



January/February/March 2023 edition

Xinniàn hào (Mandarin – New Year Goodness) or Gong hei fat choy (Cantonese – Best wishes, wishing you happiness and prosperity), This year is the year of Rabbit, predicted to be the year of hope – starting from 22 January 2023 and ending 9 February 2024. In Chinese culture, rabbit is the symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity.

What a wonderful country we live in to be able to share the different diversity of cultures and celebrate it in our country.

Firstly, I would like to give my humble apologies to all our members for the delay in sending out a President letter in a while and keeping you posted on what has happen and will happen, so I had every intention to get this out in January, then February and now it is March - so much has happen since Chinese New Year.

As our country continues to be in a state of emergency due to the devastating effects of flooding and cyclone that hit our North Island in the last 2-3 weeks, and we are still evaluating the affects, of the disasters that impacted our country and upheaved many families across the North Island. We pray as responders continue to work tirelessly to try and connect communication, power to those areas still waiting t touch base for loved ones that it happens for them real soon.

#### Acknowledgements 2022

Well, 2022 was a mix bag of everything and for a lot of us coming to terms with COVID is here to stay and how we deal with it comes down to the individual choice on how we will live with the various variants floating around.

For some of us we continued the 2020 approach of staying indoors and doing their fellowships/meetings via Zoom and others took the chance of meeting face to face to catch up with friends and families.

Whatever approach you took was the right one for you and your family so good on you.

#### Condolences

It is always sad to hear of the news of the passing of our members especially those still actively serving in their local fellowships or have a role within their district immediately after National Council it was sad to hear of the passing of Betty Watson who devoted her life to Women's Fellowship.

Our prayers and thoughts go to the Turkington Family for the loss of a dear mother, grandmother, sister, aunty - Kath Turkington who died peacefully at the age of 102 years. Kath was on the National Executive team with Lynley Whitton. We give thanks for a very faithful member and remember her with gratitude.

It was sad to hear of the loss of a fellow sister from South Pacific Area - Mrs Fualuga Taupi who was the International Secretary for Au Uso Fealofani from the Samoa Unit earlier this year.

We wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to families, friends and sisters in Christ who lost a loved one and know they will be remembered always. These beautiful women have gained their angel wings and are now part of God's army.

Please continue to pray for our members who are battling ailments and undergoing treatment in various parts of our wonderful country of Aotearoa, New Zealand and pray for God's healings amongst you all as you go through your treatment and we will continue to pray for you and ask God to watch over each one of you.

#### National Council 2022

Last year's National Council was held from 14 to 16 October 2022 and held at the Novotel & Ibis Auckland, Ellerslie. It was such an awesome weekend where we were able to catch up with

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people we had not seen in awhile and meet new members that had not experienced a National Council before.

At National Council we elected our President Elect – Lesieli Tiulupe Pope who will be inducted at this year's Convention 2023. Congratulations and all the best in getting your National Executive ready to take the reins from October 2023.

### PWANZ

This weekend the PWANZ are holding a special meeting to decide the future of Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand like us they have seen a decline in numbers and little interest from their members to take on leadership roles and so their meeting last year they proposed to look at closing PWANZ.

This is very sad as we have had a long-term relationship with our PWANZ sisters', and we have a few Uniting Churches around New Zealand where both NZMWF and PWANZ members are a part of these churches.

I have reached out to Ruth Stevens to extend our prayers and support for this weekend and pray that it comes out with a favourable outcome but also extend we are here if they need support. Please pray for our PWANZ sisters and to our churches who are Uniting churches that they come to a decision that best suits their situation.

What this means for our Special Projects in the future we will wait and see but I have reached out to Olataga Leasi and Ruth Steven to meet to discuss this further.

### Fellowship and District visits

Thank you to those Districts who have touched based with our Liaison Link – Juanita Salevao it will be a busy few months' so the sooner we get your dates we can arrange for our team to come out to visit your District either face to face or via Zoom.

We are down in Christchurch for 27 March 2023, then we join Vahefonua Tonga on Friday 14 April 2023 in Auckland and just confirming dates with Waikato-Thames Valley.

Please get in touch with Juanita Salevao if you would like us to come out before our term ends in October this year – email: [nitahsalevao@gmail.com](mailto:nitahsalevao@gmail.com).

### Up in coming Events

#### **Smethurst Nominations for North Island & South Island reps**

An email has been sent out to ask for nominations for a rep from your district and submit by 31 March 2023, please ensure you have contacted your nomination before sending through names to our National Secretary – Rosalina Toilolo – email: [brkleniks001@gmail.com](mailto:brkleniks001@gmail.com).

Reminder our first application for Smethurst application due in by 20 March 2023 please ensure you download from our website.

#### **Annual Statistic Forms 2023**

We are revising these forms and we will have this out to districts in early April to on send to fellowships and have it back to us by end of July 2023.

#### **South Pacific Area Seminar 2024**

It gives me great pleasure to announce that we will have an Area Seminar next year and we have had a change in host due to cost efficiency in getting to Solomon Islands and Samoa have accepted to host next year's area seminar. As we get details, we will ensure we get it out so we can prepare ourselves for this seminar. So, start saving so we can get a good team to fly over to Samoa in 2024.



**Convention 2024**

It is not long before our biennial Convention and we will have here in Auckland – we aim to have it in mid-October (3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in October) but we hope to confirm these dates in the next month, we hope to see more come through so we can fellowship together.

Once again sorry about not keeping up with the quarterly President's letter.

This brings an end to our newsletter please take care and be safe out there and whatever plans you have may our Lord be your protector.

God Bless and signing out until my next newsletter.  
Tui Salevao