



No. 74 July/August 2014
Presbyterian Women Aotearoa, NZ

50 years

APW- PWANZ

Let's make a
celebratory quilt
See P5

From our Convenor:-

What a fun and colourful Pacific day at the Wellington region's 50th celebration held last month. (see below) All the best to others as you celebrate Thank you for all your kind invitations to celebrate with your groups, we will certainly do our best to attend. Please remember to email me lafulafu@xtra.co.nz a contact person for your group's celebration. We are doing an article in Spanz soon and would like to include as many 50th events and photos we can. Applications for the study grant have now closed. This was set up to encourage further study for our women. We received only one application, please use this opportunity. Greetings to Foxton Shannon Cooperating Parish thank you for your hospitality. As Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt to Canaan they had to go through the wilderness facing trials and challenges, yet it was also a place of strength. This is a time of transition for Presbyterian Women of the church and change is inevitable. We are wandering through the wilderness but as God delivered Moses and the Israelites, we too can rest assured God promises the same for us today, let us put our faith and trust in God knowing He will direct and guide our path. As the 'transition committee' we have been set a task to do, we will inform you of progress and apologise this has not happened, we are not perfect and we will make mistakes. We will also do things 'differently' give us a chance. Final note I am aware through varying reasons some groups will be closing up, on behalf of our Presbyterian Women thank you all for your contribution to our work over many years, May God bless you all.

Lafulafu Vanila Ekenasio

National Convenor

Presbyterian Women, from round the **Wellington region**, celebrated their 50th Jubilee on Saturday 17th May at the PIC Church, Porirua East.

It was a dazzling day of dancing and devotion.

Over 100 women gathered when Rev Hana Popea Mauigoa, of Stokes Valley, opened the day with devotions. Using three readings from Ephesians and John's gospel she gave us some insight into the relationship between Jesus and God. In order to have life, we need to know God and Jesus is our source. Our celebration is an example of our mission and service in the church.

Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban was the guest speaker.

Winnie, told of her upbringing in the church, her parents moving to NZ and working for their children, her experiences of being MP for Mana and now her position at Victoria University. She understood the issues and challenges facing families and women today.

She congratulated all the women for their contributions to their communities.

The afternoon activities involved remembering past members, crafts and dancing. All names mentioned in our roll call were entered into a Roll of Honour and we are still collecting names. Crafts were mainly making a felt flower with beads and buttons to pin onto our jackets. One table worked on some banners. At stages through the afternoon we all joined in Zumba, Keep Fit, Tai Chi and our pacific island dancing. Morning tea and lunch was enjoyed by all.



Winnie Laban, Marion Brash & Lafulafu, cutting the cake.

2014 NATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING IS CANCELLED

We humbly apologise for this late change. The National Coordinating Group have cancelled the August business meeting. 4 months' notice is required for remits to be submitted, giving enough time for groups to discuss and report back. There are not enough agenda items to hold a meeting and justify travel costs for members attending. Next year's Conference will be combined with a Business Meeting.

More information to come from NCG shortly.

United Nations CSW 58 News Clip



Presbyterian Women of 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.

Consultative Status is a phrase whose use can be traced to the founding of the United Nations and is used within the UN community to refer to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. These are organisations that have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by the Council and its subsidiary bodies, and that are known within the fields for which they have or seek consultative status. In other words, these are special interest groups with more than a few clues about what is really happening in civil society. As Presbyterian Women of New Zealand, our experience is valued at the

UN. As a member of a faith based organisation we, Presbyterians, have a unique focus, very different to those attending from some of the other NGO's. We network across many different organisations as Presbyterians are involved at many levels in many organisations in many different countries around the world. I found it interesting how easily we found each other, and how quickly we connected in the different forums at the United Nations events.

UN Ecumenical Women .

Among the many organisations I worked closely with, was one called Ecumenical Women at the United Nations. www.ecumenicalwomen.org Ecumenical Women is a coalition of Christian NGO's. This organisation has a permanent representation at the UN and its head quarters is based in the Church Centre conveniently placed across the plaza in front of the United Nations itself, and many of the events take place there. Ecumenical Women submitted a joint advocacy statement signed by most of its member organisations to the United Nations to the 58th Commission on the Status of Women.

The Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa, New Zealand, was one of the signatories to this joint advocacy statement

We envisioned a human community where the participation of everyone is valued, where no one is excluded on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, age, religion or cultural practice, and where diversity is celebrated as God's gift to the world.

Ecumenical Women reminded the 58th Commission on the Status of Women of the important role that faith-based organisations have played in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, including food programmes, education, healthcare, housing, water and sanitation, capacity building for women and girls and much more.

Our network's pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals provided a unique vision of our achievements and the challenges still ahead.

Ecumenical Women realised that the well intentioned Millennium Development Goals, remain treatments rather than cure. Large-scale social & economic transformation, partnerships & political will are required if we are to achieve these goals. We saw that significant yet unequal progress has been made & that existing commitments must be met.

We affirmed that the promotion of gender equality from a human rights perspective, and the contributions and empowerment of women and girls of all ages are fundamental, as enshrined in the Beijing Platform and international laws, and are necessary to meet the Millennium Development Goals and contribute to a post-2015 agenda that will ensure gender justice and sustainable development.

We highlighted four areas of achievement and challenges and we advocated strongly on these areas at all levels - in conversations, at meetings, by lobbying government representatives including those from our own government, by asking questions in public forums, and by requesting audiences with the various UN missions. Not once were we turned down.

Our four advocacy priorities were:

1 Poverty and Hunger, which continue to plague our societies. Though successive progress reports on the Millennium Development Goals demonstrate that significant gains have been made in lessening the number of persons who live in extreme poverty or hunger, there is more to do. Traditional aid programs have failed to address the root causes of poverty and hunger around world. Without confronting social and economic discrimination, the wealthy will continue to grow exponentially wealthier while the poor will continue to remain marginalised.

2 Access to quality education, employment and decision-making

Whether in the public or private sphere, from the highest levels of government decision-making to households, women continue to be denied equal opportunity with men to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

3 Health

The faith community has provided a broad spectrum of health services including maternal and child health services which have contributed to the achievements in these respective Millennium Development Goals. Great advancements have been seen on health issues, but women and girls' access to adequate health services, especially sexual and reproductive health services, remains unmet and of vital importance.

Continued on p 3

Caregiving work is most often unpaid and undervalued. Improving access to medical services and ensuring caregivers are financially supported would lighten the heavy burden women and girls take on and allow them to contribute more broadly to their communities.

4 Violence against women and girls in both rich and poor countries continues to challenge the global development agenda. We recognise that some states have made progress in addressing widespread violence; we also acknowledge that despite numerous UN actions, violence against women and girls persists as a gross human rights violation; we assert that much more needs to be done to create a transformative shift in social norms and behaviour.

Many governments adopt national legislation to end violence against women and girls, but fail to implement it. We recognise such implementation to be especially important when many violent acts occur in private. States must work actively to ensure that law enforcement and judicial systems prevent and punish all kinds of violence against women and girls.

We pointed out strongly that the ecumenical community effectively has been pursuing the ideals of the Millennium Development Goals for centuries and we will continue to pursue a just development system long after 2015. Ecumenical Women encouraged member states to continue to work towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals but also to acknowledged that a transformative change must take place to achieve equality and to generate a more peaceful and prosperous future for all. We were glad to discover when the final conclusions were reached that these recommendations were included.

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

The Rev Lorna Aberley QSM

The Rev Lorna Aberley died on 6 March 2014 at Tauranga at the age of 102.

The hymn 'I feel the winds of God today, today my sail I lift', seems to epitomise Lorna's Life.

Her parents were people of faith and gradually Lorna was drawn into the Bible Class movement in Hawera. She felt called to serve overseas as a missionary and in 1936 was accepted by the Missions Committee and began to prepare herself. After a 2 year course at the Presbyterian Women's Training Institute in Dunedin she trained as a nurse in Nelson Hospital and then completed a midwifery course at Stratford.

By 1943 Lorna was ready to go to India but because of enemy activity it was not possible to travel through the Indian Ocean. She accepted a temporary position as a Parish Nurse at Knox Church, Dunedin.

In 1944 the situation improved and Lorna set off by flying boat from Auckland to Sydney. However, there was a delay of 5 months before Lorna was able to travel on to Calcutta and thence to Christian Hospital, Jagadhri in NW India.

Lorna was soon studying language and helping at the hospital but a bout of typhoid forced her return to New Zealand. However, Lorna made an excellent recovery. Once again she felt the winds of God's Spirit leading her to do a post graduate course in nursing administration and education and she was then cleared to return to India in 1948.

She felt called to establish nursing training for women as well as men and finally in 1953 the first class of women was admitted at Christian Hospital.

In 1960 Lorna retired to Hawera to be with her aging parents and was ordained as a parish deaconess at St Johns. However in 1966 when both her parents had passed away Lorna was invited to return to Christian Hospital and she served there until 1972.

Returning to Hawera she found further opportunities in pastoral ministry at Patea and Eltham. In 1976 Lorna was ordained to the ministry of the Word and Sacraments and was appointed honorary Associate Minister at St Johns, Hawera.

Lorna continued to be quite active in ministry until her 80th year. During this period she also was closely involved with Presbyterian Women on the Presbytery level and was instrumental in bringing Presbyterian and Methodist Women together in one association. Lorna also served as a social worker for Presbyterian Support at the Retirement Home in Hawera.

In 1998 Lorna moved to Hamilton and then in 2012 to Tauranga to be closer to family. Her funeral was held at the St Columba Church in Tauranga on 12 March.

We give thanks to God for Lorna's long and full life and for her dedication and her faithful service to the Gospel and to the Presbyterian Church. We pray for her family and friends here in New Zealand and all those she cared for and worked with in India.



7th Bridgebuilders International Consultation, held in Auckland, New Zealand 4-7 April 2014

The Consultation was an outstanding success with 11 countries represented from Asia and the Pacific. Everyone agreed the face-to-face meeting was an empowering experience. The Programme was very full but we were able to explore in some depth, concerns of compelling interest in all of our countries. By standing in solidarity we can do so much together to build up God's Kingdom on earth. Just knowing we are all part of a large network of women gives us confidence to be 'door openers' and to stand strong.

STATEMENT

The 7th Bridgebuilders Consultation was built on the three themes -Strengthening the Bridge, Building our Capacity and Re-Affirming our Faith.

Members of the network were very pleased to report highlights from their churches of programmes aimed at building bridges. They have often become bridge builders through their mission outreach. In a meeting face to face, women were able to share the variety of resources from effective communication, reading the bible through women's experiences, restorative justice and how women can work to minimise the effect of climate change. Issues of concern in every country, the gathering agreed, are violence against women and trafficking and climate change. Taking action on these three issues should underpin our work in the next three years.

The members acknowledged how important it was to have face to face meetings to enhance and enrich their understanding of regional issues.

Women were encouraged to take a leading role on implementing and reporting on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in a one day Capacity Building Workshop.

Since the network was first established, many women have remained constrained by traditional and cultural control. Bridgebuilders aims to be the door opener in bringing about positive changes to enable women to reach their full potential.

Jane Prichard QSO

President 7th Bridgebuilders International Consultation

Action Plan from 2014 to 2017:

Overcoming Violence against women

- Educate people about violence
- Take action to reduce acts of violence and help the victims
- Create safe places for victims of violence to tell their stories

Strategies to help stop trafficking.

- Raise the awareness of people about the sin of trafficking
- Be aware of the long term effects on families & communities of trafficking of young girls & boys
- Put in place safeguards against trafficking of people for sex activities

Overcoming the effects of Climate Change.

- Educate communities to reduce the use of non-renewable energy sources. e.g use low energy light bulbs, harness solar power, use public transport, and conserve water
- Re-Use, Re-Cycle household goods
- Reduce waste by composting and minimising packaging

Measurable Outcomes:

Overcoming violence against Women

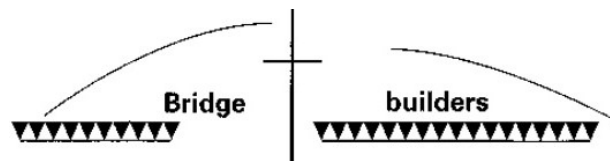
- There are a fewer acts of violence
- Women are not afraid to report acts of violence
- Use a restorative justice method to create the balance between the victim and offender

Strategies to help stop Trafficking.

- Successful advocacy to stop trafficking
- Abusers are brought to justice
- New legislation is enacted

Overcoming the effects of Climate Change

- Reduced use of Carbon
- Less purchase of new goods
- Reduced volume of rubbish



50 years of APW... let's celebrate!!

It was suggested by Delwyn Moylan that a quilt be made to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of APW/PWANZ. Hewitson Library has agreed to hang the quilt. I am happy to put this together, if it happens, so here we go... My suggestion is that each Presbyterial or group that would like to join in, makes an embroidered or appliquéd block. If your group would like to be part of this project please read on:-

- Use a piece of cream calico 12 x 14 inches. (this does not need to be washed)
- Pencil a 10 x 12 inch rectangle inside (so you have a 1 inch border that will become the joining seam) and work within that.
- Plan a design that says something about your group or your area or your history etc.
- Keep it simple as the quilt will be hung high, and fine detail will not be noticeable.
- Embroider the name of your group/Presbyterial within the design area. (this need **not** be large as we could have a photo beside the quilt showing where the blocks are from.)
- I will piece the quilt together with sashing between the blocks that will be in gold colourings, as will be the edging.
- You might use some gold colour in your design so that the anniversary we are honouring will be obvious. I will be responsible for making the logo block(s).
- If you do not have a ruler that measures in inches, cut your calico 31 x 36 cms, and pencil the working area 26 x 31cms.

I am happy to hear comments or concerns etc. Your completed block needs to be with me by the end of August, so that the hanging can be finished and displayed at GA14 in early October as part of the PWANZ report.

I need your responses please by the end of July, or sooner if possible, so that we know if we have enough blocks to make a distinctive and effective portrayal of our 50 years.

Natalie Watkin. Ph 09) 528 0507. email at nat.watkin@vodafone.co.nz



Lafulafu Vanila Ekenasio & Le'autuli'ilagi Sauvao
At the Wellington Region Jubilee celebration

NATIONAL CONTACTS

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APW Website

www.presbyterian.org.nz
Click on 'National Ministries'
- Assoc. Presbyterian Women
Gleanings newsletter

Material for the September/October 2014 issue of Gleanings

should be with
Rae Simpson
lestrsimson@xtra.co.nz
By Monday 18th August.
(Hard copy 11th August)
12 Kotanui Ave,
Whangaparaoa 0930



Anne and Cyrillene requested help with a training programme in Vanuatu at our Christchurch Gathering in 2012. After two trips, teams from the Hibiscus Coast Parish have been able to install 5 computers and a training manual is being prepared for their use. Pictured above, members of the Hibiscus Coast team and local folk are seen with the computers.

I have received some stories from Presbyterians and groups—some are memories from over the years, and others are a record of celebrations held this year.

I look forward to receiving more reports and stories so that a Jubilee booklet/ Gleanings can be published.

Rae