



# NCW conference report 10th - 12th October, 2014 at Waipuna hotel, Mt Wellington, Auckland.

Theme: Looking ahead

## NCW Conference Report 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 @ Waipuna Hotel, Mt. Wellington, Auckland.

### Theme - Looking Ahead

#### Introduction

Mihi mahana ki nga wahine o te Hahi Perepereana o Aotearon, Tena koutou katoa and Talofa lava I lo outou mamalu.

I am delighted to write this report as a representative of the Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa NZ to the National Council of Women's conference. The conference was full on and I found it very inspirational. I have outlined the items for this report according to the programme for each of the three days. Note that the remits were voted on two days; Saturday and Sunday but I have put all results together under the Saturday's programme. I have also responded to the request from PWANZ via the National Convenor and National Secretary to vote yes to all remits and I did. A word of acknowledgement concludes this report. The items covered are outlined below so enjoy reading:

#### Friday 10 October 2014

The conference was opened with a Mayoral Reception.

Acting Mayor, Penny Holst welcomed us and spoke briefly of the importance of having women at board tables and in politics. Things seem less easy now than they were.

Several Distinguished Service Awards were presented.

#### Official Opening

Mihi Whakatau: NCWNZ prayer, National Anthem and Remembrances

##### ☐ Welcome from NCW Auckland President

Key point: conference venue is operated by a democratically elected licensing trust promoting responsible use of alcohol

##### ☐ Address from current NCWNZ President

##### ☐ Address by Patron, Dame Lesley Max who declared the conference open.

She mentioned some key points:

- questions asked during election campaign on violence and women's health very important
- families need to be sustainable
- need to raise boys to be caring and non-violent
- fertility control is important – women need to take conscious control of their reproductive lives
- need to be aware of the importance of mothers
- need to take intergenerational responsibility

#### Business Session 1

The following new NOS were ratified:

- Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand

- Dementia Collective
- Women's Studies Association

The President's report was updated – the High Court challenge will be heard in November

Some errors in the constitution as sent out were noted;

- Section 8.8 (p6) is to be deleted – no mention now of the number of branches that need to have NOM representation.
- Section 17.1.2 (p14) reference to Section 8.8 to be deleted
- Bylaw 16 (p22) *my paraphrase* When voting the NOM representative has a value of two others have value of 1 unless Branch bylaws provide otherwise

Incoming President's acceptance – Rae Duff told us about herself

Young Women's Voices: 5 x 5 minute presentation

This was very useful to hear from the issues raised by five young women.

Key points:

Angela Lim

- young women need to be given the opportunity to speak (YWCA requires 25% of board members to be under 30)

Chelsea Bridgman

- "Activism is the rent I pay for living on this planet (Alice Walker)
- young people often practice "couch potato" activism i.e. using social media
- come up with creative ways to contact young women
- go digital
- don't build fences, dig wells

Cassandra Mudgway

- provide a voice both within group and in the wider community
- allow different forms of self-expression
- cherish diversity
- allow young women to take the lead

Jade Tang

- networking and being part of a community is important
- Use creative ways of involving young women e.g. global breakfasts, digital and face to face contacts

Nive Sharat Chandra

- Need to evolve and change
- YWCA provides safe spaces for young women (*implication others should too*)
- Support and mentor young women members (YWCA model)
- Encourage intergenerational modes of learning
- Use Facebook etc. to develop virtual membership to whom the "message" can be given
- Develop a social media strategy
- Incentives like YWCA's 25%

Saturday 11 October 2014

The constitution as sent out in June with the changes tabled on Friday was passed. It will come into effect as soon as it has been registered with the Charities Commission

**The Honorary Solicitor continues to be Lisa Fraser at Gault Mitchell of Wellington**

**The Financial Report was accepted. The auditors will continue to be Moore Stephen**

#### **Financial Motions**

- **To borrow funds from the Centennial Fund - passed**
- **To raise fees – sent to the Resolutions Committee for rewording**

**Standing committee convenors Education, economics, employment, and ? were thanked for their efforts**

#### **Guest speakers**

**Dr Jackie Blue (EEO) on addressing family violence**

**Associate Professor Jennifer Curtin (Gender Equality, Auckland University) on “why the decline in women’s political representation?”**

**Interesting statistics – Women are not nominated for safe seats as often as men; 30% of current cabinet women, unchanged from 2011; only 31% of parliament are women**

**Why not quotas for men?**

**Will be presenting “Ready to Run” programme from Rutgers University in association with NCW.**

**Election of first and second vice presidents took place and results are as follows:**

#### **Vice Presidents**

**First Vice President : Vanisa Dhiru (Freyberg old girl)**

**Second Vice President: Dianne Glenn**

**Rosebowl** 2 presentations on the Rosebowl –its history and on a strong woman Anna Stout  
**This was another new experience for me as a first time attendee for this national conference.**

#### **Results of all the remits:**

Remits:	1	carried	68 for	0 against
	2	carried	67 for	0 against
	5	carried	35 for	33 against
	10	carried	55 for	11 against
	11	carried	69 for	0 against

#### **Financial motion**

To raise fees	carried	68 for	0 against
3	carried	68 for	1 against
4	carried	68 for	0 against
7	carried	67 for	1 against
8	carried	69 for	0 against
9	carried	60 for	4 against

**Update on High Court Challenge application to for costs High Court 26 and 27 November. Wellington, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa will be outside with placards**

**Women in Work progressing. Report with some ideas will come out late this year of early next year. National Association of Women in Construction (NAWAIC) has a display that could be used. Girl Guides will be running a programme at 2016 jamboree**

Small Group meetings: Branch presidents were updated about charities commission requirements.

#### Dinner:

This was well attended by the conference delegates who enjoyed consummation of the magnificent spread of delicious food.

The raffle results were also drawn during the dinner leaving one raffle for the plate prize till all tickets are sold.

The entertainers filled up the room with admiration and laughter as their talents were displayed so sweetly with a very skilled conductor who was also at the centre of attention as the key entertainer of the group.

#### Sunday 12 October 2014

Women's Voices :This was a presentation from Christchurch branch about their interviews with women about their experiences during and after the Christchurch earthquakes.

Information can be found on these websites:

<https://quakestudies.canterbury.ac.nz/colection/223>

and <http://www.communityresearch.org.nz/movers-and-shakers-womens-stories-from-the-christchurch-earthquakes-final-version/>

One of the contributors to this is Dame Grace Hollander. Her experience during and after the February quake was read out.

International Report Rae Duff and Christine Knock provided a full background on ICW and other international initiatives. *If anyone is interested in becoming active in ICW actions please contact Rae [or speak to Barbara].*

#### Debate

Title: That the NCWNZ resolution process is not effective in creating policy. Chaired by Liz Gordon. Debaters: Suzanne Manning Megan Blenkarne for, Anne Todd and Beryl Anderson against.

The result of the debate was equal.

#### Soapbox

Several speakers

Some ideas:

- Page on web for branches
- Implement the resolution on Health Care – *currently not equal throughout the country*
- Involve the trade unions in branches to help gain pay equity for women - *Employment relations Act amendments may affect collective bargaining. Collective bargaining benefits women*
- The issue of “loan sharks” and uncapped interest rates
- The Rise and Fall of National Women's Hospital NCW's role in establishing the hospital
- Nobel Peace Prize awarded to two young women
- Destructive nature of partisan politics *need to encourage cross party approach*
- Women Empowerment Principles
- Cyclists *should wear glow vests*

Final speeches and thanks



**Rae Duff talked about the gender equality strategy - 50/50/ for 2020**

**Congratulations to Debra Russell new convenor Economics Standing Committee**

**Wanganui branch has taken on the responsibility of Health convenor**

**Dame Miriam (90 year old) spoke to thank the conference organisers and all those ladies who made the effort to attend the conference. Na taape le fono ua tofu le gogo ma si ana i'a**

**Acknowledgement:**

May I take this vital opportunity to convey sincere thanks to the National Convenor Lafulafu for the support and prayers including the phone call to check if I was okay at the conference. Thanks also go to the National Secretary Shona for the ongoing contacts regarding feedback from the branches who discussed the remits and gave their feedbacks. These were all helpful for me to make the right decision during the votes and I therefore thank these groups wholeheartedly. I also acknowledge the support from National Treasurer Ngarie who settled my costs for both the GA and NCW conferences. Finally, to all the National Committee, your work to support PWANZ is not missed by the extreme and loving eyes of our God and I pray that you may all be blessed a thousand fold for your continued support in many aspects of our service for PWANZ.

Faafetai tele lava

Le'autuli'ilagi Taotua M.F. Sauvao  
National Deputy Convenor  
PWANZ.