

CIRCLE

The Association
of Anglican Women

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150+ Women from four nations meet at Napier
The AAW Triennial Conference, 2012



Stories on
pages 3-6

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COVERS. Front: The 2012 Conference group photo, Napier
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From Diocesan Coordinators - All Copy to - The Editor - Dorothy Brooker - contact details above, right. This includes emailed text - either as an attached single column WORD (not 'Publisher') file, or as text typed straight into your email. **Photos:** Email attached original digital photos (high resolution jpg files) to brookerfamily@xtra.co.nz - or post commercially produced glossy prints for scanning (not photocopied - nor produced by desk-jets or home laser printers) - to Stephen Brooker, 1/6 Surat Place, Glen Eden, Auckland 0602.

From Our President . . .

Elizabeth Crawley 

Dear Sisters in our Association,

It all seems rather quiet now that the Triennial Conference has come and gone, and it is wonderful to have heard from many of you who attended that it was a positive and happy time.

The selection of guest speakers and workshops from many different places has left us with much to think about. I am sure you will hear from your Diocesan Presidents shortly.

I quote from the sermon that the Revd Dr Jenny Dawson, (Bishop's Chaplain for Hawkes Bay) preached at our Eucharist on the Sunday Morning:

"The greatest challenge for you as an Association of Anglican Women must be to get alongside other women in the Church, even more importantly those who don't identify with Church. As women of faith, you have so much to offer the community especially to women of all ages as you seek out where the Spirit of God is at work in the place where you are."

I pray that those who attended went home full of enthusiasm with new ideas and will have made many new friends and renewed old friendships. Be courageous with a new commitment to be more spontaneous and humble as you all seek what it is that God is calling you to. Embrace with love and welcome, whatever creativity might be required for us to genuinely connect with one another.

We live with great aims.

- To unite in Prayer and Participate in the Mission of the Church.
- To promote, safeguard, and nurture Christian Family life.

Blessings and love from *Elizabeth*



AAW - our prayer

O God, whose love for all people is proclaimed in Jesus Christ, we thank you for uniting us in prayer and fellowship. Use us now in the mission of your Church. Help us to realise that everything we do and say reflects our love for you. Bless homes and families throughout the world, especially those unhappy or in need. Show us how, by our example and concern, we can take your peace and love where ever your Spirit may lead us-today and all our days.



Our Friendly Conference - some memorable moments

Reflections from two participants Mary Houston (Wellington), and Helen Berry (Waiapu).

The New Zealand AAW Triennial Conference at Napier held at Napier Girls' High School, 5-8 October, was very well attended and most successful. The attendees were so friendly, the catering was excellent and the speakers and workshops were worth while, providing some memorable moments.

At the Conference Opening, Napier Mayor, Barbara Arnott, welcomed us and reminded us that 'it's not being Anglican that defines you - nor being a member of AAW - you are defined by what you do.'



Keynote Speaker, Stephen Jacobi, urged us to 'think global and act global' in the 21st century, to link our country to the rest of the world and develop a 'global dimension.' He went on to say, 'Forces of globalisation are flattening out differences in education, economies...



"There is so much knowledge and inter-connection... more that ever before.

"In spite of this, the world is in economic doldrums. Hope and the audacity of hope are in short measure in the world today; it is our faith that gives us the ability to hope in these uncertain times."

Reaching beyond our shores . . .

The Revd Michael Bent and his wife Rosemary, who have done such splendid work in the Diocese of Polynesia, likened AAW to embers in ash, the life-coals of Overseas and Outreach being done in this area.

"Jesus came to earth to rid earth of our three greatest fears: hunger, disease and death," they told us. Ordinary members can help so much just by donating \$7.50 a year... "The price of two loaves of bread," cried Rosemary, holding aloft two Burgen loaves.



The After-Dinner Speaker . . .

For sheer drama and inspiration, though, it was after-dinner guest speaker Henare O'Keefe QSM who most impressed.

Having worked with young people for many years, and been made NZ Man of the Year, he had much to say that was so stirring, so informative and enlightening.

59 years old, Henare and his wife have fostered 200 children. He styles himself as 'an international ambassador of love', saying "You cannot love without giving."



Henare lives in Flaxmere, a far from wealthy suburb of Hastings, but is passionate about good things coming out of and happening within that community. "BBQs are a way of nurturing people," he said "We are taking our community back one sausage at a time!"

Continued ➔



Henare has initiated a large community garden as well as a Hikoi which came about following the home invasion experience of one of his daughters.

A natural orator, he spoke from the heart and used music and song to enhance his presentation, saying that, "When I open my mouth, the good Lord takes the tip of my tongue and uses it."

Henare's parents were his role models, teaching him the art of serving without expectation or reward. He believes no baby is born to be bad, and when things start to go wrong with a child it is important to look for the precious jewel within.

He also believes that poverty is no excuse for abuse and that we need Godly leadership in this country. Henare certainly has a very big heart, one which enables positive attitudes and actions to come out of unfortunate events.



Henare has the audience eating out of his hand - and singing along with him.



Practical Workshops in abundance

No Conference ever satisfies when limited to a succession of expert speakers expounding to an all-too-often passive audience - whose participation is limited to 'question time', when often only the equally knowledgeable, the brave or foolish have the courage to stand up in front of a big crowd.

At Napier, the organisers had the wisdom to provide a variety of practical workshops to cater for the tastes of their 'customers' - who came from four different countries and many cultures - each topic being offered twice over the weekend. At the top of the page, leader Catherine White shows participants an indigenous flax woven basket.

Continued ➔

And the wheels of the bus went round and round...

John Speakman, resplendent in Art Deco cream trousers, white shirt, jazzy waistcoat and bow tie, topped by a panama hat, welcomed us as we scrambled aboard the double-decker red bus. Originally from Cardiff, 75-year-old Red Bus had real attitude, grinding, chugging and squealing her slow way through Napier's streets of Art Deco buildings.

I thoroughly enjoyed the tour. Everyone we passed pointed to us and waved! John was kept busy scampering up and down the stairs and through to the driver as he controlled the tour and delivered the commentary.

Then it was time, John said, to return to Napier Girls' High School. Red Bus thought so too, but half way up the last stretch of hill road, she sighed, gasped, overheated and refused to go any further - uphill that was.

For the wheels of the bus went round and round... slowly...backwards...to the bottom of the hill!



Wisely, this group opted for 'Shank's Pony' - taking the Bishops' Walk with Murray Mills.

The creation and design of sanctuary 'linen' engaged a fair number of women as did the creative writing sessions.

These and other workshops were held in the well-equipped classroom atmosphere of the Napier Girls High School.



Another group received thorough technical instruction to help them pursue an interest in genealogy.

With a computer to share, participants were paired off, as they were shown how to access family histories through the internet. Pictured here, one member operates the keyboard while the other checks progress on the screen.



Meanwhile, over in the Hewatt House Lounge, yet another group is introduced to worship according to the Taizé tradition.



The words are few, as the singers sing quietly, the simple verses being repeated a number of times.

The ambience is thus of peaceful serenity as one seeks to be in the presence of God.



Miliana Fong, Sovaia Oli, Teresia, May Koi, Mereula Sau, Etta Kumar, Margaret Subramani, Va Dansey, Salacieli Naba, Lola Kaloa matangi (Tonga), Timaima. Seated: Sa (Samoa), Leanne Edwards, Ulamila Fong Toy

'Thrown in at the deep end' - writing for Circle

Create an introduction that makes the reader want to go on reading. Use **short words & short sentences**. **Who - What - Where - Why - How:** Be sure to include these details. Use **action verbs** not passive ones. Choose **one photo** only for your story. You have 20 minutes to write **not more than 200 words**. Keep 1/3 of your time to **edit**. **GO!**

What a shocking demand to begin any workshop! But - *Circle* needs people who can write tight stories about their groups - stuff that will keep the interest of readers who are not interested in countless mentions of cups-of-tea etc., which everyone has!

Shocked or not, several women wrote really good short stories. Leanne Edwards of Nadi, was one of six prize winners, choosing to write this story about an inspirational AAW member:-

Inspiration from above flows through

"Our children of St. Christopher's Anglican Church in Nadi, Fiji have been blessed by our very own priest's wife, Ulamila, as she shares her love for God with the kids. It is through the happiness of these kids that I could see God working in many families at St. Christopher's. Imagine seeing a real Fijian lady always smiling and welcoming.

"Don't you think that you would love to have such a magnificent, strong willed and loving person to help nurture your kids or grandchildren? The joy of the Lord shines within her and it is through her that I felt how important our children are to us.

"I believe that our children of today are very important and will be the carriers of the Gospel for tomorrow. Having someone as spiritually gifted as her brings joy within me. Her dreams of Children's Ministry will grow and I believe through all our prayers our little children of St. Christopher's will be great ambassadors of Christ! Let us all keep the prayer cycle going."

Photo: my priest's wife with the children singing praises to God!

My feet have just about touched down after a great AAW conference, during which I was elected New Zealand Social Concerns Convenor.

Introducing Pip Harrison: For those who haven't met me, I am Pip Harrison, currently living in Hawera, South Taranaki. My parents, John and Rosemary Redmayne, emigrated to Wellington from England in 1970 when I was 12. Since then I have lived in various parts of the North Island and been involved in education at several levels - at present I work with pre-schoolers with special needs. I'm married to the Revd Trevor Harrison, who is regional dean of South Taranaki. We have three children, who are 18, 21 and nearly 24. I've had an interest in both the policy and practical sides of social concerns all my adult life and have belonged to various organisations as an expression of that.

The Conference and Children

We had some wonderful speakers at conference, and many had an aspect of social concerns about them, from the flax baskets to keeping babies safe while sleeping, to information from the Napier Family Centre about their programmes and the Mothers' Union on the PEP parenting programme.

Dr Nic Jones' presentation

One aspect of what Dr Jones said concerning the connections between sustainable living and health rang bells for many of us.

He introduced us to a report by Sir Michael Marmot to the UK government. They had charged him with chairing a review of the health system to address inequities. The report 'Fair society, Healthy lives' identified six policy objectives:

1. give every child the best start in life
2. enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities - and have control over their lives
3. create fair employment and good work for all
4. ensure a healthy standard of living for all
5. create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities and,
6. strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.

In the key message section of the report, Sir Michael writes: 'Economic growth is not the most important measure of our country's success.'



The fair distribution of health, well-being and sustainability are important social goals. Tackling social inequalities in health and tackling climate change must go together.'

(A respected medical journal, the "Lancet", report has identified 'climate change as the biggest current threat to human health.')

With the encouragement of Rhyl Jansen of Auckland Diocese, the conference voted to endorse these six objectives and implore our own government to keep them at the forefront, as they continue to develop both health and economic policy. I will therefore be drafting a letter to send on AAW's behalf to do this.

If you want to read more of the Marmot report, you can find it at <http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>

I look forward to meeting many more of you at future AAW events or through your contributions to social concerns matters.

National Council of Women

From Elizabeth Cunningham

A report on the 19th National Conference of the National Council of Women New Zealand held 5-7 October 2012 at Dunedin.

At the opening ceremony, the Mothers' Union was introduced as a new member of the National Council of Women. The keynote speaker was Tracey Ayre, Project Manager for the IPENZ Women in Engineering Programme. The constitution was discussed at length and frustrations at the way the constitution has been presented became evident. The outcome is that Shirley Payes will convene a sub committee to work with her on the new constitution for NCWNZ.

Members then moved across to the St David Lecture Complex for the Mayoral Welcome and Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards.

Saturday's session included the vice president speeches, remits, introduction of new convenors and the presentation of the financial report at a difficult time. Since NCW has been de-registered as a charity organisation, a large tax payment had to be made and also all the usual funding organisations declined applications for grants. Approval for an increase in dues was given, the first since 2005.

The panel discussion team comprised Tracey Howell, Engineer and Project Manager of *Arrow International* working with Otago Polytechnic on its Women in Trades initiative; Dr Esther Haines, National Convenor for the Association for Women in the Sciences; Ana Rakonjac, PhD student in Physics Otago University; Robyn Murdoch, Distribution Manager Delta and the first woman in Australasia to qualify as a line mechanic, and Joanna Gordon, Director of Policy, Ministry of Women's Affairs. Members then broke into groups for discussion on the conference theme: 'Women and work: no barriers.'

Speeches from the candidates for the Board were followed by an excellent presentation by guest speaker Eileen Fegan, an international Human Rights lawyer. The conference dinner at Larnach Castle was well attended with Minister of Women's Affairs, Hon. Jo Goodhew as the after dinner speaker. She outlined what the government is doing for women.

On Sunday, after an optional inter-faith service, there was more remit discussion, Standing Committee Reports and the International Committee report. Unfortunately, due to time restrictions, it was decided to listen to only three Soapbox contributors, nor was there time to report on the previous day's break out discussion. (The remaining Soapbox items will be presented in the next *Circular*, as will be the result of the Rose Bowl Competition.)

Professor Nicola Peart gave an excellent presentation on the impact of New Zealand Trust law on social justice. Members were surprised to learn that when applying for a residential care subsidy, the disposition of money can be looked into going back thirty to forty years.

The Remits. Remit 1: Hydraulic fracturing: passed. Remit 2: Free contraception for all women. After vigorous discussion, this was narrowly passed - amendments not allowed. This remit is also covered under NCW Resolution 9.4.15. Remit 3: Equal entitlement for all children with disabilities - passed. Remit 4: Calculation Beneficiaries' income: passed.

The NCW Office Bearers for 2012-2013 are: President: Barbara Arnold. Senior Vice President: Rae Duff. Junior Vice President: Shirley Payes. Board members: Vanisa Dhiru, Mary Gavin, Helen Gibson. Treasurer: Anne Argyle. **Conveners:** Consumer Affairs: Wendy Pearce. Economics: Katherine Ransom. Education: Suzanne Manning. Employment: Carol Beaumont. Environment: Dell Panny. Family Affairs: Billa Field. Health: Marlene O'Sullivan. Justice and Law Reform: Cleone Campbell. Parliamentary Watch: Jean Fuller. Public Issues: Beryl Anderson. Social Issues: Belinda Greenwood.

NCWNZ has launched a new campaign called 'Who Needs Feminism' - a photo campaign. This allows people to share a message about why feminism is important to them. Write your own message: "I need feminism because . ." and include a photo of yourself holding it up. Share it on Facebook, Twitter or by email: ncwnz.org.nz

'Moving On'

Rosemary Kempzell completes her six year term of office in December as world-wide president. We welcome Lynne Tembey (*right*), MU Provincial President of York. Lynne has been on the Board of Trustees since 2001 and has great experience and many talents to bring to her new role. She is married to David, a former accountant and auxiliary priest who is now in full time ministry in Cumbria. They have a son, three daughters and five grandchildren.



The new Board is much more representative of the Worldwide MU with four General Trustees from Africa and one from the West Indies. There are also worldwide members on the Unit Committees and no doubt in future we shall see a Worldwide President from outside the UK and Ireland. Office holders need to be the best members from Worldwide, not according to where they live.

In the last *Circle*, Elizabeth Tipping reminisced about how AAW was born in 1969 - a great example of moving on 45 years ago. However it did not mention that since then Mothers' Union has also moved on. Membership is open to all who are baptized in the Name of the Holy Trinity and who declare their support for the Aim and the 5 Objectives of the Mothers' Union. These are concerned with Christian family life, encouraging parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church, to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service; to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children and to help those whose family life has met with adversity. We try to show our Christian faith in action by seeking the transformation of communities through the nurture of families in their many forms.

In our Province we have not only young mums but several men who fully support all MU is attempting to do with families. Among other activities we continue to work with troubled youth and teen mums, make meals, provide sewing and knitting for various hospitals and support agencies, and look forward to the launch of the Parent Encouragement Courses.

As well as local support we give money towards the AAW Overseas and Outreach Projects and the Worldwide MU Action and Outreach programmes such as Literacy & Development, Parenting and Family Life.

From next year Auckland MU is moving its AGM from the Feast of the Annunciation to Low Sunday (first Sunday after Easter). This will avoid having to alter dates to fit in with Lent and the keeping of Lady Day. It will make things easier for busy clergy and members involved in their parish Lenten programmes.

Next year's theme is 'The seeds we grow'.

Rosemary Bent



'My Place' – to till and keep

- Archbishops endorse CWS appeal 2012.

On land long abandoned and covered in rocks, Leila has fashioned a mini farm. It is an oasis in the middle of Israeli and Palestinian tensions over land. In the small village of Baqa Al Shariya where she lives, Leila is now able to grow food for her family of seven and earn her own income. Her two sheep have produced their first lambs and she sells vegetables and herbs at the local market. In the words of Genesis 2:15 it is a place for her "to till and keep". "I always dreamt of such a project but I never had the means to do it," she said.

With help from last year's Christmas Appeal the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) began a new programme in the West Bank, close to the border with Israel in the northwest. Training and equipping 32 aspiring farmers in two villages where 37% of people live below the poverty line, is providing new hope in a community divided by Israel's Separation Wall. It is typical of the work DSPR is doing to improve the quality of life for families short of food and possibilities.

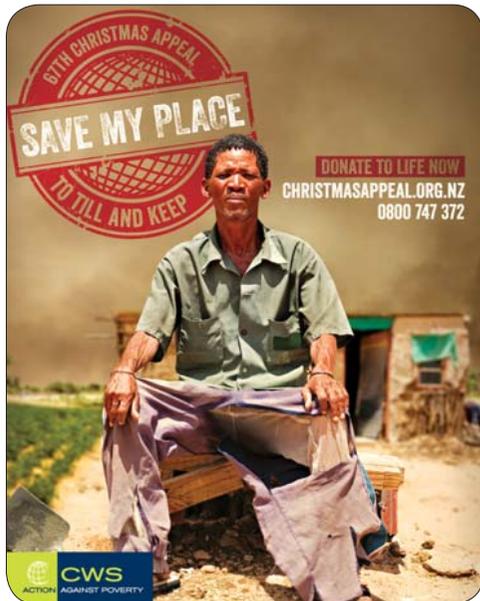
The larger land question is an issue not only for Palestinians but for people the world over. Approximately 200 million hectares of land or the equivalent of eight New Zealands have been "bought" or leased in Africa and Asia in the last decade. This year's Christmas Appeal looks at the implications of this land grab and how

poor people are restoring livelihoods and trying to hold on to their land.

CWS is appealing for support so groups like DSPR can continue their life giving work. "All that is in the heavens and on earth" is God's (1 Chron. 29:11), and God has given it for the good of everyone. For more information see christmasappeal.org.nz or contact CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140.

"Once again we wholeheartedly endorse the CWS Christmas appeal. This kind of justice seeking, this support of service to the least and the last, is so fundamental to the true meaning of Christmas. We encourage everyone to be open handed and generous."

++ David Moxon ++ Brown Turei



Overseas and Outreach

By Convenor, Mary Estcourt —C

Mary Estcourt, our new NZAAW O&O Convenor, says: "My formative years were spent in Hawke's Bay on various farms and three different Primary Schools before five years as a boarder at Napier Girls' High School. I trained as a teacher, taught in Napier and then in the Hutt Valley. After marriage I lived in Hastings for some years before shifting to Lower Hutt

"I worship at St Paul's, Waiwhetu, have been part of AAW all my married life, firstly as a Young Wife and then a Fellowship Group member. I have held various positions at Group, Archdeaconry, and Diocesan level.

"Currently I am a lay representative on the Tikanga Pakeha Mission Council, and am a member of the Anglican Missions Board. Last year I was the Administrator for the NZAMB conference held in Waikanae. I have a passion for mission overseas."

Proposed AAW allocations from November 2013 to May 2016

Bangladesh: \$1000: Dr Edric Baker. Kailakuri Health Care Project. **Cambodia:** \$1000: Anne & Anthony McCormick. **Egypt:** \$1000: Madame Ansaf's ministry in Cairo. Rosie. **Melanesia:** \$2000: Community of the Sisters of the Church (CSC). \$2000: Community of Melanesian Sisters, Guadalcanal. **Middle East:** \$1000: Jolene. **Pakistan:** \$1000: Judith Looser, Kunri Krafts Self Help Centre. **Papua New Guinea:** \$2000: Community of the Visitation of Our Lady, Hetune, Popondetta. **Polynesia:** \$1500: Kindergarten Work. \$1500: Purchase of sewing machines for Polynesia. \$2000: Five Archdeaconries of AAW - coordination of meetings. \$3000: Held in NZ for Polynesian levies, Circles, and Overseas and Outreach. **Tanzania:** \$1000: Marion McChesney, Dodoma. \$23,000 in total. **NZ:** Churches Education Commission: \$3000. Seeding Grants for new ventures in NZ \$4000. NZ Total: \$7,000. **Grand Total \$30,000.**

FIJI Story. Waiapu AAW Chaplain Marie Gilpin has recently visited Dreketi in Fiji, the place where she spent a 3 month sabbatical 4 years ago. She writes, "Then, the children carried their school uniforms in their school bags, and washed themselves down at the water tank next to the Church. They changed out of their wet, dirty clothes, rinsed them and hung them on the trees to dry while they were at school, and went off to school looking spick and span.

"Here is a new photo of the children cleaning up at one of the two water tanks, supplied by AAW. We woke up to this delightful scene and sounds of laughter and singing on the first morning of our visit."



Reflections

As we begin this Advent /Christmas Season we are invited to celebrate who we are as an Association of Anglican Women, or more specifically who we are as women.

We join with Mary, the Mother of Jesus in praising God

My heart is bubbling over with joy,
With God it is good to be woman.
From now on let all people proclaim it is a wonderful gift to be.
The one in whom power truly rests has lifted us up to praise.
God's goodness shall fall like a shower on the trusting of every age.
The disregarded have been raised up; the pompous and powerful shall fall.
God has feasted the empty bellied, and the rich have discovered their void.
God has made good the word given at the dawn of time.

Phoebe Willetts from 'Celebrating Women'

Loving God, maternal God, you are indeed full of surprises.
You are always bringing to birth.
You visited Mary and made of her a model for all women.
Mary visited Elizabeth and touched by grace left us with a legacy of praise,
a hint of future miracles, experience of God's ways;
The lowly are uplifted, the powerful overthrown,
the hungry offered sustenance,
the resources of the wealthy given to the underprivileged.
Thank you, God of all people for revealing your feminine face.
Visit us now and always with your renewing grace.
For this we pray. Amen.

Miriam Therese Winter – 'Women prayer/women song'



ARPA and AAW

Dorothy Brooker reports on the Australasian Religious Press Association Conference. 7-9 September.

Little did the organising committee predict that the theme for this Australasian gathering 'Blown Away' was not only experienced in a positive way by those gathered in a warm friendly environment, but that the City of Wellington itself would experience torrential rain and high winds with some roofs actually blown away.

The opening of the Conference at the Wharewaka o Poneke Marae with a traditional welcome set the theme for a very full and fruitful weekend - fortunately before the weather changed!

The weekend included a 'Hothouse Panel', an Annual General meeting, and two plenary gatherings with guest speakers as well as four workshops and on Saturday night the Awards dinner. It was wonderful to see such vibrant young enthusiastic groups of people many of them in their late twenties and thirties receiving awards for their publications.

Mike Riddell, who was the speaker at the first plenary, reminded us all that writing is like prayer, it can begin with an abyss of silence, a nothingness, a humility of not knowing where to begin, but once we do begin we need to recognise that words are gifts, and to always be aware that words can either create or destroy. He also shared that we need to show ourselves even the flawed parts of us and our stories are histories of faith and are intrinsically bound. We need to remember that we pass a treasure from one generation to another, and can lead to new and uncharted territories. (Perhaps that may encourage us to write down family stories for our grandchildren.)

At one of the workshops led by Emily Fletcher, a young designer and typographer who runs her own business in Wellington, we were given some great hints on setting out an interesting and eye catching magazine. The title of the workshop was the "Ten Commandments, Sins and Virtues in Editorial Design."

This was very helpful and reminded me that in fact keeping it simple is best - not too much colour, or font changes - and she reminded us that only well executed objects are beautiful, and told us not to be frightened of space. Simple can be harder she said, but once you get there you will be surprised.



Mary Houston received the Bronze Award for Excellence for Wellington's electronic Synod News 2011 *LinkWELL* of which she is editor. The judge wrote "This targeted publication was an excellent summary of a specific event. It is well formatted for digital or hard copy reading. The many images enhanced the publication." Congratulations and well done, Mary! (Mary is AAW Wellington Diocesan Treasurer and Regional Leader of AAW Belmont.)

I believe to be part of this Association will stimulate and encourage any future editors of *Circle*, and I thank the Executive for the opportunity to attend.

It was also wonderful to see Stephen Brooker awarded life membership for all that he has done in publishing and the esteem in which he is held in by many.

Dorothy and Stephen at ARPA



Christ is Coming . . .

The Advent wreath is an old tradition which symbolises Advent perhaps more than any other seasonal decoration. Its shape, colour and light represent a season where 'something is happening now, something is yet to come'. The Advent Wreath can become a centre for prayers and activities throughout the Christmas season, symbolising the family circle.

Its origins lie in an ancient Scandinavian ritual celebrating the feast of the winter solstice, the return of the gradually lengthening daylight. When lit, candles were placed on a horizontal wheel, which spun so the light would blend into a circle of continuous light, celebrating the return of the light of the world.

Originally, Christmas was celebrated on the winter solstice. When Europeans adapted this secular symbol into a religious one, they retained its central theme. Thus the wreath symbolises the coming of Jesus, the *Light of the World* at Christmas

The Circle of the wreath represents the endlessness of time in which God remains united with humanity. **The Evergreens** symbolise the freshness and vitality of the relationship between God and all creation. **The five candles** symbolise the unfolding story of Jesus: the Advent hope, the Word of God, the Forerunner (John the Baptist), the Annunciation, and Jesus Christ the Light of the World

A Christingle is a symbolic object related to the pomander, and used in Advent services of many Christian denominations. The first Christingle service was held in a church in Moravia, Czechoslovakia in 1747, when a few days before Christmas, Bishop Yohanne Waitville thought of a way he could explain the love of Jesus to the children coming to the Christmas Eve service, as well as demonstrating that Jesus is the Light of the world.



A Christingle consists of an orange representing the world. - A red ribbon around it representing the blood of Christ. Dried fruit or some kind of lollies skewered on a cocktail stick and pushed into the orange representing the fruit of the earth and its four seasons. A lit candle pushed into the centre of the orange represents Jesus as the 'Light of the World'. Dorothy Howard, Wellington

Relating and Rejoicing

News from Pasefika and from N through Z

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Diocese of Auckland

St John's Women's Fellowship, Campbell's Bay has a small but active group who meet in the church hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 10.00 am. Each meeting starts with a short service confirming the first of the aims of AAW- 'to unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the church.' A short business meeting follows, then morning tea and a speaker or some other entertainment.

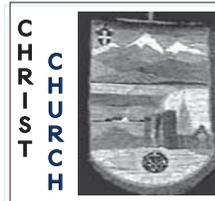
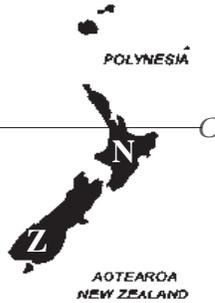
Some of the inspirational speakers we have had this year included Paul Bargh telling of his work with prosthesis patients. Our own secretary Carol Groom spoke of her life in England, of growing up with sight impairment and of her training as a physiotherapist. A 'notebook' presentation by Darren Ward described the work of CBM, (formerly the Christian Blind Mission.+)

For one meeting, we gathered in a circle to listen to each other telling childhood holiday stories. Who would have thought our leader, Olive Downes, had such a great liking for mutton birds? On another occasion, we learned more about Campbell's Bay Centennial Park. Throughout the year we respond to invitations to visit women's groups from other denominations and in December we reciprocate by asking two members from those groups to join us for lunch and musical entertainment, thus ending our year on a high note. *Pam Paul*

St Stephen's Whangaparaoa members walked into the meeting room to a real WOW experience at our meeting in October! It was the week of a nationwide celebration supporting women with Breast Cancer - 'Pink Ribbon week.' Our dinner tables were set with white damask cloths with a pink cloth centrepiece, pink candles, roses and serviettes. We all wore something pink and the small pink ribbon to signify our giving to the cause. This was especially supportive for our leader who has been living victoriously with breast cancer for 20 months, the tumours reducing in size and fading away.

The two speakers were from the Anglican Trust for Women and Children. CEO Philip Beilby gave an excellent 'PowerPoint' presentation of the current work they do in a very wide field tackling child poverty in all aspects, the giving of home and life skills at Granger Grove to some girls - mothers as young as 14 years of age. The Chair of the Trust Board, Dianne Kenderdine, recounted the history of 154 years of work in this field.

Reports read from earlier years showed the problems we face today are not new, but are responded to in different ways from the days of orphanages. An enjoyable and informative gathering of AAW friends. *Janice Cooper*



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Diocese of Christchurch

At Trinity Church, Darfield, our AAW meets on the 4th Thursday each month, as does the United Women's Fellowship, our sister group within Trinity. We liaise each year and allocate one member from each group each month, to find a speaker, conduct a short devotional time and act as hostesses for afternoon tea after our separate meetings.

This July we invited them to share a luncheon for a \$5.00 donation, to enable us to send money to our O & O and make our annual donation to Christchurch City Mission. Both groups decided to forego the meetings but not the devotional time.

Once the idea took hold we thought it was a good opportunity to involve the community and attendance grew to over 40. As our combined average was 18-20 this response was great.

Tables were nicely laid and flowers placed, and after everyone was welcomed we were soon served with a choice of pumpkin or vegetable soup, with dinner rolls, followed by a wide variety of home made pizza, including gluten-free ones.

The speaker, Margaret Thompson, a local nurse at the Darfield Hospital, entertained us with her experiences on her various overseas trips starting with her youthful first venture, and continuing until the present time - now with a husband. She confessed to have been bitten with the travel bug.

The comments we received then, and later by phone, really showed us that this was a most enjoyable afternoon. Maybe a tradition has begun..



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Diocese of Polynesia

News from Tonga. AAW, Mothers' Union and Women's Guild are alive and well in the Archdeaconry of Tonga. Members turned out in force to support the annual St Andrew's High School Bazaar in August. In September, women of the four parishes - All Saints, St Barnabas, St Matthias and St Paul's, attended the annual 'tali ui' (roll call) which was held at St Paul's. We enjoyed an afternoon of items from each parish with fun, fellowship and food together.

Recently, Anglican women featured strongly in an ecumenical training entitled: 'Tongan Women Doing Theology', with the theme 'Living a Godly, Clean Life Creates Peace'.

The closing ceremony and recognition was at St Paul's, where the parish youth sang beautifully and hosted the refreshments that followed. *Anne Leota*

From Nadi, Fiji. Leanne Edwards writes: My experience in Napier was a real eye opener for me and the workshops made me realise I had a God-given gift that needed to be utilised. In my younger days, I always had a passion to work with kids and my first Sunday back on 14th October, I surrendered and gave my services (gift from God) to work with 'kids a go'.

I have enjoyed the last two Sundays with the children of St. Christopher's and especially last Sunday where I was given the role of looking after the toddlers. I am praying that we will be blessed with the materials needed to be able to grow our "Moana Children's Ministry" and so nurture 'great ambassadors of Christ' for years to come.



(A photo of the contingent from Fiji, Samoa and Tonga may be found on page 4)

For two weeks in May this year, Hilary (*right*) and husband Nelson cycled the 890 kms, admiring the poppies and wild flowers while taking in the history of the trail. At the completion of the pilgrimage they cast small stones into the Atlantic Ocean at Finisterre. These had been carried with them from their farm, and blessed before leaving New Zealand.

St Andrew's Cambridge evening group enjoyed an challenging presentation by Rob Bell. This included questions such as: "Would you consider yourself a disciple? What does it mean to be like Jesus?"

We want to be the kind of person who does the right thing. Not just the big things where right and wrong are obvious and easy, but the small things, the subtle unnoticed things. Why are the small unnoticed things such a big deal?" This short presentation led to a meaningful discussion on the topic.



Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

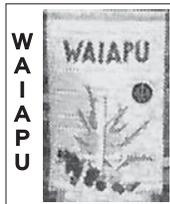
At the August meeting of the **St Mary's New Plymouth**, AAW Fellowship members welcomed Jacqueline Baker from Shell Oil, who spoke about the contentious issue of 'fracking'.

She showed some very detailed posters, and played a video demonstrating the methods involved in the procedure. She spoke about the security of the process and how they had kept all the neighbours informed, and the approval they had received from them.

The talk certainly made us a lot more aware of the process, and helped us to respond to the NCW remit on the subject. We had a follow up call from Shell Oil a few weeks later in case we had any further questions. After Mrs Baker left we enjoyed our pot luck lunch, and then settled down to discuss the NCW remits.



The Waitomo Archdeaconry enjoyed a varied programme which included member Hilary Lynch of Te Kuiti speaking of the Camino de Santiago Pilgrims Walk which follows a trail from France over the Pyrenees and into Spain.



Diocese of Waiapu

Members and parishioners attending the June meeting of St George & St John's **Whakatane** AAW were entertained by guest speaker Jo Wenham, who was born and grew up in a small village in the south east area of England. At the age of 10, Jo decided she wanted to join the Police Force and achieved her ambition despite being told by her secondary school careers advisor that she did not meet the required height. Jo's interesting accounts of her many tasks over twelve years in the force ranged from being on the beat, to dealing with a sunken vessel and the resulting loss of life. Her love of smaller communities now sees her and her family living at Ohope where she is a parishioner at the little church of St. Nicholas.

St. Peter's, Waipawa. The Mothers' Union group began in 1928 with five members. By 1950 this had grown to 21, and so the Group decided to have their own Banner. Mrs. Vaughan donated the centre panel which was painted and brought out from England, the banner itself being made by a Mrs. Carter from Wellington. The £50 for mounting was raised through sales tables, Mrs. Bibby overseeing the work. The Banner was dedicated at St. Peter's Church on 21 November 1951.



In 1970 we formed our own Association of Anglican Women with a more inclusive membership. Mrs. C. Booker embroidered the AAW symbol for the banner which hangs in St. Peter's Church, being paraded on special occasions, including being paraded at the parish's 150 years celebration this year. *Judy Butler.*

The **Waiapu AAW Annual General Meeting** was held at St. Mary's Mt. Maunganui in June at the request of our Diocesan President. Vicar's Warden Shirley Shilling offered to put together a group of women from the Parish to support us in this task, assuring us they would do all the kitchen work, leaving our members free to enjoy the meeting, a first for many members. What a fantastic job they did!

Our Vicar, Richard Vialoux opened the meeting, and handed it over to Diocesan President Chris Parkes from St. John's Otumoetai. Chris welcomed everyone and was relieved to see Bishop David, who had experienced a few problems from snow on the Napier-Taupo highway,

Our AAW Chaplain then opened with prayer, some wise words and these searching questions: "Whose are we? Who are we? What is ours' to do?" Parts of the answer are to be found in our AAW prayer: "Use us now in the mission of your church. Help us to realise that everything we do and say, reflects our love for you." Chris then introduced Lady Beverley Reeves our guest speaker for the morning, who told us of life as Bishop Paul's wife.



Lunch was served for over 100 people, and there was a Silent Auction for Overseas and Outreach. The AGM elected members for various roles. Margaret Gunderson of Mt Maunganui (left) led off a colourful fashion parade displaying lots of clothes we could all wear. A celebratory dinner to which several husbands joined their wives, ended the day. We gathered on Sunday at St. Mary's for the Commissioning Service. *Val Ready Mt. Maunganui*

St. Augustine's Family Fellowship Napier helped their oldest member celebrate her 100th Birthday. Jean Williams joined the Mothers' Union in 1942, becoming a foundation member of AAW in 1969. Elizabeth Fahey had earlier presented an Association Certificate of AAW NZ in recognition of outstanding service and loyalty. St. Augustine's family fellowship leader, Pat Nickalls, Muriel O'Neill and treasurer, Margaret Clayton visited Jean at the rest home before her big celebration to find Jean was busy, having 'shouted' fish and chips for all the residents. Sprightly Jean still attends group meetings!



Belmont AAW - Prison Fellowship Event

An afternoon tea served by Valley Caterers at the Avalon Park Pavilion in Lower Hutt raised \$400 for the Prison Fellowship and particularly for the faith-based unit at Rimutaka Prison. Audrey Moonlight was a vibrant guest speaker. Everyone enjoyed good food, good fellowship, and sunny spring weather.

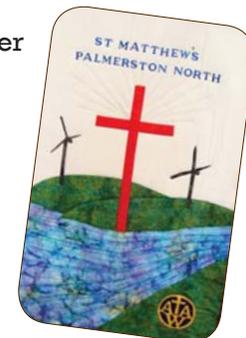


St John's AAW Johnsonville was fortunate to have some parishioners speak concerning their recent trip to Tonga as part of a combined parish mission to support St Andrew's School. They were wonderfully welcomed by the locals.

Our people renovated the kitchen-classroom, assisted in the library and sorted the Science storeroom, including all the chemicals. The group hopes to return to Tonga next year to continue their work. The old and outdated resources that they have there make me feel for very grateful for the resources we have at my school. *Pat Vincent*

St Matthew's Palmerston North evening fellowship banner was designed with both the church and the community of St Matthew's in mind. Our community has the Manawatu River running through it and the iconic windmills on the Tararua Ranges which may be seen from many points in our parish.

The cross symbolises the loving works of our heavenly Father within our church and community. The reverse side of the banner has a reproduction in cloth of the stained glass window in the sanctuary. The banner hangs in our church and speaks to many people.



Wellington MU had an exciting time lately, welcoming our new Bishop Justin, his wife Jenny and family in a wonderful colourful spiritual service in our Cathedral. There are DVD's and a podcast of the ceremony available.



Archdeacon Gendy Thompson, Bishop Justin and Heather Dawson (MU Diocesan President).

After the Provincial conference last June we have been praying that we could start the Parent

Encouragement Programme. In July about 30 of us enjoyed three fun and fact filled days with the Revd Rob and Kaye Healey from Perth, Western Australia, as they led us through the facilitators' course. We were thrilled that the Revd Iritana Hankins was able to attend with two of her beautiful mokopuna.



Diocese of Wellington

A Royal Occasion was the theme for **AAW Pauatahanui**. This was an O&O fund raiser based around the Diamond Jubilee of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. The menu was that of the meal on the day of the coronation: *Tomato soup with rolls....Coronation Chicken.....Trifle with peaches and cream.* As seen in the photo, tiaras were indeed worn!



This was emotional at times as we remembered our own childhoods, and exciting as we studied the content and the spirituality of the course, and saw how it will help our families.

We now have two of our members, the Revds Rosie Dell and Carrole Lewis preparing to facilitate a course at St Anne's in Porirua in the 4th school term. Gendy Thompson, Archdeacon for the 'Next Generation', is working with them. We have kept up our practical and prayer support. Carrole also helped Perdita Bentall with the grandparents' workshop at the recent NZAAW Conference in Napier.

The ladies at **St Stephen's Marton MU** hosted a very friendly day in August and St Mary's Levin are hosting a meeting in September focusing on our Link branches where I will show my slides of my visit to the Diocese of Clogher in Ireland last October.

- From Heather Dawson who is concurrently Secretary of Kapiti AAW Women's Fellowship and region and the Diocesan MU President.

Capital City Anglican Women. Our groups have been discussing the NCW remits, with many questions about remits 1 and 4 particularly. Joy Parkin spoke to the St Mark's group on the history of the Girls' Friendly Society. The Johnsonville Fellowship has had speakers from Wellington Free Ambulance, and SPCA, as well as members of their parish who went to Tonga. (See previous page.) St Mary's Karori had their own version of a recent fund raising quiz, with some rather far-fetched answers rewarded with prizes of chocolate fish.



Diocese of Dunedin

AAW Fiordland members found themselves challenged through recent meetings. In April we were given the opportunity to try felting, a new experience for the majority of members present. As we worked the woollen fibres into a shape, there was ample opportunity to chat, laugh and admire each other's creations. As one member said, 'It was so good to do something, rather than just sit around', while the organiser needed to step up to share skills she had acquired at a workshop.

In May, the Reverend Barbara Walker shared the story of her life and the call of God within it. (See *Circle*, February 2011) Members found themselves challenged to consider what their own calling might be, and some pondered on unfulfilled dreams. Whether it is something small or enormous, saying 'YES' to God, is something we can all do, no matter our age or circumstances.

Fiordland AAW has a personal interest in the Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia and frequently has a sales table at its meetings to support this work. Last year we watched a very inspiring and informative DVD, which has encouraged

us to continue with this support in various ways. With only a little help from other AAW members, Alva Inder has knitted numerous colourful blankets and dozens of 'fish and chip' singlets for mothers and babies in Ethiopia.

Taieri AAW happenings. In February our speaker was a two-time winner of the Robert Burns Poetry Competition, talking about writing poetry. Margaret McLanachan, Diocesan President, brought along examples of her beautiful embroidery in March, explaining how they were designed. The 'Sixties plus entertainment group' performed in April, when we hosted ladies from other Taieri church groups.

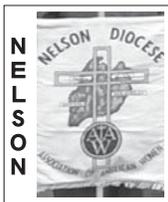
St Martin's AAW in North East Valley met with friends from other churches in the area to hear Elspeth McLean speak of her work as a journalist. We heard an honest and in-depth account of life as a journalist from the 70s delivered with wit and warmth. Even the editor who, two hours before the deadline for his paper's publication with nothing finalised, would raise his hands heavenward and declare 'the holy angels will deliver us' received a kindly mention. We reconnected with 30 visitors from the local ecumenical community, other members of St Martin's church together with Margaret McLanachan and Margaret Tegg, members of our AAW Diocesan Executive. Senior members Peg Richardson and Anne O'Fee were greeted, the latter on the occasion of her recent birthday.

Wakatipu AAW and guests met in May at the home of Jocelyn Davenport, where Reta Thomson was the guest speaker. Reta and husband Tommy had hosted the UK's 'Iron Lady', Margaret Thatcher, her husband and entourage in 1976 when Mrs Thatcher was Leader of the UK Opposition. Mrs Thatcher had expressed a wish to visit a high country sheep station, and so helicopters were used to transport the party from Queenstown to their home at Mt Earnslaw station in Glenorchy. The family took the Thatchers on a tour of the station. Mrs Thatcher was amazed at the clear blue water of the Rees River and that sheep were being farmed so high up in the mountainous terrain.

Jenni McBride, who had been a nurse in Queenstown and who lost her sight through a car accident, has also visited the Wakatipu AAW, bringing her guide dog and miniature horse. The latter is called Patsy Clyne and ate grass happily on the lawn outside the living room of Louise Dalzell's house where all might see her. Freda, the guide dog, a poodle, came inside. Jenny has run in the New York marathon with the help of Bridget Davies, a guide runner,

HELP. Writers please . . . **2** into **1** simply won't GO!

Always, inside the front cover is your guide as to the suggested size of contributions for 'Relating and Rejoicing'. One diocese this time sent five times that amount, plus many photos - and others were heading that way. General material needs to be sent separately for insertion when space allows.



Diocese of Nelson

The **Blenheim Nativity** group had an afternoon with the Revd Miriam Taylor in Vanuatu. Via a *PowerPoint* presentation they followed her to Port Vila, to the Big Island Santo and from there to the village of Aworor on the island of Gaua. They had to travel in a very small plane with a lot of luggage. This problem was smoothed by the hand of the

Lord since there were no other passengers on the plane. They spent a week there teaching the women and children crafts, using materials they had taken with them. They took gifts: toothbrushes for the children were popular and a chalice and altar frontal were gratefully received. Miriam is chaplain to many men from Vanuatu who come to Marlborough each year to work in the vineyards.

At the **Mawhera Regional Day** Archdeacon Tim Mora (*left, with Janet Haddock*), spoke to the ladies about his trip to General Synod in Fiji, the procedures that are followed and offered an explanation of the remit on sexuality and same sex marriage with the emphasis on Bible teaching.

Holy Trinity Afternoon Group, Richmond, invited the parents and children from the Play Centre next door to join them for lunch. Five mums, one dad, one baby and eleven pre-

schoolers, plus several invited guests from the Church arrived. The hall was full, with 40 people enjoying the lunch and each other's company.

Nelson Cathedral members were entertained by Ngaire Galloway, who represented New Zealand when the Olympic Games were last held in London. She spoke of the six week trip by boat, limited swimming facilities to train on board, life in 'dodgy' hotels - but above all, how proud she was to represent her country.

Waimea Women's Fellowship heard Donna Kennedy talking about the *Teen Parent Unit* in Nelson. They have thirteen girls and are about to set up at Auckland Point School where they have the facilities for babies and children. Nelson College for Girls will provide the teachers and the Ministry of Education will take over the funding and other responsibilities.

They also had an entertaining talk from local historian, John Dearing (*right*), who told the group about the local post office-long closed - and the history of a local family which he had gleaned from postcards and other memorabilia which had been sold to a second hand shop.

St Christopher's Blenheim enjoyed a humorous talk by Marie Higgs from Picton on her life as a writer. She has had three books published and has written many short stories and poems. A diary is a most useful item she says.



My Dad's Christmas Cake

Dorothy Brooker

Dad was well known for his Christmas cakes and in his hey day made about 20 for neighbours and friends who put in their order. T'was simple but nice and moist. I have adapted it by using duck eggs and brown sugar. (*Measurements need converting.*)

6 eggs	Half packet mixed spice
Half pound (about) 250g butter	12 oz plain flour
3 pkts of 400g fruit mix	Couple of tbsps brandy
1 small bottle of rum essence	(optional)



Cream the butter and sugar well. Add eggs one at a time at two minute intervals. Add essence. Mix dry ingredients with fruit together thoroughly. Bake 1 hr at 300 degrees F, and 3 hours at 250 degrees F.

Memories

From Waiapu and Wellington

Mary Gilmer, who died on 30 August, was honoured by Holy Trinity Tauranga AAW members. A loyal and dedicated member, Mary was one of the founders in 1969. A member of MU when it became AAW, she joined the evening group as Leader.

Mary was very involved with Hodgson House, especially the little shop, where AAW members volunteered to help the elderly buy their week's supplies. Some still remember her carrying her trusted wicker basket with all the 'goodies'. For the first meeting each year, Mary and her husband Sam hosted a Garden Party. Mary received life membership in 2007. We all miss our Mary, her friendliness, her wonderful smile, her wisdom and faithfulness to her Lord. *Margaret Gundersen*

Betty Hurst was the first AAW President for the Wellington Diocese, having been MU President leading up to this time. I recall she found it very challenging having to speak to all the MU groups in the diocese, encouraging them to encompass AAW as a NZ organisation with more open rules of membership. Almost every group was willing to change. The focus became more mission orientated in NZ and the Pacific.

Mum died on 8 August, having been involved lifelong in church activities, and was a supportive vicar's wife to my father in Lower Hutt, Stratford, New Plymouth, Dunedin and finally Wellington. My parents enjoyed a few years of retirement in Tauranga before moving to Waikanae in 1986. It was her desire to have her funeral at St Michael's at the beach, Waikanae, where she loved the monthly choral evensong and attended the 9.30 am service for many years. *Molly Fulton, daughter.*



