

Paringahau (Pari) Waaka 1937-2012



It is with deep sadness that we record the death of Pari Waaka, a much-loved member of Te Taha Maori and the Waikato-Waiariki Synod. Pari died on Sunday 12th May 2012 at Waikato Hospital. She was 75 years old.

Over the years the Waikato-Waiariki Synod has enjoyed a warm relationship with the Waikato Rohe. Much of this has been due to the fact that Rohe members like Pari have been so generous with their time and support.

Along with the late Evelyn Kingi and Rangi Wood, Pari regularly attended Synod meetings and until a couple of years ago was a valued member of Synod Executive. She was active in a number of district committees (including the Waikato Bicultural Task Group and the Conference Arrangements Committee), had a strong and continuing interest in the work of Methodist Women's Fellowship and for eight years represented the Synod on the DV Bryant Trust.

As a Synod we greatly appreciated Pari's down-to-earth wisdom, her wicked sense of humour, her warm friendship and her love for Te Hahi. We were especially blessed by the way she shared so openly from her own world and experience, gently guiding us to a deeper understanding of the bicultural journey.

Pari was a mentor to many Synod members and was a source of both encouragement and quiet challenge. Sometimes this came with a poke in the ribs! Sitting next to Pari at a Council of Conference powhiri at Te Rahui I always knew when it was my turn to stand up and speak.

As a Synod we will miss Pari's presence and contribution. She was a person with a big chuckle and a big heart. We give thanks to God for Pari's life and offer our prayers and aroha to her family, the Waikato Rohe and members of Te Taha Maori.

Pari, takoto i runga i te aroha; lie peaceful in our love.

Susan Thompson
Synod Superintendent