



Christmas—A time for coming together and healing

2011 has brought with it earthquakes in Japan and Christchurch, on-going grief after the Pike River tragedy, the lack of water in Tuvalu and now the pollution from a broken ship on our coastline.

The devastation that hit Christchurch continues to be on our minds as the city gathers together to rebuild in the wake of the earthquakes this year. The memories of loss and mayhem still plague many in the city and our hearts go out to each and every one of those who have suffered and continue to suffer in their loss.

The stories of women who have had to struggle to overcome the lack of sanitary conditions and water shortages will no doubt clearly identify with the issues facing the islands such as Tuvalu now. A resident in the eastern suburbs of Christchurch had become immune to bucketing water for washing and trudging through the

snow to their “garden en suite” during this winter. They are now ecstatic to have a fresh smelling flushing toilet inside their home. Such basic needs of fresh clean water and washing facilities that we in other parts of New Zealand all take for granted.

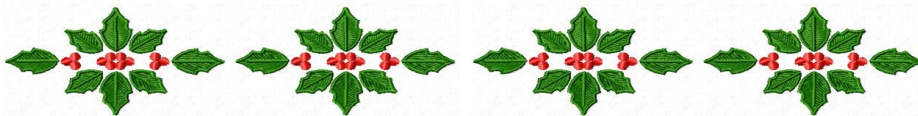
Healing is a long process, but it begins with faith and prayer. People can be hurt from poor health; they can need healing from cancer or chemotherapy. Christians can also need healing from loss, hurtful relationships or abusive marriages. A prayer for healing is often the first step to recovery. By gaining the support of your fellow Christian community, you can begin to heal. Pray for healing and for the reversal of your suffering. God hears all prayers and wants to answer our prayers for all those who are faithful. Religion is a gift that

we have been given from God in heaven.

Our family and friends are universally important. The Ashburton community recently opened their hearts to the women of Christchurch with a special “day away”. Now you have an opportunity in the joy of giving and the value of facing your fears to join with new friends and enjoy the blessings of fellowship, entertainment and enlightenment by securing your attendance at the Presbyterian Women New Zealand (APW) National Gathering in Christchurch from Friday 20th to Sunday 22 April 2012.

The National Co-ordinating Group which recently met on 11 October 2011 extends to you, our very best wishes for a memorable and Happy Christmas and so very much to look forward to in 2012.

Blessings,
Jan Harland
Convenor



New Zealand's 163,000 vulnerable children

A quote from “Every Child Counts” reports that ‘New Zealand is one of the most poorly performing countries in the OECD in terms of outcomes for children. We also have one of the lowest public investments in children in the OECD’. The government is calling for a response to its Green Paper on Vulnerable Children stating that its vision for children is that ‘Every child *thrives, belongs and achieves*’. (Presbyterian Women NZ has NCW representatives throughout the country who are being asked to respond to this paper.) The document suggests the government should encourage communities to take more responsibility for the wellbeing of their children and it includes the

church as one of these communities. As followers of Jesus who loved children, we need to ask the question “As members of Christ’s church what responsibility do we have to society’s children and how can we make a difference?”

The challenge for us is to pray, listen, talk and follow the Spirit’s leading. Kid’s Friendly has some wonderful programmes and responses will be different for meeting the needs in each community. However as Presbyterian Women let us take this challenge seriously and respond.

Quotes from
NCW The Circular No. 547
October 2011
- Heather Tate

FROM THE KIDS found in an old issue of
Hubbards Clipboard!

- Spend time with me. Enjoy me.
- Tell me what you like about me.
- Help me find the words to tell you how I feel.
- Help me feel big and proud. Honour my feelings.
- Tell me clearly what you want from me.
- Be firm. Say No. I depend on you to set limits for me.
- Let me know you still love me when you don’t like what I do.
- Keep me safe when you get mad at me.
- Let me learn by trying things. Comfort me when trying makes me cross.
- Say sorry when you’re wrong. Show me it really is Ok to make mistakes.
- Coach me. I learn how to act by copying you.
- It’s my job to be the kid. I need you to be the grown up!

Compiled by *Relationship Services*.

Charities Commission Number

It has been established that Presbyterian Women NZ (APW) have the right to operate their own bank accounts. All receipts and letter heads, to have the Charities Commission Number on them. Because we have a number of different combinations of parishes, we would ask that the APW or Fellowship go to their Parish Treasurer, ask them for the Charities Commission number they are using, and put that on all their receipts and letter heads.

Study Grant Recipients

Dellwyn Moylan - Ashburton
Hospital Chaplaincy
Erin Pendreigh - Cromwell
Bachelor of Theology
Elizabeth Tamati - Porirua
Bachelor of Theology
Congratulations to you all



From the National Co-ordinating Group

• Nan Burgess Bequest - \$20,000

After much discussion the NCG Committee agreed that we take to the National Gathering a recommendation "That this money be used to fund someone to work with Presbyterian Youth Mission, to publicize Presbyterian Women NZ (APW)". We would be looking for a young person, who could assess from the community, an action plan on how to connect with Presbyterian Women of the next generation, and how to continue on into the future, still making our organization meaningful to the coming generations.

• Birthday Mission and Stamp money

The recipients this year are -

Turakina	\$8,000
Christian Nursery School (Jaghadri)	\$1,000
St. Thomas School	\$1,000
Global Mission	\$10,000
Leadership camp for Two young women	\$1,060



Gathering—20-22 April 2012

If any parish has not received a brochure, please contact the National Secretary, Valerie Anderson, P.O. Box 105, Alexandra.

Our Speakers are well worthwhile coming to hear -

- Mr. John Hunt - Celtic Spirituality
- Mrs. Gwen Neave - Turakina Old Girl
- Mrs. Jan McMeeken - Youth Court Judge - Christchurch

Plus

Heather James - Singing
Christchurch Korean Community
PIC Wellington sharing some of their culture with us

We look forward to you coming and sharing this weekend with us

Snippets

- **St. Paul's Church, Napier Fireside**, held a Bring and Buy Stall to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. Members brought along home baking, marmalade, lemon honey, walnuts and produce. \$500 was raised on the day.
- **Dorothy Finlayson**, President.

- **The Gift for someone who has everything -** What will you give to someone who have everything this Christmas? May I suggest a 'Charity Gift Donation', that is, giving a financial payment for under-privileged people in place of a Christmas gift. There are a number of charities out there who are running this scheme, including Christian World Service.
- **Rae Simpson**

- **From Christchurch Presbyterian** This year we were invited to have our Country Day at Ashburton and what a great day it was. The theme for the day was 'Kia kaha - Forever Strong' and the organising committee had arranged a day of fellowship, worship and entertainment. Over 130 women from Christchurch, South and Mid-Canterbury, assembled at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and

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www.presbyterian.org.nz
Click on 'National Ministries'
- Assoc. Presbyterian Women
- Gleanings newsletter

The next issue of Gleanings will be
MARCH/APRIL 2012

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Margaret Hastie
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All information for the next issue
to be in the hands of
Hazel O'Brien *no later than*
15 February 2012
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Snippets - continued

• From Christchurch Cont'd

The programme included music and dance by young people from the parish, and how talented they were. The speaker, Christine Ross, told us of her busy life and we marveled at her many achievements in sport, farming and community work. A beautiful lunch was provided and we were able to browse and buy from a wide variety of stalls.

- Operation Cover-up

Many of our members do knitting for Operation Cover-up and these goods are shipped to Eastern Europe. Thousands of blankets, hats, jerseys, etc. are sent from NZ each year. The thank you letters and stories from those who have visited these areas make one realize how much the knitting is appreciated, especially when in winter the temperature can lower to -20°.

- Gillian Burlton

Nelson Regional Day

St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Motueka was the venue for this year's Nelson Regional Day. The theme was 'I am'; each parish group was invited to prepare a Worship Centre depicting one of Christ's 'I am's'. Amazingly each chose a different one - 'I am the light of the world'; 'I am the bread of life'; 'I am the true vine'; 'I am the way the truth and the life'. Other features of the day were workshops on music, visiting, and an inspirational talk by a talented quilter; some examples of whose handiwork was on display.

- Lois Diaper



From 'Friends of Turakina' (Marton)

It is some time since anything was published widely about TMGC, although the parishes of the Manawatu Wanganui Presbytery have been contacted from time to time. And some of them have been able to host girls from the College at Sunday services/lunches etc.

From time to time those same parishes are invited to contribute financially to various projects, particularly relating to the hostel, and their contributions enable *Friends* to preserve its funds for the scholarships which are its priority. The latest such project has been for matching bedcovers – a different colour for each year group – in the dormitories. It has taken quite a long time to raise the money, source appropriate covers and purchase them. But thanks to the generosity of some parishes and individuals and Spotlight's generous 20% discount, the whole project has come in just under budget and the covers are all now at the College awaiting distribution next term. Of course, as with any residential property, maintenance in the hostel is ongoing and where possible Mr. Paul Hudson, the maintenance man at the school, does his best to keep the costs for that as low as possible.

The school roll this year is quite low, and as usually happens, has dropped further during the year. Terehia Channings, the Principal, sees as a priority the recruitment and retention of pupils and is planning a promotional tour very soon. It is pleasing that there have been a large number of requests for enrolment packs (for 2012), including 2 from Australia, from which there have been a number of acceptances. This is a good start and we all look forward to hearing of many more new enrolments in the next few months.

Early in September the College held its annual Kapa Haka competitions – what used to be called Culture Night. This year it was held in the Marton Memorial Hall on a Saturday morning and the enthusiasm and hard work of all the girls was very evident in their very professional presentations. Kowhai Whare were the overall win-

ners, though as Mrs Channings said in her newsletter to parents "*We are so very proud of the performances by all our Houses on Saturday 3 September as they took the stage at the Marton War Memorial Hall for our Inter-House Kapa Haka competition. All Houses were winners on the day. However, we congratulate Kowhai Whare, who are our School Inter-House Kapa Haka champions for 2011*".

Now it is time for exams and the girls are studying hard. The staff are all hardworking and encouraging and relate really well to the students who, in return, respond well to the staff.

Many people will probably remember the drive for a gymnasium for the school. A huge amount of time and effort was put in by a number of people, but sadly the financial situation of the school just will not allow such a large outlay in the foreseeable future. However, the Sports Co-ordinator has been busy setting up a fitness training room for the students. *We have been fortunate to have some equipment donated to the school from staff, whanau, and the local gym. A maintenance and safety check will be carried out on all donated equipment before the students are able to have access. It is hoped that an unused dormitory may be used as a fitness room once more equipment is acquired, and the classroom space that is currently being used is needed.* (Principal's Report August 2011).

Hostel staffing this year has been quite a problem because of sickness etc. Long-term Matron (about 15 years) Mrs Marley Milner has been on sick leave for most of the year, returning to work recently. But she soon realised that she needed to retire completely and on 18 August the staff held a farewell lunch for Marley, at which there was representation from both *Friends* and the Board of Proprietors. We all wish Marley (Auntie Marley to the girls) well as she returns to her home and whanau in Wellington. Some members of the school staff, including Rev Tukua

Tuwairua, have volunteered to assist with relief in the hostel when necessary, thus freeing up the CEO (Principal Terehia). And there is excited anticipation that a Hostel Manager appointment will be made very soon.

You will realise that this letter is almost all about the hostel, but that is where *Friends*' focus has always been. The Board of Proprietors, as owner of the buildings and employer of the hostel staff, is working very hard, with limited finance, to ensure that everything possible is done to provide a comfortable, safe, home-away-from-home environment for the girls who choose to attend Turakina. The work of the Board of Trustees concentrates on the 'school side', with the support of the Department of Education.

During the first week of the last school holidays Terehia was able to attend the First Time Principals' Conference in Auckland and found it invaluable to be able to network with other 'new' principals. Then on 11 and 12 August Terehia and the school Chaplain, Rev Tukua Tuwairua were able to attend the Presbyterian Schools Conference in Dunedin. Terehia had been asked to give a 10 minute presentation about TMGC during the conference dinner and both she and Tukua were very gratified at the interest, support and encouragement for the school shown by the other attendees. They returned to the College absolutely "buzzing"!

While at the Conference Columba College offered to pay for two TMGC year 9 students **per year** to enjoy a week's skiing with their year 9 girls in the South Island. The first two, Ella Lyon and Lani Hirini have now been able to take up that generous offer and presented their report, complete with power point presentation, to a very envious school at a recent assembly!

- **Jan Thomson**

Secretary/Treasurer
Friends of Turakina