

# Gleanings



## APW's 45th BIRTHDAY AND TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

As the sun shone, but the temperature plummeted, 120 people gathered in Palmerston North for our Triennial Business and Study Conference. Many came long distances with some travelling from the far North and from as far South as Dunedin. There was an abundance of butterflies to be seen; crafted butterflies in brilliant colours, butterflies fluttering in outside pots and graphics of butterflies, and the globe which all portrayed the conference theme "God calls 'Touch the Earth Lightly'".

Karakia and song led by The Rev Heather Mataamua, Chaplain of Turakina Maori Girl's College and a group of students began the official opening. Guests and participants were welcomed by the National Convener. The Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr Graham Redding gave his

perspective on the theme in his opening address. Warm greetings were given by the Palmerston North Mayor, two executive members of MWF, and the Moderator of Presbytery. The Very Rev Pamela Tankersley, Teacher/Facilitator, introduced the conference theme and continued with an interactive method of studying the scriptures around the theme over the weekend which was warmly welcomed by everyone. Throughout the weekend at the beginning and ending of the day, the Rev Sharon Ensor shared thoughtful devotions and led the Sunday morning Communion Service. The Rev Silvia Purdie gave us a great time for singing praise ably assisted by several pianists and introduced a song she had composed especially for the conference.

### Two Speakers at Conference

The two speakers at the Conference were Mrs Linda Bales and Dr Kevin Tate.

#### Linda Bales:

Mary McIntyre met Linda at the 2007 Commission on the Status of Women and put her name forward as a speaker for the Conference. Linda left a lasting impression with us through both her presentation and her personality. Linda works for the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, USA, directing an advocacy programme focusing primarily on women's issues.

Linda said there was something extremely magical and powerful when a group of women gather with a common purpose – seeking justice and having an urgency to see the world safe and whole. She then spoke about serious issues of the day facing women and children – gender equality,

food production, climate change, HIV & AIDS, violence against women, and obstetric fistula. Linda used the story of Ruth and Boaz as an example of women with few rights and opportunities and freedom being found through the generosity of a man, Boaz. She reminded us of the scripture *There is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*, and of the transforming life of Jesus who supported women at every turn, bringing an upside down kingdom to earth. Jesus accepted women for whom they were, by word and deed, he conferred a new dignity on women. Linda encouraged us to do as Jesus did by engaging in a life that really makes a difference. We can then meet the Ruths in the fields and begin our work together.

#### Excerpts from Sharon's early morning prayers:

Our minds are like crows  
They pick up everything that glitters  
No matter how uncomfortable  
Our nests get with all that metal in them.

- Thomas Merton

Stuff.

There is more stuff in the world than ever before.

Stuff has become a major threat to freedom and happiness.

It destroys nature and peace. It steals time and space.

It fouls beauty

- Leunig.

#### Reflection on Scripture:

Matthew 6:19-21, 31-33

#### Prayer of St Teresa;

Let nothing disturb you, Nothing distress you;

While all things fade away, God is unchanging.

Be patient, for with God in your heart nothing is lacking, God is enough.

#### Closing Prayer:

Shine the light of your love on our spirits, God

Help us to see what gets in the way of your Way.

Give us the courage to empty out our life's clutter.

Thank you for your power working through us.

May we walk into this day with a deeper awareness of your light, your courage and your power, shown to us in Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

## Two Speakers at Conference Cont'd.

### Kevin Tate:

Kevin is known to many through his work as a scientist and through his wide-ranging community work. He retired from leading a national research programme on climate change, but continues in an emeritus role as a Research Associate in the Global Processes team at Massey University. Kevin is also a member of the Church's Ecological Task Group and a member of St David's, Palmerston North.

Kevin's presentation provided us with very clear evidence of the effects of climate change, reminding us that three

global reports in 2007 told us very clearly that, if unheeded, global climate change will put life as we know it, in danger by the end of this century. The reports speak about signs that show we are not living sustainably on the planet and, although cheap fuels have brought us huge growth in economies and populations, we have not been taking the planet into account in terms of the cost. One of the biggest challenges we face is to get the message across that it is our grandchildren who will suffer. We need to take steps now to protect

them. Kevin shares his passion and commitment to Climate Change with children around the country, and particularly in the Manawatu.

Kevin said that people are often unsure what individuals can do to make a difference. The government has a role to help people make changes by offering options and suggestions for change. The Carbon Zero website: [www.carbonzero.co.nz](http://www.carbonzero.co.nz) gives practical ways of reducing carbon emissions and if we can all play our part, the total reduction would be considerable.

## Workshops ...

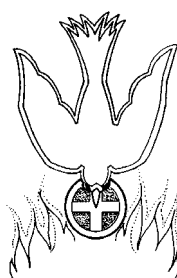
Comments on the Conference evaluation sheets expressed much satisfaction with the topics and also with the high standard of presentations. Many of the participants marked their workshop five out of five, and wished they could attend more than one workshop.

**Bible Study** led by the Very Rev Pamela Tankersley was attended by over thirty people who appreciated new insights.

**Music/Singing** conducted by Roy Tankersley, Community, Church and Youth Choir Director, was praised for the introduction of new hymns and songs used in different parts of a service of worship. Over thirty-five attended this workshop.

**The workshop offering dance** as praise and worship was conducted by Jennifer Cowan, Bible College student and recent Ucol Tutor of Performing Arts. It proved to be inspirational and refreshing. "Now I can dance for God" was one comment.. Seventeen folk attended.

**Liz Whitehead from Christian World Service** was assisted by their new Director in portraying global community programmes expounding the challenges of the environmental impact of climate change. Over thirty folk attended.



## Mission Resource ...

All who have seen the CWS documentary, *Lauru Our Land* will remember the short interlude by the jandal band which introduces the programme – **Green Acres Jandal Band**. A 5 minute DVD of this delightful group of children on Lauru is available for purchase.

The children's amazing 'pipe band' made from plastic water pipes which they strike with old jandals, play catchy tunes that set the other children singing and dancing. This could be a great gift for New Zealand young people to introduce children of another land.

Cost is \$15.00 from Christian World Service, P.O. Box 22652, Christchurch, 8142. Please include payment when ordering.

## 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations:

What a party! Forty-five years of APW was celebrated with much joy and laughter at the Conference Dinner. The Rev Catherine Hollister-Jones cut the birthday cake made especially by Lois Diaper and transported from Nelson with the utmost care!

Song and dance were provided by APW Pacific Island women who were dressed *sustainably* in brightly – coloured tie-dyed dresses made from recycled cotton sheets, with wreaths of flowers in their hair. The Moderator warmly accepted an invitation to join in and show his singing and dancing talents. No-one could have imagined the extent or standard of Wearable Recycled Art paraded at the Conference Dinner. The attention to design, craft,

colour and originality was simply amazing, with many stunning creations. The final creation – A Grass Recycler produced much hilarity and will remain vividly in people's minds for a long time! The Conference theme was enthusiastically followed with lots of the usual recycled materials creatively used together with purchases from the 'op' shops. More unusual materials were weed matting, Venetian blinds, original potato sacks, and old long-playing vinyl records. The parade was greatly enhanced by the musical talent of Roy Tankersley who provided musical accompaniment appropriate to every item paraded. Congratulations to the Presbyterians and the large number of individuals who took part.



The NCG would like to thank all those delegates and everyone else who attended the conference. We hope you went away having found it worthwhile, spiritually uplifting, challenged by the theme and keen to tell other APW members that APW is very much alive and with God's leading continuing to be proactive. In April 2010 The National Convener and Deputy Convener stand down as well as several members of NCG. Please start now in giving some prayerful thought to whom might fill these positions.

P.S. Resources from conference will be made available as soon as possible.

PPS. The offering of the Conference raised \$2,000 for Turakina – a great start towards the amount of an estimated \$200,000 needed for the continuance of this valued school. What can the whole church raise?

## Remits

### 1. Individual Membership:

*Recommendation 1:* Where there is no Parish Branch in a region, a member of the Presbyterian Church or Uniting/Co-operating Congregation with a Presbyterian component may become an individual member of the APW by application to the NCG, and hold voting rights at the Presbyterian and the National Business Meetings with this status.

*Recommendation 2.* That the NCG be given permission to update the APW Constitutional Guidelines to include

- a) Status of Individual Members (as above)
- b) Responsibilities relating to finance and business in order to facilitate compliance with the Charities Act (2008) **Agreed.**

**2. That APW/MWF concentrate on ONE Special Project Theme per year, with the emphasis alternating annually between Overseas and NZ Special Projects** - Lost

**3. That the Women's Study Grant be known as the APW Study Grant, Diane Croft Memorial.** - Lost

**4. That the Gleanings be enlarged three times a year to include another two A4 sides for the purpose of NCG business and NCG members' contact details** **Agreed.**

Remits 5 & 6 were withdrawn

**7 Hospital Chaplaincy.** That APW write to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health requesting that Government funding for Hospital Chaplaincy be urgently reassessed.

**An AMENDMENT was accepted.** That, after consultation with the Council for Inter-Church Hospital Chaplaincy, the NCG write to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health requesting an increase in Government funding for Hospital Chaplaincy.

**- Agreed.**

**8. That, the National Co-ordinating Group** initiate a Special Project within the whole PCANZ to obtain funds to increase the number of scholarships and refurbish the hostels at Turakina Maori Girls' College (Moved Jan Veitch/ Seconded Jan Thomson)

**- Carried.**



Rt. Rev. Dr. Graham Redding

### Conference photos



Rev. Sharon Ensor—Chaplain



Birthday cake

## REGIONAL NEWS ....

**A happy and unusual Book afternoon** was enjoyed by the Waikanae APW as a response to the emergency situation of Turakina Maori Girls' College. 'Happy' because we sat around small tables able to browse amongst books. 'Unusual' as all the books came from our own shelves and no-one 'insisted upon silence'! The highest price for a book was \$5 and we were delighted to send a cheque for \$300 to Friends of Turakina. Every little helps. - **Nan Burgess**

**Palmerston North St David's APW Night Owls** were fascinated and enthused at their April meeting by Rachel Tate's presentation of her work as an official interpreter for the Deaf Association. Sign language is New Zealand's third official language and is required for many situations such as court work and medical interviews. We were taught some simple signs. - **Marjorie Empson**

**Retired Missionary: Lorraine Saunders** will turn 100 on 22 June. Lorraine served in India from 1935 -1970. She served mostly in Jagadhri, working in the villages, schools and leprosy colony. In 1959 she was asked to take charge of the MASHA'L Press. She re-organised the press and was in charge of all the men workers. She was recognized as making an outstanding contribution to India and to the missionary work. After retiring Lorraine worked in the Presbyterian Bookshop in Christchurch where she acted as Manager for some time. Lorraine will celebrate her centenary with a 'drop in' time at Knox Church, Christchurch on the afternoon of 22 June.

There is to be a 'Remembering Book'. If anyone has brief memories of times spent with Lorraine, please send them to the Rev Isobel Probert, 1/76 Tennyson St, Christchurch. 8023

As an Association we join the Missions Department in sending Lorraine congratulations and good wishes on achieving 100 years.

- **Rae Simpson.**

**Obituary:** Helen Richmond Burney died in Feilding on 22 April, 2009 aged 92 years.

Helen was a very loyal, long-serving member of APW. She had been involved with the Association for many years; always very enthusiastic and interested in what was happening locally and nationally. Helen served two terms on the APW National Executive – 1973-76 as National Treasurer and again from 1988-91 as Convener of Programme, Prayer and Study Department. Helen was a regular attendee at bi-monthly Presbyterian meetings and loved attending APW Conferences and rarely missed the monthly Knox Church APW afternoons. She will be sadly missed at our meetings at Knox and the wider Manawatu Presbyterian.

- **Jill Little**

## REFLECTION ....

The challenge of Linda Bales at the Triennial Conference to remember the first question of Boaz regarding Ruth opens an avenue of thought centred in 'belonging'. We know that Boaz wanted to know who 'owned' Ruth and the issue of patriarchy opens before us. What does patriarchy convey to us? Is there a place for 'patriarchy' – modified patriarchy – within Christianity?

If I say, "I belong to Jesus" am I giving different meaning to the idea of 'belonging'? Has 'belonging' gained nuances of interdependence, fellowship and opportunity; and has it then pushed away 'ownership' meaning subjectivity?

Pentecost is close and as we read Acts 2 we focus upon 'belonging'. *Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared amongst them and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy*

*Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:3-4*

Have we noticed the emphasis upon diversity within 'belonging'? *Divided tongues, a tongue rested upon each of them, all were filled with the Holy Spirit yet speaking different languages as the Spirit gave them ability.*

Surely Pentecost recalls us to the diversity within 'belonging' that is ours to portray in our living out of our faith. We are not all the same, but we belong together, enabling and encouraging diversity which reaches far beyond our imagining. May Pentecost bring you the joy of diversity within 'belonging' within the Holy Spirit.

- **Nan Burgess**