



50 yrs

APW- PWANZ

*Happy 50th* – Let us continue to keep in prayer our Jubilee year of celebration. We look forward to reading about the Ashburton event, well done Dellwyn and team for organising this day with The Honourable Jo Goodhew as speaker. Wellington region celebrate on Saturday 17 May. Lois Robertson and team also have a fun filled day planned and will hear from The Honourable Winnie Laban on 17th May. Taranaki MWF/PWANZ is using the new Waitara complex for an evening of entertainment and information, with a meal on May 10. Christchurch Women are dressing in sixties attire for their event, and Aucklanders will celebrate in August, with stories from the early years. We look forward to hearing about your celebrations. All the best to our groups preparing to celebrate. Come aboard younger women and help organise this day to thank elderly women in your area for their contribution. We have with our Methodist women raised a huge amount of funding for mission work and made a difference to women and their families nationally and globally, by educating and empowering them to be self sufficient. Our consultative role at the United Nations another huge achievement we should be proud of.

Treasurer needed now!! Ngaire will be stepping down very shortly and we need a treasurer, if you would be interested in this role, please contact Shona Bettany.

Keep warm in the love of God

*Lafulafu Vanilla Ekenasio*

### Annual Business meeting

2014 Business Meeting: will be held in August in Auckland.

We will be tabling the financial accounts as well as looking at future for Presbyterian Women. More information will follow in the next issue.

**Treasurer needed:** We are currently (from Jul 2014) seeking a new Treasurer. Ngaire Pearce will be stepping down at the end of the financial year 30 June 2014. If you would like to be considered for the position, please include "Treasurer" in the email subject line to the National Secretary, Rev Shona Bettany [revsbettany@xtra.co.nz](mailto:revsbettany@xtra.co.nz) or phone (06)367 2067.

Also, at our business we will need to replace our Pacific Island representative, Ola, and our communications convenor, Faatali, who will have completed their four year terms.

Please keep this meeting and our new appointees in your prayers

**Farewell Jacqui Ryan** of CWS who for more than 12 years has been the Christian World Service Fieldworker based in Auckland, covering territory from Kaitaia to Taupo and everywhere else between and latterly including Taranaki. She has presented to branches/districts the International Special Projects representing 13 partner groups, covering 12 countries, from her first presentation - 'Las Dignas' - empowering women in El Salvador, within three days of having taken up the fieldworker position, to Sri Lanka women's Centre, April, 2014.

**Jacqui says** " Your Christian outreach and compassion for the welfare and dignity of people around the world has been nothing short of inspirational. The vigour and enthusiasm with which branches/districts have taken on learning about new situations and cultures has been astounding. Thank you for your part in this. I stand in awe of your efforts!"

As we thank and farewell Jacqui, please remember:-

**this year's Special Project contributions need to be with Ngaire no later than 31st May**

## MANAWATU PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Turakina Maori Girls College was the venue for a communion celebrated by their chaplain and shared with members of the Manawatu and Wanganui Presbyterian Women. Five Year 9 pupils who were chosen to be pulpit helpers served the communion to Year 10 pupils and the Presbyterian Women. The girls sang their hymns beautifully. A generous koha was given to the College. Their dining room gave us shelter from the gale to enjoy our home packed lunches and hot drinks were supplied. Discussions took place during this time. This is indeed a friendly place.



## ST DAVIDS NIGHT OWLS Palmerston North.

Our venue for our February daylight saving meeting was held where the fringe of the Esplanade meets the Manawatu River near the bridge. Lynn Ramage lead us with a Bible Study on Psalm 8 and invited us to express ourselves on a small art pad with water paints and water pencils. It was a beautiful activity with the sun setting and being mirrored on the river where ducks, birds and insects were enjoying the last of the sun's rays. Hot drinks, scones and the Grace concluded the meeting.



In March, **Brown's Bay Presbyterian Women** heard Denise George from Christ-church speak about the work of Fellowship of the Least Coin, which works in solidarity with women who want to give, but have very little. These small coins have mounted up to make a difference in many areas, world wide. Over the year millions of dollars have been allocated to many projects for the benefit of women and children.

## KNOX WHAKATANE, serving the community.

On Saturday 22nd March. Whakatane had a perfect sunny day for the Kitchen Ramble fundraiser and have people eat a hearty lunch in Knox Church lounge and see the fantastic facilities there. The funds were needed to go towards the third annual Heart to Heart Expo and Family Festival. This is a day event where about 15 organisations and agencies in the wider community (e.g. Budget Advice, Family Works, Alzheimers Society) have stalls to explain how they assist people. The church provides lots of free food and entertainment and those attracted over 400 people to the festival this year (on 12th April).

The Kitchen Ramble enabled folk to inspect / view 13 kitchens in the district. The kitchens varied in size, design, and facilities. They were of particular interest to those renovating or building. Other viewers did the ramble just to get ideas for their current kitchens....or to do something different on a lovely day! The cost of \$25 covered a ticket which gave brief descriptions of the 13 kitchens, their locations and the name of the builders, as well as the lunch. We were able to raise approximately \$1,800 with about 70 people (including a few men) doing the ramble. They chose which of the 13 kitchens they wanted to view (most saw them all) and the order in which to view them.

We were thankful to have 5 local kitchen businesses (and one from Mount Maunganui) sponsor us to the amount of \$550. Our hope is that we will have more community groups ask to use/ hire church facilities now that they have been in the church complex. The Parish Minister, Rev. Chris Barnard, said that one woman who came to worship on Easter Sunday told him that she had been at the church lounge for the Kitchen Ramble ...another way of making contacts in the community.

The organisers felt the ramble was successful in raising funds (mainly money from non-church folk) as well as providing a service to the local people. We hope to organise

**HIBISCUS COAST PARISH** continues to work towards providing computers for training programmes in Vanuatu, with meal and Devonshire tea fundraising events to provide. A team will visit to set up the computers and assist the local instructors.



## United Nations CSW 58 – News Clip 1

The fifty-eighth session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 - 21 March 2014.

**The Priority theme** was the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.

**The Review theme for CSW 58** was access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work

**The Emerging issue was** women's access to productive resources.



It was my privilege to attend CSW 58 as the UN Convenor. It was also a challenge as this was my first time in this representative role. Before I left I wondered if it would be a talk fest, or an opportunity for Presbyterian Women to make a difference to the status of women here in NZ, especially to the knowledge of our Presbyterian members, and to contribute internationally from a NZ Presbyterian Women's perspective in a global arena. I discovered our insights and actions are highly valued internationally

### International Women's Day

My visit coincided with International Women's Day at the UN. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General; John W. Ashe, President of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly; Hillary Rodham Clinton, Former United States Secretary of State, U.S. Senator; Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women; and Andrea Nunez, Vice President of the World YWCA Board, were among other dignitaries who helped us all to celebrate on this occasion. Their speeches are all available on the UN web site.

*Equality for women is progress for all*

*"Countries with more gender equality have better economic growth. Companies with more women leaders perform better. Peace agreements that include women are more durable. Parliaments with more women enact more legislation on key social issues such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support. The evidence is clear: equality for women means progress for all."* Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

I also enjoyed listening to Helen Clark who is the UN Development Administrator make her statement, Amongst other things she said,

*" This year's International Women's Day theme - Equality for Women is Progress for All - states a simple truth. No country will reach its full potential if its female citizens do not enjoy full equality . . . While there has, undoubtedly, been progress for many women and girls, it has been uneven and too slow . . . Grounded in international human rights, gender equality doesn't just improve the lives of individual women, girls, and their families; it makes economic sense . . . Let's mark this International Women's Day by redoubling our efforts to make equality for women a reality . . . Let's commit ourselves to investing our time and resources in all aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment. Only then can we fulfil the rights of all women and men, and create a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient world."*

From then on, at CSW 58, it was a learning curve but one of the most enlivening times I have ever experienced.

To be with thousands of women from countries around the world, to learn about women's organisations from civil societies across the globe, to have time be able to interact with and network among individual women from such diverse countries, was fascinating.

There are many very inspiring women doing amazing work to improve the status of women and girls where they live. Our reality is so different from those who are oppressed, those living in a war zone, those for whom hunger is a daily reality or those who have been displaced or made refugees by circumstances beyond their control. Complacency is not an option while issues of violence, poverty and inequality affect NZ women and girls, too.

**Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ have special consultative status which means we can have up to twenty Presbyterian women from NZ as delegates. This year we had only one. Next year will be different I hope.**

More news next time!

Do contact me if you would like more information, a copy of the full report, if you would like to be kept up to date and linked in to UN news on the Status or Women decisions, or if you are thinking of joining me in New York next year as a self-funding member of the Presbyterian Women's delegation.

**Carol L Grant**  
**United Nations Convenor**  
**Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ**



The NZ contingent to CSW with Helen Clark  
Photo courtesy National Council of Women Circular

## NATIONAL CONTACTS

### National Convenor

Lafulafu Vanila Ekenasio  
93 Yule St.  
Lyll Bay,  
Wellington, 6022  
04 387 8265  
Mobile 021 075 4815  
[lafulafu@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lafulafu@xtra.co.nz)

### Secretary

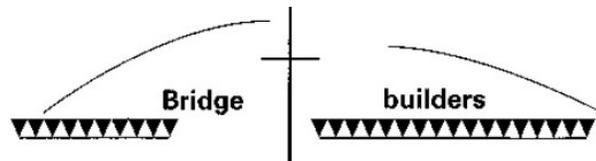
Presbyterian Women ANZ  
Rev Shona Bettany.  
39 Liverpool Street, Levin 5510  
06 367 2067  
027 4608 795  
P.O.Box 239 Levin 5540  
[revsbettany@xtra.co.nz](mailto:revsbettany@xtra.co.nz)

### Treasurer

Ngairé Pearce  
102 Mountain View Road  
Gleniti  
Timaru 7910  
03 686 1834  
[jim\\_ngaire@clear.net.nz](mailto:jim_ngaire@clear.net.nz)

Material for the  
July/August 2014  
issue of Gleanings  
should be with  
Rae Simpson  
lestrsimp-  
son@xtra.co.nz  
By Monday 16th June

## 7th Bridgebuilders International Consultation Auckland 4th - 7th April 2014



Some reflections from attendee, Janice Purdie

It was special being part of a group of some 40 women from Cook Island, Hong Kong, Kiribati, Myanmar, Niue, Samoa, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Vanuatu & NZ who had gathered to strengthen, encourage & empower each other to play a more effective role in church and society - to reach out to people with the Good News of God's saving grace in both word & deed. Our theme: Strengthening the Bridge - Building our Capacity- Reaffirming our Faith.

We laughed together, prayed together, worshipped together, talked together in our different Englishes, danced together & ate together. People shared their experiences & challenges. The consultation opened with worship led by Rev Lorraine Francis, assisted by Rev Marie Ropeti who also led the closing Communion. The Pacific Women, Asian Women and the South African women each in their own way led opening morning prayers.

The three Bible studies "Abigail peace maker, negotiator" 1 Samuel 25; "A woman's faith" Matt. 15: 21-28, & "Jesus said stand up tall" Luke 13: 10-17 were very affirming & encouraging to women. The Very Rev Pamela Tankersley had us entering personally into the Samuel & Luke studies. It brought the stories very much alive for us, & drew us together as we acted out/role played the stories amid much laughter & learning. Fia Togatama led the Matthew study in a gentle, affirming & encouraging way.

We were blessed with great speakers. The Keynote speaker Dr Hope Antone, programme Officer United Board of Christian Education in Asia challenged us in our "bridgebuilding" in our homes, our churches, our communities, and urged us to steer clear of the "Bridge to Nowhere". Dr Antone also facilitated a workshop on Effective Communications. The Rev Carol Grant shared with us her experience of attending the United Nations in New York, Zethu Xapile from South Africa shared how the women in South Africa were working on building bridges through their Women's Mission outreach, Mar Lar Myint, Lecturer at Tahan Theological College, Myanmar spoke on mission in the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar, Dr James Renwick, Associate Professor of Physical Geography at Victoria University informed us about climate change, Mike Hinton spoke about Restorative Justice, Dr Anne Hayden shared about "Intimate family Violence", & Rev Rilma Sands took us on the Peace train from Berlin to Busan where she was at the World Council of Churches Assembly. On the Monday a training workshop was held on CEDAW - United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women. This gave me a great insight on how United Nations gathers the information for all the reports they put out on how countries are performing. e.g. recently the United Nations challenged New Zealand about discrimination by the police on our Maori people as there is a disproportionate number of Maori people in our prisons. There were interactive workshops on strategies to help stop people trafficking & on overcoming the effects of climate change.

Wonderful, challenging speakers & workshops, but it is the personal stories & face to face meetings that make a lasting impact - things like the beautiful braided hair, the high heeled shoes & upright deportment of the four women from South Africa; Rev Dr Sirirat Pusurinkham speaking of her grief when as an 8 year old she learned that one of friends had been taken away by people traffickers - from that time she vowed to try to do something to stop it; Cyrilline Baniuri from Vanuatu in her beautiful "mother hubbard" frocks; Rev Maleta from Kiribati sharing her traumatic drive back from taking a service because the causeway she had to drive over was being lashed by high seas & waves, & the affect the salt water being sprayed over the land was having on the vegetation there; all the leis handed out by Tahu and Lui Tauetule; & the enthusiasm of Taamo Heather & Tangi Mataroa from the Cook Island for the work of Girl Guides, Girls Brigade & Bridgebuilders. These two women are taking over the leadership of Bridgebuilders International for the next three years. Please pray for them.

*Janice Purdie*