



Younger & Older Women Journeying Together

Ruth and Naomi – Journeying together ...

Ruth said to Naomi:

*“Do not press me to leave you or turn back from
following you*

*Where you go, I will go; where you lodge I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people and your God my God.”*
Ruth 1: 16

We usually see these reading in terms of the commitment of Ruth the Moabitess to Hebrew Naomi, but in the context of the Presbyterian Women's Consultation with Young Women on 2 February, we allowed it to speak to us as the journeying together of younger & older women in the context of mission & ministry of women in the Presbyterian Church.

We saw Naomi as the older woman, past child-bearing, bitter & hopeless of any real future, returning to her Bethlehem community & her past traditions, *“the Lord has brought me back empty”* she says.

Daughter-in-law Orpah chooses a future unencumbered with the traditions and culture of Naomi, but Ruth courageously commits herself to the older woman, & by journeying together they find a future with hope of fulfilment for both.

Can you see how we drew some parallels for our workshop? We talked together about the *taonga* (the treasures) that Presbyterian Women have nurtured over so many years & the gifts of the younger women with fresh perspective on networking and gifts of enthusiasm and courage. Though many of our church's women will choose their own paths in mission & ministry, we were really encouraged by these younger women who recognised that they might be blessed to walk with us.

Pamela Tankersley (for the NCG)

A Bible study designed for use in beginning conversations between the younger & older women about the future of women's mission and ministry in your church will be available in late March from Pamela Tankersley: tanks@paradise.net.nz

Consultative Workshop

“The Way Forward for Presbyterian Women
Aotearoa New Zealand”

St Christopher's Church, Seatoun, Wellington,
2nd February, 2013

Ten young women met with members of our Presbyterian Women's National Coordinating Group to discover:-

1. If groups of all ages work can together.
2. What it is about Presbyterian Women that inspires.
3. How we see the future developing.



Sue Staveley &
Valerie Anderson.

After an opening welcome by Jan Harland, who credited the National Gathering in Christchurch 2011 and in particular a bequest from Nan Burgess for this opportunity to explore the future of Presbyterian Women, Pamela Tankersley led a Bible Study of the story of Ruth and Naomi, stressing how each generation has something to contribute to the other. Then members formed groups, the older ones to think like Ruth and the younger members to walk in Naomi's shoes.

Ruths gifts: - Energy, enthusiasm, courage, support and helpful, adaption, values who she is, full of hope, sees the potential, positive.

Naomi's gifts: - Contacts, experience, courage, taonga, wisdom, lineage, familiarity, faith, nurturing mother, position to release, come with hope.

Executive members Liz Miller, Ngaire Pearce, Pamela Tankersley, Valerie Anderson, Faaolatago Leasi and Jan Harland shared the functions of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand:-

- Networking and Fellowship
- Mission Projects and Finance
- UN Consultative process
- The importance of faith & keeping God at the centre of our being.
- The Pasifika / multicultural input
- UN representation beginning with Presbyterian Women's work in Jagadhri, India over 100 years ago.
- Our history and continued support of Turakina Maori Girls College, the Knox Centre of Ministry and Leadership and annual study grants for young women's Christian study

The group brainstormed
& heard stories
of younger women's difficulties
of integration into
our organisation!

The group shared their interests, which were many and diverse. The young women were very interested but didn't want this to be just another group at they wanted to be able to unpack their faith, to enable each other to grow. They recognised there was a common interest but could they be affiliated to walk on a parallel journey.

They recognised that it was difficult to fit new wine into old wine skins. They valued the wisdom of the older generation and wanted to be part of an intergenerational group but discovered there were gatekeepers. This may be perceived as a barrier. (Strangely, the young see it that way and the old see the young not wanting to become involved). There was a concern of how to bring this group into the lifestyle of the young. What was the expectation of one group for another?

With these things in mind, how do we see the future developing?

- * Young women driving their groups doing it their way. We must recognise they do have a different way.
- * We do have common interests on a parallel journey.
- * Diversity of groups coming under umbrella of Presbyterian Women.
- * Regional and National Group conferences.
- * Balance of Generations working together.(Young ones be given permission to exist and belong to the group, feeling they belong at any age. They find it hard engaging with the older generation.. We must discern what is needed to connect)



Pamela Tankersley, Sylvie Williams

It is with grateful thanks to Nan Burgess a former Presbyterian Woman who left a bequest to provide for the future of our organisation. At the National Gathering of our organisation in Christchurch on a beautiful autumn day last year it was decided to change our name, investigate a new logo for rebranding and most importantly to encourage young women within the Presbyterian Church to help us find a way forward into the future for Presbyterian Women. As you may be aware Presbyterian Women has a long and great heritage and has many taonga that are of great worth to the church and community. Our current membership stands at 2,000 women.



Baby Nicolai,
son of Tania Levett.

Tania Levett
Sue Staveley,
Joy van der Sar.



**NEW MEMBERS
for the
NATIONAL
COORDINATING GROUP**

As is the practice, we the Convenor, Deputy Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer will be relinquishing our positions in May.

We are calling for nominations for these positions. After much discussion it is felt that this group known as the Policy and Administration Group, needs to be in close proximity to one another for ease of communication.

**Please ladies give this
your most prayerful consideration.**



**SPECIAL
PROJECT
“DISABILITY
&
DEVELOPMENT”**



Hopefully members are thinking towards fund raising for this year's project.

Please remember that Ngaire needs your contribution by 30th June. Late money will have to be held over to next year's project.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND.**

NATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

To be held at
St John's in the City Wellington
25th May 2013
10am - 3 pm.

Please be intentional in representing your area at this meeting.

Remits to be in the hands of the Secretary
28th February 2013.

More information will come through your
Presbyterials.

REV. LORNA ABERLEY QSM

In February 1943 (70 years ago) Lorna Aberley was ordained as a Deaconess/Nurse at Knox Church Dunedin. In 1945 she went to India as a nurse at Jagadhri Hospital and three years later was appointed Director of their Nursing School, to train male nurses. She continued in this position with women students accepted from 1953. She returned to NZ in 1960 to care for her parents, and went back to Jagadhri six years later to complete 21 years of service in India.

On returning to NZ. Lorna was a deaconess in the Presbyterian Church at Hawera where she was ordained to the ministry.

In later years Rev Lorna Aberley has lived in Hamilton, and now aged 101 is a resident of Radius Matua in Tauranga and a member of St Columba Church.

**The 70th anniversary of her ordination
was marked by a visit from the
Moderator Rt Rev Ray Coster
who offered the congratulations
& thanks
of the
Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand.**

Yola Swindells



NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN



Presbyterian

Women wholeheartedly support the National Council of Women (NCW).

Kate Sheppard, the first president of the NCW said in 1897 that "Our humanity must take precedence over our womanhood. Whatever affects the well-being of the commonwealth is our concern". Through the appointment of women to public positions NCW primary objective was to improve the policies and decisions made by these bodies. A book entitled "1896-2010 NCW 115 years of Resolution" was presented to the NCW conference in Dunedin October 2012.

Thanks to all Presbyterian Women who continue to attend meetings and effect changes to legislation in New Zealand.

Jan Harland

TURAKINA MÄORI GIRLS' COLLEGE – UPDATE

Following on our report in the May/June issue of *Gleanings* concerning the considerable upgrading needs of the Hostel at TMGC, we are very pleased to be able to bring readers an update on the situation.

The local Presbyterials (Manawatu and Wanganui) responded in their usual generous way, both groups and individuals, and we were able to outfit all the showers with curtains and non-slip mats. The curtains were purchased from Spotlight, who gave us a good discount, as they have so often in the past. Spotlight

was very generous when we were making net curtains for all the dormitories, even sourcing some fabric from Australia. We went to *The Warehouse* for the mats and the hooks for the curtains. The checkout operator was quite bemused at my purchase of 30 dozen hooks!

We have been able to give the College 97 sets of new bed linen, and a considerable number of second hand sheets, donated by local Manawatu people. The new linen was supplied by a store in Marton (we make a point of giving business to local people whenever possible), again with a generous discount, and came in two different shades of blue and two of green.

And then the crockery! Quite a lot of investigative work was done by a few people to source possible products, and the result has been 100 sets of plain white Duraceram Astra plates and mugs. This product is fully vitrified for strength and durability and has been used in a number of institutions, such as boarding schools, and proved satisfactory. And it didn't cost \$100 per set! A parish in the Wellington region also donated a number of mugs, so we did not need to purchase quite so many of those.

Friends of Turakina and the staff and students at the College are all so grateful to the many groups and individuals who responded to this appeal, making it possible to fund these three projects in particular. As indicated in our last report, there are many other upgrading needs in the Hostel, and we can now report that thanks to a very generous

donation from the Manawatu/Wanganui Presbytery to this part of the Church's mission, we will now be able to hand over to the College a lump sum to assist with some of the other, only slightly less urgent needs.

Very many thanks and
arohanui
Jan Thomson

HUTT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAL

It is with sadness that Hutt Valley Presbyterial faced the inevitable when they decided to close down at the end of 2012. With only one parish remaining affiliated to PWANZ, it was impossible to carry on. All money and investments held by Hutt Valley Presbyterial will be distributed to various charities and the project. All the historic minutes and other files will be sent to the National Church Archives. St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church, Silverstream have two women's groups and they have decided to remain affiliated to Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand. Two other women who had individual membership are now attending one of the St. Margaret's groups.

Hazel O'Brien



Rev Shona Bettany, Liz Whitehead,
Vivienne Parks at the consultative
workshop

WAITANGI DAY.

6 February, 2013

What a beautiful clear day has dawned, in which the Governor General and his wife are to host a Garden Reception at Government House, Auckland. This is to celebrate, not only 173 years since the signing of our founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi, but also 120 years of Women's Suffrage in New Zealand, and to highlight the contribution of women to our country. We were delighted to represent the Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand at this special occasion.

And so we dressed in our glad rags and went along. This was a very large gathering of diverse people.



We were offered wine, juice or water and many tempting titbits. A band played beautifully. The Governor General welcomed us, we sang our National Anthem in Maori and English, and Rev Jo Kelly-Moore (Dean of Auckland) read the Bledisloe Prayer. The Governor General then spoke, beginning by explaining that this prayer was read at the first Waitangi Day in 1934, and was composed by Lord Bledisloe. He then gave his speech, highlighting the signing of the Treaty and Women's Suffrage, and talking of the achievements of women from that time and

since. He named many women of influence and quoted Kate Shepherd from more than a century ago, "Do not think your single vote does not matter much. The rain that refreshes the parched ground is made up of single drops"... through many famous names and interests, to Linda Jones who, in 1976, was the first woman to apply for a jockey licence. Twenty-five people who had become New Zealand citizens earlier in the afternoon, were then each presented with a kouka tree seedling to mark their decision to set down new roots here.

There was no opportunity to converse with the Governor General, but we met many interesting people, some wearing service medals, and others representing a wide variety of organizations. We met a gentleman climate scientist and women who worked with Teen Mothers, Migrant Services, Genealogy, a Dalmation Culture Group, and a very proud mother with her daughter, who wore a QSM medal for services to nursing. There were politicians, servicemen, Olympians, foreigners in dazzling hats and teenagers in school uniforms. We learned that Auckland colleges had been invited to send two students and a chaperone. As we were walking out, we caught up with a delightful lady who told us that she had stood long enough and was ready to put her feet up. (So were we!) On being asked if she represented a group or had another reason to be there, she said simply "I used to live here." It was Lady Reeves! Chatting to her as we made our way together down the hill and towards our cars was a charming way to end our day.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity.

Natalie Watkin and Mary North



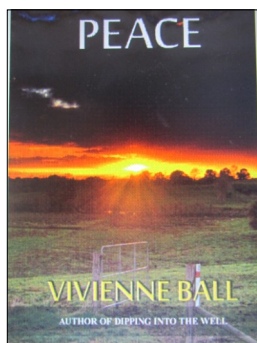
EASTER PROGRAMME

"THE STAFF of LIFE"

Available by email from
jim_ngaire@clear.net.nz

For hard copy, send 3x70c stamps and a stamp
addressed envelope to
Bev Quigley, 11 Birch St
Timaru 7910

Book review by Lois Robertson Vivienne Ball “Peace”



“Peaceful offerings to bring you moments of calm in the busyness of life”

This small book of devotions is the second book published by Viv Ball who many of our members will remember as the Editor of the Harvest Field.

It is a beautifully presented publication with colour photography of New Zealand scenes to reflect on while reading the meditations. Fifty pages of poems, reflections and some longer studies based on Bible passages touch on the everyday issues in our lives and will inspire any reader on their faith journey. This book would be an ideal gift or for personal devotions.

“Peace” is available from Epworth Bookroom Free phone 0800 755 355 www.epworthbooks.org.nz or Viv Ball, ph 04 589 5868, 16 Wattle Grove, Maungaraki, Wellington. Cost \$20

Material for the
May-June 2013
issue of Gleanings should be
in the hands of
Rae Simpson
lestrsimpson@xtra.co.nz
no later than
Sunday 21 April, please

Hard copy to
12 Kotanui Ave
Whangaparaoa 0930
By Monday 15th April

**Remember the need for
NEW MEMBERS
for the
NATIONAL
COORDINATING GROUP
Convenor & Deputy**

National Convenor

Jan Harland
Gracehill. 2 Byron Street
Mornington
Dunedin 9011
03 453 1253 Mobile 0273560215
harland-rusher@xtra.co.nz

Deputy Convenor

Liz Miller,
86 Green Island, Bush Road
RD1, Dunedin. 9076.
03 487.8525
liz.miller@xtra.co.nz

Secretary

Presbyterian Women NZ
Valerie Anderson
P.O. Box 105
Alexandra 9320
03 448 8049
robval653@slingshot.co.nz

Treasurer

Ngaire Pearce
102 Mountain View Road
Gleniti
Timaru 7910
03 686 1834
jim_ngaire@clear.net.nz

Pacific Island Representative

Faaolataga (Ola) Leasi
12 Driver Crescent
Cannons Creek
PORIRUA
Wellington
Manse: 04 237 6469
faaolataga.leasi@whitireia.ac.nz
Or home email: leasi@xtra.conz

**Communications Convenors
(Joint)**

Faatali Leiua
146 Sievers Grove
Porirua
Wellington
04 890.0741
tali.leiua1@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women Website

www.presbyterian.org.nz
Click on ‘National Ministries’
Presbyterian Women Aotearoa
New Zealand
Gleanings newsletter

Missions Convenor

Joan Roberts,
149 Heta Road
New Plymouth. 4312
06 757.5267
svjorob@xtra.co.nz

Resources Convenor

Bev Quigley
11 Birch Street,
Timaru 7910
03 686.1207
Contact c/-
jim_ngaire@clear.net.nz

United Nations Convenor

Pamela Tankersley
Home - 51 Roy Street
Palmerston North 4410
06 355 3908
tanks@paradise.net.nz
Direct dial 04 381 829
Mobile 0274910677

Editor - ‘Braided River of Faith’

Rev. Judy Bedford
321 Kimbolton Road,
Feilding 4702
06 323.5849
judy.bedford@slingshot.co.nz