



NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Biennial Report for the Year ending 31 July, 2018

As we conclude our term of office on 28 October, the National Executive of the Methodist Women's Fellowship, have pleasure in presenting this report.

Our Christchurch team is Dianne Claughton President, Lynne Scott Vice President and World Federation Correspondent, Philomena Petaia Secretary, Valmai Horlor Treasurer and Uniting Congregations Link, Roz Wilkie Liaison and Cultural Link, Rev Barbara Peddie Chaplain and Diaconate Link, Ofa Giblin and Unaisi Tikoinaka Missions and Moe Petaia National Council of Women. It has been a privilege to represent our members.

Our theme "Chosen People Called to Proclaim" from our World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women has become a reality and through bi-monthly newsletters every member has been encouraged to share their personal faith stories proclaiming our motto "To know Christ and make Him Known". I have featured a Chosen Women from the Bible, the world or New Zealand every time.

Our Aims are: To unite members in prayer, study, fellowship and service, encouraging them to make a Christian witness in home, church and community.

To support the work of Methodist and Uniting churches.

To encourage an informed interest in worldwide missions and evangelism.

We have shared in the loss of valued members and friends. We have shared the pleasure for those who have received honours and the opportunities to attend Seminars overseas and to further studies. We have all enjoyed our "Touchstone" stories. We give thanks to God for the lives and witnesses of these precious girls and women.

Eighty eight of us participated with four hundred South Pacific area sisters in Fiji in July and the theme was "Chosen People Called to Proclaim with Hearts on Fire". Our World Federation President Alison Judd from England was there and Mataiva Robertson our World Secretary and Leu Pupulu our World Treasurer. It was good news to learn that Olive Tanielu will be the next Area President after our next World assembly in Sweden in August 2021. New Zealand MWF continues to be well represented on the World Executive.

We continue to send Smethurst funding to the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga to help with the Seminar registrations. We also send funding to the World Federation to support other Units and the Helen Kim Scholars.

Some of our groups are small but all appreciate the love and support of each other and feel truly blessed to belong to groups where friendships are strong. We are grateful for those who take on the leadership roles and I thank every member for their support.

We have visited seven of our nineteen districts and have many memorable experiences. Thanks for your uplifting sharing, fun and laughter. Please pray for our two newest groups

at Mt Albert and Rotorua. The work being done in our churches, our districts and the world is invaluable and we thank each church for their continued support.

I was pleased to attend the Presbyterian Women of New Zealand annual assembly and we will continue to have a close relationship with them.

Missions has always held a high profile and we have continued to offer support in many ways locally and nationally. Last year we supported a Christian World Service project in Nicaragua raising \$22,067.15 and the New Zealand Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder raising \$6620.15.

This year "Children are our Hope and our Future" are supporting a Christian World Project in South Uganda and the New Zealand Pillars Organisation.

We continue to save stamps and have raised \$1397.65 for the Kokeqolo Project in the Solomon Islands and a Missions fund raised \$1872 for a Fijian Orphanage in Ba.

Our next National Projects are a Christian World Project in Fiji and supporting Bellyful. Every year the Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand also share these Mission Initiatives.

We continue to support the Fellowship of the Least Coin, World Day of Prayer, Let the Children Live Projects in our communities, our own church needs, our two Helen Kim scholars, National Council of Women and Pacific Women's Watch based in Auckland. Please encourage the young women in your congregations to support these too. I was privileged to attend the Suffrage 125 Celebration at Government House, Wellington remembering Kate Sheppard and the support of Methodist women in the 1880s.

We support our local Deacons and I was pleased to attend this year's Convocation. We also support the students of Trinity College. All are very grateful for the correspondence they receive. We have Associate members who cannot attend our meetings and we visit our older members.

Our three Grant and Scholarship Funds – Smethurst, Kurahuna and Friendship continue to enable women of all ages to further their education here and overseas. Thank-you to those serving on these three committees.

We held our Council meeting at the Gardens Hotel Complex, Christchurch in September, 2017 with forty leaders and our Convention will take place there at the end of October.

The next National Executive from the Tongan District – Feohi'anga'a Fafine Metotisi Niu Sila will be inducted led by the new President Siniva Vaitohi from South Auckland. Please pray for this new team taking on these roles for the first time.

We acknowledge that the membership of our European members is declining and we continue to encourage them to invite newcomers to join them. Our Pasifika groups continue to inspire us all and we are encouraged by the enthusiasm of our young women.

As we come to the end of our term as the National Executive we thank you all for the many prayers and messages of support and encouragement that we have received.

God bless you all richly as you continue to be chosen people called to proclaim. 1 Peter: 2
9 – 10.

Dianne Claughton

National President 2017 - 2018