



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

May 2014

Dear Fellowship Friends Greetings to you all at this time following the celebrations and remembrances of the Easter events and Anzac Day.

Our thoughts are with the people in the Solomon Islands following the devastating floods and earthquake which have occurred there. We are mindful also of the families here in NZ, so far away from loved ones at this time.

In March we were sorry to hear of the death in Auckland of Vera Dowie. Vera was the MWF National President 1970-72 and she will be remembered for her many leadership skills which she used in so many ways at local, national and international level. Vera was such an enthusiastic and encouraging person. We will have a special tribute for Vera at Convention and also for other members of previous NZMWF National Executives who have died this year.

Please send the tributes to Merrill as soon as possible.

In March, Brenda Baker, Lise Malaeimi and I went to Christchurch and enjoyed meeting MWF members in their homes and sharing a meal with the North Canterbury executive committee. On Monday we went by bus with MWF members to Ashburton for a joint gathering with the South Canterbury District members. We visited members in Ashburton and Methven. One lady noted the Used Stamp Fund started in 1934 and she 'does' them all for the District. Brenda Baker, Merrill Baker and I were very pleased to join the Wanganui/Manawatu District ladies at Levin for their meeting.

Many travel quite long distances to these District Gatherings but the meeting and sharing of ideas, speakers and news is very important.

Please remember the women who shift into Retirement Villages and Units. It is important that they receive Fellowship Newsletters and items of interest to help to maintain their contact with people. Shifting can take time to adjust to.

Merrill likes to receive a copy of the District Minutes or a resume of your events.

SPECIAL PROJECT – The April edition of Touchstone had an excellent article about the work of "The Women's Centre" in Sri Lanka. The Autumn issue of SPANZ has an article with good information to use in your Fellowship meeting.

"The Early Years Matter" – "Women's Refuge in conjunction with the Brainwaves Trust" will train 100 Child Advocates to assist families to improve their parenting skills. Positive, caring parenting, particularly in the first three years are vital for a child to develop normally. Children respond to positive actions.

What can we do?? A Smile goes a long way.

Smile at the child sitting in the supermarket trolley, on the bus or the train.



NZMWF 50th Celebrations – it has been so interesting to hear of the various activities that people are enjoying throughout the country. The Garden Party in Opotiki was an amazing day. Recently I spent time with Jean Rickard who in 1963 was the last President of the Women's Guild Fellowship. 'Fundraising for Parsonage furnishings and Church purposes' dominated the agenda, but they were reaching out to wider community interests.' **Out of The Silence by Ruth Fry** – a History of Methodist Women. Every District/Parish should have a copy of the book – Check out with someone who is shifting; they may have a copy available.

NZMWF Affiliation Fees 2013-2014 – \$9.00 are due now.

\$3.00 stays with District & \$6.00 sent to the National Treasurer, Akanesi Havea

NCW- "Cents-in-May" is now called "The Camellia Fund" An annual tradition when groups make a small contribution to their local NCW branch for running expenses. Please send this donation directly to the NCW.

WFM&UCW–South Pacific Area Seminar Brisbane 8-12th July

*Nominations for Area President / Vice-President Required by 20th May

*Song about the South Pacific Area to be used as the area theme song at the World Seminar. Each unit is asked to submit a song. Closing date 20th May

NZMWF Convention will be held at El Rancho Waikanae, 11 – 14 September
Registration forms have been sent out. Do not return these until after 1st July.

Any Remits or Topics for Discussion Please send to Merrill by 20th May

Annual meetings will soon be held and we give thanks to everyone for their contributions, in so many ways during the year.

God, teach us lessons for living so we can stay the course.

Give us insight so we can do what you tell us —

Our whole life one long, obedient response.

Guide us down the road of your commandments;

We love travelling this freeway!

Blessings to You All. May God's peace, love and strength surround you.

Marie Smith

18 Sunny Glen
Waikanae 5036

president.nzmwf@methodist.org.nz

Merrill Baker
2A Cypress Grove
Paraparaumu 5032

secretary.nzmwf@methodist.org.nz

Akanesi Havea
3 Carver Place

Lynmouth. New Plymouth 4310
treasurer.nzmwf@methodist.org.nz