



Nancy Jansen 1922-2012

Former APW National President (1982-85) Nancy Jansen passed away peacefully, after a period of failing health, on December 29, 2011. Her funeral service, held in an overflowing Waikanae Presbyterian Church was a celebration of a life well lived and a testimony to the number of lives she had touched through her friendship, encouragement, and the daily living out of her strong Christian faith.



Nancy Langford was born in Timaru in 1922 and lived her early life in Hampden in North Otago, later moving to Dunedin when her father was promoted to a clerical position with the Railways. A

further move to Eastbourne saw Nancy attending Wellington East Girls' College, followed by Victoria University from where she graduated MA Hons in History in 1943. A period of teaching ensued until her long-held fascination with the work of Presbyterian missionaries in China led her to make enquiries about serving there from nursing sister Dot Robertson, and the Rev. Paddy Jansen, both home on furlough from China. Paddy was already known to the Langford family and it wasn't long before a friendship developed between Nancy and Paddy, culminating in their engagement in October 1947 followed shortly afterwards by their marriage.

In February 1948 Paddy returned to China with his new bride and Nancy used the time aboard the cargo ship bound for Hong Kong to begin learning the Cantonese language. In Kong Cheun, South China, where Paddy was based, Nancy's language study continued for another year until gradually she was able to assist Paddy in his work, and also teach English to nurses at the Hospital of Universal Love. Travel around Paddy's district was often by bicycle along the narrow paths between rice paddy fields, Nancy always hoping she wouldn't fall off.

After the communist invasion of South China the Jansens moved to Hong Kong where Paddy worked at the Ho Fuk Tong Centre in Castlepeak, and Nancy taught English for 6 years at True Light, the oldest Christian Girls' School in Hong Kong.

1959 saw a major change in their lives when the New Zealand Church asked Paddy to become Principal of Tangoa Training Institute in New Hebrides (now Vanuatu). At TTI they taught and were a great influence for good on a wide spectrum of students, many of whom have since become respected leaders in government positions. On retirement, Paddy returned to Vanuatu as a volunteer to establish the Navota Farm School, Nancy making this possible, remaining in New Zealand to support him by teaching at St. Oran's Presbyterian College for 3 years.

In 1974, retirement brought them to Waikanae on the Kapiti Coast, where Nancy immediately immersed herself in the life of the Presbyterian Church and the community, and many of these associations continued for the rest of her life. Following Paddy's death in 1979 Nancy's missionary zeal came to the fore again and she served two Volunteer Service Abroad appointments, first at Epi Junior High School in Vanuatu and later at Queen Salote College in Tonga.

Nancy's active involvement in the Waikanae APW and Wellington Presbyterian led to her being nominated and subsequently elected as APW National President in 1982 for a term of 3 years. Attending conferences and visiting Presbyterians up and down the country enabled Nancy to renew many of the friendships she had made in 1969 when she travelled with Paddy during his Moderatorial year. Nancy also served 3 years as 'Harvest Field' convener during the time Lesley Shaw was editor.

In the Waikanae Presbyterian Church Nancy was a member of session for 10 years, was instrumental in establishing Care and Craft in Waikanae in 1986 and was its convener for 10 years, participated in Bible Study groups, was actively involved in fund-raising through the annual fair and catering

activities, was a box-collector for Leprosy Mission until just last year, and was Mission Birthday Gift convener at the time of her death. She will also be remembered as always being an encourager, and you knew that her support for you was not just lip service, but would be backed up by prayer.

Community activities in which she was involved are legion – Meals on Wheels, Amnesty International, Forest and Bird, Kapiti Carers, Probus, U3A, teaching English to refugees and other new migrants, Hospice volunteer, to name just a few. After moving to an apartment in Parkwood Retirement Village 7 years ago Nancy quickly became known for her friendship and her visiting of less active residents in Parkwood Lodge and Hospital.

This quotation from the poet John Rusken read at Nancy's funeral service seems to sum up her philosophy of life – *"Sunshine is beautiful; Rain is refreshing; Winds are bracing; Snow is exhilarating; There is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather."* Wherever Nancy was or whatever situation she found herself in, she would see only good. All who knew her are the poorer for her passing, but the richer for having known and worked alongside such a faithful servant of her God.

Marion Brash

Easter Programme

'Conversation at Golgotha'

Programmes available from -
Rae Simpson
12 Kotanui Avenue,
Army Bay,
Whangaparaoa 0930.

Email: lestrsimpson@xtra.co.nz

It is free on line,
or stamps to the value of \$1.20 for
hard copy

From the National Co-ordinating Group

We have some matters we would like you to give some thought to and discuss among your groups, before you come to the Gathering in April 2012.

1. **Nan Burgess bequest -**

That this money be used to fund a person to work with the Presbyterian Youth Mission to publicize Presbyterian Women NZ (APW). We would be looking for a young person, who could assess from the community, an action plan on how to connect with Presbyterian Women of the next generation, and how to continue on into the future, still making our organisation meaningful to the coming generations.

2. **Presbyterian Women NZ (APW) -**

We are seeking approval at the Gathering in Christchurch that our organisation be known as "Presbyterian Women NZ (APW)"

3. **Jan Harland's appointment as Convenor -**

"This to be ratified at our Gathering in April 2012"

4. **Personal for our National Co-ordinating Group -**

A Co-convenor from the South Island is required. Resource Person to replace Lois Diaper.

Snippets

• **From Whakatane ...**

A most successful 'Honouring Age' afternoon was held to pay tribute to our 'over 80's' who have so loyally supported and worked for the wider Whakatane Parish over many years. Following entertainment, a 'silver service' afternoon tea was served with waitresses at each table, bone china and tiered cake plates.

• **Dunedin Presbyterial Region ...**

The 2010 Presbyterial year culminated with a Mini Conference held in the Mosgiel Presbyterian Church Complex. Speakers were: Mrs Bartha Hill, a writer, who has written a delightful book telling the story of her ancestor Guido de Bres who lived in Belgium during the Reformation.

Rev Geoffrey Skilton spent his study leave last year in Cambridge, England and then went on to Ireland for a family Christmas. His study relates to the role of the elder in today's church. Geoffrey had pictures and a thought provoking story to bring us.

• **Congratulations to Lynne O'Brien (Hutt Valley) -**

one our former recipients of an APW Study Grant. Lynne completed her BA in Social Anthropology & Religion at the end of 2011, and has been named on the undergraduate Dean's list for academic excellence in humanities & social sciences. Lynne has been accepted for Honours this year.

SPECIAL PROJECT REMINDER

How are you getting on with this year's project?

Have you noted that we have lined up the cut off date for the project with the financial year and we need your money to Ngaire by -

30 June?

Happy learning, praying and fund raising.

- Rae

A BRAIDED RIVER OF FAITH BOOK 4 - Update

The "Braided River" books are collections of the stories of New Zealand Christian women who have served their church and their community. Most of these are people whose faith has been lived out through Presbyterian Churches, and often, though not always, through APW as well.

Since Nancy Burgess began this amazing project around the turn of the Millennium, 183 stories have been published. What a unique record of life, faith and service has been handed to us in the first three volumes. At the time of Nancy's death she had just begun work on Book 4.

Early last year I started pulling the notes for Book 4 together. There are just over 50 contributions of one to three pages and some interesting photos. It's a real social, as well as Christian history; the contributions reflect the changing roles of women in our society over the past couple of generations.

(Rev) Judy Bedford, Editor for Braided River 4.

Judy.bedford@slingshot.co.nz

Gathering—20-22 April 2012

If any parish has not received a brochure, please contact the National Secretary, Valerie Anderson, P.O. Box 105, Alexandra.

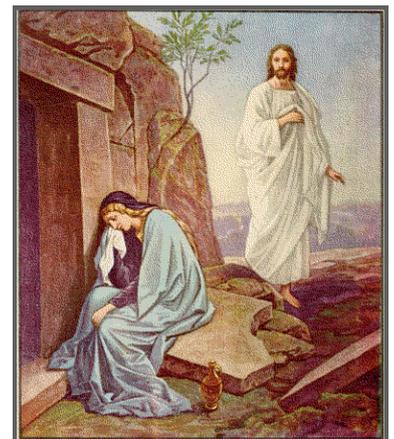
Our Speakers are well worthwhile coming to hear -

- Mr. John Hunt - Celtic Spirituality
- Mrs. Gwen Neave - Turakina Old Girl
- Mrs. Jan McMeeken - Youth Court Judge - Christchurch

Plus

Heather James - Singing
Christchurch Korean Community
PIC Wellington sharing some of their culture with us

We look forward to you coming and sharing this weekend with us



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

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Edna Mae Cairns



We are saddened to learn of the sudden death in Wellington of Edna Mae Cairns.

Mae Cairns (Ward) was born in Invercargill and later trained as a teacher, specializing in speech therapy. She married Ian in March 1959, and in 1960 they left for Indonesia where Ian took up the position of Chaplain at Bandung University and Warden of the Christian student hos-

tel which they set up. After study leave in Edinburgh, they returned to Indonesia but this time to Yogyakarta where they remained till 1980. Mae and Ian were generous with their time and care of the students, many of whom became part of their family life.

Back in NZ they worked in parishes in Invercargill and Dunedin and Ian also lectured at Cross Seminary in Mosgiel. In 1985 he was Moderator of the General Assembly. During this time Mae trained as a Librarian and worked in the Knox College Library for many years.

Mae is survived by her son and two daughters.

Quote: 'Ian and Mae Cairns joined the church's overseas staff at a time when the old style missionary had given place to the ecumenical colleague. They faced daunting chal-

lenges in their early years at Bandung. At a time of acute economic difficulty and political tension in Indonesia, Ian went about his ministry, and the family about their daily lives, in the face of real danger and physical hardship. This helped them form deep and lasting bonds of trust and friendship with students and a wider circle of people. Ian Cairns developed an effective ministry in the Sudanese Church of West Java and, through his ecumenical ministry, within many other Indonesian churches.'

Source: 'Archives Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ – Register of NZ Presbyterian Church Ministers, Deaconesses and Missionaries from 1840'

Habitat for Humanity

A cheque for \$37,000 was handed over late last year to David Lawson of Habitat for Humanity by members of the Special Project Committee and Auckland Presbyterial. This cheque represented the amount raised for Habitat for Humanity for the APW Project last year.

L-R in the photo are

Natalie Watkin, David Lawson, Julia Buckingham, Ailsa Freeman & Rae Simpson



Next Issue of Gleanings
MAY/JUNE 2012

Gleanings Editorial Team

Margaret Hastie
Shirley Fraser
Lafulafu Ekenasio
Hazel O'Brien

All information for the next issue to be in the hands of Hazel O'Brien
hazmic.ob@xtra.co.nz

no later than

Mon. 16 April 2012

Tear Fund

Greetings to you! I am the Relationship Manager for the central North Island for TEAR Fund. I am one of a team of three Relationship Managers who cover the country in various regions. Part of our job is to get out and about in communities and churches informing people about what we do and how we work. TEAR Fund is a Christian Aid Organisation that partners with other Christian Organisations in developing countries such as India, Africa and the Philippines to help the poor, oppressed and marginalized people who live there.

At present we are promoting our Choose Life campaign to help mothers who live in the slums of Delhi, and a Child Survival Programme based in India and Africa. We have prepared a moving and fascinating 20 minute presentation about the two programmes and are contacting church groups and organisations that may be interested in hearing/seeing it. We have visited the programmes that are featured in the talk so can speak from the heart about them and the poverty and hardship that surrounds them.

For speakers from South Auckland down to Palmerston North contact - **Sue Braithwaite-Smith**
sueb@tearfund.org.nz

For speakers to Wellington and the South Island, people can contact - **Bruce Morriss**
Brucem@tearfund.org.nz

For speakers in Northland, North Shore and Auckland please contact - **Beth Harper**
beth@tearfund.org.nz

Thank you ...



The gifts the APW have given to the Interns for the purchase of books have been greatly valued and have made a significant impact on our theological sourcing. Books are incredibly expensive

and every intern here, without exception, have been really touched by APW's response to this need. Your support has filled a gap that will continue to be a need now and in the future. Your practical blessing and prayers have been immensely appreciated. Our whole-hearted thanks.

-Knox Centre Ministry & Leadership Interns

We met him on the way to Emmaus,
and he asked us what had happened.
We were silenced by the audacity!
How could he not know.
But it was a question not about events,
he was questioning what it had done to us,
and we did not disappoint.
Over the three miles of our journey
we talked,
one story leading to another,
and he listened,
until we sat at the table
in the inn of Emmaus,
and he asked his second question:
'Shall I ask a blessing as we break bread?'
and as his words began
he began to fade
and as bread crumbled
and light exploded
shards of gold and silver broke free
and when all that was left
was a few crumbs on the table
we knew
we knew
he had not died
Jesus was alive in us

From: 'Mucky Paws'
abbotsford.org.uk

