

# Gleanings

*from the people*

#82 December 2015



Talofa and Greetings in the Mighty Name of Jesus

God is good - All the time! All the time – God is good! Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support for our NCG during our term.

*To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. (Heb 11:1 NIV)*

We prayed for our future. We moved forward then back, and also in circles. We wanted a womens ministry or do we! Its been a challenge! Its been a blessing! In our faith journey GOD has always been with us and everything is in God's time. We have direction! We have a new team! Praise the Lord! Please pray and support the new Transition Team. I would also like to thank Shona, Secretary and Rae Simpson, Gleanings editor for your contribution, hard work and commitment which is much appreciated. May God continue to bless you and your families. We cannot forget Turakina Maori Girls College let us continue to pray for principal, staff, girls and community God comfort and give them peace at this time, seeking guidance for the future. Finally, thank you for ladies for the privilege to serve you in this way. Your tireless service for the Lord is reflected in all you do. My prayer that you will know how special you are and to carry on the work of God serving in His love. Eleanor Roosevelt quotes "You must do the things you think you cannot do." "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." My encouragement is "be comfortable in your own skin!" Christmas blessings to you all. May your hearts be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Blessed New Year

Yours in Christ's Service

*Lafulafu Vanila Ekenasio*



## STAR

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:10

### FROM THE FATHER'S HEART

My child, search for Me daily with as much diligence as the wise men on the night of My birth. My "star" still shines. I still bring hope. I continue to light the way for anyone who seeks to worship Me. And as long as you keep Me on the throne of your life, you won't have to look far to find Me.

### A GRATEFUL RESPONSE

In search of the star, I journey far to see my heart's delight. There, all along, in the day or the night, You wait to receive my gifts of praise and adoration. I have seen the light; I have found love wrapped in a manger. You, Lord, will always be the star of my life.

### SIMPLE TRUTH

At the centre of Christmas is the heart of God.

<http://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/christmas-devotionals/star-christmas-devotional-november-30.html>

## PWANZ Business meeting Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September

The annual Business Meeting of Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand (PWANZ) was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at the Pacific Island Church in Newtown, Wellington. We were welcomed by the Session Clerk of the Parish Mr Umufalesea Belford.

The PCANZ Assembly Executive Secretary the Reverend Wayne Matheson who was invited to chair the meeting opened the morning session by welcoming all present and then led with devotions. PWANZ National Committee Co-ordinating Convenor Lafulafu Ekenasio lit our candle in remembrance of all Presbyterian Women who have died since we last met. Members then stood for a time of silence in their memory. Greetings were brought to the meeting from The Moderator of PCANZ the Right Reverend Andrew Norton.

The Business Meeting began with alterations being made to the 2010 Constitution/Guidelines so that our charitable status can be retained. This was necessary because of changes asked for by the Charities Commission.

Three motions lay on the table:

- 1). *A Notice of Motion to have PWANZ wound up as soon as possible.*
- 2). *A new PWANZ structure proposed from the current National Governing Committee.*
- 3). *The Third Way? From a Presbyterian Women's Organization to a Women's Ministry in Aotearoa New Zealand with a Transition structure for 2015 – 2016.*

The NCG withdrew their motion (2) and then discussion moved onto Motion 3 with the agreement of the meeting. An amendment to Motion (1)) "to bring future financial action in line with what is in our constitution" was presented. Following morning tea questions for clarification of both motions were taken.

Following spirited and gracious discussion Motion 3 was amended

- 1), that a Transition team would be established consisting of a Co-ordinator, Paid Administration/Finance (20 hours per week), UN Convenor and Mission Convenor.
  - 2), that an Advisory Group would be established to provide support and consultancy to the Transition Team.
- Both motions were carried by a majority of 70% therefore Motion 1 re closure fell.

Advisory team members nominated and elected are Valerie Anderson, Lafulafu Ekenasio, Lois Robertson and Heather Tate,

The current National Co-ordinating Group (NCG) is to stay on until 30<sup>th</sup> November when the new Transition team will become operational. The Advisory team will oversee the advertising for the Transition team and voting will be postal. Carol Grant will remain United Nations Convenor until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

Those present were thanked for their goodwill and respect during discussion and it was noted that it was pleasing that members of the organisation had had the opportunity to think about and offer opinions about possible ways forward so that discussion at the meeting was frank and open.

We were exceptionally cared for by the women of the Pacific Island congregation from breakfast for the early arrivers to afternoon tea as we ended the day.

Following the business meeting, the advisory group advertised as widely as possible, the positions to be filled as the transitional team, and voting forms were distributed for the position of administrator. United Nations convenor, Rev Carol Grant and Missions convenor, Sally Russell, were elected unopposed.



***It is time for PWANZ (formerly APW) to share with the next generation its “taonga”, to provide support and to “hand the baton on”!***

**Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand (PWANZ) is seeking a Co ordinator to lead a team to focus on younger women to reach their full potential for leadership, networking and growing the Church.**

Presbyterian Women at it's National Business meeting in September agreed it was time to relook at itself, restructure and move the organization on in a *new way*. The aim is to build capacity development of women in the Church. It wants to target those under 50 years; Pacific Island, Asian, migrant and rural women. PWANZ wants a structure created in which young women in the PCANZ may be empowered to be active in mission and ministry.

21<sup>st</sup> Century society is very different from those of the “Baby Boomers”. Today's young women share many of the same passions e.g being acutely aware of the Spirit of God and strong advocates for social justice. However, they socialise differently and tend not to attend meetings but prefer to “meet” through social media or face to face over “a coffee”. These women are BUSY, juggling families, careers, some immersed in different cultures and church.

Presbyterian Women has now established a Transition Team. Over the following ten months the team will consult with younger women as to how “*in their way*” the Church might engage with them to realise their full potential for leadership, networking and growth. The Transition Team will continue to fulfill its advocacy role of the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women and its role in (Overseas) Mission. Church groups will continue as they choose and will not be forgotten!

We ask for your prayers that we may find a Coordinator. If you know of a younger woman leader, who wants a challenge and has lots of energy please point them to the PWANZ website for a Job Description or email Heather Tate. [hvtate@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:hvtate@vodafone.co.nz)

## **Individual Members**

Most of our PW members are members through the PW group they attend, ie. Group Members. However, we do have some members who do not have a PW group at their church, or they are unable to get to a PW group, but who still wish to be a member of PWANZ. We call these ‘Individual Members’.

NCG are wanting to communicate directly with PW individual members – just as it communicates directly to PW Groups. To do this, we need to know who you are ...

... So, if you are an ‘Individual Member’ of PWANZ, or are interested in being an Individual Member please contact the National Administrator - Sandra Waldrom, 31 Donald Street, Karori, Wellington, 6021, email: [sandra.waldrom@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.waldrom@gmail.com), with your contact details, ie. name, address, phone numbers, email address, and the name of the church you attend.



## **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women CSW 60**

**Priority theme:** Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development.

**Review theme:** The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.  
See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw#sthash.rfSVD421.dpuf>

In March 2016 at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, a delegation will again represent Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ. The sixteen women, all working full-time, are all South Islanders, Four women from the North Island expressed interest but did not follow up with a written application and CV. Some applications were not accepted.

The 2016 delegation members come from an amazing variety of professional backgrounds – clergy, church lay leaders or professional women. All are involved in key leadership positions, and all network within their workplaces and interact with the wider community. I am confident each one will make a valuable contribution in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women on their return. They are an amazing multi talented and very skilled group who will make a difference wherever they are!

The United Nations has, once again requested that numbers be limited due to the considerable number of women from the United Nations signatory countries wishing to attend CSW60. Earlier this year 9,000 women and girls came to New York CSW59, was a call to action to Governments and Civil Society Organisations to fully implement gender equality and to empower women and girls. Next year will be crucial as priorities are refined. It will be interesting to measure our own Church's progress against these goals and plans for the empowerment of women and girls.

Please note that each member of the delegation is completely self funded. Airfares and accommodation are the biggest costs. Additional precautions such as comprehensive travel insurance and daily living expenses add to the cost. Most are currently are in the process of applying for leave from their workplace or working through study requirements. I know you will keep us in prayer as we travel overseas to represent you all for this is an important and very valuable international mission project by Presbyterian Women.

**Carol Grant, United Nations Convenor**

### **Visit to Sri Lankan partners, the home of our 2013/14 special Project**

In October, International Programmes Coordinator Trish Murray visited Monlar, Devasarana and the Women's Centre. All are hopeful about the new government and have had some input into policies. Trish met Tamil women in the north of the country who spoke of horrific experiences during the 30 year war and five years in detention centres at its end. They said it will take at least a generation to re-establish their communities and restore their farms. All three partners have worked to improve relations between ethnic groups for many years. Devasarana brought 50 Tamil families from Mannar in the north down to Kurunegala to meet Sinhala families, establishing good relationships. The Sinhala families made a return trip to Mannar taking tree saplings and other items with them as gifts for Tamil families.





## TURAKINA NEWS - November 2015

On Saturday 14 November Jill Little and I attended the annual prizegiving at Turakina Maori Girls College. With such a small roll (50 pupils) it was a very different occasion to many we have attended in the past. This was also partly due to the fact that because the girls were having to still sit their NCEA exams instead of going home for the holidays straight after prizegiving, the number of whanau was also much smaller than in previous years.



However, in the absence of Principal Mrs Terehia Channings, who was still on sick leave following surgery, the Deputy Principal Mr Kere Mihaere, staff and visitors addressed the whanau, friends, and girls, and presented the awards. As always, the girls were so supportive and congratulatory to those receiving awards, and as the event progressed it became quite obvious who would be the Dux for 2015. Ella Lyon, a bubbly, bright, hardworking and thoroughly likeable young woman, received many academic awards, and then the ultimate award of Dux. Her grandmother, who it seems had a big hand in arranging for Ella to be at TMGC presented her with a cloak she had made and there were flowers and the usual acknowledgements of Ella's well deserved achievement. And though the numbers were down, the haka in her honour was memorable!

But yes, the school is to close on 27 January. And reading the list of shortcomings, failures etc. over recent years there really was no hope of any different outcome right from the start of the current negotiations.

There is obviously a huge amount of work ahead for a lot of people. I don't know just where *Friends* will fit into that, but we will be guided by the Council of Assembly.

A lot of people are hurting.

Jan Thomson  
For *Friends of Turakina*



*Hekia Parata, Minister of Education says, "There's a great deal of goodwill towards the school and I am saddened about having to make this decision". "The Ministry of Education will now focus its efforts on working with the remaining students at Turakina and their whānau to find suitable schooling for 2016".*

World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March

Receive Children, Receive Me.

Prepared by women from Cuba.

Plan to attend an event near you



## Transition Team for 2016

**Coordinator** :vacant

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## The Advisory Team

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On behalf of Presbyterian Women the Advisory Team wish to warmly congratulate Sandra, Sally and Carol in their success to serve in the Transition Team until September 2016. Presbyterian Women is indeed blessed to have such highly skilled women in these positions. We express our thanks to the other applicants who put themselves forward to be considered by you the PW members. Applications always take time and energy and this is most appreciated.

At present the Advisory Team is working hard to promote the Coordinator's job and the proposed vision for PW. It is targeting "all age" parishes around the country, advertising for a younger woman leader who has energy and vision, to be Coordinator. It is not an ideal time as we run up to Christmas to seek the right person for the job. However, during the Summer holidays it could be a time of reflection for a potential leader to heed the call.

If we have not filled the Coordinator's position by Christmas the Advisory Team will take on that responsibility and begin the action of the PW agreed vision.

As I sign off as your editor, I need to extend a huge thank you to the Advisory Group who have worked so hard to bring the Transition Team to fruition, and to the NCG who stayed on until the end of November, while this team is formed. Very special thanks to Ngaire who has served 5 years as our treasurer, a year longer than any other member of the team. As I wish all my readers God's richest blessings through the Christmas Season and always, I bring my personal good wishes to the new team as they move PWANZ into the future.

*Rae*