



## Reviving the Flame

This was the theme of the General Assembly (GA12). We have begun on the journey with our new name change Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand.

“Revival is a great word in our Christian faith. It takes us to the heart of faith. Revival gives Jesus his full pre-eminence. It speaks of the work of God that not only breathes new life into the Church (times of refreshing), but transforms whole communities (restoration of all things).

To revive the flame we need to go back to basics and ask ourselves “Why” we exist as an organisation. I believe that Presbyterian Women exists in the name of fellowship and friendship and from there we work in the name of mission. By taking care of one another we are able to help others in their growth with compassion, justice and at the same time proclaiming the gospel.

This flame goes on refreshing and renewing with an outward looking approach. Our encouragement of younger women disciples who can teach us new and modern ways of doing things sets us free for a forward looking future.

- Jan Harland, National Convenor

### Goodbye from your Editorial Team

Shirley Fraser, Margaret Hastie, Hazel O'Brien & Lafulafu Ekenasio have enjoyed bringing you your copy of Gleanings over the past 6 years, but now it's time to hand over to a new team and for us to enjoy a new way of serving God.

All contributions should be sent to: Rae Simpson, 12 Kotanui Ave., Army Bay, Whangaparua 0930. email: lestrsimspon@xtra.co.nz

I am reporting on behalf of our Wellington Pasifika. PIPC Newtown, Porirua, and a few from the CICCIS Newlands and PIPC Petone. It is a great honour to inspire our Pasifika sisters/mothers and work collaboratively in implementing His missions in our churches and communities.

**Pasifika to the National Gatherings, Christchurch** - About 30 Pasifika delegates (*including our daughters*) from our Wellington groups attended this Gatherings. Our Mamas entertained with typical island items, singing and dancing on Saturday night. We sang our Samoan hymn at the Church service on Sunday.

**Vanuatu sisters** - We hosted our sisters/guests from Vanuatu (Ann Karie and Cyrilline Bani). Rev. Marie Ropeti and husband Rev. A Apisaloma welcomed them at Auckland Int. Airport. Mrs Faatali Leiu and her sister Kale Vaega welcomed them to the hurricane city and escorted them to Porirua. After the Gatherings, they flew to Auckland, and Rev. Karima & Mrs Aso Faiai hosted them for the night at their beautiful manse (Malaeofatugatiti) prior to their returning flight to Vanuatu.

**Newtown Crafts for Christchurch** - Our Pasifika sisters from Newtown PIPC has fundraised through a range of designed/woven Pasifika crafts (tivaevae etc) for selling to help the Crisis in Christchurch.

**Yearly Activities; Missions** - Both Porirua & Newtown groups have ongoing monthly/weekly Worship services, Bible Studies, Meetings, workshops, fundraisers and especially, the visits to the hospitals, the homes and the hospice.

**Retreat 2012** - Fono Samoa mothers from Porirua, Newtown and Petone combined for the first time for a Retreat at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay in August. The mothers were inspired by the spiritual and cultural experiences being shared through prayer meetings, Bible skits, worship service and workshops.

**Breakfast @ Parliament; Suffrage Day 2012** - I attended this Breakfast on your behalf as per invitation on Wednesday 19 September. This was hosted by Hon. Jo Goodhew; Minister of Women's Affairs, with a focus on continuing progress for women and increasing women's economic independence.

**Launch-GA12 Rotorua** - I was delighted to be there and helped Jan, Valerie and Judy with our launch/selling the books.

**Pasifika Synod/Presbytery: Court** - This took place at the GA as well and it has been approved by the Assembly. Lots of Pasifika mothers/daughters wore their traditional island styles to support this milestone of the Pasifika Synod. Rev. (Mrs) Ere Talagi, is the Moderator of the Synod and is fully supportive of our Presbyterian Women.

**CEDAW Caucus Meeting** - Pamela and I attended this meeting in September with the Minister of Women's Affairs, Hon. Jo Goodhew, in Wellington. The NY gatherings is more of NGO Delegations and so Pamela announced our attendance to this Conference in 2013.

Meitakai ma'ata! Fakafetai lahi lele! Tai ni! Fakaaue lahi! Vinaka vaka levu! Malo 'aupito! Faafetai tele lava!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. *Faaolataga Leasi*

## Educational Scholarships

The following Educational Scholarships have been awarded by Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand to:

Angela Norton  
Karolyn Wilson  
Karen Vanessa Dendale

These scholarships will assist the recipients in the furtherance of their study and will benefit the Presbyterian Church in the long term.



## Snippets

- **For the past three winters**, members of St Mark's and St Andrew's parish, Palmerston North, have knitted woollen garments for needy babies at MidCentral Health's Maternity Unit. This year a total of 202 singlet's, 115 beanies and 67 pairs of booties were donated.
- **The Special Project** for last year raised \$37903.83 for work in Palestine and Kids Friendly.
- **Donations from Birthday Mission, Stamps and Turakina.** The National executive has decided to donate this year \$10,000 to Global Mission, \$2000 to Jaghardri Nursing School, \$2000 to Rice Bowl Appeal and \$8000 to Turakina Maori Girls College.
- **PCANZ Global Mission** has a new co-ordinator. Phil King has taken over from the stirring work undertaken by Pamela Tankersley. He is delighted with the support Presbyterian Women give to Global Mission. \$10,000 was given untagged and two amounts of \$2,000 each were given for Vanuatu and Myanmar. Thank you to all those women who have given moneys by way of Mission Birthday gifts over the past year this has been gratefully received and is vital to the mission undertaken by the PCANZ.
- **I was delighted to receive** a letter

- **Friends of Jagadhri Newsletter**  
When our address list was computerised earlier this year some addresses were mixed or even lost. If your address is wrong or if you would like to receive the newsletter but are not on our current list please contact [doreenr@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:doreenr@vodafone.co.nz) or Doreen Riddell House 50, 4 Admiral Cres Hamilton 3210
- **Light and Love** - There are only 5 copies left of this interesting pictorial coffee table book depicting 100 years of our missionary work in North India. Ideal for your church library, as a Christmas gift or for your lounge. Only \$20.00 postage free. Order from Doreen Riddell at above address.



- from Nancy Mast from Columbus, Ohio who I met at the Presbyterian Women's gathering in the USA. She read with interest my comments in the PWUSA Horizons magazine on the challenges facing PW in New Zealand in particular the Canterbury earthquake. She liked the quote from Sheena Dixon "the exciting possibilities...ahead of us if we move away from maintaining buildings to maintaining God's people. Nancy's group is between 8-10 women and following a hobby of making toys for her children she and others make teddy bears, dogs and more for those that order them for Christmas gifts the proceeds benefit their local PW mission fund.. - Jan Harland
- **Growing the Good in Tonga.** The Tongan Community Development Trust is running this Programme AMA TAKA-LOA. The Aim is to improve Health and increased food security. They are training women in Family Nutrition, Organic vegetable gardening, Poultry and Pig farming, Budgeting, sanitation and water supply. They are offering a Small Business Development with Sales of their Traditional and

Cultural Products and increasing the Tourist Market. Workshops are being run on Leadership and Human Rights as well as Disaster Risk assessments. There are 320 active Village Based Women's Groups with a total Membership of 3,802. Please contact C.W.S if you would like a PowerPoint Presentation.

- **The Disability, Spirituality and Faith Network** are constantly working on Education between Faith and Disability Communities throughout NZ focusing on Churches to provide access, and a check list for all buildings to fit the Disability Codes. The Printing of the book which we are helping to finance is still in its early stages as it needs to produce an up to date relevant publication which will cover all aspects of particular disabilities. It could possibly have a name change to suit. Touch base with your own Disability group in your area; they will only be too pleased to come and speak to you.  
- Joan Roberts,  
Mission Convenor

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[www.presbyterian.org.nz](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz)  
Click on 'National Ministries'  
- Assoc. Presbyterian Women  
- Gleanings newsletter

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## Snippets continued ....

- **St. Paul's, Katikati APW** has recently started 2 new **Out-reaches**. We are making **Prayer Blankets** for members of our Church family who are experiencing long-term illness or hospitalisation. The prayer blanket concept is that it is a gift to bring comfort to the person with the reassurance that the love and prayers of the Church family are with them. Helen, our Treasurer, brought this idea to us from a Parish in the U.S.A. These blankets are unique and hand-knitted with a message embroidered on them. Our Vice-President, Marjorie, has initiated and prepared **Welcome Packs** for new children attending children's ministry on Sunday morning. Each pack is in a colourful, decorated paper bag (with handles)

and contains 2 or 3 activities and also information about 'what's on' at our Church. This is a practical follow-up of last year's "Special Project". i.e. Kids Friendly Connections.



- I was pleased to be able to represent Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand at the recent National Council of Women of New Zealand conference in Dunedin. The conference was entitled **Women and Work: No Barriers**. The conference was in conjunction with the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women's conference, and both groups combined for speakers' presentations while keeping business sessions separate. The conference

focused on what NCWNZ could do to encourage girls and women to look at areas they might not have previously considered and to tackle the barriers that can prevent women from working in non-traditional roles and from career progression generally.

The primary keynote speaker, whose presentation was open to the public, was Eileen Fegan, an Irish law academic with her own Empowerment Training Consultancy

([www.efempowermenttraining.co.nz](http://www.efempowermenttraining.co.nz)) who discussed feminism, the idea that females and males are equal, and that educating women in feminist theory can improve equality.

A panel of women in non-traditional careers (Physics lecturer, Physics PhD candidate, project manager for Arrow International and the first female line mechanic in Australasia) shared their experiences of working in male dominated fields.

- Liz Miller, Deputy Convenor



## New Programmes

Spring is a season that we give many thanks to God for as we come out of a gloomy winter. 'Say it with flowers' is a devotional sharing study which I have put together which can be used all year round.

Coming up to Christmas I have available a Christmas program put together by St David's Palmerston North. Great for a Presbyterial meeting or with a smaller group. Thinking of Advent and candles, 'Candles for Christmas' is a reading and carol singing reflection around the Christmas story.

Did you know in December 1843 the very first Christmas Carol was published in London and it depicted a Victorian family enjoying their Christmas dinner. Below the picture were the words 'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you'

To receive copies of these studies contact Bev Quigley, 11 Birch Street, Gleniti, Timaru, Ph 036861207 or email Ngaire at [jim\\_ngaire.clear.net.nz](mailto:jim_ngaire.clear.net.nz) Mission Birthday envelopes are also available at these contacts.



## From our UN Convenor

We are really pleased to let you know that the Women's programme of the Council for World Mission has agreed to subsidise the cost of sending an additional delegate to the Commission on the Status of Women in New York 4-15 March, 2013. This is really good news as it means we can send a Pasifika woman, and address our concerns that the voice of the Pacific is muted at international level.

So Mrs Faaolataga Leasi, our Pasifika representative on the National Coordinating Group and I will be going. This will be my last time and I will gladly 'induct' Ola into the system. The priority theme for CSW 57 is: *Elimination and prevention of all*

*forms of violence against women and girls.* We have a contribution to make to this team – Ola has been working with Presbyterian Support Central and in congregations in Porirua and Wellington on this topic and Pamela is looking to present a workshop on the spiritual abuse of women that happens when ministers and church leaders do not maintain safe boundaries.

This week we attended the Ministry of Women's Affairs International Caucus, where we heard from the Minister, the Hon Jo Goodhew, about her experience in giving account of New Zealand's progress in upholding the treaty

## Braided River of Faith Vol. 4

**Cost:** \$20.00 + postage \$4.00  
2 copies \$20.00 ea + \$5.00 post  
3 copies or more \$18.00 ea

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that is known as CEDAW: *the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.* A team of the Minister and government staff and representatives of NGO's attended. The findings of this process can be found in Draft Concluding observations on [CE-DAWCNZLCO7.pdf](#). Thank you all for your support of this work and do let us know if you wish either of us to come to you meetings, to talk about what we are doing at the UN.

- Pamela Tankersley

## Braided River of Faith

Delivery Day for BRAIDED RIVER, VOL 4 came on Thursday 28 September; the culmination of much writing, many contributors and several tight deadlines.

The writing and the photos have come out well, so now it's all hands on deck to sell the 700 copies we've had printed. Very good value for money, especially for bulk orders which reduce the price from the standard \$20.00 each.

The 63 women featured have all made a contribution to church and society, primarily because of their Christian faith. Some of them are the bright lights and well known; others have served in less public places What an

amazing variety of ages, ministries and Christian witness.

Here is a collection which will be important for New Zealand history as well as the Presbyterian Women of New Zealand. It is a social history as well, showing the very significant changes which have occurred in women's lives in New Zealand over recent decades.

At Assembly in Rotorua it was our pleasure to have Moderator Rt. Rev Ray Coster speak very warmly during the book's launching. He had read it all the previous evening, and his speech referred to the way women's contributions had often been undervalued.

- Judy Bedford



L-R Jan Harland, Judy Bedford,  
Rt. Rev. Ray Coster

## Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

### National Co-ordinating Group

## Consultative Workshop

An invitation is extended to three young Presbyterian Women aged 25-45 years from within your Presbyterian district to attend a consultative workshop on the "Way Forward for Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand". This workshop which will take place in February 2013 where they will be joined by other young women from your regional Presbytery district. Expenses for travel and lunch will be provided.

It is intended that two representatives from Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand will be available to provide background material on where our organisation is placed at present. It is from this information and specific questions we will be encouraging and empowering young women to offer their views on where they see Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand in the future.

These views will be integral to developing a strategic plan and future direction for Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand. We therefore encourage you to put forward young bright eyed passionate women who are excited about the prospect of engaging with our organisation.

To facilitate the development of these workshops to be held in February 2013 we request that the names, addresses (including email) and telephone contacts for these women are provided to Valerie Anderson, National Secretary, robval653@slingshot.co.nz by no later than **30 November 2012**.

We appreciate the time you will take over this opportunity to assist with this transformative process. We look forward to receiving the names of your young representatives. Any questions relating to this matter are also welcome.

Yours in Christ,

Jan Harland, National Convenor



## GA12 "Reviving the Flame"

It was with pleasure that Valerie Anderson and I attended the PCANZ General Assembly which opened in the beautiful setting of the Te Maungaronga Marae at Ohope amid the trees and birdsong on 4 October 2012.

Throughout the GA12 we enjoyed many opportunities to network with new friends and those already known to us. This year was the largest contingent of Presbyterian Women attending General Assembly.

The theme "Reviving the Flame" took us in many directions as we learnt what it might be like to live with a Resurrection Mind set.

The Right Reverend Ray Coster was affirmed as the new PCANZ Moderator and Rev Andrew Norton was welcomed as the Moderator designate. Rev Peter Cheyne was thanked for the dedication he gave to the role of Moderator. The PCANZ now has two new Synods, Korean and Pacific Islands. The Koreans are anticipating rapid growth in immigrant membership. The Pacific Islands Synod remit met with an angry reproach from Rev Te Ahorangi Wayne Manaaki Rihari Te Kaawa, Moderator, Te Aka Puaho showing disappointment he was not approached first. This was all resolved when he apologised and gave a moving and well received speech on the history of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand.

Matters of business included a unanimous acclimation and affirmation of our new name Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand which is now recorded in the PCANZ Book of Order. One matter which is of particular interest to Presbyterian Women was a remit on the Vulnerability of Children proposed and affirmed by the Wellington Presbytery.

We heard many stories of God's presence and mission reaching out to strangers throughout the country. This was literally the case when two by two Christchurch parishioners delivered \$200 grocery vouchers to complete strangers in need following the earthquake. Other churches have succeeded in offering spiritual health with much success. We heard a story of a youth who was physically healed through prayer in his Youth group.

Rev. Tim Keel of Jacob's Well church in Kansas City spoke on "how we understand and embody the Gospel in our communities." At times of stress we lose our map and enter a state of "luminality", meaning "a threshold." It is the quality of ambiguity or disorientation when we "stand at the threshold" between our previous way of structuring our identity, time, or community, and a new way. At this time of "passing through" he encouraged us, as Isaiah said "do not dwell on the past" seek out a new future. Rev Keel invited us to "pray for a city (organisation) to prosper and it will prosper" and asked "where are the margins in the city". The PCANZ acted out this principle on Sunday with a wonderful open air service in the middle of the square in Rotorua when the congregation gave \$3,600 towards a homeless shelter being built in the city.

Rev Tim continued to encourage us to "wake up" and look outside the system for new life. Jesus came outside the system and led with imagination and transformation. We may find ways of reframing our organisation using this "Reviving" mind set. If we are clear on our mission, purpose and vision we will perceive a need and create a possibility. Grace is a reality, allowing liberating change and transformation to make something new.

When we move with God from marginalisation to reconciliation we have Peace. May the Peace of Christ be with you,

Jan Harland, National Convenor