



50 years
APW to PWANZ
1964—2014

Jubilee issue

October 2014

This issue is a celebration of 50 years of prayer, study, fellowship and service as we, as Presbyterian women have endeavoured to make a Christian witness in home, church and community and support the work of partner churches in worldwide mission and evangelism.

There has been no attempt to compile a complete history of the last fifty years. Rather, it is a compilation of peoples memories and the way different areas have celebrated the jubilee., and many special ladies have cut many jubilee cakes.

A few jottings from past Harvest Fields are interspersed.

As we celebrate the past, we look prayerfully to the future, trusting our wonderful God who can see the end from the beginning.

As Past President Nola Stuart has written:-

“As Presbyterian women, we can be particularly proud of what we have achieved first with the PWMU and then the Association of Presbyterian women. Our Aim, as an APW was to unite the women of the church in prayer, study and fellowship and for us to foster a world-wide interest in evangelism and mission. And we can give thanks to God for the fruits of that work throughout the church – women in Ministry, Women in leadership at all levels of the church, and the outstanding contribution the Association has made to Mission world-wide.

We have fulfilled our Aim and as Presbyterian women, ours will be a continuing story, building on the faith legacies past and present.”

We would do well to consider further, her paper which is to be found on our website.

Our Jubilee Quilt
Presented at the 2014
General Assembly
Of the PCANZ



APW Jubilee Quilt

... and the missing block.

In June 2014, Dellwyn Moylan emailed me, suggesting that a quilt be made to celebrate fifty years of APW. I agreed to piece together the blocks offered by members throughout the country, if a place could be found to hang it. Dellwyn made enquiries and Anne Jackman offered that it could hang from a mezzanine floor in the Hewitson Library in Dunedin. So the call went out through Gleanings for blocks to be made. They needed to be with me by the end of August so that they could be made into a quilt to be shown at General Assembly. During August there were courier knocks at my door and parcels left in my letter box. I got to know one friendly courier, and the postie who smilingly left her bicycle to bring large, flat parcels to my door. It was a month of delight, opening one interesting, charming block after another. But there was a hiccup. One very wet Wednesday morning, as I drove out the gateway to Mainly Music, I saw something squashed into my letter box. "Too early for the postie" I thought. I stopped and retrieved what was a small courier parcel with large words across the corner DOOR TO DOOR. How I wish they had. How I wish I had turned it over to see who it was from. I popped it in the car and went on my way. I thought that I put it in my bag, but after Mainly Music it wasn't there. I hunted... we all hunted... we prayed. I asked at houses where I had parked the car... I went to the Police Station... I rang all the Courier companies... I prayed... I cried. I waited in case it got put back in my letterbox, or arrived again after being 'returned to sender'. Nothing. I checked all the emails from women who offered blocks, with the blocks that had come and they matched. A few folk had not emailed, but just posted their block with a letter. I had thirty seven blocks. Then came the challenge – to make the mix of blocks into a whole. It is done and it looks great. But there is a space. So if your group stitched a block that was not acknowledged or set in the Jubilee Quilt, please be in touch. I will remake it if you wish and include it. You have my details.

Natalie Watkin.

I would like to thank Dellwyn for the inspiration to prepare a Jubilee Quilt. As soon as she made the suggestion, I knew that Natalie would be the person to bring it to fruition and I'm sure that all my readers will want to join me in thanks for all her expertise and hard work that has gone into the finished quilt. It was a bit late to work through presbyterial executives and hard to get to areas where presbyterials no longer exist in the time we had available. We are truly grateful to the thirty eight who responded giving us a picture of churches and locations all over Aotearoa New Zealand where Presbyterian women are working and fellowshiping. With the mix of portrait and landscape orientation of the blocks which were sent in, I am amazed that the numbers were right to piece it all together. On the reverse of the quilt are two more blocks—one with the APW logo, and another with the new Presbyterian Women's logo.

We would have liked to have physically presented the quilt during the Presbyterian Women's report at General Assembly, but the finished product was too large, so it was hung there for all to view.

Thank you Dellwyn for your inspiration. Thank you Natalie and craftswomen for creating our Jubilee Quilt. Thank you Northern Presbyterian for gifting the cost of sashing backing and quilting fabrics.

Rae .



Doris Petrie, former
National president,
mentioned on p3

This is my Church

This is my Church

It is composed of people like me

It will be friendly – if I am friendly.

Its pews will be filled – if I help fill them.

It will do great work – if I work

It will make generous gifts to many causes –if I am a generous giver.

it will bring other people into its work and fellowship - if I bring them in.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, and fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit – if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to be the task of being all the things I want my church to be.

The worship service is the shop window even though it does not always reflect all that the church stands for. People come asking a number of questions when they come to our church for the first time -

What do these church people live for?

Does it make them any different?

Do they deeply believe their church message?

Are they gripped with what is happening or is it an empty ritual?

Do they really care for each other or is it just another group of people?

What is their attitude towards me?

Do I feel comfortable with these people?

50 years of APW, recalled in Hawkes Bay (recollections from Jill McConnochie)

I recall Alexa Fraser saying that at the inaugural Service in 1964 to establish the APW the hymn selected was "Rise up o Men of God" - she did not think it appropriate.

I was privileged to attend the first conference held in 1965 in Lincoln College - live in. I don't recall much about it other than it was a great occasion with a large number of people from throughout the country. The worship at these events, especially with such a large number of people is always uplifting. It was interesting to note that two of the members at Presbyterian were at the inaugural service 50 years ago.

We have had 4 conferences here in Hawkes Bay, and I've been involved in all of them. Thanks to Mrs Sands I have the programme of the Napier one of 1971, held at St Paul's. I recall a debate on abortion in which Dr Keith McNaughton said something like this. "I'd say to a women - wait until the child is born and I'll give you a hammer and you could dispose of the infant then". The Communion Service for that conference was held in St Columba's, Taradale and an ecumenical evening in St Andrew's Hastings. Other conferences were held in Havelock North, Hastings and at the Napier Baptist Church where study groups were held in classrooms at nearby Colenso College. I recall the communion service held at Hastings. After the serving of the bread and wine, the chaplain, Michael Thawley invited those present to come forward and partake of the Fish from plates held by elders as the words "Feed my sheep" were said. I found this very moving.

The size of the National Executive has changed from the early days when 11 plus 9 representatives of the Presbyterians formed the Exec to 10 now.

Of the most important roles of the APW (or PWANZ) apart from the meeting together of women from the various parishes have been the Annual Project shared with the Methodist women and the representative to the United Nations Committee on the Status of Women. It would be good to know how much over these years has been donated to the various projects. Do you remember one of the early ones - wells for Botswana?

I recall a meeting held in St Andrews Hall, Hastings which was addressed by the Hon Duncan McIntyre who was Minister of Maori Affairs and which filled the hall. Attendances for that year averaged 120. Presbyterian in the early days used to meet at the same time as Presbytery - they in the Church and Presbyterian in the Hall at St Andrews. It has been sad to see the diminishing of our meetings, and the loss of some Parishes from the organisation.

A couple of faux pas - APW was made up of the joining of different women's groups and the meeting they attended before the union was known as Presbyterian Association - PA for short. I announced that instead of going to PA we would now go to P. On another occasion wanting to clear the table in St Columba's for the speaker I picked up the velvet offering bag in placed in the font - full of water!

FROM DUNEDIN PRESBYTERIAL

In Dunedin little time was wasted in setting up the APW. An executive was elected. The first President. Was Doris Petrie, who in 1969 became the President of the National Executive. The Executive members were 2 Vice Presidents - Mrs Bisset and Miss Davidson, Secretaries F. W. Newlands, Miss E. Grant, and Treasurer Mrs Vivian.

When to meet for the general meeting dominated the first meeting. Would it be morning or afternoon? The tension prevalent through the years of planning the merger of the women's organisations is apparent in this discussion. The now merged group of women meant that four groups required consideration. The out of towners and older women preferred the afternoon. Mothers of school children preferred 1pm and business women naturally preferred evenings. A compromise was eventually arrived at with the decision to meet alternately in the afternoon and evening. This arrangement continued for many years.

A new initiative emerged during the first year of the APW which played a continuing significant role. The Department of Parish and Community Service, under the convenorship of Adelaide McLean of Dunedin, offered new and adventurous projects for local mission. Ideal for the role, Adelaide was described as always 'simmering' with new ideas. With her enthusiastic support the Dunedin APW groups found a new impetus in redefining local mission activity; a concept, which had troubled Presbyterian women for at least 25 years.

Previously, a new post-World War 1 generation of women began to moot for a shift to broaden mission to include the moral and social crisis as a consequence of the upheavals of war and depression. An opportunity arose in 1941 when the newly formed Council of Churches Campaign for Christian Order opened a channel for women to become involved in social and justice issues. The Campaign for Christian Order posed the question, 'What world order must arise to take place of the order this war is destroying? NZ must return to a godlier path' they were told. Their support of the Campaign eventually led to the formation of the Women's Fellowship, which existed uncomfortably with the PWMU for 15 years, amidst enormous changes taking place both in Overseas and local missions.

By 1958, with the New Life Movement and Stewardship programmes dominating many parish activities and overseas Mission responsibilities lessening, questions arose as to the splintered nature of women's work. Would it not be more efficient to have a united group?

A campaign began to take the idea around New Zealand. By November 1963 the General Assembly ratified the PWMU and Women's Fellowship recommendation that a merged women's group take place.

The Moderator, the Rev. J. S. Murray conducted the inaugural Service for the new Association of Presbyterian Women. Of note on this occasion are the number of women elders who dispensed the elements during communion; a moving moment when one considers the drawn out debate to accept women into eldership.

At the last Annual Meeting of the Dunedin PWMU Presbyterian, Mrs Janet Spence of Mornington, encouraged the women to capture the wider vision of the Church's mission and to go forward under the new APW as the 'mothers' of previous generations fulfilled their vision of missionary service. Dunedin APW Presbyterian has carried out its vision with diligence these last 50 years

Northern Presbyterian Celebration

Recalling various people and happenings which stood out over the decades of APW.

(An interesting, even if incomplete record. It was not intended as a complete history)

1960's

First President of APW - '63-66 - Mrs Margaret Royds, ChCh (St. Ninian's) '66-69 – Mrs Jean Grant, Waikato, '69-'73 Miss Doris M Petrie

1964: 4 – 7 November 1st Annual Meeting Auckland (Greyfriars)

1965: 15 – 17 May 1st Triennial Conference Christchurch (Lincoln College) *'Our Life and Work'*

1965: 3 – 5 November 2nd Annual Meeting Dunedin (Caversham)

We were collecting cereal cards and tea coupons.

APW programmes were important and well used..

Music – The Beatles and Cilla Black - Shirley Murray and Colin Gibson changed our hymn singing

We read William Barclay and later watched him on TV.

Turakina Maori Girls' College, first situated in Turakina and now in Marton, was opened in 1905. APW has always been supportive, as was PWMU before it.

1970's

After Doris Petrie finished in '73, Presidents were Jean Gillies, Marion Talbot, and Lorraine Sealy

Harvest Fields were black and white. In 1970 the annual sub was reluctantly increased to 50cents.

National study conferences were held annually, with a business meeting included in every third conference.

1980's

There was a change to regional study conferences in 2 or 3 locations throughout the country between the Triennial National Business meeting and study conference.

After Lorraine Sealy finished her term in '82, presidents were Nancy Jansen, Nola Stuart, and Gladys Mead.

Harvest Fields came in colour. Subs went from \$7 in 1989 to \$8 in 1992 and \$9 1995.

In April '85 a 21st birthday celebration of APW was organized by the outgoing Wellington Exec

1989 Phone cards were added to the collect and make money list... in 1999 they were deemed to be valueless!

1988 Margaret Reid-Martin, who was the first woman minister in NZ became Moderator of PCANZ, the second woman Moderator, the first was Mrs Joan Anderson, a lay person.

1988 Nat Exec of 17 women, including A Busy Bee secretary.

1989 APW Regional Conferences 'Making Space', held in Auckland, Wellington and Gore.

1990's

After Gladys Mead finished in '91, presidents were Jane Prichard '94 – '97, Jean Anderson '97 – 2000.

'95-'96 APW/MWF special project "South African Women's Anti-Poverty Programme"... this was one year after South Africa's new era of fully representative govt.

Sept '95 - Observer Status at UN 4th Women in Development Conference in Beijing.

1996 there were 4 Regional Conferences – North Shore, Waikato, Manawatu and Southland/Mataura. March '96

Large size Harvest Field. '99 HF sub up from \$13 to \$20.

1996 Bridgebuilders began within APW Jane Prichard

In the wider church... 1990 was the Silver Jubilee of the first ordination to full ministry of a woman in the Presbyterian Church of NZ. (As mentioned the first minister was Rev Margaret Reid Martin.)

2000 +

Last Presidents were Marion Brash, followed by Jeanette Luxton for one year of transition. Then in '04 we changed from having a national executive in a particular presbyterial with programme, and mission committees nearby, to the NCG style which communicated on line, and met less frequently than the National Executives.

Legal advice suggested working to national guidelines, rather than using the more familiar constitution. The first Convenor was Natalie Watkin, followed by Heather Tate, the late Mary McIntyre, Jan Harland and the current Convenor Lafulafu Ekenasio.

2000 In both August and September Harvest Fields are articles about a young Laila Harre. Last copy of Harvest Field in the known format was Nov 2000.

2001: In March an Emergency Issue was published. In '03 the future of HF was discussed but no decision taken. In Sept of that year it became evident that the HF was no longer financially viable. In '04 Gleanings started, alongside Harvest Field. There would be 4 HFs each year with Gleanings in between.

2002: First edition of 'Braided River of Faith' was published.

2004 APW is 40!

In 2006 we celebrated its 100 years of Harvest Field publication at the conference in Christchurch and closed it, to be followed by Gleanings only.

2014 PWANZ is 50. Halleluia! Thanks be to God.



The first NCG:- Alison Linscott, Jan Veitch, Johanna Warren
Mary North. Natalie Watkin, Margaret Clow, Diane Croft.

Wanganui Presbyterian Women

Women who belong to Presbyterian churches in the Wanganui Region from Hunterville to Bulls, Westmere and Wanganui recently celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Association of Presbyterian Women in our area.

Originally known as "Presbyterian Women's Mission Union" APW has a focus on overseas aid and assistance. President Enid Waters, says it is never easy raising funds but they are normally able to raise more than \$1000 each year.

The morning started with morning tea and the Annual General Meeting. Business concluded the women celebrated Communion led by Rev. Dr. Phillipa Horrex.

This was followed by reminiscences of the past 50 years beginning with the reading of the minutes of the Inaugural meeting of Wanganui Presbyterial held in Marton on 14 April 1964.

Members of the executive had also set out Memorabilia on tables and stands including a list of past Presidents, Conference photo albums, Harvest Fields and projects supported over the years.

Following the meeting members enjoyed an excellent finger food luncheon and the special celebration cake iced by Betty Simpson and cut by 90 year old member,

Merle Coleman.



Wednesday 10th September – the day when we celebrated the 50th anniversary of APW in Christchurch.

As our members and invited guests arrived, we were delighted to see many were dressed as they would 50 years ago – hats, gloves even fur stoles. Our President, Allison Blackler welcomed everyone and Executive members led the Devotions taken from the Inaugural gathering of APW, 50 years ago - the Bible reading was read from the King James Bible. During the service, a memorial candle was lit for past members whose names had been collated into a booklet.

Sharing the Past – extracts from the first minutes and reports were read. Interesting to note that one of the first things to be attended to was the provision of a crèche for the 'littlies'. An old Harvest Field had the thoughts of some of the members of the first National Executive. These reports made for great reading, especially the reference to Missionary wives as 'the backroom girls'. Several of our members shared memories of the early days –

Noeline Bain (Drayton), the first secretary on the National Executive recalled that the membership then was 12,500 and that the Executive although based in Christchurch had members from all around New Zealand as Convenors of the different departments.

Rosemary Troughton who had been a missionary in Ludhiana with her husband David, spoke of how grateful they were for the support received from APW, one donation enabled David to install a telephone in the Hospital. Many anecdotes were shared along with a lot of laughter.

Our National President Lafulafu spoke and bought greetings to the gathering.

Our beautiful anniversary cake, made by one of our members and iced by her husband was cut by Noeline and then anyone who had served on a National Executive over the years and then those who had served on the Christchurch Executive gathered around for photographs. A quartet 'Friends with Music' provided a variety of tunes both old and new, throughout the proceedings.

Lunch was served in the hall and Margaret McLean, a former National President, lead us in Grace before we enjoyed a delicious meal.

Meeting, greeting, catching up with friends not seen for some time, listening and sharing, all contributed to a very happy occasion.



Noeline Bain, cutting the Christchurch cake



Past and present members of the Christchurch executive

Back: Mary Stewart, Janet Teage, Leatrice McIntyre, Ada Smith, Noeline Bain, Allison Blackler, Margaret McLean and Rosemary Troughton
2nd row: Gillian Burlton, Marion Eggleston, Mary McGiven, Margaret Simpson . Front Esther Scarlet

I slept and dreamt that life was joy
I awoke and saw that life was duty
I acted and behold duty was joy

A golden occasion
the 50th Anniversary
of the Association of Presbyterian Women in Ashburton
held in Ashburton 1st May 2014

The occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Association of Presbyterian Women is an important event in the life of the Church. The Ashburton area celebrations were well attended by ladies (and three men) including women from the local Anglican and Catholic Churches, our Mayoress and MP. The celebration began with the lighting of a candle by Mary Smith to give thanks for those who and have been part of the life of the women's groups in our churches. Dellwyn Moylan conducted the service of thanksgiving on the theme the 3 F's of APW – faith, friendship and fellowship. The offering of \$180.50 was for mission work. Our service concluded with Graham Gunn accompanying Olivia Brown (daughter of Rev David Brown) signing the *The Lord Bless You*.

Rev David Brown Moderator of Presbytery spoke on behalf of Presbytery to congratulate and thank the women of our churches especially the APW who remind us of mission and how important mission is, also the women who do so much to contribute to the life of our churches. Janet Moorren and Helen Coldicott long serving members of APW joined Dellwyn as Convener of Women's Ministry for Presbytery and co-convenor of the Jubilee committee and David to cut the anniversary cake that was decorated with the APW crest.



Gay Lee, co-convenor of the Jubilee committee & member of St James' Presbyterian Fellowship Group presents the Honourable Jo Goodhew with a gold chrysanthemum.



Janet Moorren and Helen Coldicott original members of St Andrew's APW joined Dellwyn Moylan - Convener of Women's Ministry for Presbytery of Ashburton and co-convenor of the Jubilee committee and Rev David Brown (Moderator of the Presbytery of Ashburton) to cut the anniversary cake

The speaker was MP for Rangitata the Honourable Jo Goodhew who spoke informatively and humorously about her portfolios Minister of Women's Affairs, Ministry of the Volunteers, Minister of Senior Citizens and Associate Minister of Health. Jo shared with us about balancing being a wife, Mother and MP and answered the ladies questions. Speeches were delivered by Janet Moorren, and Helen Coldicott and Dellwyn Moylan. These speeches recalled memories and gratitude for the life of APW and the friendships made in APW. In was then out to the back of St Andrew's Church for A rose called "Golden Celebration" rose by Dellwyn and Alyth Melrose long serving APW member and secretary of St Andrew's APW was planted at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Ashburton, the only parish in the area to still have an official APW Group. Over afternoon tea



Athlyn Melrose Secretary of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Ashburton's APW Group planting a golden Jubilee rose for the 50th Anniversary of APW.

Dellwyn Moylan, Convener of Women's Ministry for Presbytery of Ashburton and co-convenor of the Jubilee committee

EVELINE CHURCH APW, OAMARU, 50 YEARS CELEBRATION.

On a cold, dreary (it was threatening snow!) day 13 August 2014, Eveline Church celebrated 50 years of APW.

26 present and retired members gathered at a local restaurant for a special lunch. How good it was to see everyone again, full of talk and memories. One of our ladies Jean Kissel, had set up a display of memorabilia and photos. Everyone, as they arrived, gathered round this trying to remember names and what had happened on this or that occasion. It was sad to see so many who were no longer with us, but happy that so many still were.

We had a very enjoyable lunch and then retired back to the lounge for more chat and memories. We were lucky enough to still have a copy of the Inaugural meeting minutes which were read out along with the list of the first members (a huge number).

What a great organisation APW has been to so many of us through our lives, through the ups and downs, happy and sad times. When we were younger with worries about our children, worries about older parents, health worries, all these we could share with our APW friends. Mainly coming together in the name of Christ, worshipping God together, knowing how much we have been blessed.

Well, after all the talk was finished and the memories put away again, after thanking God for APW, there was nothing more we could say except "Roll on the next 50 years"!

Hazel Bennett
President

Remembering, 50 Years of APW in the Upper Clutha Parish.

On June 15th. 2014, members of the Upper Clutha Presbyterian Women led the worship service in St Andrews, Wanaka. As part of the service, the past was recalled as the history of the various groups which had been active in the Parish were spoken about. We remembered the Luggate-Queensberry group and the Hawea Flat group and the Wanaka group recalling, activities and people involved. Now the women of the Parish meet under the umbrella of the Upper Clutha Presbyterian Women's name. One member spoke about Tabitha whose work recorded in the Book of Acts, is like a model for all to follow, in caring and sharing in the community. After the service there was a lunch together for members and any other women who wished to attend.

Remembering 50 years of APW in Central Otago.

The Central Otago Presbyterian ceased to exist in 2004, and became known as "The Gathering". This has led to a twice a year meeting of women from around Central Otago who meet in Parish groups within Union and Presbyterian parishes. At the meeting in Arrowtown in September we shared in a Communion service, and we remembered all the changes of the last 50 years and how women had become more involved in the leadership roles in the PCANZ. The Communion was led by Erin Penreigh intern minister in the Wakatipu Community [Presbyterian] Parish. Later in the programme the Alexandra/Clyde/Lauder Union Parish women shared in a play, which traced the ups and downs of change from PWMU, and Fellowship, Guild, and Girl's Auxillary to APW, arriving at PCANZ. The play was both amusing and informative.

Catherine Little



Ready for their meals at East Taieri.

East Taieri A.P.W. members chose to celebrate the past 50 years by gathering up some additional ladies from our congregations to share lunch together. Our venue was The Topiary Cafe which is situated within Wal's Plantland's lovely garden and plant centre on the outskirts of Mosgiel.

17 members plus 10 invited guests enjoyed a variety from the menu as well as getting to know other women from our different congregations. The fellowship was delightful and as a result they would like this to be an ongoing occurrence.

Joan Young

President East Taieri A.P.W.

The Weight of Nothing

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake" a sparrow asked the wild dove

"Nothing more than nothing" was the answer.

"In that case, I must tell you a marvellous story" the sparrow said.

"I sat on the branch of a fir, close to the trunk, when it began to snow, not heavily, not a raging blizzard, no just like a dream, and without any violence. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling in the twigs and needles of my branch. There number was exactly 3,741.952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch – nothing more than nothing, as you say, the branch broke off."

Having said that, the sparrow flew away.

The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about it for a while and finally said to herself. "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come about in this world.



The group in Mornington, Dunedin. celebrated with a fashion parade by a group of women called "Images of the Past Dunedin, Victorian and Edwardian Fashion" who came along and each paraded different dresses. The afternoon ended with a delightful afternoon tea like we used to enjoy in days gone by. A number of number of male members of the group thoroughly enjoyed looking back all those years too!

Betty Sime

Photo Bill Willers

Presbyterian Women, from the **Wellington region**, celebrated their 50th Jubilee on Saturday 17th May at the PIC Church, Porirua East.

Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban was the guest speaker.

Winnie, told of her upbringing in the church, her parents moving to NZ and working for their children, her experiences of being MP for Mana and now her position at Victoria University. She understood the issues and challenges facing families and women today. She congratulated all the women for their contributions to their communities.



The afternoon activities involved remembering past members, crafts and dancing. All names mentioned in our roll call were entered into a Roll of Honour and we are still collecting names. Crafts were mainly making a felt flower with beads and buttons to pin onto our jackets. One table worked on some banners. At stages through the afternoon we all joined in Zumba, Keep Fit, Tai Chi and our pacific island dancing. Morning tea and lunch was enjoyed by all.

TARANAKI CELEBRATES 50 YEARS of A.P.W. & M.W.F

To celebrate our Golden Jubilee, 60 women from Taranaki Women's Groups met on a wonderful 10th May sunny Saturday, at the new Knox Presbyterian Complex at Waitara. We chose two local inspirational people to speak.

Mataiva Robertson was the Methodist woman in the morning, - telling of her experiences and calling over the last few years. Everyone was thrilled to hear a summary, complete with power Point Pictures, of the journey the Lord has given her and the way she has responded to the opportunities that have opened up for her. This woman is one of the great leaders for good of our time. She has been a member of our M.W.F. since she was 12 years old !

Jenni McCulloch has journeyed with Christ through the Presbyterian Church as a Youth Leader. Coming from right outside the church, she spoke on Youth Work and its challenges and changes over the last 15 years. The Lord has used her mightily in discipling young people and encouraging them in turn to disciple younger people soon after their conversion. Wow ! She took us on an inspirational journey – complete with Power Point Pictures.

God has raised up some mighty women in Taranaki ! The "Singing Angels" shared their gifts in song and the Knox Catering Group – "The King's Table" fed our bodily needs.

As our spiritual mothers in the past created the APW and MWF, - the Gospel of Christ is continuing to be proclaimed in new relevant ways today. The white haired ladies of our churches were inspired, encouraged and humbled to hear anew how God is at work in our community and abroad.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1/ Grit in the oyster
abrasive,
sore,
rubbing raw. | 2/ Personality rub
niggle
nag
snag in relationship |
| 3/ Grit in the shell
oyster accepts,
does not fight
or let it destroy. | 4/ Over and around
he works,
covers, colours,
Polishes a pearl. |
- Marion Davies (HF editor in the 70's)

Joan Wedding

On Wednesday, 13 August a Wairarapa District APW meeting was held hosted in Martinborough by APW members from First Church to celebrate out 50 years. We had 30 people attend – present and past members of Wairarapa APW as well as Anglican and Catholic ladies from our local community. We brought out our embroidered table cloths for lunch after which we had Leeanne Williams speak to us about her work as a glass artist. Linda Webley, 92 years old. from First Church, cut our celebratory cake. It was a very happy and relaxed gathering with lots of memories shared.

Rosemary Ward

First Church, Martinborough



Rosemary Ward, Margaret Peek , Jan Veitch



On Monday 13 October 2014 the **Riverton Union** Women's Fellowship celebrated the 50th anniversary with a lovely luncheon, it was well attended by 65 ladies, past and present members and a great opportunity to chat and catch up.

Janice Templeton.

CELEBRATING THE 50th JUBILEE OF PWANZ ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NAPIER
AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP AND FIRESIDE GROUPS

Members of the above two groups met to celebrate the 50th jubilee of PWANZ.

Marian Emslie, Convenor Afternoon Fellowship, and Mary Speight, Fireside President welcomed all those present. One of our members gave us a short history of APW and how it evolved from other groups within the Church, which brought back memories from some of those present.

We had entertainment, from members of our congregation. The sales table netted \$126 for the project.



The Northern executive donned garments of the styles worn in earlier year to tell members of a few of the happenings over the decades. In the background is knitting of the present—quilts for Operation Coverup

On Wednesday 13 August, **The Northern Presbyterial** celebrated fifty years of APW with a luncheon following our AGM. Fifty people attended and enjoyed a lovely meal together and a time of sharing APW memories. We started by breaking the fifty years down to decades and sharing some highlights of the early years of our organization. So much has changed! General sharing then followed. We cut a celebration cake and shared afternoon tea using fancy cups, saucers and plates. It was a happy occasion, much enjoyed.

Mary North, Northern Presbyterial 26 Aug 14



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**Material for
the December 2014
issue of Gleanings**
By Monday 17 November)
To Rae Simpson
lestrsimspon@xtra.co.nz
12 Kotanui Ave
Whanagaparaoa 0930

From our convenor's pen following 2014 General Assembly:-

Talofa Presbyterian Women

Thank you for your love, support and prayers for Leautuli and me as we attended our first General Assembly. We presented the beautiful Jubilee quilt, well displayed behind the Moderator's desk (thank you Natalie and ladies) and put forward our recommendation:-

That the National Church commend and actively support the work of Presbyterian Women as they continue their valuable service to the church and community and seek new ways to celebrate the ministry of women and girls in our church.

General Assembly focussed on mission in the church and this was discussed in length over the next few days.

I reminded the Assembly that we have always been and continue to support mission work as well as the importance of our United Nations status. I encouraged our Ministers and leaders to make sure committees are well represented by women as well as making a plea to the women to please step up and take up leadership roles in the church, opportunities are there and we need to take them. When Leautuli seconded our report the Moderator said "and who would speak against this motion", there was dead silence (in a good way I think!) so the church now has an obligation to support us.

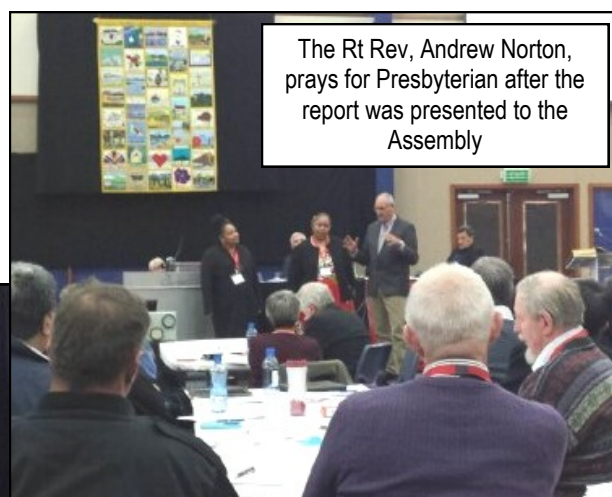
Many women proudly showed us their quilted blocks, and thanked us for the encouraging report. Some said they would certainly keep working, and we had new members wanting to join. Presbyterian Women will continue mission work and representation on United Nations but our structure will look different. One of the international speakers, Rev Allan Nafuki, Secretary of Mission for the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu could not thank us enough for the mission work we have done for their community. I also met Knox College Interns who presented me with a thank you card to thank Presbyterian Women for subsidising their study books. Presbyterian Women you have much work to do because you make a difference to peoples lives.

"When you speak with one voice, you have no idea how loud you can be"
(Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neil)

God's richest blessings
on you all

Your Servant in Christ

Lafulafu Vanila Ekenasio
National Convenor
Presbyterian Women
Aotearoa New Zealand



The Rt Rev, Andrew Norton,
prays for Presbyterian after the
report was presented to the
Assembly

Lafulafu Vanila Ekenasio
with ministry interns.

If you wish to receive your own copy of Gleanings via email, please contact the National Secretary, Shona Bettany, revsbettany@xtra.co.nz with the following details – Name, Email Address, Contact phone number, Church.