

In memory of
Those who have died



Conference 2016

Kepu Moa

1946 – 2015

The late Rev Kepu Moa was born in Tonga on 19 June 1946. He was raised in a Methodist Family/Environment. His father, Rev Suli Moa was an ordained Minister in the Methodist Church in Tonga [Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga]. His eldest brother was also a Minister in Tonga, while his youngest brother is a current Minister in the United Methodist in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Kepu did his secondary school at Tupou College and Tupou High School where he achieved the Victorian Intermediate and Leaving Certificates and sat the University Entrance. He worked for some years in Tonga before migrating with his family to New Zealand in 1973.

For 16 years from 1987 to 2003, he held 3 roles within the Auckland/Manukau Tongan Methodist Parish:

1. Parish Secretary
2. Parish Treasurer
3. Minister for the New Lynn Tongan Methodist congregation

Kepu also held a variety of leadership roles such as, Secretary for the Tongan Advisory Committee, he was a member of the Faith and Order Committee and was Secretary of the Auckland/Manukau Tongan Property Committee. He was the first Tongan to be appointed to the Board of Administration and also appointed 'Elder'.

In 1989 Kepu began part-time training for Ordained Ministry at the Trinity Methodist Theological College for 4 years and was ordained a Minister of the NZ Methodist Church in 1993 at the Conference held in Christchurch.

In 2004 to 2010 Kepu was stationed to Gisborne Methodist Multicultural Parish as its Superintendent.

In 2010 he was stationed as Superintendent of the Tongan Methodist Kosipeli Parish in Christchurch. The 2011 earthquake caused the Church and Hall to be closed for safety reasons. Kepu and parishioners started to fundraise for rebuilding of a new hall and re-strengthening of the church. Due to serious illness Kepu graciously retired after 28 years from active ministry at the 2015 Conference on November 14.

He was instrumental in the early life of the Tongan Ministry within the Methodist Church of NZ. He was committed to preaching the Gospel and endeavoured to help people find salvation through Jesus Christ. Kepu was an utmost loyal and dedicated servant of God and continuously praised the Lord till his last breath on 30 November 2015.

Kepu was forever appreciative of the support and leadership of his wife Maa'imoa Moa and three children, daughters Soi and Kalo, son Taniela and grandchildren. Kepu was always grateful for the opportunities which the Methodist Church of New Zealand has given him to be able to serve Christ and people through his ministry.

Alan John Leadley QSM

1943 – 2015

“A missionary with dirty hands and muddy boots.” That’s how Roy Burke of the Waikato Times described Rev. Alan Leadley in a published tribute following his death.

Alan was a remarkable mix of scholar, theologian, historian, environmentalist, social activist, trumper, chaplain (hospital and workplace), missionary, family man, friend and fellow traveller.

Born in Picton 26 November 1943 shortly after his missionary parents Clary and Amy Leadley escaped the Japanese occupied Solomon Islands, Alan was the fourth of five children in his family and the fourth generation of Leadleys to enter the Methodist ministry.

Alan graduated with a BA from Auckland University but turned down a Masters Scholarship in Geography to enter Trinity Methodist Theological College from which he graduated with a BD from Otago University. He later gained an MA in History from the University of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Meanwhile Alan and Muriel married in 1967 and went to St Albans, Christchurch for Alan’s first ministry appointment. Six years in PNG followed during which time their two sons Simon and Matthew were born. Alan was Principal of the United Church’s Malmaluan Lay Christian Education Centre near Rabaul. Many past students attest to Alan and Muriel’s loving care and advancement of their leadership roles within the Church.

On the family’s return to New Zealand, Alan taught briefly at Westlake Girls High School Auckland, before becoming a Waikato Hospital chaplain (1977-1984) followed by Joint Secretary of the Council for Mission and Ecumenical Cooperation for the Methodist and Presbyterian churches (1984-1994). This latter appointment gave Alan the opportunity to build on his parent’s commitment to the Solomon Islands which he did by encouraging wider environmental concerns as well as the core work of the Church.

From 1994-2004 Alan was appointed to the Chartwell Hamilton Cooperating Parish (Anglican, Methodist, and Presbyterian) and served also as Methodist Waikato-Waiariki District Superintendent during this time. Following this appointment he returned to chaplaincy work at the Waikato DHB for another three years. During his early retirement years he worked part time in workplace chaplaincy in Hamilton. Alan was also president of the Waikato Interfaith Council (WIFCO).

For years Alan was a trustee of the DV Bryant Trust in Hamilton which supported many church and community developments.

But allied to these formal appointments were many additional commitments, from Alan's own forestry block near Raglan to Pukemokemoke Reserve development at Tauhei, extensive tramping, anti-apartheid, anti-nuclear, bicultural, anti-gambling and peace campaigns, local history and interfaith explorations, and above all a great loyalty to and love of family, friends, parishioners, hospital patients and staff, workplaces and fellow travellers.

An adored grandfather to Liam and Sean, Alan took some time out from chaplaincy to care for his grandsons whilst their parents studied and worked to get established.

Ablly accompanied by Muriel, Alan was socially and theologically progressive as his actions illustrated and the awarding of a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) in 2004 recognised.

Alan described his 45 years as a Methodist minister "as deeply satisfying and I retired (in 2008) with a sense of thanks to God and to people of many shades of faith and worldview for the enrichment they have brought to my life".

Alan advocated strongly for a progressive Church focused on core principles rather than creedal statements; on the way of life inspired by Jesus rather than dead dogma. Alan added "I am aware that old certainties have gone. While there are multiple ways to understand 'the divine spirit', my own theology has come to focus on God's unconditional love and the essential goodness within us all".

A debilitating lung disease cut short Alan's dynamic life, but as always, he displayed amazing fortitude and foresight as long as he could.

Alan lives on in the impact he has had on so many people and so many places.

The church is extremely grateful to Muriel, Matthew, Simon, Mily, Liam, Sean and the wider Leadley family for sharing Alan so generously with the church and wider community.

Thanks be to God for the ministry and humanity of Alan Leadley.

Margaret Anne Ziegler

1943 – 2015

Margaret Anne Ziegler parents were Rev Les Gilmore and Kathleen Gilmore. Rev Les Gilmore was a Methodist Presbyterian in the Methodist Church of New Zealand serving for so many years stationed all around New Zealand.

Margaret Ziegler has two sisters, Alison and Barbara. Margaret was married to Robin Ziegler and they have been blessed with four children Angela, Chris, Philip and David, wives and Grandchildren.

Margaret was an active and vibrant member of the Manurewa Methodist Parish and she became Lay Preacher Accredited on the 28th August 1984. She lived a busy life and enjoyed everything she did. She was a very strong supporter of the youth and the Sunday School children and had been the Superintendent of the Sunday School for 40 years. She was very much involved in the care and activities of the Girls Brigade for a number of years.

Margaret made herself available to help and guide the youth of the church, setting goals for their future. She worked tirelessly and was able to juggle her work – as a full time school teacher – with the extra responsibilities for the church, community and family. Margaret was very well respected and much loved by both old and young of the church.

Margaret participated in the planning of the church camping activities as well as in the Girls Brigade trips. She was Wesley Historical Society Secretary for eight years, Synod rep for the Friendship House for twenty-four years, Chaplaincy Support Committee Middlemore for three years, and a member of the Manurewa Interchurch Committee approx. six years.

Margaret loved poetry and every time she preached she would share a poem she had written with the church. As the convenor of the Pastoral Care Committee she approached people with love and compassion – a task very much appreciated by the members of the local church.

Margaret's enthusiasm in everything she did was very infectious [ɪn'fækʃəs]. She was an exceptional person, full of energy and had the heart and care for everyone. She was a valuable Minister's Steward for fifteen years and her heart was clearly in her work to make sure that the Minister and his family were well looked after. I deeply appreciated her care.

Margaret was very approachable and a popular person who knew everyone in the church.

I can think of no better verse than:

2 Timothy 4:7-8

"I have run the great race, I have finished the course, I have kept faith. And now the prize awaits me, the garland of righteousness which the Lord, the all-just, will award me on that great day; and it is not for me alone, but for all who have set their hearts on his coming appearance."

Verna Elaine Mossong QSM

1925 – 2016

Verna was born in Stoke, Nelson on 25 August 1925. Educated at Nelson Girls College, she was a member of the Stoke Methodist Church and came under the early influence of ministers like John Grocott and Ralph Patchett.

In 1948 Verna married Len Mossong and his work with the New Zealand Air Force sent them to live in Beach Haven, Auckland; Blenheim; Hobsonville and finally Glenfield, Auckland. Together they brought up three sons and a daughter.

In 1967 Verna joined the fledgling New Zealand Society of Genealogists. Genealogy became one of her passions. As well as exploring her own Ching family history, Verna developed expertise in the areas of shipping records, women's history and cemetery transcriptions. She was soon involved in the Society's governance, serving twice in the roles of Vice-President and President from 1972 to 1982. Although she had no formal training, Verna was a natural leader and teacher, presenting historical papers at home and abroad. She had an easy manner and shared her gifts with confidence and authority.

Based in Glenfield, Verna and Len were active members of the Northcote Methodist Church. Verna served as Parish Steward, was involved in Methodist Women's Fellowship (and became President of the Waitemata District in 1979) and was a member of the Smethurst Committee. A strong advocate for women, Verna was Branch President of the National Council of Women from 1983 to 1984 and was elected a member of its National Executive in 1983. In 1987 she became a Justice of the Peace.

Verna's involvement in the Wesley Historical Society began when she was living in Blenheim and was the result of going on a local pilgrimage. She later wrote: "By small boat and barge the party went from Picton to Ironside Landing and walked over the hill into Cloudy Bay. This was the beginning of my interest in Wesleyan missionaries".

Verna joined the WHS Executive in 1978, became Chairperson in 1990 and was elected President in 1993. She was the first woman and the first lay person to hold this role. She served the Society with energy, enthusiasm and an extensive knowledge of the church until 2000.

From 1990 Verna also led the team at the Methodist Connexional Archives in Penrose, Auckland. She had a great ability to "fossick out historical information" and provided helpful and friendly advice to researchers over many years. She was a mine of information and a wonderful encourager.

In 2000 Verna was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for her services to the community and the church. After a long illness she died on 14 January 2016.

A woman of deep faith, lively intelligence and generous spirit, Verna used her skills and love of history to bring the past alive and make its insights available for the present and the future. We acknowledge with grateful loving thanks her contribution to our understanding of Te Hāhi's past and her commitment in particular to telling the stories of women throughout its history.

Joyce K. Dey

1923 – 2016

Joyce Dey was born into the church to which she remained committed until her death, her parents being Ken and Dora Rosser.

In 1959 Joyce went to Papua New Guinea Highlands as secretary to the Chairperson of the Mission District, as part of the New Zealand Overseas Mission Team. Joyce continued in this capacity until she married Gordon Dey, at Pitt Street Methodist Church, in 1963. Thus began a partnership of service to the Church together. Gordon encouraged and supported Joyce in all the leadership positions she took on and was immensely proud of her achievements.

After marriage they returned to mission work, Joyce becoming involved in adult literacy and working among women in the Highlands.

They returned to New Zealand in 1970.

One of Joyce's first National responsibilities was to lead the National Methodist Women's fellowship from 1976-1978.

In 1980 Joyce spent a year in Lolowai, Vanuatu, with Gordon, who was setting up a small Manual Training Centre for the Anglican Church. While there Joyce assisted in women's meetings, hospital treatments, and the typing of the work book for the training centre.

In 1983 Joyce was elected as Vice-President Elect to take office in November 1984 along with President Elect Frank Hanson.

Ex-President Hanson reflects that "Joyce was a wise and discerning colleague who always had at heart the care and welfare of the Methodist Church and its people. She brought to the Vice Presidential role her ethnic sensitivity, further developed in her years of missionary experience in Papua New Guinea, and her immersion in Te Taha Maori relationships which was so important in coping with the very early years of the bicultural journey. Joyce was particularly helpful in assisting Taiwi members to understand the principles of power sharing and Bi-culturalism".

In retirement Joyce supported and encouraged new leaders in the church through prayers, letters of encouragement and later phone calls.

Joyce's life was described at her funeral in March with the words of Michael Leunig: "Let us live in such a way that when we die, our love will survive and continue to grow". This is how Joyce lived her life and her gift to us as she leaves us.

Gillian Mary Watkin

1946 – 2016

Gillian was born in Wellington on 15 October 1946 and died 5 March 2016 in Hastings.

She became a probationer in February 1985 and was ordained November 1987 in Nelson. Her official retirement date was 31 January 2011

Gillian's candidating for ministry, training, and subsequent ordination as a presbyter in 1987 grew out of an interest in spirituality and the women's movement. She had active involvement in the Christian feminist movement in the late 1970's and 1980's, working to bring equality for women in the church. One of the outcomes of this was bringing a motion to the 1983 Conference that Conference should use inclusive language in its services.

It was work in local community development that led Gillian to a lifelong exploration of questions related to pakeha spirituality, and to an understanding of life as being about "loving the questions".

There were two strands to ordained ministry for Gillian, that of local community initiatives, and that of the role of ordained person. The former was exemplified in such things as establishing a food bank, in West Auckland as a stop gap response to the recession, working with Take a Break Women's Centre in K Rd, and working with the Mt Eden community on the church-community partnership.

Gillian's most significant Ministry was as Field Worker in Ministry for Ordained Ministry for Trinity College from 1990 to 1999. In this role she encouraged many, many people. She also served as an industrial Chaplain and at Mt Eden.

Latterly, Gillian was involved in the work of Spirituality and Creation, contributing a regular column for Touchstone 'From the backyard' in Touchstone. A column enjoyed by many who grew their own plants and food.

She had a wonderful way in which she could touch on a subject and here readers would be able to identify with her. These points of interest covered wide ranging subjects whether they were social issues or theological questions.

Gillian was motivated by a passion for eco-theology and she has conveyed this by focusing first on the micro ecology of her own garden. Through her writing she has made us aware of the life that is all around us. She has reminded us of the changing seasons, the plants and animals who we share our patches of earth with, and the friends and strangers who populate our lives.

Mavis Jean Tauroa (nee Dickie)

Died 2016

Mavis was part of a team with her late husband, Lane. As was said at her funeral, it was not Mavis And Lane, it was Mavis n' Lane. It might have appeared that Lane was team leader; this was not the case, a good team does not have a leader. The fact that it was usually "Mavis n' Lane" and not "Lane n' Mavis" is very telling. Behind a strong man . . .

Lane proposed to Mavis in writing: he obviously had no doubts about what he wanted and who can blame him? They were married in 1959, had three children, one of whom sadly died soon after birth, and two adopted children.

Mavis was always by Lane's side, ably giving full support to all he did with her strong Deaconness ministry.

In 1963 Lane was appointed by the National Council of Churches to work at Bandung, Indonesia, and continued his ministry there till 1966 as a Fraternal Worker. One need not ask where at least part of the strength to carry out this task came from. One of their adopted children was Indonesian.

Somehow, Mavis managed to be humble without being a martyr. Others respected those qualities and tried to follow. Gentle and tough: Mavis combined the two.

Always the lady, never flying off the handle, never getting rattled: she just got on with things in tough times. She was a constantly loving, supportive, kind mum and grandmother. You could never be angry or upset with her, she just never deserved it. She was not one to put on airs and graces; there was a class about her which was not about money or prestige.

She professed her faith not with words but with actions: her service to others. Her small stature belied a big heart. Every community she lived in saw her helping others, especially immigrant families with nothing, getting them basics and being their friend. Always ready to share all she had to those in need, she put so many smiles, on so many faces.

Abundance, luxury and wealth were not words associated with Mavis except for her green fingers: she was a gardener: fruit and vegetables to nourish the body and flowers to nourish the soul. And the fruit and vegetables had to be converted into jams, preserves and healthy meals; by Mavis, of course.

Knitting, crochet, sewing cooking, cleaning, gardening, washing, reading to her grandchildren, board games and puzzles after dinner: she was always busy but still found time for the Op shop, Sunday school, women's fellowship,

church choirs, prayer groups, services (often as preacher). They say the Devil makes work for idle hands: he didn't have a chance with Mavis.

As Lane's health deteriorated, she took on the role of nurse, making sure he took his pills and supervising his diet.

Mavis was buried with Lane's ashes in her coffin. "Team Mavis n' Lane" is now reunited both on Earth and in Heaven.

Winiata Morunga

1932 - 2016

Miniata-ā-lwi - Tai Tokerau Rohe

Winiata Morunga was born in 1932 in Whirinaki, South Hokianga 177km north of Whangarei. Winiata was 1 of 11 children born to Pene Morunga and Te Ira Aroha Eruera, who was from a neighbouring community, Omanaia. Winiata was born on a prominent Māori Pā (settlement) site - 'Papakura' that sits amongst lush native bush on the legendary mountain Te Ramaroa. Papakura was also home to the paramount chief and navigator Kupe.

Winiata started school at 7 years old at Whirinaki Native School and continued his education at Rawene District High School, Te Reo Maori being his first language. He was a diligent and determined student and sports enthusiast. He played representative football for both his school and local senior men's rugby team.

His faith derived from the early teachings of his mother who lead him and his siblings in karakia and waiata. This established a long association with the Methodist Church and in 1972 he became a Miniata-ā-lwi in Te Tai Tokerau. His philanthropic service to whānau, hapū and iwi provided spiritual guidance and support through times of hardship, celebration and marked the start of new beginnings.

Kapa Haka was widespread in the 70s especially prevalent in the Te Tai Tokerau. Winiata helped to establish local Kapa (cultural groups) Takirau, Te Arahi, Te Tārai o Rāhiri and currently Te Pū Ao. Winiata nurtured individuals and their whānau to be confident and capable beings continuing to be leaders in their respective communities. He was a choral fanatic turning Methodist hymns into winning choral items at local and regional competitions. He is admired by current kapa haka leaders for his resolute teachings and commitment to Te Reo Māori and Māori Performing Arts in Northland.

His unwavering faith in God and in people is an exceptional attribute and legacy that will remain in his children, mokopuna, whānau and communities he moved and inspired. He was a man of humility, peace, unconditional love, devoted and faithful.

Papa, may you rest on our maunga Te Ramaroa nui a Kupe with your ancestors Tauramoko, Kamariera and Moa. Loved by Doreen Beazley and Molly Walters, your children Kay, Barbie, Adele, Mark and Recenia, your mokopuna and extended whānau whānui.

E Papa e

*Te Poutokomanawa e, Mai te tihi o Te Ramaroa
Anei mātou ōu uri, E mihi atu nei, E tangi atu nei*

E Papa e

E Kara e, Moe mai ra e!

Mary Russell

1924 - 2016

Mary was born 14 July 1924 in Oamaru. My mother's name: Jean Addison, my father's name Henry Thomas (Harry) Addison. They lived on a dairy farm at Corriedale. Cream was supplied to a butter factory; the skim milk was fed to pigs on the farm. they had hens and bantams, cats and dogs. They grew vegetables and potatoes and enjoyed fruit, gooseberries, black currants, raspberries, plums and apples.

She attended Windsor North Otago – and Secondary schooling was at Waitaki Girls' high school in Oamaru doing the commercial course for 3.5 years.

When Mary was about 8 years, her aunties gave her a King James Bible with coloured pictures. She went to a Sunday School held in Ngapara, a small Presbyterian church where she learned scripture verses from small cards. She had often said she wanted to be a nurse and after enquiring and an interview, Mary was accepted for classes starting 6 Feb 1943. They had to provide 2 gray uniforms, 6 white uniforms, 3 lawn material veils, a red cape and wear black shoes and 1 stockings. They needed a pocket watch with second hand and a pair of surgical scissors.

She did her Maternity training at Holmdale hospital Blenheim in 1947 and back to Oamaru Hospital as a Junior Sister, Midwifery course training early 1949 at St Helens Hospital Christchurch. She also worked in Dunedin where she trained as a Plunket Nurse. In 1953 she went to Nelson to work in general public hospital ward, later taking work at Motueka cottage hospital – back to maternity nursing. It was whilst she was in this area that she decided to serve the Lord as Missionary Nurse overseas – “Mary, you are responsible to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. You go and share your nursing skills with people in need – other people can do the work here”. It was Jean Russell, (a Nelson friend), who talked and convinced her to go through the Methodist Church that took her to the Solomon Islands and to Bougainville in 1956.

Mary established the work at Tonu following on from what Mr and Mrs Voice had done as Missionary and Missionary wife. Because Mary was there it was possible to open up the Mission station at Tonu on a permanent basis. The nurse training that she did made a big difference as young men and women could go out into the villages and give injections and supervise the taking of medicine and monitor the pregnant mothers, of which there were many. For the next 12 years Mary moved between Bougainville and the Solomons. “The nurse boys and girls helped Mary to communicate with people – people came from a large area to house sick and out patients. Sickesses included malaria, pneumonia, abscesses, cuts, burns, eye and ear infections, tuberculosis, centipede bites and other tropical things such as leprosy,

dengue fever and Malaria. Activities Mary had to do were: Lotu (morning and evening prayers), Bible classes, Girls Life Brigade, sewing classes and Women's fellowship times. There was cooking, baking, gardening, washing and supervising girls also."

After she returned to New Zealand, she continued her nursing career at Benmore hospital 1968-71 and then at Maternity Annex Oamaru until she retired in 1984 to marry Howard. From this date the next few years were very full. She attended or hosted the Mana Women's Aglow meeting later Porirua Women's Aglow; collected old folk (even though she was older than they were) 3 to take to Care and Craft meetings once a week in Linden; visited residents and served communion to them at Longview once a week before she became a resident. At the Tawa Union parish the different Church activities that she was involved with, including climbing to top of Colonial Knob in 1997; regular prayer partner for Bible Society and right up to her death also Wycliffe Bible Translators. In between times, she made and baked many Apricot slices that many people around Tawa paid tribute to, knitted little cardigans and even Bananaramas (knitted and stuffed toy), as well as peggy squares. She also loved her gardening.

Mary's giving to Christian organizations are legendary –Wycliffe Bible Translators, Scripture Union, Bible Society, Laidlaw College, Life Flight Trust, St Johns Ambulance, Riding for Disabled, Mercy Ships, Fred Hollows, African Inland Mission and many, many more..

Mary, we honour you for the wonderful life of service that you have given to your heavenly Father and the support that you have given to your community.

Edna Garner

1929 - 2016

Edna's funeral on the 14th May 2016 said much about her ministry. Large parties came from The Deaf Communities in Auckland and Hamilton, and other groups also, came to share their appreciation of Edna with warmth and humour.

This love for deaf people began when, as a child, her father would cut some roses and have her deliver them to a neighbour who was deaf. Those visits became a life forming; a relationship that she developed on later both in NZ and overseas.

The Methodist Church owes Edna Garner a debt of gratitude for what she began, and established in ministry with the deaf. It was pursued strongly in a variety of ways, till she retired and after also.

I would like to share you some of what Edna has done for Deaf People, but there is no room to put it all in. In the mid 70's she helped another teacher at The School for Deaf in Kelston to set up teaching sign language. I cannot impress to deeply the importance of this. Without her work, sign language would not be what it is today.

But for that effort she was put out of the way in a hearing school, where she could not disturb the status quo any more. However she did go on teaching it to anyone and everyone who wanted to know.

When she was encouraged By Rev Ian McKenzie to look at becoming a chaplain for Deaf people, only the Catholic church had anyone working in this area, What does this mean ? It meant that Deaf people in NZ were marginalised ad ignored. Into this area Edna stepped and, began working tirelessly to support and help deaf people. She went into work environments, hospitals, courts, prisons, mental health institutions, and disability units; anywhere deaf people went. It was her life and passion.

In the early 90's, she and others set up Gilead Farm in Helensville as a permanent home for both Deaf and disabled folk. She also a place for the church to exercise ministry. To try and let others know of this ministry she later she started a printing press at Aotea Chapel, which also provided, for the first time, information for deaf people, especially worship material, and also a book of signs for use in worship,

Edna had a strong sense of right and wrong, which led her work tirelessly for those who were marginalised, and to be as advocate with a mission. A strong woman who loved people and God, and left the world a better place for having lived in it.

Mervyn Wilkinson Hancock

Died 2016

Merv was a husband, father, social worker, historian, politician, lay preacher, friend ... he was an elder statesman for Professional Social Work

It is said of Merv that he started preaching at 15 while at Palmerston North Boy's High school when he addressed fellow pupils in the playground! His faith and ethics were the yard stick by which everything else he did was measured. He was a lifelong member and leader in the Methodist Church. His Christian discipleship and professional expertise led to the establishment of the Methodist Social Service Centre in Palmerston North. This was the first professional unit of its kind, other than the older City Missions. From 1963 to the present day, the educational programmes; counselling; community foodbank; and opportunity shops have continued.

Despite Merv's professional, civic and political achievements he was at the core a family man and held a heartfelt love for wife Alison and his – children, Michael, Mary and Brent their spouses and partners and the grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

With Professor Graeme Fraser and others he established the social work degree at Massey University. Merv never wavered in his commitment to establishing a degree that integrated learning across a four year programme with a strong practice element and that drew on social work theory, social policy, and on other disciplines (sociology, history, psychology, education). His achievements in establishing the Bachelor of Social Work and his contribution to education and to the graduates of this programme, is recognized in the Merv Hancock Award which is awarded each year to a leading social work student

Merv's social justice commitment is seen in his work in politics, including local body politics, and in initiating establishment of community agencies in P. Nth.-i.e. Birthright, Marriage Guidance, Parent's Centre, Home Budgeting, and the National Society on Alcohol and Drug Addiction. HANCOCK HOUSE in Palmerston North, is a recognition of this contribution to this community . In his work with both ANZASW as founding President and in establishing the Massey University social work programmes Merv was a leader in advocating for a bicultural social work practice and education. To this end a lot of work was done to have the degree give effect to the Treaty and tangata whenua in social work education.

Merv was very well read and had a deep love of learning. For him knowledge was powerful and to be shared. Many awards acknowledged his ability. 1989 a Queen's Service Order, the medal is inscribed with the words...MŌ NGA MAHI NUI...which translates to: FOR SERVICE. He was awarded a

Palmerston North Civic honour in 2008, where he was described as a man of vision, conviction and courage. His MA was in history and post retirement he wrote a book and articles about PN history including our 17 MP'S. He got a history award in 2015 from the Manawatu history and heritage social. Being an historian was an important part of Merv. He was awarded a Massey University medal 1999, and an honorary doctorate from Massey University 2012, plus many other national awards and recognition of his achievements.

In later years Merv ran his own relationship counselling service, and scores of people express their personal gratitude for love and insight he gave them. He will long be remembered in the City of Palmerston North.... serving as a city councillor between 1983 and 1992. Winning three elections to represent the Hokowhitu Ward. Committees as diverse as roading, gas supply, waste water housing, health and economics all saw Merv as a member or chair.

A mighty totara has fallen; we farewell you Merv. Your presence and being with you always made us feel at peace. You have taught us so much and we thank you. You have taught me personally that you don't have to be tall to make a difference! You have taught us a love of people; of aroha; of seeing the good in people; you taught us about caring for others;

Siosua Molia Tu'itupou

1941 - 2016

Born 1st October 1941, Passed away 11th May 2016. Was the second out seven children to Penisimani Uikelotu and Lakai Limiteti Tu'itupou of Kolomotu'a, Tonga. First married Mele'ofa Lua in 1967 whom passed away in 1993. They had 6 children. He then married Paea'ivahanoa Langi in 1996 and they had 6 children. Altogether Molia passed away after meeting his 17 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

In 1974 Molia became the steward and establisher of the Tongan Methodist congregation in Onehunga, Auckland. In 1989 he became a candidate for Ministry, in 1994 he was ordained at the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga conference (under the agreement of both conferences). He served in Tonga for almost 7 years and came back to New Zealand and served in the Onehunga congregation in 2003, under the Vahefonua Tonga synod. He served in Onehunga for over 10 years, then was stationed to the New Lynn Tongan Methodist congregation in 2014 and passed away in the line of service.

Siosua a.k.a Molia, was known as a gentle giant. A peace-maker whom was experienced in resolving conflict. Molia was interested in upholding the Tongan culture and traditions that helped him carry his values. He was passionate about studying and spreading the Good News- that God came down in Human form to redeem the lost, the broken and the rejected. Christ came to restore and to give hope of eternal life for all humanity. He also was marvelled at how God displays his glory. Whether it was in the form of creation, or exalting the weak and insignificant to appear strong and very significant.

Molia's motto was to endure, persevere, accept what comes your way whether good or bad, for there is power in JESUS. His favourite prayer - *"Lord shine your light and direct my feet so that our journey be blessed and our names are written in the book of life."* Favourite saying *"There's no one like Jehovah!"* In his final days on earth, he told his beloved wife that the day he'll die is near. And 2 days after that, Molia went to be with the Lord.

Rev. Siosua Molia Tu'itupou, you are sadly missed by your beloved wife, children, grandchildren and the many lives you've impacted. May you rest in peace and we'll meet you in eternity.

George MacKay Hammond

Died 2016

George died on 3rd June 2016 at home surrounded by his loving family aged eighty-seven.

Philippians 3:10,11 encapsulates George Hammond's personal credo - "All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death, in the hope that I myself will be raised from death to life".

George superannuated twenty-three years ago at the 1993 Christchurch Conference and he and Margaret retired to Hamilton. They have been active members of the St. Francis (Hillcrest) Cooperating Parish and George helped with chapel services at Tamahere Eventide Home and Village. Impressed by the setting and spirit in that community they moved there in 2014.

George was born in Northern Ireland on 26 January 1929 to farming parents, who along with their four children attended the local Methodist Church. When he was seventeen he made a commitment to Christ that became the foundation of his life for the next seven decades.

George trained initially as a Lay Preacher at Cliff College, Sheffield before beginning training for stipended ministry. He served as a Lay Pastor in the Fivemiletown circuit after which he commenced missionary training at Belfast's Edgehill College in 1952.

Following graduation George married Margaret Morgan, a trained nurse and graduate of the Belfast Bible Institute and together they went as missionaries to Jamaica. For eleven years they served the people of the West Indies through the Church and public education. George provided leadership in two large Methodist circuits, was a member of the Jamaica Ministry of Education, a school's manager of five primary schools and Chaplain to the Agricultural Training College.

George and Margaret loved their time in the West Indies, but educational opportunities for daughter Cherry saw them return to Northern Ireland in 1966 and a six-year appointment to Whiteabbey Methodist Church in Belfast. Whilst there George became Chaplain to two local hospitals.

Finding the transition back to parish ministry challenging after their time in the 'Windies', George applied to the New Zealand Methodist Church (Margaret had family living here) and they arrived in 1972. Their first appointment was to Halswell Christchurch and George relished the challenge of creating a union parish with Presbyterian and Church of Christ partners. Ministry in an

ecumenical context was to become the natural setting for the rest of his ministry.

Whilst at Halswell George became an industrial chaplain and part-time chaplain to three hospitals – Sunnyside Psychiatric; St John of God and Christchurch Public.

After seven years they were appointed to Central Otago's Alexandra-Clyde Union Parish. A highlight of their eight years there was bringing the Lauder Presbyterian Church into the parish. In 1987 they moved to their last appointment at St David's Union Church in Ashburton. Here George resumed industrial and hospital chaplaincy work, savouring these mission opportunities to engage with people outside the Church.

His deep and abiding love for his God and God's people, his warm endearing smile and lilting Irish accent made George a popular preacher and pastor. Countless people across the world have cause to be grateful to George Hammond for his missionary and pastoral heart.

Our love goes to Margaret, daughter Cherry and their family. The whole Church mourns the passing of this quiet, unassuming, faithful servant of Christ.

Taniela Takapautolo Moala

1936 - 2016

Taniela was born on the 6th February 1936. Taniela was the third child out of seven children of the Rev'd 'Aisea Moala from Tatakamotonga and Sisilia Ve'a Silatolu-Moala from Pelehake, Tongatapu. Rev'd 'Aisea Moala was an ordained Minister of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.

Taniela married 'Amelia Viena Leha'uli from Tatakamotonga and Vaotu'u in 1960. They had 9 children, 6 biological and 3 adopted children whom he loved equally. Taniela leaves 27 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren who valued their annual family reunions at Camp Morley with their granddad as he would check in on all their educational and annual achievements for the year.

Taniela was educated at the Methodist Primary School, Tupou College, Sia'atoutai Theological College, Teachers Training College before he was appointed as a Mission Teacher for 11 years, including the very remote place of Niua Toputapu, in Tonga. Returning to Sia'atoutai he served as a tutor for 2 years while at the same time undertaking Theological Studies. These included the Melbourne LTh and Dip. Religion by correspondence, then 2 years at Laidlaw, New Zealand Bible College, at Henderson, in West Auckland.

Despite facing extreme difficulties in moving from an "Education Visa" category, to a "Work Permit" and finally "Permanent Resident status," he worked with an increasing number of Tongan Methodist Leaders and members in the establishment of the Auckland Methodist Tongan Fellowship, in 1976 – 1984, in what the late Dr. Amanaki Havea described as a "Tent Making Ministry." Taniela was the first Superintendent of the Auckland Manukau Tongan Parish 1983-1988.

He was ordained by the Methodist Church of New Zealand Annual Conference on behalf of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga in 1976, where his father was representing the Tongan Conference, and in 1986 Taniela's membership was transferred from Tonga to the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

He was the prime mover in the establishment of the Auckland Tongan Community Trust Inco-operation, and also had close liaison with Immigration Dept. Housing New Zealand, Law Courts, Health Organisation, and Schools and he travelled in an advisory role. Taniela served 3 years on the Auckland City Councils Committee, Cogs (Community Organisation Grants Scheme) and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1993.

Taniela's service was recognised by the awarding of a number of Certificates for example: an Official Interpreter, Hospital Visitor, ASB Bank Trust,

Secondary Schools Cultural Festivals, Community Alcohol Action Project, Introduction to Small Business Workshop, Certificate of Appreciation – 1994 by the Auckland City Council, Mt. Eden Ward and Good Citizen Award from Auckland City Council and Mt. Roskill Ward in 2001.

For the wider Church involvement, he was a member of the Development Division which is currently the Mission Resourcing for 10 years,. He was a member of Committee on Ministry, Church Union Committee, Tongan Advisory, Bi-Cultural Committees. He was a member of the Council of Conference, Stationing Committee, Superintendent of Vahefonua Tonga 'O Aotearoa, Chairman of Tongan National Council in Aotearoa, Tongan Section of the Maori and Pacific Islands Cultural Festivals.

An Executive Producer of Tongan Programme on Triangle TV and Radio, Secretary and Coordinator of the Tongan Community Trust, Managing Director of South Seas Services Limited, President of Tupou College Old Boys in Auckland, and was Vice President of Sia'atoutai Old Boys in New Zealand.

Taniela had been involved in normal Tongan Community Life such as farming, fishing, sports and had spent time in Papua New Guinea, Australia and the United States.

He relates quite easily to people of all different cultures. He writes in his retirement tribute saying: *"It is the kind of work I enjoy doing because of my relationships with (all kind of people). It is very similar to what I have been doing in the past and in the Parish Ministry for which I still live for ..."*

Taniela was a forward thinker and very strategic as he supported the Tongan Methodist community 'through trials and tribulations. During the Dawn raids, Taniela worked with the former immigration minister Aussie Malcolm setting up an amnesty for Tongan families who were over stayers to seek refuge and support for permanent residence through the church. He set up groups to save towards purchasing their first homes.

Taniela supported and related to young and old. He established a group for the elderly and disabilities, organized driver's license testing, homework centres; to church halls, youth rally's and camps are some of the initiatives during his time as Superintendent. He was also a business owner, farm owner. He led by example and backed other's to win. He supported all Tongans to become confident citizens of Aotearoa. Taniela retired as a presbyter in the NZ annual conference in 2003 at the age of 65.

Upon his retirement from ministry in NZ, Taniela was asked to return and serve ministry in Tonga at the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.

He was the Superintendent for Nukunuku and was stationed to Kolomotu'a before he retired from ministry again at the age of 70 years. He was also

blessed with a role of being in the Talasiti Lahi, equivalent of the Board of Administration, a life membership role, he was required to help teach at Sia'atoutai Theological College, helping the new Ordinands, and was also stationed at various places throughout Tongatapu, when needed by the President.

Having retired from two Conferences was one of his many achievements that he valued.

Taniela turned 80 years old in February 2016. A devout Christian as he believed in the power of prayer. He blessed every nurse and doctor at the hospital. He served the Lord till the very end.

He celebrated his 80th birthday with his family before becoming ill and he passed away on the 27th June 2016 at the Mercy Hospice in Ponsonby surrounded by his family.

The Tribute to Taniela would be in-completed without recognition and acknowledgement of the strong support of his soul mate and his dearest wife Viena whom he married for 56 years. He had strong support of his Children, grandchildren, great grand-children and his extended family. Viena, in particular, has been strong and steady through some difficult and challenging times during their ministry.

Taniela's favourite Psalm 139:

- ¹ You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
- ² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- ³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
- ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
- ¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
- ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!

Tu'a Ofa 'Eiki atu,
'Amelia Viena Moala and family.

Gordon Green

1929 - 2016

Gordon was born in 1929 in Wellington, the 6th in an eventual family of 8. He moved to Lower Hutt a few years later. His father took ill and died in 1935. Only with help from Walter Nash, the local MP, were the family able to stay together. Gordon attended Eastern Hutt School for all his primary education. In later years he spent several years at the same school as a teacher. In 1952, one of his pupils was Jan Tasker.

During his primary years he attended a group called "Band of Hope" which was led by the minister at the local Associated Church of Christ. The minister was so helpful to Gordon's Mother she joined the church, taking most of her family with her.

As a teenager he attended a Saturday night "Christian Endeavour" group at the church, where the young people learned to read in church and give short sermonettes, a good training ground for lay preachers! There were competitions between the district youth groups in bible reading, impromptu speeches, skits, and singing – all with the idea of building skills.

After secondary school at Hutt Valley High School, Gordon tried a variety of jobs before settling on teaching.

His first move after marriage to Lynette was to Otorohanga where they worshipped at the Presbyterian Church, there being no Church of Christ nearby. From there they went to a sole charge school in South Taranaki and again to the nearest Presbyterian Church.

A school inspector noted that Gordon was not comfortable teaching 5 and 6 year olds and suggested that he look at a position at the Boys Training Centre in Levin, an institution for wayward youth. He was duly appointed and remained there for 10 years, once again attending a Church of Christ.

From Levin they moved to Dargaville, where Gordon became Guidance Counsellor at the local High School. It was here they became involved with the Methodist Church, mainly because of family choice. Gordon became a Bible class leader, a lay preacher and a member of the parish council.

After 13 years Gordon was granted early retirement for health reasons. A Methodist Presbyterian at the time, drew his attention to an advertisement for a parish administrator in Palmerston North. He applied and was appointed.

They moved to Palmerston North in 1985 and he remained in that position until a heart attack in 1991 forced him to retire. At various times over the next 10-15 years he filled in from time -to- time. In 1986 he became Synod

Treasurer and for a number of years attended Church Council and General Purposes Committee. In 1991 he was appointed to a panel of 3 to carry out an audit of the Methodist Church's Connexional Divisions. A report was written but no action was ever taken on the recommendations.

And in his own words

"I used to enjoy going to national church meetings – Church Council, Stationing Committee and so on – but often felt I was not part of the in-group. I think it was because I had no hesitation in saying what I thought of a proposal, even though it was not welcomed by all."

His last responsibility in Palmerston North was to act as convenor of a regional executive consisting of representatives of the four parishes in Manawatu-Rangitikei. At this time he was also District Candidates Convenor. Gordon was in Palmerston North for 25 years.

Over the years, regular 'Study Groups' were a place for friendship, personal sharing, study and discussion. Gordon was a much valued participant in his searching, forward thinking, and an evolving progressive theological perspective.

Wherever Gordon has worshipped over the last 70 years he has delighted in leading Worship. Always highly organised with thorough preparation. He was an accredited Methodist Lay Preacher for 25 years. If he was asked to take a service, his answer was always 'yes'. He led his final service at Mt Albert on the 22nd of May this year where he had worshipped for the past 6 years. He was committed to worship right to the very end. Gordon embraced Methodism, with its emphasis on Social justice, ecumenism, cultural diversity and the wider community. In his lay ministry and life, he always affirmed the Grace and Goodness of God.

Gordon is survived by his loved wife Lynette and proud father of Andrew, Phillipa, Jenni, Richard and their families.

Hilda Mary Astley-Ford

1928 - 2016

Mary Ford was the second child and only daughter of Don and Winnie Astley. She had two brothers John and Doug. Her first name was Hilda after her mother's younger sister who died during the great flu epidemic following the First World War, but was always known by her second name of Mary which had passed down as a second name for several generations. She was born in Mt. Albert where many of her Astley descendants lived for years.

During the Depression of the early 30s education was one of the many areas affected with children not starting school until they were 6. She had two years at kindergarten before going to Owairaka School for two years. The small house in which the family lived became too small for their needs and the decision was made to move to St. Heliers to a very nice home in Parkside Street, which was the family home for nearly 40 years. Her secondary education was at St. Cuthberts. During those growing up years she was very active in the Girl Guides and in the Mission Bay Methodist Church. A lot of her life centered around the Church with friendships made, social activities enjoyed camps attended, stimulating discussions, values established, challenges made, and opportunities made for service in youth and children's work

She trained as a Primary school teacher and had two periods of her working life as a teacher, working in the Auckland eastern suburbs and the Waikato, doing a year's exchange in England, and later working in lower decile schools in Porirua and Mangere. At the end of her exchange year she was approached by the Methodist Christian Education Dept. to work full-time throughout New Zealand encouraging and training Sunday School teachers and other lay leaders.

This she did for 13 years, travelling from Kaitaia to Bluff and anywhere in between, being billeted in homes or on church premises. This included out of the way places like Ohura near Taumaranui where sleeping on a mattress in an unlocked church she heard footsteps in the middle of the night, finding out the next day that it would have been the nightman coming to empty the outside toilets, and Nightcaps in Western Southland where a miner ran a small Sunday School and he had a big vase of beautiful flowers and a large blackboard on an easel.

They were very enjoyable years being part of the wider Methodist family. The other directors were Wilf Ford and Cliff Couch. A strong relationship was built up especially with Wilf and his family. Mary had never married and after Wilf's wife Joan died they decided to get married and had nearly 18 years of love and companionship together'

Mary had always been very active in the church filling a variety of roles. After her second period of teaching she offered for the ministry with her first appointment being Papatoetoe for three years. After her marriage to Wilf they were appointed to Hamilton where they shared a ministry at St. Pauls for four years, and then stayed on in retirement when Mary was very involved in the work of the Bryant Trust. The move to Auckland to Browns Bay and later to Fairview Village brought different opportunities for service particularly pastorally. She enjoyed four years as Chaplain to Fairview Care Hospital.

She enjoyed overseas travel to areas very different from NZ like Jordan, China, Tonga etc., and to lesser known parts of NZ like Chatham Islands, Great Barrier where she had several holidays in the Catlins, Milford, Routeburn, Greenstone and Hollyford, tracks and Abel Tasman National Park. She enjoyed the outdoors loved walking on the beach: and spent many happy times at Martins Bay in the family holiday home, and in the bush. She enjoyed taking up tennis with veterans, and outdoor bowls in her retirement. She enjoyed the stimulation of Probus and U3A.

She was proud of her heritage and the contribution made by her ancestors in pioneer days in NZ, like Annie Jane Schnackenberg one of the suffragettes, the Allen family pioneers of Mt. Albert, the Astley family with the tannery and involvement in the Mt. Albert Methodist Church, the Speights and Pearce family in Otago Southland.

The values in her life she was committed to could be summed up

- Life on this planet earth, caring for it.
- Life with others, to respect and care for other people.
- Promote values for living and carry on the values passed on to us by those gone before.
- Enjoy life in a responsible way.
- Trust in God's love as seen in the world of creation and in the love shown to us by others To go ahead in faith, hope and love.

Rupeni Balawakula Delai

1956 – 2016

Sa mai kacivi na i Talai ni Kalou na wekada o Rupeni Balawakula Delai e na nona gauna ga na Kalou.

Rupeni Balawakula Delai is survived by his wife Litiana, his children Iloi, Aseri, Setareki and Lusiana and three grandchildren.

Rupeni first worked as a boilermaker in both Fiji and New Zealand for a period spanning over three decades. In this field he also worked as a tutor in preparing apprentices in trades schools. As a boilermaker his duties included reading plans and fabricating heavy steel for the big construction work. Rupeni left this job because of some health issues.

Since the early nineties Rupeni had been the *Vakatawa* or the catechist of the small congregation of Fijian Methodists worshiping at Khyber Pass Anglican Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This congregation comprised of about 50 families.

With his departure from boilermaker employment Rupeni was able to gradually start allocating more time to church duties such as visiting the sick, the needy, the troubled and the joyful.

Through consultations and negotiations, under his watch, the Khyber Pass Methodists re-joined the *Wasewase* after a lapse of almost two decades of standing alone. The group was accepted into the Auckland Central Parish and they got re-located to Pitt Street in 2012.

Rupeni enrolled at the Trinity Methodist Theological College in 2011 as a private part time student. Rupeni was privileged and fortunate to be able to study as a non-paying student. Moreover, his experience as a church leader was taken into account to form the basis of his prior learning consideration. Hence, by 2013 Rupeni was stationed for Fijian ministry at the Auckland Central Parish. And the following year, 2014, Rupeni Balawakula Delai was ordained.

Rupeni celebrated his 60th birthday early this year. He loved being around people, in the community, in public: be they family, friends, parishioners, colleagues, visitors or strangers. Rupeni enjoyed connecting to people - reminiscing, advising or ministering over tea or kava whether at home, work, street corner, or from the pulpit.

Rupeni was passionate about the transformation that could come about in peoples' lives when they make a commitment to Christ. He had a pastoral concern for Fijian Methodists scattered around the country, and nurtured the

growing congregation in Hauraki. He will be remembered for his big heart and his big laugh, and his desire for Fijian ministry to grow and strengthen in Te Hāhi Weteriana.

We give thanks for his ministry, and surround Litiana and the family with our prayers and our love.

Sa mai kacivi na i Talai ni Kalou na wekada o Rupeni Balawakula Delai e na nona gauna ga na Kalou.

Hewai Violet Hesse

1941 – 2016

Born in 1941 in Kawhia, the 5th eldest and 3rd daughter in a family of 12, Hewai was raised and attended school in Paeroa. Hewai had a variety of jobs mainly working as a cook, whilst working with her sister Marie, she acquired skills and knowledge in the cooking profession.

Hewai was appointed matron of Te Rahui Wahine in Bryce St, Hamilton, until such time that Te Rahui Wahine was gifted back to the Kingitanga. She was then transferred to Te Rahui Centre until her departure for Brisbane in 2004.

Hewai was affectionately known by many as “Aunty Vi” or “Matron”. As Caretaker of Te Rahui Centre in River Rd, she hosted many meetings of committees across the Connexion. In particular, Te Rahui Centre was one venue for the Council of Conference meetings when they began in the mid 90’s. There are many who can attest to the fun that was dished out with the food and hospitality offered at Te Rahui Centre in those days. There were many exceptional occasions that occurred at the hostel other than those concerning her students, but her favourite remained the many visits from “the Lady” and Sister Heeni.

Hospitality was her forte, serving in the missions work with the St Paul's Social Services Team and she worked with the Corrections Service in assisting with supervision with those serving Periodic Detention work (PD). Her service to the community was always about putting into action the Christian servant model.

Violet was a member of Komiti Whaiti and Hui Poari. She was also a representative of Te Taha Maori on two Conference Arrangements Committees, the Council of Elders and served on two Presidential Commissions both of which dealt with very sensitive matters. Such was the esteem in which she was considered across the Connexion.

After more than 30 years of service in Hamilton Violet moved to Brisbane to be closer to her children. Violet suffered badly with asthma and so a bonus in that move was that her health improved markedly and she was able to enjoy a much better quality of life than the cold and dampness of Hamilton had offered.

Violet passed away in Brisbane and was returned by her family back to her Hauraki people in early September. She is succeeded by her three children Hinerangi, Raymond and Gladys and her many mokopuna.

Nā reira e kui, e te whaea Aunty Vi, noho mārika koe i te Matua nui i te rangi.
Kua oti tō mahi, moe mai rā e!

Piripi David Rakena

1954 – 2016

Piripi (Pip) was the eldest son of Rev Ruawai Rakena and the late Joy Rakena and brother to Ruawai and Te Oti. Early in September Pip passed away unexpectedly in his sleep leaving Sharron his wife of forty years. His whakapapa links him to the Far North, Mangamuka in particular, Taiporohenui, Hawera in Taranaki and Rapaki, Christchurch.

One of Pip's entrepreneurial ventures was as a car dealer. Many of our rangatahi have eyed up Uncle Rua's transport with great envy. Many more can attest to having been sold a car by Piripi.

His service to the church is reflected in the many years he served on The Methodist Trust Association and in recent years he supported his father in his role as Interim Treasurer / Secretary of Te Runanga Whakawhanaunga i ngā hāhi. He was also part of the founding group who set up the Bicultural Workgroups at the beginning of the Bicultural Journey in the mid-1980s.

Fondly and lovingly remembered Pip was returned to his ūkaipō in Mangamuka and laid to rest in the whānau urupā.

Takoto ake rā e te whanaunga e Piripi. Ka tika kua whakahokia koe ki te poho o tō whānau, moe marie tonu i te Ariki.