

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



July / Aug / Sept 2012
Issue 7



TALOFA, TALOFA LAVA and Warm Pacific Greetings!

Well, my term as President has officially come to an end, with Marie Smith and her Executive officially commissioned at the recent national Convention. The last two years in this role has been an experience I will truly cherish. I have met so many wonderful people during this term and have been blessed with so many memorable moments that have all contributed to my own personal growth and development over the last two years. There is still much to do and I look forward with great anticipation to what lies ahead.

For all that we do, may God be glorified!

Special Projects

I am extremely grateful to all Fellowships and Parishes for the amounts raised for all Special Projects over the last two years. I am truly appreciative of the way funds were raised and enjoyed hearing about the various fundraising events that took place. The time, talents, energy and love are all part of what you have given towards all NZMWF fundraisers.

I would like to acknowledge a very touching gesture from the late Margaret Gordon whose dying wish was for monetary donations to be gifted to Special Projects in lieu of buying flowers for her funeral. The Sydney University of Technology in Australia was another noticeable contributor to the NZMWF Special Projects. Thank you and well done to you all for your superb efforts in sharing God's love to others via our Special Projects outreach work.

A summary of our Special Project fundraising efforts for the 2011/12 financial year is as follows:

\$23,550.31 towards **Maternal Health in the Palestine**
\$10,092.99 towards **Children's Ministry**

Other funds raised:

\$2,398.75 gifted to **Goldie College, Solomon Islands** (Medical & Education Fund)
\$2,456.14 gifted to **'Seasons'** (Stamps & Coupons Fund)

Special Projects 2012/13

The NZMWF & Presbyterian Women NZ Missions have carefully selected two worthy causes to be the focus of our 2012-13 Special Projects fundraising efforts. The International Project for 2012-2013 is called "AMA TAKILOA" and will go towards assisting village communities in Tonga where there is much hardship and great need for care and development. The National Project is to provide assistance for "Disabilities, Faith & Spirituality" i.e. funding for resources and workshops to encourage churches to become more inclusive and accommodating of those with disabilities.

NZMWF Membership

Although it is sad that there have been a few District and Local Fellowships who have decided to go into recess, it is extremely pleasing to announce that our membership numbers have actually increased by over 300 members over the last 12 months.

Welcome to all new members to our Fellowship. Praise God! A huge thank you also to both Local and District Executives for encouraging new members to join our sisterhood.

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

It has been a privilege working side by side with the PWANZ Executive (formerly APW) during a period of change for their organisation. One of the positive changes that will be of long term benefit is the new push to attract younger members in similar fashion to how NZMWF has targeted younger members also in recent years. PWANZ have planned a "Consultative Workshop" for February 2013 in a specific attempt to involve women aged 25-45yrs in the planning of the future of the PWANZ. This is indeed wonderful – we wish them all the very best with this!

National Council of Women (NCW)

The most recent NCW newsletter "The Circular" (issue No 557) contains an article (written by former NZMWF Link to NCW, Suluama Feaunati), that profiles the NZMWF, our National Convention, our representation on the WFMUCW committee as well as highlighting our Special Projects for this year. Leah Taylor represented NZMWF at the recent NCW Conference in Dunedin (which was held at the same time as our NZMWF Convention). The theme for the NCW Conference was "Women and Work: No Barriers." We look forward to hearing about the outcomes from the remits & recommendations that were circulated.

Convention 2012

Our biennial NZMWF National Convention was recently held (4th – 7th October) in New Plymouth. It was a fantastic time of fellowship with over 120 members in attendance.

At Convention, we were thrilled to be able to present funds to our 2011/12 Special Projects recipients (see figures outlined above). Jacqui Ryan of Christian World Services was present to accept the gift that will go towards **Maternal Health in Palestine**, while Esme Cole who leads **Kids Friendly Church**, was also in attendance to accept the gift that is aimed towards assisting Children's Ministry. Diana Lawrence of **Seasons** was also present to receive our Stamps & Coupons funds.

Diana Roberts was the keynote speaker for the Convention, providing much energy and inspiration by sharing some of her Kitchen Theology stories. Several workshops were also held during the course of Convention covering some difficult topics such as suicide, family violence, youth related depression and social justice. A more light hearted card making workshop was also run by Ella Theobald of the Nelson/Marlborough District. A bus tour of some of the scenic sites of New Plymouth also provided a refreshing break from some of the more serious business discussions.

In attendance for the first time at Convention were many young women, which was very encouraging to see and bodes well for the future of NZMWF. Also in attendance for the first time were some staff and students from Trinity College who thoroughly enjoyed themselves and marks a new chapter in NZMWF's relationship with Trinity College. President John Roberts was also present at the closing service on Sunday where **Vice President Olive Tanielu** shared an encouraging sermon with us all. Many Taranaki Methodist church congregations also joined us for this service and communion that was led by **Rev Val Nicholls** of Trinity College. It was during this service that new NZMWF President Marie Smith and her Executive were officially commissioned. The Sunday offering will be donated to the Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship Fund – the amount raised was **\$1,003.00. Thank you for this love offering.**

The 2012 NZMWF Convention was a truly wonderful experience where women of all ages, from all walks of life, who share the same faith, were able to come together in fellowship. Thank you to all who attended and all who were involved in making this event possible. May God bless you abundantly.

Decisions of Convention 2012

- That the National Incoming President be an Associate Member of the National Executive from the time of election (at the preceding Council meeting) with the right to attend up to two Executive Meetings during the year prior to taking on responsibility for President and that the minutes of the National Executive Meetings be received promptly
- That an approved policy be established for the use of Stamp Proceeds whereby the money is applied to a specific overseas project
- That the national component for NZMWF annual membership fee be increased from \$4 to \$6 per member

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- That NZMWF Districts and local Fellowships be encouraged to donate to the Helen Kim Scholarship annually
- That the NZMWF pay the WFMUCW levies of 4 cents (USD) per member annually
- That NZMWF mark the World Federation Day at Council and Convention as it falls in the month of October
- That NZMWF donate annually \$200 (USD) to the World Federation towards the publication of the Tree of Life Newsletter
- That the Liaison Links be set up between local Fellowships of one District and local Fellowships of another District



Convention 2012



NZMWF Executive 2010-2012



New President Marie Smith introduces her team

South Pacific Area Seminar 2014

Further updates regarding the upcoming Area Seminar 2014 in Australia will be sent out once dates have been finalised. Please uphold Area President Lynne Scott as she prepares for the Weaving Together programme along with preparations for the Area Seminar.

Prayer Request

I humbly ask that we continue to uphold each other in prayer, especially those who are unwell, those who have lost loved ones or need support in any way.

I pray that through everything we do, we glorify our Awesome Father! May we continue to serve as Christ did, upholding each other in the work and life of NZMWF. **DON'T GIVE UP – ENGAGE!!!**



Farewell

To conclude, I would like to sincerely thank all members for your on-going sustenance, love and patience as my Executive and I felt our way in to our respective roles. Thank you for all the encouragement we received and especially for sharing your thoughts, ideas and prayers. Thank you to those who served within their Local and District Executives and welcome to those who have taken up new roles for the new year – a lot of time, effort and love goes into the various committees for which I am truly appreciative.

Thank you for the wonderful fellowship these past two years, it has been a remarkable journey which I will cherish. Thank you for your words of wisdom, encouragement and spiritual feeding. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your National President over the last two years. May your fellowship continue to blossom and flourish, engaging on all levels. **To God be the glory!**

May God bless you all and keep you safe.
With love and prayers,

Soifua ona o Keriso,

**Mataiva Dorothy Robertson
NZMWF President 2010-2012**

