



## New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship

*"Encourage Effective Communication"*

### REPORT FOLLOWING THE NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT EL RANCHO 6-8 SEPTEMBER 2013

The Council meeting, attended by 32 women, was a great time for meeting new people, net working and enjoying fun and fellowship together.

The Opening Service was led by Rev Cornelia Grant - We were encouraged to rid ourselves of anger, insults etc. A group then exchanged black T-shirts for white T-shirts listing compassion, kindness, gentleness, patience. Six tributes were read and candles lit remembering women who had served on previous National Executive and had died in the past year.

\$25,971.97 for the Ama Takiloa Programme in Tonga was presented to Michael Earle of CWS.

This money is eligible for a Government subsidy.

\$9,000.00 for the Disability, Spirituality and Faith Network NZ was presented to Gillian Bell.

Stamps & Coupon Fund \$2,726.25 added to the Mission & Ecumenical Special Appeal for the Water Supply at Goldie College. This appeal has now exceeded its target, which is marvellous.

Medical & Educational Fund \$2,382.75 to Missionary Children's Home-Orphanage, Bangalore India.

#### **Special Projects for 2013-14 "A Brighter Future at Home & Abroad"**

The Women's Centre in Sri Lanka – introduced by Michael Earle

The Early Years Matter – introduced by Heather Henare - Women's Refuge in conjunction with the Brainwave Trust will give Specialised training for 100 new Child Advocates to support and nurture vulnerable children who are affected by domestic violence in NZ.

#### **Results of Discussion Topics**

That the **Stamp & Coupon Funds** be distributed annually to an overseas humanitarian project.

The project can be supported by the Methodist Church or a recommended community project. It can be people or project orientated. If appropriate it may be combined with the Medical & Educational Fund  
Agreed

After considerable discussion the name of the **NZMWF Friendship Scholarship** will remain unchanged. Families were comfortable with the existing wording, which gave encouragement to the girls.

**Communication Methods.** It was agreed to send emails to at least two District Officers each time.

People were asked to acknowledge receipt of the emails.

A hard copy of any communications will be sent to a District if they request it.

**Liaison Links.** Current District to District links will be maintained – as listed in the District Register 2013. Agreed that Districts will be flexible as what happens next. Some will facilitate links between their own Fellowships in the District or between Fellowship groups in the other District. Whatever suits to encourage an awareness of people, groups and activities around the country.

Concern about the **violent programmes** usually including the drinking of alcohol, which are screened on national television, was expressed by many. National Executive will write but Members are also encouraged to write to the Minister of Broadcasting and the TV Standards Authority about specific programmes giving time and date the programme screened. To work with NCW who also make submissions to parliament and broadcasting authorities on these issues.



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**Ministry Students** are pleased to have contact with Women's Fellowship members.

Email communication is easier. When students are placed on probation with a Parish, it is over to the Fellowship in that Church/District to maintain the contact.

Olive Tanielu was elected as the **Incoming President** for 2014-16. Her contact details are 617 Nelson Street North. Mahora. Hastings 4122. [olivetanielu@rocketmail.com](mailto:olivetanielu@rocketmail.com)  
Thank you to Valeti Finau for also putting herself forward for this position.

**The South Pacific Area Seminar of the WFM&UCW** will be held in Brisbane 8-12 July 2014. 33 women from New Zealand will be attending.

In February 2014 it will be **50 years since the Methodist Missionary Women's Union and the Women's Guild combined** to form the NZMWF and we need to celebrate this.

It was suggested that each District and Fellowship have their own special celebration and record what they did. Each Fellowship within the District is asked to contribute memories of people and activities, to be collated in a clear file book which is to be brought to Convention 2014 thus giving a history of the District.

1. Each Fellowship within the District is asked try and find when each formed (closed if it has) and include a description of the church, size of congregation, other groups in the church and photos.
2. Activities and Rally days.
3. Memories and personalities.
4. Photos.

There are some areas where there are no longer Fellowship groups affiliated but there are still women who were involved and they need to be invited to bring their historical and current contributions.

**Convention 2014** will be held at El Rancho, Waikanae the second weekend 11 – 14 September.

Council members concluded their time together by joining in worship and Holy Communion with the people at the Raumati Uniting Church who hosted us to a lovely lunch with great warmth and Fellowship.

With warm greetings to you all

*Marie and Merrill*

Marie Smith  
NZMWF President  
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Merrill Baker  
NZMWF Secretary  
[Secretary.nzmwf@methodist.org.nz](mailto:Secretary.nzmwf@methodist.org.nz)

Dear Marie,

Thank you for the generous donation. Your contribution has helped Mission and Ecumenical to reach above the target of \$ 15,000. The Total we have raised is \$ 17,000. Please convey our sincere thanks to all who worked hard to get this fund to support Goldie College Water Scheme.

With kind regards,  
Prince.

*Rev. Prince Devanandan*  
Secretary - Mission and Ecumenical