and the contribution she has made in the life of the Church and the Methodist Women's Guild Fellowship and the NZ Methodist Women's Fellowship.

Jack Wright

1927 - 2015

Jack was born in 1927. The youngest of five children 3 boys and 2 girls. The family were farming near Wanganui until 1938 when they shifted to a property at Rawhitiroa road west of Eltham in Taranaki.

Jack finished school after completing standard 6. His early working life was stock work with cattle and sheep initially near Wanganui but latterly Eastern Taranaki. He was working for his father's cousin near Whangamomona when he met Dawn Pullyn a newly graduated Dental Nurse from Palmerston North. Despite Dawn not being keen on marrying a farmer or a minister. She in fact married both.

They were married in 1952 after a long courtship. They moved to Porangahau in Hawkes Bay where their first child Grant was born. Then moved back to Taranaki until the late 1950s and their second child Glenda was born in Stratford.

A slight change came when Jack and Dawn looked at leasing a property at Bulls. This was the beginning of a very testing time for the family as the owner did everything possible to break the lease agreement. It was during this time that Dawn who had grown up as part of the Presbyterian Church gently tried to persuade Jack to seek help with her bible. Although reluctant at first Jack began to read. This along with a visit from the local Presbyterian minister lead to an invitation to attend church. The invitation was accepted and as Jack says in his own words "I accepted the invitation not knowing just how this might change my life".

This led to taking responsibility for the Sunday School and before he knew it being asked to take a church service. From this small step Jack went on to be part of the board of managers, then an Elder and eventually a Session Clerk. During this time a new Minister had been called to Bulls. He thought Jack should consider Ministry in the Presbyterian Church. Initially things looked promising as Jack was seen as suitable if he did some papers to equate to University Entrance. The family moved to Palmerston North in 1966 while Jack studied and worked part time and Dawn worked as a Dental Nurse. The Presbyterian Church had some concerns about Jack's age and ability and eventually a minister who had been supporting his application suggested approaching the Methodist Church who offered a programme for lay people interested in missionary work. The idea being that if Jack completed the course successfully he could look at candidating for Ministry. It was a stressful time but eventually the move was made to Auckland in 1967.

The School for Christian Workers was completed and Jack was accepted as a candidate for Ministry. Late in 1967 Dawn had a major heart attack. However she made a good recovery and in 1968 Jack began his training. He loved college and the impact of his lecturers was carried with him for the rest of his life. He frequently quoted them or shared stories.

In 1971 the family moved to Jack's first Parish of Okato in Taranaki. It was a small town in a rural community and as such matched Jack's love of farming and faith. The next appointment was in 1977 to Rongotea in the Manawatu. Again another small rural town with a stock sale yard. As with Okato a good match for Jack's skills. The appointment at Rongotea allowed both Dawn and Jack to be near their elderly parents until their deaths. Jack's final official appointment before retirement was to Te Aroha in the Waikato. As with the other Parishes this was also a smallish rural town. While in Te Aroha Jack became an industrial chaplain at the Waitoa factory. He found this aspect of his ministry very rewarding.

In each parish Jack was able to facilitate the transition to becoming cooperating parishes. In Okato it was in partnership with the Anglican Church and Rongotea and Te Aroha. The other visible legacy was building work. At Okato it was a large Church Hall which is now used as a church in its own right. In Rongotea the Presbyterian Church building was newer, but the Methodist Hall was more suitable so it was moved and linked to the church building creating a useful complex. In Te Aroha the Presbyterian Church was seen as the best option for the cooperating parish but unlike Rongotea the hall and offices were new builds.

Possibly Jack's less visible legacy was his counselling. The ability to help people was something Jack was very proud of. The rural parishes allowed Jack to use his farming knowledge and in doing so put people at ease.

In 1988 after 5 years at Te Aroha Jack and Dawn looked forward to retirement in Palmerston North near their daughter, son in law and grandchildren.

Not long into his retirement Jack was approached by Wing Commander Don Hall who was the chaplain at Ohakea Air Force Base. He was looking for someone to fill in at Ohakea for 6 months. 16 years later Jack retired from Ohakea as the longest serving chaplain as he provided some continuity as air force chaplains came and went. Jack was proud and humbled to be the only chaplain ever to be given the base commanders award.

While Jack was working at Ohakea he was asked to be superintendent of the Hawkes Bay Manawatu Synod as no one else was available. He held this position for two years. He also helped out in the life of the Palmerston North Parish as Presbyters came and went.

Jack was also doing pastoral care work at Summerset retirement village right up to the time that his health forced him to stop. He was working 1 day a week and loved meeting and talking with residents.

In 2014 he was still regularly taking services as well as weddings and funerals up until he was admitted to hospital in August with bowel cancer. The tumour was removed but the cancer had spread and after a brief illness Jack died peacefully on New Years day 2015. His funeral was a celebration of a full life and was full of stories and memories and terrible jokes. He leaves behind his son daughter son in law favourite older and favourite younger grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Jack a true steward of all the tasks he did be it farming, friendship, pastoral care, Presbyter but mostly as a husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.