

MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS – NOMINATIONS SERVICE

The Ministry of Women's Affairs Nominations Service aims to increase the number of women leaders and decision-makers on state sector governance boards and committees.

The Nominations Service maintains a database of women with relevant skills and experience which is used to identify potential candidates for director positions on state sector boards. These nominations are then considered by the government agency responsible for those appointments.

The appointments process is highly competitive. Appointing agencies request advice from a large number of sources, including Ministers and Members of Parliament, diversity and population agencies (such as the Ministry of Women's Affairs), professional groups and stakeholders. The Nominations Service is consulted on appointments to over 400 statutory bodies.

The aim of the Service is to achieve 50 per cent representation for women on statutory boards by 2010.

If you know of any person who may be suitable consult the website www.mwa.govt.nz under "Women on Boards".

HEARTFELT THANKS ... Valmai Horlor

A huge thank you to everyone for the prayers, letters, cards and flowers sent following the devastating fire at my home early in November. Your love and support has been overwhelming, but greatly valued and appreciated.

Although repairs are progressing slowly, I have been able to return to live in my home. At the moment however, I am taking a break in Australia with family. Once again, thank you so much for your caring concern.

REMEMBERED WITH LOVE ...

To each and everyone who has suffered a bereavement over recent weeks, may the Lord give you a special measure of His strength and peace. May your precious memories of loved ones sustain and comfort you.



NB: Please note change of phone no. for Valmai*

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The Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa

Women's Fellowship



President's Letter – January/February/March 2008

Warmest greetings to everyone ... Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Noa'ia e Mauri, Ni sa bula vinaka, Namaste, Taloha Ni, Kia Orana, Kia Ora

Wow! What a wonderful start to the new year – and my final few months as your National President. These will certainly be lived in the "fast lane" – the diary is full!

I had imagined that visiting Districts and meeting you "on your patch" was going to be a rich experience. That has been more than fulfilled in the "journeys" I have made so far, and will no doubt continue to be so in upcoming visits. Where have I (and other Executive members) been or will be travelling?

November – Nelson/Marlborough –and Church Conference in Wellington;
February – Wairarapa and Napier/Hastings;
March – Wellington and Manawatu/Wanganui.

Thank you so much to all involved in making these visits possible, and so enriching.

Yes, we acknowledge members are growing older and feeling physically less able to fully participate, but without exception it is evident Fellowship has played an important part in so many lives and there is ongoing strong support for all that we are doing.

Joan (Vice President) and I were very heartened at Church Conference to have strong affirmation and recognition of the work that MWF has done, and is continuing to do. In fact, in a number of areas we were credited for "taking the lead"!

Please continue to pray for Vaotane as she gathers her Executive team – and begin the journey to Convention and taking over the leadership of MWF.

Thank you for your continued loving prayer support for me and my Executive. The Lord has truly blessed us!

My thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you. May you have strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the future. May the Lord continue to bless, encourage and enrich my precious sisters and brothers in the Lord.

Lynne Scott

CHRISTMAS – JESUS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

Jesus – The Light of Our Lives – and then came Boxing Day!

The bold newspaper headlines proudly display “... *electronic transactions \$90,691,790.92 for Boxing Day sales ...*” I am sure many of you, like me, can attest to the fact that they did not contribute 1c. to that total!

Also, in the same paper, one major retailer boldly advertised their Boxing Day sale – “*The bloodiest sport known to man!*”

A few pages on was a cartoon with a couple surrounded by transaction printouts, one holding an Amex statement, the other a Visa statement, singing ... “*Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way ... oh, what fun it was to spend, until we had to pay!*” It seems the “reason for the season” is quickly forgotten – or, indeed for some, unknown!

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is over again for what will seem to many of us only a “few short months”. As I reflected on the busyness of December I thought about Jesus as the “Light of Our Lives”.

Lights. We see them all around us at Christmas time. Lights on trees. Lights in windows. Lights around houses. Coloured lights. Flashing lights. Blinking lights. Electric lights. Flashlights. Candles. December is the season for lights.

Why? Tradition? Of course. To attract attention? Possibly. To celebrate? That too. Many of us celebrate Advent with an Advent wreath; four candles in a circle plus a larger candle in the centre. Each Sunday we light one candle: the candle of hope, the candle of peace, the candle of joy, the candle of love, and on Christmas Day, the Christ candle.

Psalm 23:4 – David calls God His lamp in this song of deliverance and praise. The light from that lamp enabled him to walk through the shadows, even the valley of the shadow of death. Jesus too is a light, He came as the light of the world. (John 8:12, 9:5) Light breaks through darkness and Jesus wants to provide a light in whatever darkness you may be facing: doubt, anxiety, depression, sin, fear of death.

Let those candles continue to remind you of our God and of His Son Jesus. Let the flame of those candles picture for you who God is – “my lamp”, “my light and my salvation”, “my Saviour” – the Light of Your life!

Lynne

WORLD FEDERATION SOUTH PACIFIC AREA ASSEMBLY – TONGA – 14-18 SEPTEMBER 2008:

We have obtained a quote for air fares from Air New Zealand. To take advantage of this group booking you will need to make a commitment by 8 February 2008. At that stage a deposit of \$50.00 is required.

There has been no communication from the Area President. We do not have registration forms, or detailed information on the Seminar.

If you are interested in attending the South Pacific Area Seminar in Tonga and have not yet contacted Lynne, please do so urgently.

SPECIAL PROJECT 2007/2008 ... f

If you have not already presented the Special Project to your groups, begin now! A 34 minute documentary on “The House of Passage” is a good introduction to the work being done in Recife, Brazil, to open doors of hope to disadvantaged girls. To borrow a copy of this, please email – Althea Campbell at cwsacws.org.nz – or write to Althea at P O Box 22652, Christchurch 8142 – as soon as possible, giving preferred date and an alternative, and whether you need vhs/video or DVD.

For the New Zealand focus, contact a local School Chaplain who, I am sure, will be very willing to talk to your group about their work. Perhaps you could find a School Principal with time to tell you why they appreciate a Chaplain working in their School, or a parent whose child has been helped.

Be inventive and give these projects your full support.

Beth Hickman

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SMETHURST GRANTS

2008 marks the 25th year of the allocation of Smethurst Grants. Mrs Smethurst, a woman with a heart for mission, not only left a wonderful legacy for Methodist Women’s Fellowship but provided a place where people could come rest and refresh themselves. We also acknowledge the foresight, wisdom and wonderful stewardship over the years of those who have worked diligently to honour the vision of Mrs Smethurst from the establishment of the Trust Fund through to the present day.

MWF Executive and the Smethurst Trust Fund Committee would like to acknowledge what access to this Fund has meant for so many over the years. If you have been a recipient of a grant, or a Committee member, it would be wonderful to hear from you about what difference Smethurst has made in your life, work or witness.

CONVENTION – 2 – 5 OCTOBER 2008 – HAMILTON

The Waikato/Thames Valley Local Arrangements Committee have been very busy putting initial arrangements in place. Mark the date on your calendar if you are planning to attend.

Lynne and Valmai will travel to Hamilton in May.