

# Gleanings



It was with shock and dismay that we all received the news of the large earthquake and tsunami in Samoa and Tonga; and later in Indonesia and the Philippines. We have read, watched and listened to the stories of misery, heartache and despair as people have lost loved ones, seen the destruction of homes, businesses, clean water and crops. May they know God's loving presence surrounding them; and may they be given the strength and hope to face the future. We will continue to hold them in our prayers.

– *Heather Tate.*

O le Atua, o le tatou malu ia ma lo tatou malosi, e fai o ia ma fesoasoani sili I puapuaga. God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. Ps 46.1

Our love, thoughts and prayers go out to our Samoan and Tongan communities at this time.

– *Lafulafu Ekenasio*



## Nelson Regional Day 2009

Twenty-eight ladies gathered for the Regional Day at Takaka where we were warmly welcomed and very well fed! Of course there had been a very early start for many and the big hill to climb! The National Convener, Heather Tate rose early that morning too.

The theme of the day was "Exercise of Body, Mind and Spirit" and Heather led the spiritual exercise in the morning with her address embracing human spiritual needs. After a beautiful shared lunch our minds were exercised by making flowers from flax. This was fun once people knew

## News from the NCG meeting 16-17 October.

- The NCG responded to the Tsunami Earthquake disaster by sending \$2,000 to Samoa and \$1500 to Tonga.
- A cheque for \$32,054.00 was presented to the local President of the Hearing Association N.Z.. The presentation was enhanced for publicity purposes by the use of a greatly enlarged mock cheque! It was gratefully received on behalf of the National President who lives in Arrowtown.
- The Principal of Turakina Maori Girls' College, Mrs. Terehia Channings wrote a letter expressing her gratitude for the APW representation at the powhiri to welcome her and her family to her new position as Principal. She looks forward to our continued support.

how to do it and it was a very productive session. Finally the bodies were exercised by doing exercises using scarves, rolled magazines and various weights. We were led by a very enthusiastic young woman with the accompaniment of lively music. Participants were seated but found they were using muscles unknown before! Devotions led by the Takaka ladies, one of whom was a ventriloquist, completed a fun filled day of fellowship before more food and the homeward journey. A big thank you to Takaka for a great day.

– *Lois Diaper.*

- Communication: Please inform Communication Convener Lafulafu Ekenasio of any changes to e-mail addresses.
- Have you checked out the APW website recently?  
[www.presbyterian.org.nz/APW](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/APW)

Discussions were held around the following issues and agreed to by the NCG.

- The organization of APW must continue to evolve to fit with today's church culture and include the loyal elderly members and encourage the participation of middle-aged active women too. The use of the shortened name of 'Presbyterian Women' may be encouraged when referring to the Association of Presbyterian Women in a general way. There is no plan to seek a formal name change.
- The idea of a short mission statement for APW was enthusiastically agreed "**Serving God locally and globally with love.**" A formal recommendation will be made at the next National Business meeting. MWF may choose to share a mission statement with APW.
- With the increasing APW membership of Pacific Island women it is important for the NCG to continue to have Pacific Island representation either in one of the nominated roles or in a liaison role. A formal recommendation will be made at the next National Business meeting.
- It was noted by NCG members that even after 5-6 years the use of the terms NCG and National Convener was not commonly used by APW groups or understood.

– *Heather Tate*

## Church Centre for the United Nations

Across the avenue from the United Nations headquarters in New York stands the Church Centre for the United Nations, a building opened in 1963. This was the fulfillment of a dream for a Christian centre that would support the work of the United Nations. Twelve floors provide religious and other non-governmental organizations concerned with the UN issues, meeting space and a focal point for activities. The vision for the centre originated with USA Methodists and financial support from the Methodist Women's Division; and it houses tenants such as American Baptists, Presbyterians, the World Council of Churches, Methodists, the United Church of Christ, Quakers and Lutherans. Non-governmental organizations such as International Women's Centre and International Peace Academy also

rent space and the building has come to serve not only as a centre of church activity related to the UN, but as the "heart of global civil society efforts" to make its presence felt at UN meetings.

As more church offices, such as APW NZ have secured consultative status with the UN Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) there is more participation in its commissions such as the Commission on the Status of Women, suggesting language for statements, sharing information and presenting church positions on issues.

Every year the Church Centre provides a place for the NGO community to meet, hold meetings and discussions and form networks. Although the churches have not exerted a major influence on the UN, they have had some success in

shaping the UN agenda and the tone of the debate- they have kept in the forefront a moral and ethical approach to global issues.

The building and its staff also provide an important pastoral service to people in the UN community. There is a Chaplain's office and a chapel designed to serve not only Christians, but people of all religions. Looking across at the building, UN diplomats and staff see a structure that says that the churches are developing their own views on international affairs and offering support for efforts to serve the world community.

*- Mary McIntyre.*

**Turakina Maori Girls' College:** The new Principal, Mrs. Terehia Channings was welcomed to the College with a powhiri on 24 September. Mrs. Channings is the third generation of her family to attend the College and she has also been a teacher at Turakina. Heather Tate, Jill Little, and Marjorie Empson represented APW, and we were invited to be part of the Turakina College whanau. This was considered a great honour.

*-Marjorie Empson*



**Project cheque presented to Hearing Association**

## Mission

At the APW Conference in May, Norma Oliver from Mairangi Bay on Auckland's North Shore inspired members when she talked about the jerseys which her church had knitted for an interchurch project supporting "Fish and Chip" babies in Africa. These are babies of families who are so poor that they leave the birthing unit wrapped in newspaper – hence the name. The instruction was 'knit them bright and colourful – it is likely that they will never be washed'. St David's, Palmerston North and Levin Uniting caught the vision and have knitted eighty-four jerseys and are still knitting. At this point, Norma is directing them to Samoa as the African project had amassed four thousand and they have been dispatched. Norma said it is an ongoing project. She has sent some jerseys to New Zealand hospitals. An added bonus, NZ Courier Post charged half price to send the jerseys to North Shore because they were going to Samoa.

*- Marjorie Empson.*



How often have you said when asked to do something, "Oh no, I couldn't possibly do that." How often when you grab your courage with both hands have you found you actually can do the impossible task? This discussion is not new, these words I quote from the APW Devotions Volume 2 published fifteen years ago and no doubt over the years women have uttered the same cry! The subject rears its head frequently and particularly when nominations are being sought for APW national positions!

You might like to consider the following:

- Are you involved in Parish leadership – lay or ordained? Are you presently involved in Community Outreach programmes or working for Presbytery?

Have you taken Minutes before? Are you involved in school or community organizations? Have you written reports or do you enjoy the challenges of the computer? Is having a Presbyterian Women's organization important to you and to PCANZ? Can APW continue to adapt and go forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

- Are you too busy? Most of you who would answer YES to one or more of the above questions are busy people because that is who you are and what you do. Some of you will have had a little experience but others will have had more. However, can you please stop for a moment and reflect on that well-known passage from Ecclesiastes 3:

"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven..."

Is this the time for you to take time out from your present parish or community work and share your gifts, big or small, and give two or three years to APW? Perhaps discuss this with someone and listen to God for guidance. Personally, I have loved what I have been doing. God has been gracious. I am so pleased I changed my response from 'I am too busy' to 'YES, but I will need to put some things on hold!'

- **Heather Tate**,  
National Convener.

### The Current Situation .....

In April 2010 the present Policy & Administrative Group will have completed their three years in office.

The roles of Convener, Deputy Convener, Secretary and Treasurer are open for nomination. Our Secretary, Jill Little and Treasurer, Jocelyn Hannay are willing to work with the new Secretary and Treasurer until after the Annual Audit. Our National Convener and Deputy Convener are not available for re-election.

Names of those willing to stand for these positions will need to be in the hands of the Policy & Administrative Group before the end of **December, 2009**

**Please give these national positions your prayerful consideration. Contact Jill Little [jlittlepw@orcon.net.nz](mailto:jlittlepw@orcon.net.nz) or APW P.O. Box 489 Feilding 4740**

If no names are forthcoming, we are faced with the prospect of the closure of APW. In this event there will be a letter sent out in **January for all to discuss** and an Extraordinary Business Meeting will be held in April to wind up the Association of Presbyterian Women.

### Happiness in Willowbank Home"

There are a few copies of this novel left. It is set in the Home where the Diversional Therapist works with people who have various problems. Here is your opportunity to learn how to help people who are in similar situations.

Send \$30.00 for a copy to Gladys Martin, 415 Kimbolton Rd, Feilding or order through email [bob\\_gladys@clear.net.nz](mailto:bob_gladys@clear.net.nz)



**Peace**

### A Braided River of Faith Volume 4

Thank you for the stories which have been forwarded. Very soon I shall be contacting authors Please continue to consider people known to you whose faith journey you admire. Stories need to reach me by the end of February 2010 so the book can be available before Christmas 2010. – Nan Burgess [n-burgess@xtra.co.nz](mailto:n-burgess@xtra.co.nz)

## APW Study Grants:

The 2009 recipients of Study Grants are:

- **Kay Jones** of St David's, Richmond, Nelson. Kay is a full-time student studying for her Bachelor of Ministry at Bishopdale Theological College.
- **Anna Marie White** of St John's, Rotorua. Anna is into her third year of the Diploma of Counselling at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute.
- **Angela Bell** of St Andrew's, Otahuhu. Angela is a trained teacher and is studying for Masters in Education at Massey University.
- **Emily Wotton** of St Heliers Church & Community Centre, Auckland. Emily is studying for Graduate Diploma in Not for Profit Management at UNITEC.
- **Sandra Thomas** of St John's, Rotorua. Sandra is studying SGM Spiritual Director's Formation Programme in Auckland and Waikanae.

Please remember these young women in your prayers.

## What a Difference the clothes make!

Each year *Dress for Success* helps around 1400 New Zealand women who are looking for a job, by providing free clothing and advice. Clients must be referred by an agency registered with *Dress for Success* and be on a low income or receiving assistance such the unemployment benefit or training benefit. After an interview clients leave with a couple of pairs of skirts or trousers, shoes, shirts, a jacket, a coat, a handbag, makeup and jewellery. When they are successful in getting a job they may come back and can take away a second free outfit.

*Dress for Success* was founded in New York in 1997. In Wellington there are two paid staff and around forty volunteers who may be involved in dressing the clients, ironing clothes, or fund-raising. Northland, Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch all offer this service. Clients really appreciate this service. One client said, "*Dress for Success* makes you realise 'Hey, there is light in the darkness. There is hope and it can happen'"

See [www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org)

Sourced from Panui, September 2009. A publication of the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

– *Heather Tate.*



### National Co-ordinating Group:

#### Hon Pres.

Right Rev Dr. Graham Redding

#### National Convener:

Heather Tate,

458 Featherston Street

Palmerston North.

Ph 06. 3549267

Email: [hvtate@clear.net.nz](mailto:hvtate@clear.net.nz)

#### Secretary:

(All Mail) Jill Little,

PO Box 489 Feilding 4740

Ph 06 3238218

E-mail: [jlittleapw@orcon.net.nz](mailto:jlittleapw@orcon.net.nz)

#### Deputy Convener:

Marjorie Empson,

131 Ruamahanga Cres.,

Palmerston North.

Ph 06.3567529

E-mail [empsons@inspire.net.nz](mailto:empsons@inspire.net.nz)

#### Treasurer:

Jocelyn Hannay,

1A Regent St,

Palmerston North.

Ph 06 3541146

E-mail: [jaykayh@hyper.net.nz](mailto:jaykayh@hyper.net.nz)

#### Missions Convener:

Rae Simpson,

12 Kotanui Ave, Army Bay,

Whangaparaoa.

Ph 09 4244274

E-mail: [l.r.simpson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:l.r.simpson@xtra.co.nz)

#### United Nations Convener:

Mary McIntyre, 18 Hall Rd,

Bannockburn R.D.2 Cromwell,

Ph 03 445 4709

E-mail: [bbmacs@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bbmacs@xtra.co.nz)

#### Resources Convener:

Lois Diaper,

7 Wordsworth Place, Stoke,

Nelson

Ph 03 547 1456

E-mail: [elljayd@clear.net.nz](mailto:elljayd@clear.net.nz)

#### Communications Convener:

Lafulafu Ekenasio,

93 Yule St, Lyall Bay,

Wellington, 6922

Ph. 04 387 8265

E-mail: [lafulafu@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lafulafu@xtra.co.nz)