

Gleanings

from the people



#81 September/October 2015

August 9 was named Remembrance Sunday and will have been celebrated in some of our churches. Of significance is the fact that this year is the 70th anniversary of Hiroshima. Armistice Day and ANZAC day are also remembered. With information from "The Peoples Friend" Bev. Quigley shares the following:-

REMEMBER ME

The annual occasion of Remembrance is one that evokes, for many, memories of loved ones who were lost or wounded, or are still being lost or wounded in wars in our world. World War 1 ended in November 1918 when an armistice was declared so peace term could be arranged. At 11 am on November 11 the last shot of that war was fired and for many years thereafter Armistice was observed on November 11. At the heart of Remembrance is the red poppy, used since 1920 to remember soldiers and service personnel who died in wars. It was inspired by WW1 poem 'In Flanders Fields' by Colonel John McCrae. In the early years after World War 1 poppies were only worn on Remembrance Day but nowadays are more widely worn. At the heart of Remembrance, is the blood red poppy, a symbol that reminds us of the millions who died in the wars of this world. Moreover, when we think of the blood-red poppy we cannot but contemplate the blood that flowed from the Cross of Calvary and the supreme sacrifice made for all of by the One who gave up his life, a ransom for many and the One who hauntingly said Remember Me.



In times of uncertainty let us stand strong in our faith knowing God has a plan for our future we pray in the words of Sebastian Temple Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord And where there's doubt, true faith in you. As we try to find a new way forward for Presbyterian Women thank you for your feedback groups have expressed concerns, sadness, hope, excitement all at the same time – this has opened the door for conversation - dialogue is key to finding a way forward. Please keep in prayer our members, leadership and business meeting on Saturday 26 September. Praying also for Turakina Maori Girls College, past and present students, staff and board members at this time. We acknowledge work of Friends of Turakina. The school preserved Maori language, culture but importantly Christian values for rural Maori girls, future leaders for their families and iwi. God's promise for us "Ask the Lord to bless your plans, and you will be successful in carrying them out." (Prov 16:3 GNT) God's plans are the best plans if we stay close to Him.

Yours in Christ's Service
Lafulafu

2015 PWANZ National Business Meeting

will be held on between 9am & 4pm Sat 26th September 2015
at Newtown PIC complex, Wellington.

Plan to be there to have your input into the future of our movement.

Have your say about the ideas suggested in this and the last Gleanings.

Remember, one vote per branch. Individual members may also vote, one member per parish

A THIRD WAY ?

From a Presbyterian Women's Organization to A Women's Ministry in Aotearoa New Zealand.

A TRANSITION structure 2015-2016

This proposal considers a transition structure that will move from the old way to a different way for Presbyterian women. It provides an opportunity for a Coordinator/ Spiritual Leader, and a Paid Position in Administration/ Finance from the younger generation to begin moving PW from an organization to a new women's ministry.

Rationale

It is now of the highest priority to engage the next generation and allow them to build a Women's ministry that includes their way of sharing and witnessing their Christian faith, their way of serving, their way of being women with the challenges of global empowerment, gender equality and their response to extreme poverty in the world and the desire for sustainable economic and social development for everyone.

Recent History

During 2006 through 2009 APW groups were decreasing but were encouraged to continue to fellowship together

2008 - An APW Survey: *Striving Towards a Thriving Organization of Presbyterian Women for the 21st Century*

It was concluded that APW seek opportunities to communicate APW issues to a broader range of Presbyterian women. To improve access to the PCANZ website, seek recognition by PCANZ leadership, raise awareness with women clergy and encourage individual APW membership.

APW groups have continued to decrease.

2011 PWANZ Conference in Christchurch – a new name with a focus on attracting younger women.

2013 February, A Consultative Workshop, Seatoun, Wellington. “The Way Forward for Presbyterian Women, Aotearoa New Zealand”.

‘The young women were very interested but didn’t want this to be just another group as they wanted to be able to unpack their faith, to enable each other to grow.....The young women recognized that it was difficult to fit new wine into old wine skins. They valued the wisdom of the older generation and wanted to be part of an intergenerational group but discovered there were gatekeepers.’ (Gleanings No. 66 March/ April 2013)

There was concern of how to bring this group into the lifestyle of the young.

2013 May “A Way Forward” a paper by Nola Stuart presented to the PWANZ National Business Conference, Wellington.

This excellent paper paid special tribute to the outstanding contribution made by Presbyterian women first with PWMU and then Association of Presbyterian Women. However the paper suggested we needed to explore further a new future. Women in the 25- 50 year old age group have a style that is different and does not fit with the present PW model. It was concluded that it was now a time for “new beginnings” a transition time with a detailed structure of moving forward with Taonga/ Treasures being handed over to the next generation.

2014 -2015 Some structural changes in the organization have been made. A paid Administrator was appointed for one year and NCG was elected for one year. These have been extended for a second year. Recently the P&A has been discontinued and the NCG now meets as one decision making body.

Two proposals are now on the table for discussion.

1. A new PWANZ structure has been proposed for the September 2015 National Business meeting.
2. A Notice of Motion has been received to have PWANZ wound up as soon as possible.

Is there A Third Way ?

Can we move forward to enable a Women’s Ministry to emerge?

A proposed Transition structure for the coming year:-

Co-ordinator / Spiritual Leader/ Media Convener

Administration/ Finance (20 hours per week paid position)

Mission

United Nations

A Co-ordinator /Spiritual Leader (a voluntary position)

For the transition to succeed there needs to be a LEADER. This position must be filled by a younger woman, a dynamic spiritual leader, able to make a Christian witness in the world, in the home, community and Church. A mission - oriented woman with the vision to lead and enable a new women’s ministry in the PCANZ . This role would include seeking the interests and needs of younger women through face to face meetings and various electronic media e.g facebook.

A paid worker for Administration and Finance (20 hours per week.)

It is recommended that the task of managing finances be included in the portfolio of this current position. With the introduction of a Coordinator’s/leader’s role, the Administrator’s paid position could now allow the management of finances to be included.

Over the next 12 months the Transition Team would :-

- **Review all finances. Make a priority the suggestion of an annual subscription/donation to all PCANZ churches and Cooperative ventures to support a vibrant Women’s Ministry** (an excellent suggestion from the NCG.)
*CWM(Council for World Mission) has generously provided a \$10,000 grant (August 2015)to enable capacity development for women in PCANZ to be used over the next 12 months.
- **Empower all women in PCANZ by giving the highest priority to a Women’s Ministry Conference in 12 months time.** The conference could be modelled on the style of Connect (PCANZ Youth Conference) with inspiring worship teams, two keynote speakers, workshops and prayer ministry. The conference would be led by a new generation of women and include their interests, passions and learning needs. This CWM funding will enable the Coordinator to lead a team to make it happen.

- **Alternatively, the Co ordinator could be funded for a Roadshow to tour the regions over the first six months and meet up with gatherings of younger women.** There would be the opportunity for dialogue to discover what a Women's Ministry may look like and discern whether the PCANZ should include Women's Ministry alongside Kids Friendly and Youth Ministry. The General Assembly meets in October 2016.
 - **Complete the 2015-16 Special Project. Then transition to a new and different role where a Women's ministry could assist Global Mission by promoting mission projects and encouraging parishes in nation-wide fundraising.** Mission Birthday Gift fund and Used Stamp fund may continue as popular ways for parishes to raise mission funds.
 - **Continue to fund a representative to participate in CSW at the United Nations and provide feedback throughout the PCANZ. Maintain links to NCWNZ**
 - **The coordinator would build a team to initiate a media strategy around a Women's Ministry including Facebook; PCANZ website by creating links specifically to women in PI, Maori and Asian Ministries; SPANZ and Presbyterian Newsletters.**
 - **Ensure that the continuation of groups of Presbyterian Women in parishes or presbyterials would be of their own choice.** There is no suggestion in this proposal that groups of Presbyterian /Cooperating women or regions of Presbyterian women should stop meeting together. Any funds held by presbyterials/ groups would need to be discussed by them and decisions made. **Continue relationships with Methodist women as desired.**
- Recommend that at the Women's conference there be an opportunity for – a time of THANKSGIVING, proudly celebrating the past achievements of Presbyterian Women (PWMU and APW) and praying for God's abundant BLESSINGS on a new generation of women.**

A proposal contributed by: Pamela Tankersley, Nola Stuart, Jill Little and Heather Tate.

We have these proposals before us. Be at the business meeting to place your parish vote regarding our future.

If you need accommodation, you need to book early.

Wearable Arts and NCW conference are also in Wellington the same weekend!

Registration Form for the National Gathering

Saturday 26th September 2015- 9am – 4pm

PIPC Newtown, Wellington

Name.....

Parish and Presbyterial

Voting Delegate for

(Note: only one voting delegate per parish)

Travel Plans: arrive in Wellington

time must leave meeting

(We need to know if a member needs to leave early to catch a flight)

Accommodation in Wellington: local information is available

Book accommodation early. There are other functions in Wellington that weekend

(we may be able to help you with accommodation)

Koha: \$20.00 given on the day - this will cover catering and printing costs

Please return this form to Lois Robertson 2/2 Pattie St, PETONE 5012

or lois.robertson@clear.net.nz, Local Arrangements Convener

By Wednesday 16th September

Closure of Northern Presbyterial

When APW began as a movement, every group was affiliated to presbyterial and the national body. 51 years ago, the monthly Auckland Presbyterial meetings had an attendance of over 200 women, and provided a crèche for preschoolers, and in the 1970's, as a young minister's wife, I used it. Now attendance at what is known as Northern Presbyterial has dwindled to fewer than 30 and unable to replace its executive. I look back over my 51 years as a Presbyterian woman. I recall comments in the mid 1960's that PWMU members were struggling to embrace the new APW. Now APW members are struggling equally with the PWANZ concept and various changes that are taking place, and many parishes have their own groups, catering for their own individual needs and doing mission in their own way. Now we are struggling to have 30 at the quarterly meetings, and to find office bearers, so reluctantly the decision was made to close at the 51st annual meeting. We ended with a Communion service, followed by a light lunch and sharing of memories.

Rae Simpson



Moderator of Northern Presbytery at the final Presbyterial communion service.

Empower to Restore



Hopefully you have received your next project material by now. There are so many needs, but this year we have chosen to support our own children who are struggling by preparing a book, "Gemstones 2" for their teachers to use, and families in the Philippines who are still struggling after Typhoon Yolanda

Joan Roberts



THE QUILT IS TRAVELLING

Over the last two months the Quilt has travelled many kilometres. From Hawkes Bay to Manawatu and then the Kapiti Coast. This last week it was viewed at the meeting of the Wairarapa Presbyterial in Masterton. It was greatly admired and the talent of those who had had made the blocks was appreciated. We acknowledged the work that Natalie Watkin had done in particular with this project. Now the quilt is heading to the Wellington region to be seen by some groups in that area and then be on display at the National Business Meeting on 26th September. From there it crosses Cook Strait for it's South Island travels.

Rosemary Ward

From Turakina Maori Girls College



Jan Thomson writes:-

I am sure everyone interested in TMGC will have heard on National Radio early August of the proposed possible closure of the College. I heard it on three different news bulletins – all contained pretty much the same information, though differently presented. Today (13th August) there is quite a big write-up in our Manawatu Standard, and I suspect probably all national and regional newspapers in the country.

On the evening of 12th August, we had our already planned annual meeting of *Friends of Turakina* at the College, following dinner with the girls, which has been our practice for many years. We were very fortunate to have Dr Kathie Irwin, the appointed commissioner for the Board of Proprietors attend our meeting and able to fill us in with a great deal of information. I might say her being at the meeting had been arranged some time before the press announcements, and she had spent most of the day in Martin in meetings with Ministry of Education and other personnel. The timing was perfect! Neither she nor the school staff had any idea about all this until a Tuesday phone call. As you can imagine, there is shock all round.

Below is what Dr Nick Thomson wrote for the Friends of Turakina Newsletter.

BREAKING NEWS

I'm sure that, like us, you were very disappointed, if not surprised, to hear on the national news yesterday morning that the Ministry of Education is considering withdrawing funding from Turakina Maori Girls' College. It is obvious that *Tihei Turakina* has not brought about the desired increase in the roll, as discussed in recent newsletters.

We, the committee of Friends, held our Annual General Meeting last evening at the College, and it was very fortunate that Dr Kathie Irwin was able to be there to explain the situation.

Dr Kathie is a third generation Old Girl of TMGC. She came on to the Board of Proprietors a few years ago, and due to the resignations and non-replacement of a number of the Board members, the PCANZ suspended the Board and appointed Kathie as commissioner in its place. The committee of Friends was unaware of this. Since then Kathie has been working tirelessly, in a purely voluntary capacity, to promote the College, fitted in among her other commitments.

Dr Kathie is totally committed to TMGC; she is enthusiastic, imaginative, resourceful, and has multiple helpful contacts. If *Tihei Turakina* were Plan A, then she has now swung into promoting Plan B. We have one calendar month to convince the Ministry of Education that TMGC has a future more or less in its present form, and if anyone can bring that about, I believe it is Kathie. Should this effort not be successful the college would close at the end of this year.

At our meeting last evening we also discussed the situation regarding Friends in the event of closure of the College. Friends will continue. As I noted earlier, Kathie is resourceful, and there is a Plan C; the spirit of TMGC will continue, though it would take a very different form, a form that is not even being considered in any detail yet.

For all of us who have supported Turakina for so long, we must see two sides of the coin, the fine past, and the currently falling roll. For various reasons, there has been concern that the school roll has been falling, and our minister of education, Hekia Parata has been working hard and somewhat ruthlessly at closing schools which she no longer sees as viable. This news surely must strike us as shocking but inevitable. However, if there cannot be some turnaround or reprieve in the next few weeks, we must ask what will happen to the students and the staff, suddenly without their much loved place of learning and employment? Turakina has a fine heritage. Many past students in whom we must have pride have become leaders in their fields. Turakina stands tall.

I implore all my readers to hold Turakina College, past and present students, staff and board members in your prayers.

Rae

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Recommended reading

Greens and Greys

By Rosalie Sugrue

Molly's heart warming story of growing up in New Zealand in the 1950s and 1960s parallels that of many Pasifika young people today, as they grapple with what it means to be a Christian, while staying loyal to their family, church and culture. They too face issues of morality, sex, sin, suicide, homosexuality and all sorts of other unmentionables. In *Greens and Greys* we find that we can meet and overcome life's challenges, grow into a secure personal identity and develop a robust faith through trial, error and openness to learning.

We may be a little shocked by some of Molly's experiences, but if we are honest, we know that they are real!

"Molly's story will take you through experiences spiritual and sexual seldom talked about openly, but so often struggled with in silence. The skilful and insightful choice of words . both descriptive and sometimes disturbing, creates images and recalls memories for people of all ages. This book is engaging, informative, entertaining and challenging..

Rev Loyal Gibson

Available in paperback 212pp, 6" x 9", soft cover, \$35.50 including p&p
and three eBook formats, Kindle, ePub & PDF, \$7.99

From www.pgpl.co.nz



Presbyterian Women at the United Nations News

United Nations Reports from 2014 and 2015, plus the United Nations Quadrennial Report and the United Nations response to this will be available in hard copy at the gathering in Wellington. A revised job description will also be available which more accurately reflects the work load as well as the names of UN experienced people who have agreed to form a small committee to assist in this valuable work. Lay and ordained women are already expressing interest in applying to be members of the 2016 delegation. Taking a delegation is time consuming but very rewarding. Formal applications will be called for soon. Each applicant will be self funded. My sincere thanks to all groups and larger gatherings who have invited me to speak about the United Nations, and my grateful thanks to all those who support this work throughout our church with such amazing generosity.

Carol L Grant
United Nations Convenor

Material for the next issue of Gleanings

Is due by Monday 13th October

To Rae Simpson lestrsimpson@xtra.co.nz
12 Kotanui Ave, Whangaparaoa 0930

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.

