

# Circle

Volume 50, No. 4      November 2018



*The Association of Anglican Women*



**Special Conference Edition**

## Theme for 2015-2018:

*Grow in Discipleship, Dreams, Dedication*

### The Aims of AAW:

*-to unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church*

*-to promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life*

### Contributions for *Circle*

**Diocesan AAW Group and Members' Items:** Please help the *Circle* editorial team by sending your contributions and reports, email or hand-written, to your Diocesan *Circle* Publicity Representative so that she can collate, edit, proof and select what to send from each diocese to keep to the approximate word allowance of about 360 words per diocese. This allows for around two pictures.

**Diocesan Coordinators:** All copy should be emailed to the *Circle* Co-ordinator, Pat Vincent, patvincent999@gmail.com.

**Text:** It can be in the body of an email or attached as a Word document.

**Photos:** High Resolution original jpg files or raw digital photo files. These will be *large separate files, not pictures included in a Word document.*



Join us on Facebook: Search for NZ Assn of Anglican Women

**Cover:** Photos from the AAW Conference held at Scots College  
Front : Rev Salome Sela Tui'lotolava from Tonga, Losavati Marama from Fiji, Rev Amy Houben - enjoying some fun.

**Back:** Conference participants

Copy deadline for the next issue:

**20 January 2019**

Please help us by adhering to this deadline

# From the Editorial Team

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The Triennial Conference held at Scots College Wellington 5-8 October, was a great success, and our report on it will be the focus of this issue.

Saturday numbers peaked to nearly 90 attendees; 65 of these lived in for the duration of the conference. It was a time of good food, good fellowship and lots of fun, memorable for its energy.

We welcome and thank members for their contributions to this issue. We also congratulate you on the improvement in the quality of those contributions. Writing has become ‘tighter’ and more structured; photos are sharper, have captions, and more often ‘tell a story’ that adds to the written text. The result is evident in the improved quality of our magazine. Well done!

Not long to Christmas, heralded by Advent in early December. You will be in our thoughts as we tread the path to Christmas and prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus; and we pray that you all have a

Blessed Christmas and can relax over the summer break.

God Bless you all.

Correction: On page 14 of the August issue, in the interview with Dame Miriam Dell, there was mention of the Masseys of Kaitaia. This should have read: the **Matthews** of Kaitaia. Our apologies.

## Subscription Information for 2019

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# CWS Christmas Appeal - Be the Lifeline

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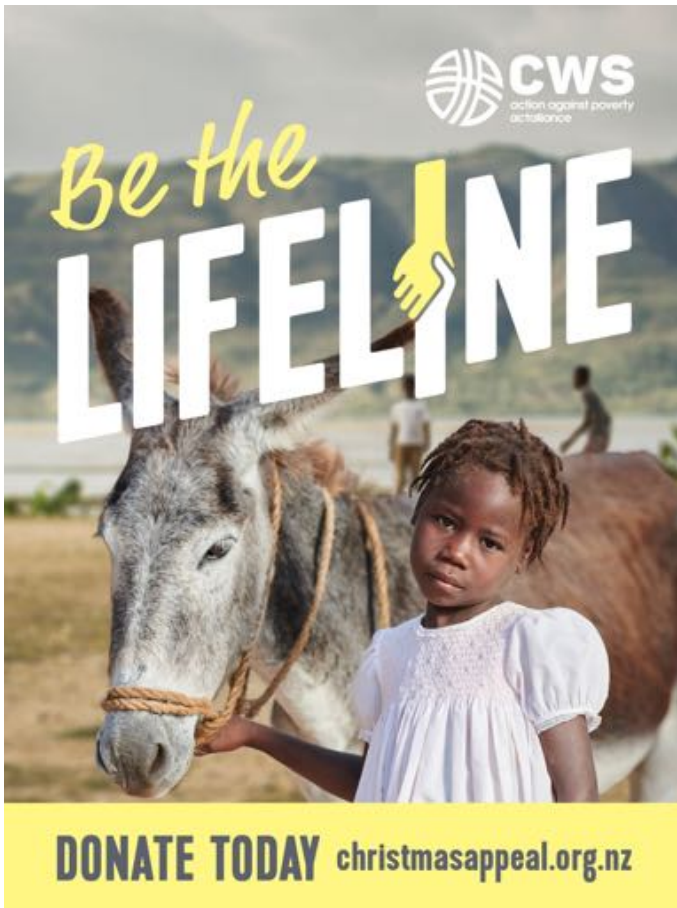
*“Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.”  
Philippians 4:5*

The Christmas story is one to be shared. Many of us gather with family and friends for food and fun. We hear the words of the Gospel and sing familiar carols. Shops are bursting with items for sale and Christmas

decorations.

It is a perfect time to think of others and join the lifeline of hope to God’s world. Your gift to the annual Christmas Appeal will mean people who are hungry can feed themselves, who are thirsty have safe water, and who are exploited and abused have their dignity respected. Your support in the past has given families food, water, clothes, and access to education and justice but they need more help.

Aimee (not her real name) with her new donkey is the face of the Appeal. Like the donkey in the nativity story, it has an important role to play in a farming family. After a hurricane destroyed her family’s home and farm in Haiti, the donkey was part of relief assistance from ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) of which Christian World





Service is a member.

Gifts to the Christmas Appeal will keep the lifeline going to our 28 local partners who are seeking to transform their communities. In South Sudan, the Maridi Service Agency is giving training and startup capital to war widows like Joyce to establish small market stalls. Young women and men are learning about gender and how to make their homes and communities safer in South India. After Cyclone Gita, Ama Takiloa, a network of women's groups in Tonga, are undertaking more disaster preparedness training, and repairing rainwater harvesting systems and gardens for people who have been left behind by other aid efforts.

This year's resources include material about the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 interconnected Sustainable Development Goals, and how support for the Christmas Appeal will contribute to these Goals.

Archbishops Don Tamihere and Philip Richardson have endorsed the 2018 Christmas Appeal, Be the Lifeline. We need your support more than ever to keep the lifeline going: <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/>.

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# President's Notes

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Dear Members

I hope you enjoy this edition celebrating our Triennial Conference here in my place, Wellington. Very special, as it's the first time in Wellington since the 13th Triennial Conference in 1994 when Anne Carpenter was Provincial President.

It was wonderful to have so many of our members attend, representing

all our dioceses, including our sisters from Polynesia. We came together as one family, enjoying faith, fellowship and fun as we renewed friendships and made new ones.

We had a full programme focussing on looking to the future but also honouring the past with some of our Past Presidents speaking. I think we had seven Past Presidents in attendance, which was so special. It was also lovely hearing the voice of our younger women, giving us much to reflect on and act upon.

The AGM at the Cathedral was long but we had a lot to cover and it is important for our members to have the opportunity to be able to have input and discuss the issues important to them. It was pleasing to have our Pasifika ladies add their important voice to the discussions. They inspired us with what they are doing in their communities to reach out to the less fortunate. All the Constitutional Amendments were passed and each Diocesan President now has a revised copy of the Constitution to pass on to their groups.

Following on from the AGM was our Commissioning Service at Evensong Service at the Wellington

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## In Memoriam

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In memory of:

**Janet Hesketh**, Foundation member and Wellington AAW President 1985-1987. NCWNZ President 1994-1998. Sadly missed by St Mary's Parish, Karori, where she worshipped for 70 years. Janet worked tirelessly for the betterment of women. A good and faithful servant.

**Archdeacon John Douglas Malcolm**, 1932-2018, much loved father, priest, and mentor, who ministered in the Wellington Diocese for many years. Dear Val, you, your children and extended family are in the thoughts and prayers of your AAW friends. May the Lord surround you all with love, comfort and hope.

## President's Notes Continued



**Past Presidents: Elizabeth Crowley, Anne Carpenter, Norma Benton, Margaret Tegg, Marie Taylor and Margaret McInachan. Absent: Jan Deavoll**

Cathedral of St Paul. This service, especially prepared for us, started with a procession of AAW banners – 20 in all. What a wonderful sight! We were warmly welcomed by Canon Simon Winn and the new Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Reverend David Rowe.

David inspired us with his sermon, aptly titled *Dreams\**, citing Martin Luther King, and Kate Sheppard among the many who acted on their dreams of a better world. He encouraged AAW to be a new lot of ‘Kate Sheppards’, dreaming big not small, being changemakers to confront injustice and lack of neighbourliness; to be Women

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\*available as a sound recording on Wellington Cathedral website, [wellingtoncathedral.org.nz](http://wellingtoncathedral.org.nz)

of Hope, praying and acting on it.

All of the music featured at the service was composed by women, and sung by the women of the Cathedral Choir. A special feature of the composed music played was that by Katherine Dienes-Williams, whose settings of the canticles and anthem were written during her time as Organ Scholar at the Cathedral.

All too soon our Conference was over and we were sadly farewelling our members, although weary, hopefully inspired to share new ideas and act on new initiatives in their areas.

*“The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power.” -*

*Mary Pickford*

*Blessings*

*Pat*



**Pat Vincent with Provincial Banner**

# Executive Meeting Notes

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## 1. New Theme for the next three years (2019 – 2022): Growth through Gratitude, Grace and Guidance

Gratitude for 2019 as we celebrate our Golden Jubilee and give thanks for our past 50 years of service.

## 2. Golden Jubilee of AAW 2019:

Dioceses are encouraged to organise their own events. Some Dioceses already have events organised. Provincially there will be a special Cathedral Service here in Wellington. The Executive are looking at various commemorative items. Suggestions are welcomed.

## 2. Moving Forward:

Continuing to encourage members to join in. In the immediate term looking at the 50+ age group and

newly retired. But for us to grow, our panel of younger women emphasized that the connection to AAW has to be relational not structural if it is to flourish. We need to meet our younger women on their ground. One of the younger women said, ‘My church work began by one person asking me for help, and this relationship has grown into something huge.’ Isn’t this how we all became AAW members? To have informal get-togethers, discipling, meeting face-to-face to really get to know one another, involving the Vicar, and building relationships in our parishes: this is the road to rejuvenation and finding a new love for AAW.

## 3. Revised copy of the Constitution

It can be obtained by your Diocesan



Banner parade at AAW Commissioning service



## Executive Meeting Notes continued

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President or contact our Secretary Pam Hartley.

### **4. AAW Archives:**

Anne Gover, our new Provincial Treasurer, has done a wonderful job of reformatting our archives. Diocesan Presidents have an electronic copy. Please contact us if you would like an electronic copy.

### **5. Waikato/Taranaki Diocese:**

A big thank you to Norma Benton who has agreed to represent this diocese on the Executive and as their link person.

### **6. Mission Partners:**

A lengthy discussion was held as we reviewed our plans for the next three years in the light of falling membership and therefore less funds available. Our focus will be on our Pacific neighbours and we will feature our proposed partners in our April issue.

### **7. Golden Jubilee Project:**

A one-year project to celebrate this special occasion will focus on the displaced refugees of Ambae, Vanuatu. A suitable project is still at the discussion stage.



**The new Executive being commissioned in the Wellington Cathedral.**  
From left: Christine Aitken (Dunedin), Norma Benton (Waikato/ Taranaki), Mary Driver (Wellington), Wendy Probert (Waiapu), Cynthia Prince (Waiapu), Anne Gover (Dunedin), Janice Viles (Wellington, partially hidden), Barbara Dixon (Auckland), Pam Hartley (Wellington), Miliana Fong (Polynesia), Diane Higgins (Nelson), Shelley Vette (Waiapu, obscured), Judith Mackenzie (Christchurch, obscured), Pat Vincent (Provincial President).

# Report on the AAW Conference

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## It Was A Great Conference

### Opening:

The Conference was opened at 5.30pm by Wellington's Mayor Justin Lester with the support of the Kapa Haka Group from Ngā Hau e Whā o Paparāangi. The group's performance was so confident and energetic, the tone was set for a lively conference.

### Speakers:

**1. Michael Hartfield, Operations and Projects Officer on the Anglican Missions Board**, reminded the Executive of the five Marks of Mission: Nurture, Evangelise, Serve, Transform and Preserve. He described the effects of climate change being experienced in Oceania. Projects were planned in seven countries to counter the rising tides which have already



**Wellington Mayor, Justin Lester and local Kapa Haka group opening the Conference**

caused loss of homelands; to cope with earthquakes and recent volcano eruptions; and to help in the aftermath of tropical cyclones. Some people in Vanuatu are already being permanently evacuated to Luganville on the island of Espiritu Santo from their island homes, such as Ambae. These evacuees have no sense of belonging anywhere, so projects are being devised to get groups into productive work such as farming, which helps to restore their self-esteem and confidence. It is hoped that their



**Michael Hartfield second from right met with the AAW executive before Conference. He brought two guests, Tagolyn and Dennis Kabekabe. Tagolyn is Pacific Facilitator, Anglican Alliance and Dennis is with ACPNG.**

culture can also be kept alive.

Michael thanked us all for AAW's generous support for overseas mission. He said that our partners in the Pacific are resilient people but extra assistance is often needed, hence the appeals to us for financial donations. Updates are regularly placed on their website:

[www.angmissions.org.nz](http://www.angmissions.org.nz)

**2. Nicola Willis, List MP (National),** was our dynamic after-dinner speaker on the Saturday evening. She spoke on her dreams and the growth of herself as a person and politician.



Nicola said she had an ideal childhood and determined at an early age that she would give back in some way to the community. Always a keen debater, she did a post-graduate course in Journalism, then answered a National Party advertisement for a researcher. Being appointed into a research position was not easy, but she persisted, working on the principle 'that if you ask and are told 'no', then you ask again.' She chose Education as her research subject and was mentored

by Bill English who told her, 'Politics is about the difference we can make to other people.' She became Senior Advisor to Sir John Key, speech writing for him, a task she both enjoyed and researched thoroughly for. After work as Key's Policy Advisor and accompanying the PM on political trips overseas, she realised that she could be an MP herself. She spent five amazing years at Fonterra which enlarged her business and political experience, and her confidence, before standing in the 2017 election as National candidate for Wellington Central, then a Labour stronghold. She got in on the list on the night but had to step down after special votes were counted. Married with four children under eight, she spent seven months as an at-home Mum, which she said was wonderful. Then, when Stephen Joyce stood down she, as a List MP, took his place in April 2018.

Nicola is energetic, passionate and proud to fly the flag for National, for Early Childhood Education, and for the strength of the family. She believes as does AAW, that family needs to be strengthened, not replaced, as strong, loving families make for a strong

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nation. She said that ‘if we get things right in the first 1,000 days of a child’s life we will not need the cost of remedial action.’ She sees that being in Opposition is a powerful place to be. Not only can the Opposition present a Private Member’s Bill that can progress through to Law with support from across Parliament; they can also change the direction of public policy.

**3. Vanisa Dhiru,**  
**National President of**  
**the NCWNZ,** spoke to  
Conference on Sunday

morning. Another dynamic speaker, she inspired us with her passion and drive. Vanisa was brought up with the concept that everyone is equal. She has had great opportunities and been allowed to make her own choices. She now wants to give girls today the chance to have these experiences too. NCW was founded from the work of the suffragettes in 1896, and their work has broadened from this. There are now about 50 organisations associated with NCW, so that the Council has a strong voice of credibility.



for rejuvenation, growth and development, so in 2015 they explored ways of strengthening membership. Their focus was Gender Equity in New Zealand. They found they needed to effect change by broadening to the wider community. Surveys gave data and a solid foundation to work from, to initiate conversation that can lead to change. They focussed on filling gaps, like Health and Safety, Economic Independence, Education; they concentrated on driving action to hold NZ to account by generating understanding of culture and of gender equity. Language and perceptions drive a country’s culture, so we have to change the culture of NZ in order to change NZ’s perceptions of Gender Equity. Widening the scope to all genders, making people think for themselves has revitalised NCW. Success will be realised when girls can be whatever they want to be.

### Panels:

**1. AAW in the Past.** Five members, all ex-Presidents, gave a seamless account of the growth and development of AAW from its formation in 1969 to 2013.

### **Anne Carpenter** (Wellington)



1992-1995 - described the birth pangs of the group, the dissolution of Young Wives and the relationship AAW has with Mothers' Union.

In February 1996 AAW Sunday was introduced. In 1998 Triennial conferences were established, to be held in the Diocese where the Provincial President lived, to facilitate their organisation.

### **Norma Benton** (Waikato) 1998-

2001 - told how computerisation of financial records began, *Circle* became important in keeping contact among members, AAW



badges and stationery were developed, and weekend camps were held.

### **Jan Deavoll** (Christchurch) 2001-

2004 - said this was a cruisy time for AAW with its large membership and high incidence of Maori women at hui. She was amazed by members' openness about God and Faith, something she wasn't



used to. The three years were memorable. The real highlight of her Presidency was her visit to the Diocese of Polynesia.

### **Margaret Tegg**

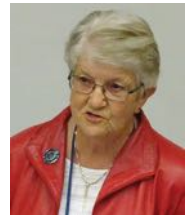
(Dunedin) 2004-2007 - believes that when God calls, God equips. She was stunned to be elected President and



enjoyed exciting years of visiting members including Pasifika, of writing for *Circle*, and working alongside wonderful people.

### **Elizabeth Crawley**

(Waiapu) 2010-2013 - said her time covered the years of disastrous earthquakes in Christchurch and



Seddon which affected everyone in some way. Christchurch applied to AAW for practical help, and got it. She visited Fiji and saw our tanks that provided villages with clean water, and the sewing machines that provided women with an income. There was a new layout for *Circle*, the work of the Rev Stephen Brooker. Registration for tax was completed, (made difficult by the Christchurch records being lost in

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the earthquakes), and changes were made in Waikato's finances that got them out of deficit. There were highs and lows: lows at the lack of leaders that led to some groups closing; highs in Pasifika through the successes and visits made there. And the national AAW banner was made.

In her thanks to the panel, Pat Vincent said, 'I hope your legacy moves us forward.' And it will, for members are now aware of the solid foundation that the AAW has. In 2019 we shall celebrate our Golden Jubilee, and a call has gone out for ideas on how we might celebrate that event.

## 2. AAW in the Future

This panel comprised six young working women both clergy and lay, mostly with young families, who

conducted a lively interactive debate on the future of the AAW. The participants were: Rev Amy Houben (leader), Archdeacon Gendy Thomson, Becky Devane, Rev Teri Johnson-Frow and Kaz Yung.

None of the panel is a current member of AAW so their responses were pertinent and honest. 'Why,' Amy asked Conference, 'were they not members of AAW?' The answers were illuminating. Firstly there are time restraints: however attracted they are by the passion and power of AAW where like-minded women bond in friendship and fellowship, other commitments limit the time and effort that young women can give. And young people, especially those working, don't need yet another formal meeting to attend at the end of their busy day.

Secondly, although the panel felt welcomed by AAW, and supported by them in times of sickness and stress, there was a sense of separation between the older and younger in a parish,



**Kaz Yung, Rev Amy Houben, Rev Teri Johnson-Frow, Archdeacon Gendy Thomson, Becky Devane**

as the younger get more involved with young families, including the children. The consensus was that their connection to AAW has to be relational not structural if it is to flourish. However, AAW expects the young people to come and join them. Instead, AAW was challenged to unobtrusively meeting up with young women on their ground. As Kaz said, 'My church work began by one person asking me for help, and this relationship has grown into something huge.'

Those at Conference now realise that young women are passionate about social justice and would welcome the leverage that AAW has. They would be happy to join AAW but don't want to be involved in something that's going to demand yet more of them. We need to understand that they have their own peer support groups and net-working, eg. Love for Life. There is also a lot of informal networking - social media is used as means of communication because they are so busy.

The panel recognised that there are fewer extended families, so a dearth of opportunities for 'time-out', and of

motherly family figures supporting them. And young mothers thrive on affirmation, not criticism. We came to realise our values are the same, but that the vehicle of AAW is wrong for younger people, especially those already involved in mission.

Practical ideas for building relationships between younger and older women were suggested. We could invite young people to one-off events to meet one another in situations that demand no commitment. Invite their children too. Provide mothers with occasional child-care so that they can have some 'Me time'...no agenda is needed for this. Once the relationship is established and the timing is right, young women may be ready for the formal joining of a group like our AAW.

It became plain to see that we have two roads ahead of us: to remain with formal meetings and rigid structures, which is the road to extinction; or to have informal get-togethers, discipling, meeting face to face to really get to know one another, involving the Vicar, and building relationships in our parishes; this is the road to rejuvenation and finding a new love for AAW.

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## Workshops

### 1. Craft (Anne Allan)

Paper-folding (origami) was the craft explored, with members shaping their own work of making a bow. The process was quite fascinating and was



**Anne Allan showing how to fold the bows**

a test of patience, but the results were very satisfying. A hand-out of instructions for easy-to-make pieces was given to members, a very good resource to have.

### 2. Church Embroidery – (Margaret Cull)

The facilitator came from the Wellington Cathedral where there are five women looking after the Church linen. Samples of linen, stoles, and three



**Margaret Cull**

chasubles were used as a basis for discussion, and books on Church embroidery were displayed. This was a low-key workshop that included time to browse and ask questions.



**Embroidered vestments**

### 3. Genealogy - Telling your Family Story (Gill Knox)

Participants were warned that this activity can become addictive! Doing family history takes time but leaves a legacy for our descendants. We need to decide right at the start if we are to keep only to facts or include ‘juicy stories’ from the past...there could be repercussions from the latter!



**Gill Knox**

A questionnaire given to the participants directed the discussion, and worthwhile tips were given: always source material used; make good use of social websites, local libraries, genealogy societies, magazines; and ask questions of older relatives and record these



conversations. There is a lot of information available out there if you look and ask the right questions.

#### 4. Church Music (Rev Alison Stewart)

This workshop was both enjoyable and very useful. Participants were



Rev Alison Stewart (top left) and workshop participants

happy singing music both new and familiar that recalled happy memories of church and choirs. They also received handouts of a wide variety of hymns and religious songs, both the words and the music scores. This was an invaluable workshop for those from congregations that are moving away from orthodox hymn books and branching out into more modern music.

#### 5. Sustainability: (Jake Roos)

This was a lecture on climate change and what we might expect the effects to be on us. However, sustainability is a global problem that entails



Sustainability Presentation

collaboration, with the emphases on renewables, keeping fossil fuels in the ground and dealing effectively with waste. The inequities in this world must also be taken into consideration. This was a sobering and yet challenging workshop.

#### 6. Telling Our AAW Stories: (Jamie Adams)

This workshop was useful for those writing for *Circle* or for other magazines such as for one's local parish. The facilitator reminded us of the following:

- Keep writing 'tight', avoiding 'waffle' and repetition.
- In a light-hearted story, puns can be used in the headlines!
- Quote people where possible to give the piece verisimilitude.
- Using different fonts can highlight points and upcoming events.
- Avoid large chunks of text by keeping paragraphs short. Long

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**Jamie Adams giving writing tips**

paragraphs can be off-putting to the reader.

- Be consistent with numbers; eg write in full numbers one to nine; use numbers not words, for quantities 10 and over.
- Avoid rhetorical questions.
- Beware of having too many people to name in a photograph as this leads to unwieldy captions.
- Any accompanying photograph should have an appropriate caption and should add to the story, not detract from it. Look for human interest such as children or animals. Emphasise the focus by cropping out unnecessary backgrounds.

### Summary

All these workshops were very worthwhile and showed evidence of excellent preparation; and the

handouts were outstanding. Thank you, facilitators. We appreciated all you did for us.

### Tool Box Resources

Anne Gover brought a 'Tool Box' of resources for use by groups; plays and skits, films and DVD's, studies, power points, personality tests, games and activities, meditations, prayers, poems and jokes - all of which she makes available on a flash drive.



**Anne Gover with her Tool Box Resources**

**To get your copy of Tool Box Resources at \$20 including p&p, send your name, address, postcode and phone number, with your orders to Anne Gover, 4 Lennox Street, Gore 9710.**

**Phone Anne on 027 311 0625 for further information. Her email is: [annegover@xtra.co.nz](mailto:annegover@xtra.co.nz)**

### The Farewell

On Monday morning Conference was wound up. Thanks were given to those who had dealt with the logistics of the Conference: Mary Driver, Mary Escourt, Janice Viles, Pam Hartley and Helen Robertshawe who ensured the Conference ran smoothly; to the Matron of Scots College and the Kitchen Staff who looked after us so well; the Belmont Archdeaconry who supplied goodies for the morning and afternoon teas and suppers; to photographers Anne and Rod Stainer, to Chaplain Amy and pianist Alison.

What do I remember most about the Conference? I remember President Pat Vincent's good humour and dexterity in adapting the programme to time restraints and keeping us on the



**AAW Executive**



**Pasifika ladies practising their music**

move; I remember the passion, energy and faith of Chaplain Amy and the members of the young Future panel. I remember the drive, confidence and humour of Nicola and the sincerity and earnestness of Vanisa. I remember the laughter and friendship of the members, the spirituality of Sunday morning's Eucharist, the singing of our Pasifika ladies, the fun graces before meals. And I'll never forget the atawhai and care members showed one another, especially to those with mobility problems. It was a wonderful Conference.

We now need to follow President Pat's directive: 'We can't stand still – we have to look to the future. We have to go out there!'

*Mary Houston*

# Inspirational Women

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**Pasifika ladies with Pat Vincent and Rev Amy Houben**

We met so many inspirational women at Conference, strong in leadership, strong in faith, strong in goodness. It was a joy to be with them for the weekend.

The group I found the most inspiring comprised the **Pasifika ladies**, members from Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and the Tongan group in Auckland. Their smiles, their warmth, their singing, uplifted us, and it was inspiring to see with what ease they mingled with the New Zealand members. This was the first AAW conference I've attended where Pasifika found their voices and participated actively in discussions and the AGM.

When speaking with them I found that they call their meetings, gatherings. These gatherings are inclusive: children and young people are welcomed – as are husbands – and as the girls grow into adults, so do they become members of the association. They are the new blood that energises.

The gatherings are held regularly, the year's programme having been decided and planned for as a complete unit. Each gathering begins with up to an hour of worship, with each group deciding on its manner of worship. Then food follows. In the afternoon activities are shared: sewing, baking, flower arranging, weaving, visiting people, games...or working on a

# Pasifika ladies and Rev Amy Houben

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project. One group's project is refurbishing their church building! Sharing is an important concept and each group has the opportunity of hosting the others.

There are some variations, of course. In Tonga there are four centres where gatherings are held, where all AAW members gather in the one place in January, March, September and December. Locally, groups may meet more often. In Auckland there are five groups: Tongan, Fijian-Indian, Fijian and two Samoan. Their gatherings are patterned on those held on their home islands, thus preserving both the pattern of their gatherings and their home cultures. On Mothers' Day fathers organise the celebrations on behalf of the children; on Fathers' Day the mothers do the organising. On White Sunday everyone is involved.

The woman who most inspired me was our Conference Chaplain, the **Rev Amy Houben**. Her looks belied her strength. She seemed so young, almost fragile, yet she has been an NZDF Medic serving in Afghanistan. She is married with a five-year-old son, and presently works in the Parish of St Peter's Palmerston North. The focus of her ministry is offering chaplaincy

with two rest home communities in Palmerston North.

Amy devised a superb illustrated prayer booklet for conference, on our theme of Dreams. It covered all aspects: ceremony of commitment, presentation of conference candles, invocations, thanksgivings, readings, intercessions, blessings and Sunday Eucharist. There was even space for us to record our responses and thoughts, which personalised the booklets, making them an integral part of our conference experience.

At the end of speakers' and panels' presentations she respectfully asked their permission to pray for them. This was done so well that everyone was moved, including the speakers themselves. Amy was always smiling, lively and good fun. She was with us for the whole of Conference, living in, and participating fully. I've never before experienced a conference chaplain who has been so much one of us.

Amy made us feel that the Spirit of God was indeed moving in that place, and that Christ was holding each of us in the palm of his hand.

*Mary Houston*

# Social Concerns - NCWNZ

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## National Council of Women's Annual Conference Report

*He Toa Takitini: Strength in Diversity* was the title of NCW's conference this year - which marked 125 years of Suffrage in New Zealand and 123 years since the founding of NCW. The conference lived up to its title with a wide range of views, opinions and discussions presented over two inspiring days.

Highlights included a 'conversation' between Gill Greer (NCW's Chief Executive) and former Prime Minister (Helen Clark) about the journey of New Zealand women, how far we have come and where to from here as well as a youth panel which addressed the topic of 'Looking back in order to move forward'. It was with great excitement that it was announced that Helen Clark had agreed to become The Patron of NCW.

Many of the conference attendees commented on this being a conference of renewed vigour and hope for the future both for women of all backgrounds and ethnicities in Aotearoa and for NCW itself. Initiatives of NCW discussed at the conference including the Gender

Attitude Survey, the \*Gender Dashboard, the Gender Taskforce and the Gender Equal New Zealand Campaign. These are clearly putting NCW at the forefront of the drive for Gender Equality in New Zealand. Generous grants by private organisations targeted specifically to these projects underline the recognition of NCW as being at the forefront of the public and media ongoing focus on Gender Equality in New Zealand.

AAW members will be interested to know that all the remits presented at the conference were passed. AAW members' discussions on these remits are a vital link in supporting the work of NCW and making our organisation's voice heard. The remit results were as follows:

**Remit 1: Acknowledging and honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi.** (For 83, 6 against).

**Remit 2: Pay and Employment Equity.** (For 89, No votes against).

**Remit 3: Education on Family Violence Prevention.** (For 77,

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\*An online tool to collect, collate and analyse data to build a shared understanding of the status of all women in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Against 12).

**Remit 4: Abortion and Health Care.** (For 71, Against 18).

**Remit 5: Gender Equality in all Sporting Codes.** (For 86, Against 3).

**Remit 6: Climate Change, Disaster Risk and Environmental Challenges.** (For 86, Against 3).

The conference heard that according to the findings of the Gender Attitude Survey there is still much to be done in ensuring that women in Aotearoa have equal access to the opportunities available to their male counterparts. A key finding was that although most people believed Gender Equality is a human right a significant proportion of our population still consider that men should take on the majority of leadership roles and had quite different expectations regarding the role of boys compared to the role of girls. The words of Kate Sheppard ‘All that separates, whether of race, class, creed or sex is inhuman and must be overcome....’ had as much relevance to this conference commemorating 125 years of Women’s Suffrage as they did when they were first spoken.

*Julie Walker, Auckland Diocese*

*Social Concerns Convenor (Attended NCW conference on behalf of National Social Concerns Convener Pip Harrison).*

*Julie has now taken over as Co-convenor Social Concerns with Wendy Probert from Waiapu.*



**Vanisa Dhuru, President of NCW speaking at the AAW Conference describing NCW vision for the future**

- *1 in 4 women experience sexual abuse from an ex/partner during their lifetime*
  - *Two thirds of people aged 25 – 64 who are on the minimum wage are women*
  - *Women spend an hour more, each DAY, on unpaid work, than men do*
- from NCWNZ Gender Equal website

# Overseas and Outreach

Tessa & Nick Laing  
A new chapter in  
Cambridge, September  
2018 to June 2019

Following concerns with the health system in Gulu, Nick and Tessa Laing came to a decision:

I (ie. Tessa) am going to be starting a PhD in Development Studies at Cambridge University on a ‘Gates Cambridge’ Scholarship, and Nick will do a Masters in Public Health.

While this will take us away from our life and work here for nine months from October 2018, we really believe this chance will help us to have a bigger impact in Gulu long term.

We have mixed emotions about being away from our life and community in Gulu. We want to soak up the knowledge, the connections, the new skills and perspectives, but



**Nick and Tessa Laing and friends**

ultimately bring all this back to what we believe Jesus wants us to be part of in Gulu.

Nick is in the midst of a high energy, exciting time. Three of our health centres are now delivering more babies than ever before which is a great encouragement. We’ve also got a



**Nurse Naume starting a new village health centre**



great team vibe going across different health centres, with staff talking more, and sharing ideas as well as overstocked medication. Our central health centre St Philip has even started a monthly family planning outreach to five other health centres. We hope that next year after returning from Cambridge we can spread the initiative to other surrounding areas. Who knows what the future holds? Our website (in progress) with a whole lot more details on how this works is at [www.onedayhealth.org](http://www.onedayhealth.org)

### Ann & Anthony McCormick, Community Ministry, Cambodia

Much of Anthony's work is in training Khmer social workers and recently he is involved in a new training partnership with Chab Dai, a coalition formed in 2005 that is committed to ending human trafficking and exploitation.

Ann's role involves hosting the many visitors and volunteers to the hospital and running an activity programme for patients and caregivers. Through these creative programmes many Cambodians are

helped both psychologically and physically.

### Community of the Visitation, Hetune, Popondetta Province, Papua New Guinea:

I received the following letter (abridged) from Sister Beverley Tumbari, the Senior Guardian of the Community:

*My sincere love and greetings to every one of you. The Sisters and myself give our thanks to AAW for your great support to the Sisters here at Hetune. May God richly bless you and all the AAW.*

The Sisters live in an isolated place. Their ministry is mainly to women helping with workshops on Christian life, AIDS education and Christian education in local schools. They also host conferences, which gives them some income. They assist local families and children in difficult circumstances.

*Shelley Vette*

*Overseas & Outreach Convenor*

# Diocesan News - Auckland

## AAW St. Peter's Takapuna

We held a fun night in May this year creating our own Commonwealth Games evening. The teams were chosen, with each team given a name from our Pacific Circle: Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, Australia and New Zealand.

The games began: there were Skittles made from 1 litre plastic milk bottles; Golf - bean bags thrown into a hole in a box decorated as a golf green; Discus - yoghurt carton lids having to land within a hoop; Quoits - throwing rings onto cones; Javelin - using kebab sticks with targets measured on the floor. The teams were most enthusiastic and we heard so much laughter. The winners were Team Samoa.

Thanks go to AAW Greymouth group who gave us the idea when they held a mini Olympics back in 2016.



**Commonwealth Games night at St Peter's and the winning Team Samoa (below)**



Our evening had started with a beautiful prayer written by our own member Marcia, which we want to share with you.

“Dear God, I thank you for this group of wonderful women about to accept the challenge of these Commonwealth Games. We look forward to much fun and friendly rivalry but no broken bones or bruised egos. With your help we will make it to the finish line. With many blessings in your name. Amen.”

Perfect for the event.

*Chris Barker*

## Auckland Diocese Social Concerns talk by CEO Auckland City Mission, Chris Farelly

‘Homelessness’ is a ‘wicked problem’. This was the message that Chris Farelly, CEO of Auckland City Mission, gave at our August Social Concerns gathering at St John’s Royal Oak in August. He challenged us to ‘take another look’, to re-examine the beliefs we hold about homelessness. He underlined the complexity of ‘homelessness’ (an issue which is gaining increased focus in the media) referring to the many social, cultural

and economic factors that cause homelessness in Auckland. What leads to homelessness is often the result of one traumatic event in someone’s life, he informed us, saying also that it is a misconception that drug involvement leads to homelessness when in fact the reverse is generally the truth. It was confronting to learn how low life expectancy is on the streets with few homeless people making it past the age of 55. Of the estimated 200 people who regularly sleep rough on inner city Auckland streets 17 have died in the last year, with St Matthew’s in the City taking their funerals. The total number of homeless in the greater Auckland region is estimated to be about 26,000 with approximately 1,000 to 1,500 ‘sleeping rough’.

Chris Farelly talked about how the Auckland City Mission is putting the spotlight on each individual homeless person by getting to know them by name so that they know they count as a person, and that they are special and matter to us. Perhaps this move also forces us as individuals and as a society, to confront the issue of homelessness when the face and name of a homeless person is made known to us, and we can no longer view them

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# Diocesan News - Auckland

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just as a statistic? It was particularly confronting to know that a quarter of the homeless population living in central Auckland City are women who are victims of violence. Overall people of Maori heritage make up 70% of the homeless population in the Auckland Region.

We were told that next to ‘homelessness,’ ‘hunger’ is the second biggest focus of the Auckland City Mission. It is the second biggest distributor of food to the needy in the Auckland region providing packs of food sufficient to feed four people for four days. Mention was made of the disparity between the huge amount of food wastage and the level of hunger in Auckland.

Many different faiths are involved in supporting Auckland City Mission with the nine member board having three representatives from the Anglican Church. While it was made clear that it is not the role of the Auckland City Mission to evangelize people, Chris Farelly emphasized how the Anglican faith’s values of love, justice and respect are upheld in every interaction.

Positive progress towards confronting the problem of

homelessness is being made with a \$90 million wrap-around project underway that will address housing and medical needs of homeless people as well as providing training facilities and detox units. So far \$68 million has been raised through reaching out to Aucklanders. The government has already provided \$30 million and in addition, is meeting the cost of the Detox Unit. Chris Farelly’s talk was delivered with positivity and hope for solutions to the enormous scale of the homelessness in Auckland. He offered a beacon of light on what he called ‘a wicked problem’ when he said ‘Every day I see the worst in people. What I take home is that I also see the best’.

*Compiled by Auckland Diocese Social Concerns Convenor, Julie Walker, and Auckland AAW O&O Convenor and NCW Branch AAW Representative, Jenny Wu.*



**Chris Farelly, CEO of Auckland City Mission**

# Diocesan News - Polynesia

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## Fiji

Our latest Vitilevu West AAW Rally was held in Nadrala on the outskirts of Sigatoka. It was an exciting event for most of the ladies as the trip was the first they have had along the gravel and

dusty roads of the interior. Our guest speaker was Father Joji Abonio whose talk was that “Women are the backbone of the church and without them the church would not function”.

We praise God for the lives of our sisters in Nadrala as even though there were just a few of them, they hosted a



**Nadrala Rally**

delicious spread for morning tea and Lovo for lunch. We were blessed to be part of the rally, reaching out to the women of Nadrala and being able to provide them with cartons of groceries, toiletries and clothes. All things are possible with God.

*Litia Smith*



**Sarah Carer workshop participants**

## Sarah Carer Workshop

The workshop was facilitated by the House of Sarah. It mainly focused on basic caring and how to handle situations of violence and abuse against women and children.

# Diocesan News - Nelson

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## St Christopher's, Blenheim South

Leader Joy Jermyn, welcomed Barbara Lash, the Nelson Overseas and Outreach Convenor, and Gillian Etherington who was our past Overseas and Outreach Convenor. Joy also welcomed ladies from Picton and Nativity. The focus was mission and outreach.

Margaret Warnes, our local Overseas and Outreach person, read an update from the CMS magazine giving information on the Tillmans - in particular, their daughter Miriam, who is working as a pharmacist in the Hospital of Hope in Togo. She has 40 patients and has trained five locals who see 100 patients a day. Margaret

also provided news of Dawn Daunauda who is currently teaching English in Vanuatu.

Barb Lash spoke using Psalm 146, 'Praise the Lord' as her subject. She spoke of God's concern for the widow women raising children. In the book of Acts, God also shows he cares for them, especially as men died in the wars. In the 1950's a "normal family" consisted of a mother, father, and children. Today it is very different but God still loves them all and watches over them.

Barb also spoke of AAW outreach eg. food banks, Mainly Music, visiting hospitals and rest homes and many more very good examples that are in our *Circle* magazine.



**Barb Lash speaking in Blenheim**

### All Saints Women Together, Nelson

The April meeting was the Parish Dinner meeting when all women of the parish are invited to join the AAW group for a meal. This year 32 women went to Tong Tara Thai restaurant and chose the banquet meal with four different dishes, so they could all try different things.

At the May meeting, Vicar Simon Martin spoke about his trip to Gisborne where with other clergy and lay people he heard more about the Maori perspective in the Anglican church. Simon, not being a New Zealander, was very impressed with the interaction between the two cultures. They also treated the members to a re-enactment of their play which won the Diocesan Rose Bowl competition.

At the June meeting, Margaret Soderberg spoke about Women's Suffrage. She gave a brief account of her early years of being a woman in what is largely a man's business domain; how she moved on through working with different companies until becoming partly retired. She felt that



### Richmond Combined Groups

women still have to be quietly determined to make progress in these business areas.

In July, the group held their usual afternoon tea for members who do not wish to go out in the evening. Special food, special crockery and a lot of laughs from the *Handbag* game where they had to find items in their handbags beginning with every letter in the alphabet.

### Richmond

Afternoon and Evening groups combined in August for a special afternoon tea at Alchemy Arts Cafe and the Evening group spent their September meeting packing Christmas boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

*Jan South*

# Diocesan News - Waiapu

## Regional Meetings in the Bay of Plenty

As members are getting older and less likely to travel some of the Waiapu Executive embarked on a two-day road trip to Tauranga from Hawkes Bay.

The first meeting was at Gate Pa, Tauranga where about 20 members gathered to talk with Cynthia (President), Wendy (Social Concerns), Dorothy (Chaplain) and Elaine (BOP Rep).



**Wendy Probert and Cynthia Prince speaking at a meeting**

The second meeting the next day was at Te Puke where about 15 members gathered.

The first question we asked was what keeps you in AAW and why you joined. Everyone spoke and it was amazing where and why people are members of AAW. Being invited to come to a meeting seemed to be the reason that stood out.

Cynthia, Wendy and Dorothy spoke of their journeys in AAW and



**Te Puke: lunch and conversation**





Wendy talked about Social Concerns and some of the things that are part of that. Wendy knits prayer shawls and said that those things were part of Social Concerns and were blessed in a church service before they were given away. St Luke's Rotorua knit teddies for *Growing Through Grief*, and were urged to have these blessed at a church service when they were made.

This was a worthwhile two days and hopefully can be repeated again in the future. Did we come up with any new ways of attracting members? A lot was talked about and groups took all ideas back to their members.

### Napier Cathedral

For some years now our group has had a mid-winter fish and chip meal in July at 5.30 pm instead of the usual

7.30 start. This year however, our hard-working committee decided to hold an "agape" meal and provide soup and dessert instead of the usual fish and chips.

Unlike our English language, Greek had more than one word to describe "love", and "agape" (pronounced "a-ga-pay") is the Greek word for the kind of love which is not romantic or sexual.

The meeting room was beautifully prepared with candles and white tablecloths, and we joined in a special service on the theme of Christian love. It was indeed a warm and loving occasion for us all.

*Elaine Wood*

**Cathedral 'agape' meal participants**



## St. Mary's AAW, New Plymouth

### **Were you or someone you know married at St. Mary's Church?**

One of the fundraising ideas for the restoration of our cathedral, is giving people who were married at the church an opportunity to receive a personalised commemorative marriage certificate. The certificate features a picture of the cathedral, the names of the bride and bridegroom and the date of marriage. This is a lovely gift idea and a special way to support the earthquake strengthening and development of the cathedral.

For further information please contact the campaign manager **Jan Mason on 021 020 33888 or by email [jan@taranakicathedral.org.nz](mailto:jan@taranakicathedral.org.nz)**

Our Fellowship group together with the Mothers' Union celebrated our Patronal Festival in August. Following the service and luncheon an informative talk was given by architect Jenny Goddard who is leading the church restoration project, and Jan Mason spoke on making the church secure.

*Pamela Holdt, St Mary's AAW*

## Archbishop Celebrates Centenarian

It was a delight to share the 8am Communion service at St Mary's, New Plymouth, recently with Jean Cameron, when Archbishop Philip celebrated her 69 years of selfless service to her church and her Lord. Just 3 weeks before her 100th birthday he read the Bishop's citation and presented her with a Diocesan crest, which now hangs proudly at her home.

Among her many years of service Jean regularly did sides duty at the 8am Communion service, attended Mothers' Union, and currently still delivers parish newsletters to parishioners living at Tainui Resthome. With the newsletter she includes flowers from her garden – a task



**Jean Cameron aged 100**

honoured by the Resthome when they presented her with a badge, “Flower Lady for 35 Years”, (and that was nearly 10 years ago.) She regularly, on foot, delivers the Parish Magazine to a large number in the community.

Jean has always been very generous with her time and her ¼ acre

garden, sharing her vegetables and flowers with friends and family.

In 1992 the New Plymouth District Council honoured her with a Citizen’s Award.

Truly, Jean Cameron’s is a life of willing service.

*Pamela Hart*

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## Diocesan News - Christchurch

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### St. Mary's Timaru AAW Hospital Packs

Since 2010, the South Canterbury area has had a very successful project of providing local hospitals with emergency packs. This was started firstly in Queenstown and followed by 42 packs being delivered to Timaru Hospital. This project has gone from strength to strength and the packs have

been gratefully received. From Dec 2017 to Sept 2018, 224 packs have been delivered. They consist of toothbrush, combs, tissues, soap, shampoo, razors and sometimes perfume. Many of the items are donated by local motels. We have received feedback from several grateful patients and staff.

*Kay*

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## A Blessing

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*The blessing of God,  
the eternal goodwill of God,  
the shalom of God,  
the wildness and warmth of God,  
be among us and between us, now and  
always. Amen.*

-from Conference Prayer Booklet, supplied by Rev Amy Houben



