



### **President's Letter – October/November/December 2008**

Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Ni sa bula vinaka, Namaste, Ni Hao, Taloha Ni, Hello, Kia Ora and Warmest Pacific Greetings to you all.....

It's the season of Joyous Celebrations as we near the day Christ was born and how this remarkable occasion is celebrated throughout the world with our loved ones .....Merry Christmas.

Our theme for this committee is to *“Rekindle the Spiritual Flame within the NZMWF to make a difference”* we want to expose to our young women of all cultures within our Methodist Church and show them what this fellowship has to offer and how it can continue with them joining us, it is about igniting the flame within each and everyone of us and increasing our members because they want to join and continue the legacy for generations to come. It's about change of attitude not only for the young but also for the old it's about welcoming them in and embracing them with the flame of unity within our women and that we can do anything in what we believe in. We are women in a country that allows us to be liberated and stand for what is right and that is it is our time and we are ready to take on all challenges and know we will be supported.

I know I have chosen a committee that will help me ignite the flame and also the back up of a fellowship that want the flame to be ignited within our Methodist women and work together to make this happen.

I know I speak on behalf of my Committee and wish you all and your families a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.....

### **Special Acknowledgement**

This is a special acknowledgement to Lynne Scott and her wonderful Executive Committee who led the way and have shown us that we have big shoes to fill, we would like to thank you for all your support you have shown me and my committee and know we will take up your offer of help in our respective roles in the near future, so watch this space.....Once again thank you very much and I know our paths will meet again in the near future wishing you all a safe Christmas and a somewhat relaxed New Year.

**Vaotane Samoa Saleupolu**

**Vaotane's whereabouts:** - At this moment in time I would like to advise that Vaotane had to leave NZ before the completion of the President's letter to be with her father in Samoa who fell ill and so left on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008 to be by her father's bedside, we are saddened to say that Vaotane's father passed away Friday morning so thoughts and prayers are with Vaotane and her family during this trying time and I know that you all will pray for Vaotane as this was a man that impacted on the foundation of her Christianity and has played an important part in her life and was able to attend a very emotional Induction in October of his daughter into a role that she holds dear to her heart, our thoughts .....

**Convention at Hamilton:** Like to thank the team from Waikato /ThamesValley for being such wonderful Hosts an accommodating to us all weekend without your guidance and background work the weekend would not have been a success for a lot of us 1<sup>st</sup> timers it was refreshing.....

**Association of Presbyterian Women (APW) Conference, Palmerston North 1-3 May 2009 –** Guest Speaker Linda Bales (Advocate for the wellbeing of women and children around the world) have invited us to attend this Conference so if anyone is interested please let us know so we can give you contact details of the Convenor for APW.

**National Council of Women Representative for Districts –** We will be sending a letter out to encourage Districts for our Methodist Women to have a representative presence at local National Council meetings when held in your District as raised at the National Council of Women's Council

in Masterton the same weekend of our Convention in Hamilton. We know it is a lot to ask but it is about having a say in movements involving us as women.



### REMEMBERED WITH LOVE ...

We would like to pay tribute to our sister's in Christ who have passed away throughout the year of 2008, and that we can only comfort their love ones by remembering them all in our prayers and be thankful for the life these remarkable women led and left behind a wealth of wisdom and knowledge for those dear to them to carry on their legacy.

But it is most fitting for us to mention a woman who for a few of us never got to meet but would have loved to meet by reading her tribute during the Convention and that is of Sister Rona Collins who was on the Executive Committee led by Lynne Scott, she has shown to us the remarkable leadership qualities and that she was a true fighter who did God's work right up to the day she died. May she rest in peace and be always remembered in our hearts. We can only hope that we continue the work that people like Sister Rona Collins and the other women believed in to make us proud of being a Methodist woman in NZ.

Blessings from our Lord amongst you all during this very trying time as we lead into the festive season.

### Contact Details for your Executive Committee 2008 to 2010 ...

We have listed the names and Portfolios for the Executive Committee so that you can contact them directly regarding concerns or queries from your Districts.

Name	Portfolio	E-mail Address
Vaotane Samoa Saleupolu	President / Mission / Church Women United	<a href="mailto:vaotane@slingshot.co.nz">vaotane@slingshot.co.nz</a>
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**SOME DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT RECEIVED:**

**Auckland:** Sad that the Pitt St / Aotea Chapel Women's fellowship have decided to close as they are facing declining membership. They had lots of people speaking to them sharing their joys and experiences from tours taken, celebrations attended, district dos including the ex President and Vice President visits.

**Greymouth:** Had an interesting year with a variety of speakers & fun programmes.

**Hawkes Bay:** Small in numbers but a very enthusiastic fellowship – made up of Trinity Napier and Wesley Hastings. They had a wide variety of programmes during the year – had speakers with topics as diverse as the Chaplaincy in schools, which is one of their special projects.

**Manukau:** 151 members in 6 local fellowships, with an average attendance of 24 at district meetings. Several members have died during the year they are sadly missed by the districts; some have moved into rest homes out of the area, others have serious illness. Fellowships have a wide range of speakers, bible studies, sharing and social occasions.

One of their members Barbara Lawrence has been made a Fellow of Wesley College [the first woman 'Fellow']

**Southland:** two members have lost their sisters through death sadly missed

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**Final Note:** A Bulletin of **important** "What is happening dates" will be sent in February if you have any events you would like to share please have them into the National Secretary by 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009 via e-mail or by post.

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