



Dear Friends

Greetings to you all in my Final letter. It is amazing where these the two years has gone by. The committee and I would like to thank you all for the prayerful support and encouragement which you have given us over this time. We have been truly blessed by this and the opportunities to meet you and contribute to the ongoing activities of the Methodist Women's Fellowship.

REPORT OF NZMWF CONVENTION AT EL RANCHO, WAIKANAE 11-14 September

There is a report in the October issue of Touchstone.

Women from Dargaville to Dunedin gathered at El Rancho. Rev Cornelia Grant led the opening service where tributes were given for Pat Grant – Otago, Millie Downs – Waikato, Vera Dowie – Waitemata, Gwenyth Crosbie – Otago, Hilda Oliver-Taranaki: members of previous National Executives.

Gillian Bell – National Convenor of the Disability, Spirituality and Faith Network, recipients of the 2012-13 Special Project, presented the book "Creating Welcoming Churches" to Rev Shona Bettany from the Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ (PWANZ) and me. Copies are available for Fellowships who contributed towards the Special Project. Other copies can be purchased

The 2013-14 SPECIAL PROJECT raised \$21,882 for the New Zealand Women's Refuge to train 100 Child Advocates \$9,378 for the Women's Centre in Sri Lanka to assist improve the conditions of Tamil women who are working in the Free Trade Zone.

The Medical & Educational Fund raised \$1,863 and the Used Stamp Fund \$2,651 which will assist two women from Munda and one from Sasamunga to complete their Nursing Training at Helena Goldie Hospital in the Solomon Islands. The Sunday Service offering \$1,265.50 is also for the Solomon Islands Nursing Scholarships.

2014-15 SPECIAL PROJECTS "Together We Can"

1. To assist through the Neythal Programme the fisher folk in South India who are having their lands taken from them for commercial development. Eric Park from CWS had been to the area and spoke with concern about it.
2. "Diabetes YOUTH NZ" promotes diabetes education for families and teenagers and will arrange camps to enable teenage diabetics to meet others. Renata Porter President of DYNZ spoke about diabetes and the effect on families and community.

Contact these groups to learn more about them and to arrange speakers.



As the Guest Speaker from overseas Dr. Fulata L Moyo, from the WCC was unable to come at the last minute we were fortunate that Rev Pamela Tankersley was available. Theme: *Women on the Way -*

Younger and Older women journeying together in our Church

The Bible reading Ruth 1 – Naomi's lament - older and younger women journeying together- God is Alive - there is a future as we travel together, we bring our gifts and our skills and together make a fulfilling life and fellowship together. Young women can share their many skills with older women.

In the second session Pamela spoke of her involvement with the Council of World Mission and Women's Changing Role in Society. She illustrated this with the story from Numbers 27 1-11 of Zelophehad with five daughters. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) have been aiming at a Violence Free Society, Empowering women – Human rights are for everyone, Developing of partnerships.

Lani Teofili had attended a conference on Ecology, Theology and Justice at the Bossey Institute in Geneva in June. She challenged us all to be aware of climate change and to preserve creation for our future generations.



The South Pacific Area Seminar in Brisbane was a great experience and the NZ presentation was well received. The song 'Pacific Women' written by Diana Roberts may be used as the Area Song.

Pacific Women's Watch-New Zealand – have a leaflet available about CEDAW (Convention for Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) Remits for National Council of Women Conference in October included - Aged Care Staffing levels, Mental Health- women in prison, reducing suicide, Legal minimum age for marriage- were discussed in a Workshop.

*Other Workshops were: Women in the Bible, State of Pacific Education
Legal issues relating to families, Craft brooch making activity*

Lyn Price led us in some active singing at the beginning of the sessions. A session of gentle exercise to music 'Tai Chi Qi Qi Gong' was led by Christine Lenk. Something new for many of us that we can do at any time.

"Loved 4 Life" – an Interdenominational Organisation whose vision is to positively impact on families so they know that they are part of a caring community. Helen Thompson the National Leader showed us samples of the quilts that are made for the babies and told us about the meals that are delivered and the information and education workshops that are available for the parents. "It takes a Village to raise a Child"



Devotions were led by various Districts and their themes included "Experience with God. To fear God is to have Wisdom": "Stepping out of Your Past": "Hearing God's Voice: We are Special & Worthy" "To Act Justly, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with your God"

Affiliation fees are \$9 to be sent to the District Treasurer who then forwards \$6 to the National Treasurer. The Presbyterian Fee is \$8 to the National Treasurer so Fellowships can retain the \$1 difference for their local funds.

Helen Kim Scholarship: Local Fellowships and Districts are encouraged to make donations towards the WFM&UCW fund to assist young women in this leadership programme.

NZMWF will donate annually, from funds held, US \$200 to the WFM&UC towards production costs of 'The Tree of Life'. Local Fellowships or Districts may wish to make an additional donation.

Guidelines for Local and District Treasurers will be circulated at a later date Fellowships are encouraged to mark World Federation Day each October.

Districts are encouraged to have contact with their Linked District by emails, exchanging information of events and if possible arrange visits or combined activities. Ministry Students appreciate the contact and support from MWF Districts. Emails are generally easier and quicker.

REMITTS: It was acknowledged that the Constitution as written allows for flexibility for Local Fellowships and Districts to have leadership appropriate for their situation with a Facilitation team.

The remit regarding additions to the NZMWF Constitution clarifying representation for the Fijian District was agreed to. The four representatives are to come from different parts of the country.

It was agreed that payment of Friendship Scholarship and Kurahuna Convenor's registration fees and travel to attend Council and Convention will be paid from the General Investment account MTA 08-017

Friendship Scholarship applications must be received by 8 November – forms are available at www.methodist.org.nz Other Organisations – Women's Fellowship. Smethurst and Kurahuna application forms are also available there.



Olive, Marie, Mataiva, Lynne, Nelma, Mary Alison, Ruth

All the MWF Districts have been celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the NZMWF and have compiled very graphic and interesting folders of their history and celebrations. These will be sent to the Archives. Saturday night at Convention was a fun night of dancing and reminiscing and the cutting of a large 50th Birthday cake by Frances Pentelow from the 1978-80 executive, with Marie Smith and Olive Tanielu.



Sunday, the Holy Communion Worship service and Commissioning of the National President Olive Tanielu and Executive was led by Rev Cornelia Grant. We were joined by members of the Kapiti Uniting Parish, Samoan members from Taranaki and Hawkes Bay and a choir from the Wellington Sinoti Samoa. Rev Tovia Aumua – President Elect brought greetings to NZMWF.

*We move forward knowing that God loves us, Come what may,
He will lead and protect us, Every step along life's way.*

NZ Methodist Women's Fellowship is changing and meeting the challenges and as the theme for the Hawkes Bay based Executive says

"We are God's Hands. Reach Out."

Blessings and thanks to you all

Marie Smith

NZMWF National President 2012-2014

