

CIRCLE

Moana = *Polynesian for Ocean*

***Seeks to hear the voices, and
recognise the gifts of women
who have been oppressed***



***“ . . . work of women
. . . is central to the Church . . . ”***

Archbishop Winston



The Association of
Anglican Women

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From Our President . . .

Elizabeth Crawley C

Greetings to all AAW members,



It is a glorious day here in Taradale as I write this, very different from waking up in Dunedin with snow on the ground, and later having Margaret drive me through the snow from Dunedin to Invercargill - this in the beginning of November!

A very warm welcome was extended to both Margaret McLanachan & me as we visited many groups in the Dunedin Diocese. I would like to say a big thank you to all the members there. Keep up the wonderful work you are all doing with our aims in mind.

At our last executive meeting we spoke of celebrating Lady Day. I have asked Rosemary Bent to give us the history and tell us of the way to celebrate. You will read further in this edition. By the time this reaches you AAW Sunday will have been held in many Parishes and I do hope you were able to share different aspects of our Association with your parish members.

It is now less than ten months to our triennial conference which this time is being held in Napier from 5 to 8 October 2012. All groups should receive the material required shortly. Please do pray and see who is able to attend. Planning is well under way, with some interesting speakers and workshops which will be focused on families. If any Diocese has a remit they wish to put forward, please think about it and let us know.

I would like to congratulate the Revd Dorothy Brooker who celebrated her 25th anniversary of being priested. In fact it was a day of celebration as Bishop Murray Mills celebrated his 50 years, and Dean Helen Jacobi her 20 years.

I do hope you have all had a happy festive time with your families. Best wishes to the many new leaders and committee members for a very productive and exciting year ahead.

'To know Jesus, is to make Jesus known.'

Elizabeth

AAW - our Prayer

O God, whose love for all people is proclaimed in Jesus Christ, we thank you for uniting us in prayer and fellowship. Use us now in the mission of your Church. Help us to realise that everything we do and say reflects our love for you. Bless homes and families throughout the world, especially those unhappy or in need. Show us how, by our example and concern, we can take your peace and love where ever your Spirit may lead us-today and all our days. Amen.

Moana AAW

By the Rt Revd Winston Halapua, Bishop of Polynesia

It is an honour to have been approached by the President of the AAW in the Diocese of Polynesia, Mili Fong, to write opening words for this issue of *Circle*. I have been asked to link the vision of the *Moana* leadership in the Diocese with the work of the AAW both in the Diocese of Polynesia and more widely in the Province.

Moana is the ancient Polynesian word for the ocean. *Moana* represents home, context and belonging. Our ancestors navigated across the vastness of the *Moana* around the time Sarah and Abraham set out on their journey of faith. *Moana* represents for us the adventure of faith, the adventure of following Jesus in our time and context.

In relatively recent years the oceans of the world have been named – Atlantic, Arctic, Antarctic, Indian. The ocean which surrounds us was named the Pacific. The wonderful thing about the oceans of the world is that they flow into one another and each is unique and has different gifts. Together they give life to the world. The oceans, flowing together and offering life-giving contributions, illustrate the need for working together and honouring the variety of gifts among us. This is what *Moana Leadership* seeks to advocate: the flowing together, the recognition and celebration of many gifts which come from a generous God. We celebrate that Jesus Christ calls us into vibrant life-giving community. In the Church of Jesus we are not called to be land locked lagoons but rather to be open to one another, rejoicing in diversity and encouraging the sharing of material gifts, cultural gifts and spiritual gifts.

Moana represents space. In order to share effectively, we need space to listen deeply to one another. In Polynesia *Moana Leadership* would seek to address hierarchical approaches and power structures which prevent men and women listening to one another and finding new ways forward together.



Bishop Winston with Suva/Ovalau Archdeaconry AAW members at the House of Sarah in Suva, following a morning devotional.

It would seek to hear the voices and recognize gifts of women which have been suppressed. I rejoice that there are more women lay ministers now and there are more women coming forward to test their call to ordained ministry. Some of these women are members of the AAW. I would call upon the AAW to support women as they seek to minister in new ways.

The AAW, in my experience, has had a great deal to contribute but sometimes AAW groups have struggled in isolation and have been limited by unhelpful perceptions about the role of women. The work of women has been seen as important but not central to the mission of the Church. We need to underline that the work of women is central to the mission of the Church. *Moana Leadership* would emphasize the importance of women and men, young people and children working alongside each other and communicating with each other.

In conclusion I would like to give thanks for the leadership of the AAW in this Diocese in caring for families. The work to support the pre-schools is sometimes outstanding.

I give thanks for the projects to supply water tanks which benefit the wider community. The House of Sarah with its ministry to troubled women is a project of the AAW. As the Diocese is committed to address domestic violence, the House of Sarah supported by the AAW is playing its part in the mission to the Church. I believe that God has more in store for the AAW as we are open to the new ways God will lead us. We give thanks that we can work in partnership with the AAW in Aotearoa New Zealand and with the wider Church as we seek to move forward together as followers of Jesus Christ.

May God bless the ministry and mission of the AAW this Lent and Eastertide as we work together in 2012.

+Winston Polynesia



Following his installation at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Suva, Bishop Winston greets Episcopal Unit youth coordinator for Viti Levu West, John Dansey (jnr). The Bishop believes the *Moana Leadership* champions the efforts of women and men and also young people and children working together and communicating with each other.

A bouquet of experience

AAW Day 2011 had the team at St Christopher's Church in Nadi invite AAW president Miliana Fong and past president Ema Hala'api'api for a mini workshop on linen care and flower arrangement. It was a timely and fulfilling event for the ladies that attended. Timely, because Nadi is the venue of General Synod in July this year and the workshop provided an opportunity for the ladies to brush up on their skills and even learn a few new tricks.



Showing how it is done: Ema Hala'api'api sets about arranging a flower display.



Ema Hala'api'api stresses a point on the correct care of altar linen

Because we are blessed with flower gardens that bloom almost all year round, we are able to decorate our church with seasonal blooms of exotic scents and colour. This was true blessing for the Altar Guild at St Christopher's who have been given the duty of ensuring there are always flowers in the church.

Deacon Ema opened with a presentation on the 'what's what' of altar linen before launching into each piece's care and maintenance. An eye-opener for most of us in Nadi as we'd never really thought to delve into the finer details of our liturgical linen before, taking it for granted that this area of the church was the sole responsibility of the Priest and his good wife. Our only involvement was to raise funds and purchase fabric etc.

The end of the session saw an enthusiastic, fired-up group of women determined to take up full responsibility for the church's liturgical linen from purchase to tailoring to care and storage - and offering to work with Ema to document her lessons as a guide that can be used by all parishes in the Diocese.

The workshop closed with a few lessons in the simple methods of flower arrangements. Ema introduced the ladies to various ways of arrangements influenced by the seasons and the principal feasts of our church year. The end of the night had the team in Nadi bursting with enthusiasm eager to know more, to do more. There are plans to have another! *Arietta Kumar*



Proudly displaying their floral arrangements are Etta Kumar, Finau Leggett, Mila Fong-Toy, Kerry Beddoes, Mili Fong (Diocesan AAW President), Una Nakautoga, Mariana Fong-Toy and Deacon Ema

Church of the Good Shepherd

As far back as 1952, a 49-year land lease was obtained by the Diocese of Polynesia for a worship centre in Sigatoka on the south-western coast of Viti Levu, Fiji, at the nominal rental of one shilling a year for the block of land on which the present *Church of the Good Shepherd* sits. Lack of finance was the biggest factor in nothing being done for 10 years to develop the site further. The only money available was in a building fund of \$300.00 that was started by the Anglican Women's Guild of Sigatoka Parish in 1930.

In 1962 members of the congregation, who were then mostly European, began negotiations with the Anglican Diocese for financial assistance and permission to build a church on the available land. Plans were approved by the township board and the Diocese.



In 1963 the new Fijian *bure* style church was built. It was completed and dedicated on 31 July 1966 by Bishop Charles Vockler before a congregation of 80 people.

During the first 46 years [1920 -1965] church services were mainly held in private homes. Many Priests worked in Sigatoka Parish with commitment and dedication during these past years.

Some clergy who have ministered in the parish of Sigatoka include retired Archdeacon Sione Tau Tonga, the first resident priest and probably the longest serving in the parish. Others have included the Reverends Ilai Lakavutu, Tevita Kabakoro, Sakeo Ganivatu, and Waqa Fong who retired in September 2011.



The parish and its two worship centres of St Francis of Assisi in Nadrala and St Stephen's in Yalava will celebrate the installation of its new priest-in-charge, Revd Daniel Sahayam, on 29 January 2012.

The congregation of Sigatoka and their families humbly acknowledge all those who worked in unity with one another over the years to see a dream become a reality. *Miliana Fong*

Our Youth

The Church challenged!

Speaking to Polynesia's 2011 Synod, Diocesan Youth Coordinator, Sepiuta Hala'api'api' said Polynesia was rich with the contribution young people offered to the life of the Church through their energy, enthusiasm, skills, education and youthful ideas. This was especially through their musical talents, "These are gifts which are important not only for the growth of the Church today but also for the sake of the future," she said.

Synod agreed to a stronger representation of young people on the various governing bodies of the Church, such as commissions, boards, committees, and councils, also approving youth representation on the Diocesan Standing Committee.

Sepiuta agrees that with the position comes greater responsibility. The young people in the ministry have therefore identified areas that they need to strengthen: "We need appropriate youth leadership training, and to increase knowledge and understanding of Anglicanism, of its worship, liturgy and Lay ministry training.

"Because of diverse cultures, lifestyles, the growing impact of modern society on our younger generation and the rich heritage of the seven mission units that make up our diocese, the shape of youth ministry varies greatly across our different communities. "However, the basic definition of youth ministry remains the same – a ministry to young people and by young people. The contribution of young people to the mission of the Church in Polynesia in this 21st century is a valuable, exciting, growing one," she says.

Challenges

Challenges from within and outside Church boundaries include pressures from the societies in which we live. These include cultural backgrounds, geographical distribution, employment and or the lack of it, limited resources and accessibility to the fundamentals of power, control and status or the lack of it; fear of failure, criticism, disappointment and the efforts needed to keep up with technology, networking and communication."

"We continue to thank God for his love and grace, which continues to bless us in many ways as we continue to seek his guidance, strength, wisdom, and protection for young people who are part of this mission together with the rest of the Church," Sepiuta says.



"Samoa here we come!" A group of young people from Fiji are leaving from Nadi Airport for Apia and the Diocesan Youth Conference and thanksgiving rally, held to close the year-long Diocesan Youth Year. Standing second from left is Diocesan Youth Coordinator Sepi Hala'api'api.

Seini Tawa's year in Waiapu

From Jocelyn Czerwonka

"What a joy it was for Waiapu to have Seini Tawa from Fiji as one of our two Waiapu Youth Interns in 2011. Seini brought with her wonderful gifts of music and song which she shared around the Diocese and many parts of NZ. Her bubbly personality and strong faith won the hearts of many, both young and not so young.

Seini had an eye for spotting musical talent among our young people and encouraged them to step out in faith. At St Luke's Rotorua she found Aroha and Rebecca had a talent for singing and before long they were singing solos and duets in church. She encouraged Nicholas and Tafadzwa to play the guitar and drums and Kantoa on the keyboard. One of Seini's great finds was also discovering the wonderful singing gifts of Saachi Kepa from Eastland, whom she encouraged to step forward to become a 2012 Waiapu Youth Intern.

One of Seini's highlights was touching snow. The first time was on the Desert Rd on our way to National Youth Forum. The second, however, was in Christchurch when she spent a week with the Waiapu team helping to run holiday programmes. There the snowfalls disrupted the travel plans of the team but didn't stop their determination to get to Christchurch and run their programmes. For Seini this all added to an action-packed year as a Waiapu Youth Intern.

Seini gained a lot from her year in Waiapu, but I must say that Waiapu is so much the richer for having Seini Tawa spend 2011 with us. Thank you Seini, and thank you Polynesia!

Seini shows off the 'Kiwi' Christmas tree she has decorated to Mykah, Jocelyn's granddaughter.



Seini speaks in Waiapu Cathedral at the farewell Service for the 2012 Youth Interns



Faith and Humility – Ruth’s journey

It is said that good things come to those who wait but for an academic Fijian couple on the west coast of Viti Levu, they prefer to believe that *everything happens in God’s good time*.

Ruth and Surendra Lal, a husband and wife team of senior lecturers with Fiji National University in Ba (Viti Levu West), had to wait almost six years into their marriage before they could have a child. Ruth unwaveringly admits to a trying time in her life that was both emotionally and spiritually challenging.

Ruth Lal, nee Chinappa, was born to parents who had converted from Hinduism and wholeheartedly embraced the Christian faith through the Anglican tradition. Because of who she is, her background, upbringing and history, total reliance on God was the norm. Unquestionable. The day began with Jesus and ended with him. She was raised in the belief that she was part of God’s plan, but this reality did not sink in for her till much later as she was about to live part of that plan. This is her story.

Unlike many Fiji-Indians (Fijians of Indian lineage) whose lives are governed by tradition and culture rather than by religion and where arranged marriages are the norm, Ruth’s and Surendra’s union was a love relationship: difficult, given the circumstances - she a Christian (of the Chinappa, Subramani, Sahayam connection) and he a Hindu.

But as in many marriages, particularly of the Islands, impositions of the in-laws are part of the package that usually add to the drama of a young (struggling) couple’s married life. This usually results in testy situations that can only be diffused by either the birth of a baby or a lottery jackpot.

But no-one was winning a lottery. “I was not conceiving either,” sighed Ruth, “In an Indian family it is expected when one marries, that a baby is immediately on the horizon. It is expected, the in-laws expect it, everyone, even the neighbours, and especially the aunts, and they all expect it.

“As far as the families are concerned, your careers and plans for a more financially secure future can all happen after the baby,” adds Ruth solemnly.

“And if for some reasons like “family planning”, work commitments, buying property, travel and education (in the islands it’s *further studies*), you decide to put having children on hold, then you run the risk of either being ridiculed or pitied, not just by the in-laws but by close friends and families.

“So one can imagine what must be said behind your back if you are genuinely trying to have children in spite of all the extra work load, studies and travel plans. And not having much success at it.

“A year grew into two years. By the end of the third year of our marriage, several doctors, specialists, herbalists, and a traditional masseur later, I was already steeling myself up to a life of childlessness.

“Yes, this, in spite of the prayers I knew were being offered for me by my mother, my siblings, best friends, close friends and church groups, my resolve in succeeding at this emotional task was starting to wane. Yet somehow,” added Ruth, “in the back of my mind I knew that there was a plan. Why else would my husband and I with all these people continue to pray for our situation?

“If it really was a lost cause, why then were we still pleading and dedicating all before God?”

The answer came in the form of a prophecy by world-renowned evangelist Bill Subritzky.

Subritzky was on a crusade to Fiji in October 1993. He was ministering in Suva in a jam-packed national sports stadium when he suddenly called out, indicating that there was someone among his congregation that night who was desperately seeking God’s hand on her life; that a lady and her husband had been trying fruitlessly for several years to conceive. Subritzky scanned the crowd then asked all the women in the stadium who could not conceive to

stand up and he prayed for them all from one end to the other.

When he got to Ruth, he said, “My dear sister, raise your hands, God has touched you and I can feel the power of his Holy Spirit on you.” Of course at the time, Ruth was not totally sure whether it was she that he was addressing or another of the many women standing around that stadium.

Then, as if sensing her hesitation, he pointed and added, “Yes, you

the lady with the blue cardigan. Wave your hands”. So waving her hands with tears streaming down her face and not quite believing what was happening to her, the lightness of body, the cheering around her and revelling in the ‘awesomeness’ of the moment, Ruth knew then that God had heard her pleas, heard the prayers of those who cared and had already answered.

“I just knew that when Pastor Subritzky said those words, that message was for me,” Ruth smiles, wiping away a tear.



Ruth Lal, (left) with her strongest allies in prayer, her mum, Droupati Chinappa (centre) and sister, Margaret Subramani.

God's promises are sure, and Darrel Lal, Ruth and Surendra's first born, was born in August 1994. Their second son, Adriel Lal, was born two years later.

According to Ruth, her entire family and then others attended Bill Subritzky's crusade then, and the experience was both emotional and overwhelming for those who were part of her life and had shared in her dilemma. It turned several hearts and eventually won those souls to Christ, bringing her to the realization that God would have answered her prayers much earlier, but it was probably part of his plan to use her situation to create a bigger impact, not just for the people around her at the time, but far reaching into the future on those of us who are reading her story today.

"God will allow things to happen in his own good time," she says. "We just need to be trusting and obedient."

Ruth believes she has been to be used by God in such a way, humbled that he rewarded her sacrifices, the commitment to prayer, to duty, and to humility with two wonderful teenage sons who both today are totally involved in church youth ministry along with the support of her husband and members of his extended family members. The "miracle son" Darrel is now president of the youth group at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Ba.

Ruth recently graduated with a Masters Degree in Commerce, majoring in Human Resource Management from the University of Auckland and is a senior lecturer in the Department of Management, Industrial Relations and OHS with the FNU (*Fiji National University*) at its Ba Campus, along with her husband Surendra, who is a senior lecturer in Electrical and Electronics with the university's School of Electrical Engineering, also in Ba.

Ruth is also priest's warden to the Revd Philip Subramani, church treasurer and an active member of the AAW at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Ba.

Arietta Kumar

World food security and you

At a recent meeting of the International Council of Women (ICW –CIF) Fifth Asia – Pacific Regional Council conference in Nadi, Fiji, it was revealed that the possibility of Pacific Islanders in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, or the Cook Islands ever suffering from near starvation and the diseases and perils that accompanied it was remote. However that did not give them the mandate to reduce their level of concern or their participation in growing food production, ensuring food safety and good nutrition, improving health standards and overcoming the effects of climate change, locally or globally.

The Christian World Service's publication *@world* (2010 winter issue) quoted the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation estimate of one billion hungry people in the world. This figure was expected to double by 2050. The World Food Program reports that a child dies every six seconds from hunger-related causes, and that climate change was worsening the situation.

What has this to do with the AAW of Polynesia? How is this a concern for the women in our diocese?

It's simple really; it has a whole lot to do with us. The problem begins here, not necessarily out there. First up we need to have a personal appreciation of our environment. Worldwide conferences on climate change continue to draw our attention to its effects and calls on our resilience to change, to embrace wholeheartedly the process of doing things differently now, for a sustainable tomorrow, lest we awake one morning in a sea of regret. The age-old saying: '*We never know how good we've got it until we've lost it,*' rings true for most of us.

Marama, fafine, kakai fefine, it's time to get behind your churches, your governments, your schools, NGOs, village and social communities. Lend your support, pledge commitment and participation in growing awareness and action to ensure that every member of your family, your village, your congregation, your school, your neighbourhood, your district, is aware

of his or her role in working toward a sustainable future for all of us whether agriculturally, economically, or socially.



The time to act is now. To women of the church, women of the land, there are calls to document all our traditional methods of preservation, conservation, agriculture and food processes - methods that sustained our ancestors for hundreds of years. This call comes in the wake of rising global concerns over climate change.

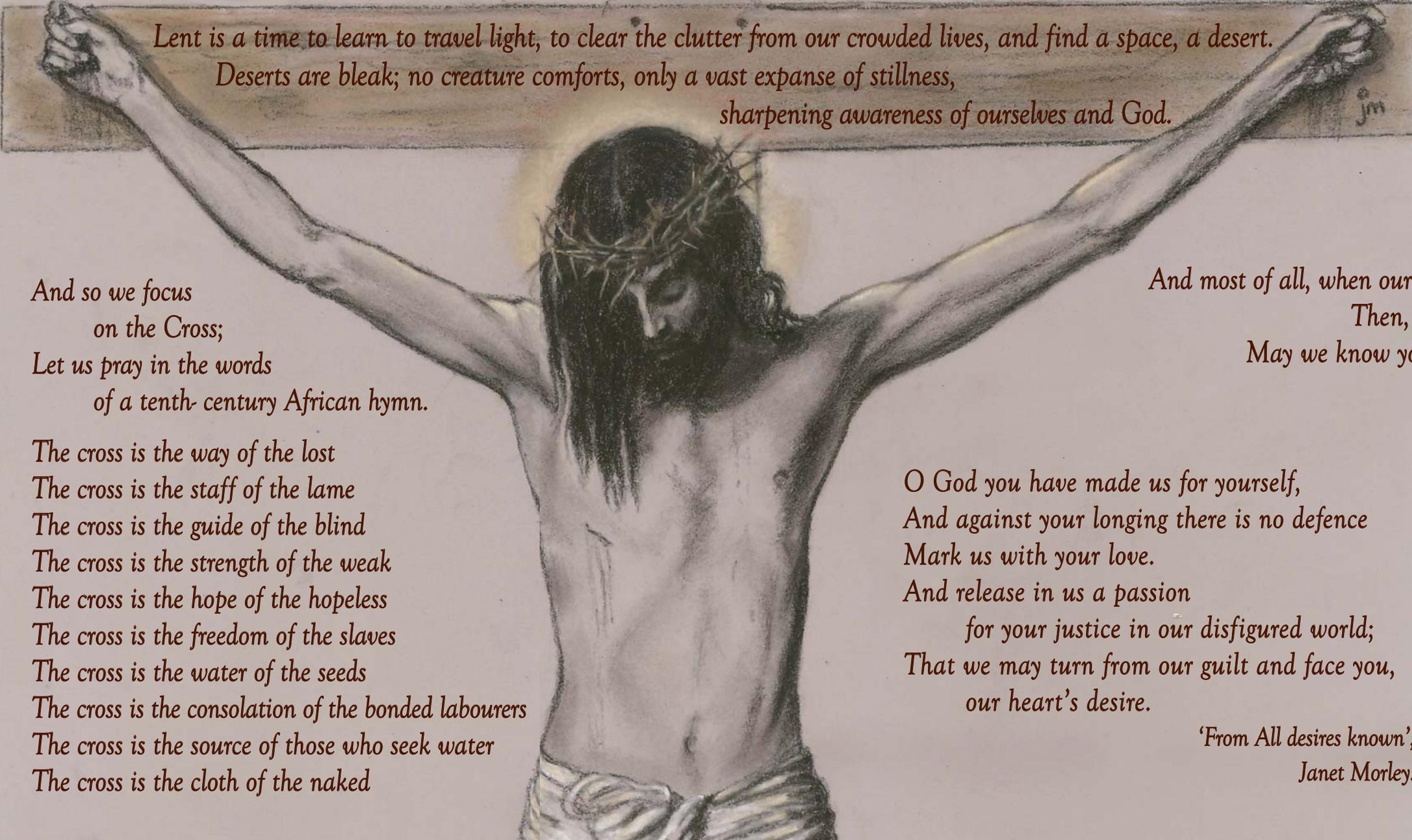
APRC Conference members were unanimous in underlining the need to appreciate the environment, to participate in the preservation and conservation of our resources so as to enable us to celebrate their existence and abundance into the future.

"Let us commit to consult those who can guide us through the preservation of our agro ecosystems. Let us ask for assistance with documentation to preserve age-old traditional methods of farming and food processes that sustained our ancestors for hundreds of years. Let us pursue avenues that will encourage us to conserve our flora, fauna and marine life where we use only what we need, and not take it for granted. Remember what may work for you or your group need not necessarily be the solution to others' dilemmas in similar situations. What and where you may lack in resources, others may have in abundance. Sharing of information, skills and resources today will impact on environmental solutions tomorrow."

Efforts are under way to re-affiliate AAW Polynesia to National Council of Women (NCW) Fiji after its membership had lapsed some years ago. Options to localize our membership with NCW Tonga and NCW Samoa are also being considered.

(NCW Fiji recently hosted the week-long ICW-CIF APRC seminar and training workshop on the theme: Women in Agriculture – Building a Sustainable Future in Nadi, Fiji. About 150 representatives of affiliate organisations from Asia/Pacific and Oceania attended.)

Travelling our Lenten Journey of Faith . . .



*Lent is a time to learn to travel light, to clear the clutter from our crowded lives, and find a space, a desert.
Deserts are bleak; no creature comforts, only a vast expanse of stillness,
sharpening awareness of ourselves and God.*

*And so we focus
on the Cross;
Let us pray in the words
of a tenth-century African hymn.*

*The cross is the way of the lost
The cross is the staff of the lame
The cross is the guide of the blind
The cross is the strength of the weak
The cross is the hope of the hopeless
The cross is the freedom of the slaves
The cross is the water of the seeds
The cross is the consolation of the bonded labourers
The cross is the source of those who seek water
The cross is the cloth of the naked*

*And most of all, when our hearts
Then, Lord,
May we know you*

*O God you have made us for yourself,
And against your longing there is no defence
Mark us with your love.
And release in us a passion
for your justice in our disfigured world;
That we may turn from our guilt and face you,
our heart's desire.*

*'From All desires known',
Janet Morley.*

. . . Easter

*We find you most surprising friend
In unexpected places and at unexpected times;
On the everyday path of our lives;
In challenge and change;
In childlike openness and vulnerability;
In joyful response to love
Hearts are sad, our hands are empty and our need is admitted.
Living Lord, you will come to us and our search will be over.
When you come, and say in glad welcome: "It is the Lord".*



Lady Day, its story, the resources

The Feast of the Annunciation of our Saviour to the Blessed Virgin Mary, more widely known as Lady Day (25 March), holds a special place in the affections of Mothers' Union members worldwide. Parishes used to have Banner Parades and special services but with many women working outside the home these festivals happened less and less frequently. MU members in Auckland and Waikato/Taranaki still have these services but mostly within their own groups.

This Feast is still kept by AAW members in Polynesia and some years ago the then AAW Diocesan President, Ema Hala'api'api, suggested a special Day of Prayer when members in New Zealand and Polynesia prayed for one another. Groups from each country were joined up with others with specific prayers for the occasion. This prayer link has dropped away in recent years and Polynesia has suggested that it be renewed. Suitable prayers can be found in our AAW service books and the NZ Prayer Book.

The Mothers' Union provides a Lady Day service each year which can be down loaded from their web site: www.themothersunion.org This can be adapted for AAW use.

The AAW focuses on another Festival – the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) on 2 February which fits in with MU's first AIM 'to bring up children in the life and faith of the church'. This is why AAW Sunday was fixed for the first Sunday in February, although this time of the year doesn't always suit. Although AAW Sunday services can be held at different times, it helps to have an understanding of why these particular Feast Days are significant in the life of AAW and MU.



For Our Grandson

As you snuggle into my shoulder
Your blue eyes just focussing on an unknown world
You are a memory of love
To women you'll never remember.
They smile they recall their babies long ago.
Jewel of humanity
You were loved and prayed for long before you were born.
Your tiny reality was joy for many that January morn.
See those little feet kick, those tiny arms wave
Ripples of love reach out from you - love to a sick grandfather,
God's blessing in an unexpected setback.
May you go on bringing this as you walk in the way of the Lord.



*From
Lynne Hall,
Mosgiel,*

As mentioned in the last *Circle* article Mothers' Union members have been working on new projects for several months. Our President, Iritana Hankins, has been busy visiting groups and getting to know people, and also finding out more about Mothers' Union in the Province and worldwide. Iritana has been asked to write the guest editorial for the July/December issue of the MU Prayer Diary *Families Worldwide*. Last November she attended the Auckland AAW Christmas Lunch and the chaplain asked her to assist with the service which she was delighted to do. Iritana is looking forward to more opportunities to share in AAW activities when invited.

She is still involved with church services in her role as Deacon and continues to travel around the country attending meetings with the Prison Chaplaincy Board.

The Auckland Mothers' Union has set up a *Facebook* page and email address to publicise the Bring Back Childhood campaign. This has been adapted slightly from the Bye Buy Childhood campaign launched in England last year. AAW and MU members are working together to publicise this and it is hoped other dioceses will take it up as momentum grows. Reports from the Families Commission and others have pointed out the worry many parents have about the amount of advertising aimed at children when they watch television.

Wellington Mothers' Union continues to explore the Parenting Encouragement Programme which is run by Mothers' Union in several countries around the world. When introduced here it will follow the format of the Australian MU programme which seems more suited to our way of life.

Mothers' Union members in Christchurch are looking at their future as members have left the city following the earthquakes. One of the members, Mother Keleni, of the Community of the Sacred Name, has moved to a new Community House in Timaru as the Mother House and Retreat House situated in the central business district were damaged beyond repair. The remaining MU members travelled to Timaru for their last meeting and they are in our prayers as they look ahead.

Waikato/Taranaki members have elected a new Diocesan President. St Mary's members are continuing their support of the Teen Mums School and young people at risk who are part of the WAVES drop-in centre. They also help with the Cathedral's after school programme, and this year are providing undies for some of the mothers of families at risk. When funds are short these women tend to spend available money on necessities for the children and it is hoped a gift 'just for mum' will be a boost for them.

Worldwide, the financial crisis has had a big impact on financial support and some staff numbers have been cut back at Mary Sumner House. However the core programmes and commitments have been maintained but individual project grants and funding of travel costs for Community Development Co-ordinators have been affected. Members continue to seek ways in which to support the many positive and creative schemes in which MU worldwide is involved.

As I prepare this report, I am aware that it will be the New Year 2012 when you read it, so I trust you have had a blessed Christmas surrounded by those you love. I trust you have all had a well earned rest and are looking forward to a productive 2012.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our AAW sisters in Christchurch as they continue to strive to bring normality back into their lives. No doubt they will have had special prayers from us all over this period. I think that we all feel what they have endured has been a message to us as to how fragile our worldly life may be and also how important social issues are for all of us.

The General Election is now a past event and we shall all be coming to terms with the promises that have been made - and some that have been broken! It has been interesting to note how many women were nominated for election and the number of women who are now in executive positions. Sadly it is decreasing each year - a sad indictment, considering New Zealand was the first country in the world to "allow" women to vote. Many of you will remember the Suffrage Celebrations in Christchurch and viewing the lovely Kate Sheppard memorial plaque. I wonder if it has survived the trauma that beautiful city has suffered.

National Council of Women remits have played a large part in our work-load this year. This is due to them being a direct line through to government agencies. AAW was one of NCWNZ's founding bodies and has remained strong and active since its inception, but I am also aware that many AAW and MU groups are working very hard on social issues within their own dioceses. I would like to hear about those issues and to be able to share them with our other groups.

Blessings from Eileen. (eimlach@xtra.co.nz Ph 04 383 7469)

The Cover photographs

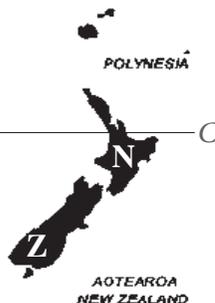
The Diocese of Polynesia is the largest diocese in the Anglican Communion but 90% of it is water - the Pacific Ocean! The photographs, portrayed against a true, deep sea 'blue-water' background are listed in order from the top left.

1. Women of Viti Levu West Episcopal Unit gather for a weekend retreat in Ba at the Church of the Holy Spirit. 2: Women of the Church of Holy Family in Waidradra, Deuba, near Suva, show their sewing skills through displays of quilts and pillow cases during a church bazaar. 3. Nani Singh, 89, our oldest AAW supporter in Nadi, is escorted here by Ulamila Fong-Toy and 2-year-old Esther Fong-Toy.

4. AAW Provincial President Elizabeth Crawley (centre) flanked by Social Concerns convenor Eileen Imlach (left) and O & O coordinator Robyn Hickman at St Francis of Assisi worship centre in Nadrala, Sigatoka. 5. Representation by women grows and gains momentum at Diocesan Synod. 6. Archbishop Winston Halapua steps in tune to Tome Enikosune's guitar rhythm during morning fellowship at the House of Sarah in Suva with the women of Suva / Levuka Archdeaconry. 7. Women of Tonga showcase some of their skills in tapa design.

Relating and Rejoicing

News from Pasefika and from N through Z



Diocese of Auckland

In December, **St Stephen's Whangaparaoa AAW** held a Christmas 'Long Table' celebration.

It was beautifully set with festive decorations.

All who attended, members and visitors, enjoyed a delicious meal with Lady Rhyl carving the Christmas ham. She made traditional Christmas puddings boiled-in-a-bag and carried in with brandy

flaming to clapping and cheering - the air filled with the aroma. As in last year, we had visitors who enjoyed the fun and fellowship so much they decided to become members for this coming year. We gained four new members at Christmas 2011. We hope to have another four joining us at our first meeting in 2012. Three years ago we began with 16 members and now have 32!

As always, our evening began with an AAW service led by vicar's wife, Helen Hardcastle. Thanks were conveyed from Diane Kenderdine for the large number of gifts taken to her for the Mums and Children at ATWC and there was warm appreciation from the local CYFS for the 20 Rainbow bags we made and filled with gifts for children in our community. A letter came from a new member of the church, recently bereaved, who was given one of the beautiful knitted prayer shawls our members make. A 'Happy Christmas' gathering! *Janice Cooper*

St Peter's, Takapuna goes on Tour. An article in the *Anglican* a few years ago aroused my interest in stained glass. This interest developed into a tour of five Auckland Churches! Holy Trinity Cathedral and St Mary's Church in Parnell was the first visit. Cathedral's Jane Bellamy was our guide, extending a warm

welcome and helped us search each window, to find the rat, the cat and the mouse in the Cathedral windows and then the owl in St Mary's, all due to a challenge from our vicar to find the otherwise elusive animals! We rejoiced in the history, colour and styles of their windows.



At Christ Church in Ellerslie Kei Chang eagerly awaited our arrival, having music, candles aglow and a cheerful account of the windows, some being made by Queen Victoria's stained glass window-maker who reportedly had also made windows for Balmoral Castle. After lunch in the cafés of Ellerslie, we headed off to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Khyber Pass. This beautiful old kauri Church sports some lovely windows. One in particular, so different, was of a Maori woman - remarkable in its simplicity and colour. The Revd Bruce Thompson, Navy Chaplain, was our interesting 'show-and-tell' host.

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At St Alban's in Dominion Road, Glen Bernard gave an amusing and interesting insight into the history of this lovely little church which has the only window in Auckland featuring St Alban.

Our last stop for the day was at St Luke's in Mt Albert where each of the windows has a beautifully illustrated history done by the sister of our host, Ron Bennett. To the vicars and guides who made our day so rewarding and enjoyable we extend our sincere thanks. *Sally Bussey*

For its Christmas function, the **Auckland AAW** on 19 November 2011, also enjoyed a tour of the Holy Sepulchre Church in Khyber Pass. This beautiful old church was built in 1881

and is now is the Auckland headquarters for the Anglican Maori Pastorate. There are a stunning number of stained glass windows which were much admired. A communion service was followed by lunch. We felt very privileged to be invited and to enjoy fellowship with their members. *Robyn Bridgman*



Mesdames Nan Wood; Mothers' Union President Emilie Aldwinkle; Barbara Dixon; the Revd Iritana Hawkin; Provincial President Mothers' Union; Johanna Holder; Diocesan President Diane Alexander; the Revd Hilary Leith, Chaplain Auckland AAW; Judy Eggleton; Lady Rhyl Jansen; Marie Taylor.



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Diocese of Polynesia

Nadi's St Christopher's Church has under the AAW banner an Altar Guild comprising several ladies keen on the care of all liturgical linen, including the altar linen, needlepoint kneelers and cushions, clergy vestments, altar frontals used in our services as well as the silver vessels, brass vases and crucifix, the drapes, frames and banners and the purchase of wine and wafers used in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. (Story and pictures on page 4.)

A milestone for Anglican women in the Diocese of Polynesia was achieved recently with the inclusion of a representative of the AAW of the Diocese into the decision-making fold of the Diocesan Standing Committee. This follows Synod's approval of a motion tabled by our AAW president, Miliana Fong, at the 34th Diocesan Synod in Suva in May 2011, that the Synod approve the increase in the membership of the Standing Committee to accommodate a member from the Association of Anglican Women. The AAW previously attended Standing Committee only by invitation in an observer capacity and for specific projects update or reports clarification.

According to Mrs Fong, this was indeed an achievement for the Anglican women in the Diocese and she expressed her gratitude to Archbishop Winston Halapua for his leadership, encouragement and vision particularly for the growth

and work of Anglican women in the Diocese and their aspirations through bodies like the AAW. *Arietta Kumar*

Diocese of Polynesia AAW Executive Committee: Back: Asenaca Savuti. Centre: Ann Houn-lee; O. Sharon 'Elone; Ema Asioli; Maureen Koroi; Shirley Reid; Tanya Ah Kee. Front: Arietta Kumar; Tute Fung; Miliana Fong; Tulimata'I Smith.



The Regional Council works closely with the Wardens, giving regular reports on the rise and fall of flood waters and reports from the Met office. Greymouth Civil defence holds simulated emergencies such as tsunami, flood and earthquakes exercises to ensure personnel are prepared - tested recently when the Grey River reached record levels. *Diane Higgins*

Diocese of Dunedin



Bertha Macdonald. Every month a cheerful voice used to contact us saying, "AAW meeting is on Thursday and we hope you can come." It was Bertha doing her bit for the AAW. Now she has moved to Ashburton to be near her daughter and we will miss her.

Bertha was at the meeting for the formation of a St Paul's Cathedral branch of the Mothers' Union in 1951, restarted after the first branch had closed. She lived in Wellington for a short time and then moved back to Dunedin and went to St Michael's, St John's, Roslyn, then for over 40 years was at the Cathedral, where she was a member of Young Wives groups for some time too.



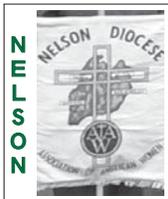
Bertha was Enrolling Member of the Cathedral branch of the Mothers' Union and on the Diocesan Executive of that and AAW. She was a delegate to the Dominion Conference in August, 1969 when the AAW was formed. We wish her a happy time in Ashburton.

Visit of Elizabeth Crawley, National President. We were pleased to welcome our National President to the Dunedin Diocese. Elizabeth Crawley and our Diocesan President Margaret McLanachan, spent a very busy week, starting at Holy Trinity, Invercargill at an afternoon meeting and attending that evening the Patronal Festival dinner at All Saint's, Gladstone. On Saturday they headed to Queenstown to speak at St Peter's Wakatipu. A trip on the gondolas and some sightseeing was fitted in. On Monday they were back in Dunedin and Elizabeth spoke at St Luke's Church, Mosgiel and on Tuesday at St John's, Roslyn. Wednesday saw them at St Michael and All Angels' Church at Anderson's Bay. People from St Nicholas church were invited too. On Thursday there was a meeting at Holy Cross, St Kilda, with members of other Dunedin groups attending. Some sightseeing around Dunedin happened too. We finished the week with dinner for the Diocesan Executive on the Thursday night. Elizabeth spoke about her visit to Polynesia and gave her *PowerPoint* presentation.

Invercargill. AAW members from Southland parishes attended celebrations commemorating 150 years of the Anglican Church in Invercargill. This photograph shows members who were at the Celebration Dinner in November.



Diocese of Nelson



Marlborough recently held its Regional meeting at Nativity in Blenheim. Guest speaker was Linda Moses who is a Chaplain at Marlborough Girl's College. She advised parents to love, listen to and guide their children, and be there for them in good and

bad times. Linda said that she was at college six hours a week to help in any way she could. She has had to get used to their language, not be judgemental and always stay positive.

Holy Trinity Afternoon AAW, Richmond, got creative recently when Rosanne Armstrong, a floral artist, who owns her own design school, guided the members through making a lapel brooch. Everyone went home with their own creation made from copper wire, woven with shredded flax, decorated with glass beads and sealed with glue when dry. At **Mawhera's Regional meeting** in Greymouth the theme was "Tribute to Youth". The speakers were all active in youth work: Bill Graydon, leader of Kids and Coffee, Ian Hawes from I.C.O.N.Z. (which took the place of Boys Brigade), Tim Mora from *The Shed* (an interdenominational youth club) and Gay Smith with Red Cross Dancers. All were impressed with the work that these people do.



St John's Fellowship (Westport) enjoyed Revd Rona Halsall's talk about a trip to Russia and Norway where she visited the places of famous composers and musicians of the past.

Holy Trinity Afternoon group invited the evening group to film afternoon, complete with popcorn, jaffas and potato chips. The film was a moving story of a Chinese boy, who, after strict training, became a competitive and successful dancer in America. They all enjoyed the film 'Mao's Last Dance' and were treated to ice creams afterwards. The Evening Group held a fish and chip night with Pat Cogger (22 years as Warden) giving information about the Civil Defence Warden's responsibilities on the Grey River flood plain.

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Diocese of Christchurch

The **Diocesan AAW Festival** held in October was a wonderful celebration of worship, with 250 present. There was such a sense of unity, gratitude and an awareness of blessings received. There

were representatives from other denominations. Wellington members were with us in spirit - they had provided the delicious catered supper we enjoyed.

The AAW Garden Nursery is now well established at **St Peter's Church in Riccarton**. St Peter's AAW are tending the plants provided by members from around Christchurch - the gate in the hedge has an AAW sign! In due course, the plants are for members and others who are re-establishing gardens.

Please continue to offer your prayers for all who find themselves having to move from red-zoned properties. These

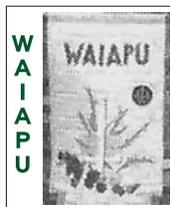
include our Diocesan Secretary and *Circle* Correspondent Jan Deavoll and husband Tony.

There is still so much anguish, sadness and untold energy being

expended. Pictured is St Mary's Church, Merivale in process of demolition - and 4-year-old Ava Robinson as preparations at Grandma and Grandpa's were terrifyingly interrupted by the 5.8 magnitude earthquake on 23 December



Diocesan President Adrienne Robinson with Marilyn Dempster and Nola Henderson at the Diocesan Festival



Diocese of Waiaapu

"From rubbish dump to local jewel" - the re-establishment of the Peka Peka wetlands. This was the title for the event planned for the **Hawkes Bay Regional AAW** day held at St. Luke's Church, Havelock North in October. The church service was led by the

Revd Brian Dawson, who spoke of the life and work of Suzanne Aubert whose feast day it was. To 'do church' he said, we need to work with or in the community, to have a call and to do so with compassion, and not just caring, but with passion.

Morning tea was followed by a talk and power point presentation on the wetlands in Hawkes Bay, presented by Stephen Cave, H.B. Regional Council Operations manager. He is in charge of the Peka Peka wetlands, south of Hastings and Havelock North on State Highway 2.



What was a rubbish dump in a swamp area is now beautiful wetlands with board-walks. Stephen led a guided tour. Most of our group were able to manage the paths - steep at one point - and the board walks. Sensible footwear and support for the disabled was advisable. The restoration is a long term project and has attracted a variety of bird life to the area. This was an enjoyable and interactive educational experience concerning the environmental importance of our wetlands.

- *Laura Mathers, Taradale and Darieel Evans, Havelock North.*



A Victorian Afternoon Tea and entertainment featured at the September meeting of **St Andrew's AAW at Taupo**, with 50 members and friends attending. Three comic songs were performed by a small choir and three amusing Victorian style readings and recitations were made by members.

The best linen, fine china and silver teapots and water jugs were all given an airing. Dainty cucumber sandwiches, slices and cup cakes were served with tea. Everyone dressed up for the occasion, some wearing hats to complement their outfits. An enjoyable and entertaining afternoon to welcome spring. *Pat Nairn*



Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

Greetings from the AAW Fellowship of **St Mary's Cathedral, New Plymouth**. We have a new Fellowship banner, which was dedicated at our

Patronal Festival in August. We were so blessed that Sandra Johnson was willing to replicate the original banner with a few minor alterations, mainly with the wording. A huge thank you to Sandra.

We have also read and voted on the NCW remits, enjoyed a well-presented talk by Rosemary Bent about Overseas and Outreach, and had our last lunch-time meeting at Lillian Hall's Herb Garden & Craft Shed.

A team of AAW ladies managed and ran the cake stall at the Church Gala on Saturday 24 September. These women led by Jenny Floyd baked cakes and sold them, along with many donated cakes. I am proud of them all. *Pat Green.*



On a beautiful day in December the **Okato Co-operating Parish's AAW** group of 12 met at Patuha Lodge which is hidden in some of New Zealand's finest bush on the foothills of Mount Taranaki.



Members and the staff enjoyed Christmas carols accompanied by a member on the piano. There was a parcel swap and a superb luncheon served seated around a Christmas tree central to the seating arrangement.

A special guest was Shona Barnard who had spent her childhood in the area and spoke of life in Mexico City where both she and her husband work as missionaries. Also visiting for the day was Elizabeth Hayes, the Diocesan President, who the evening before attended Taranaki's Link "Extravaganza", with a great variety of entertainment provided by the groups attending. *Elizabeth Hayes*



Diocese of Wellington

Down but not out . . . Wellington. At our final meeting for the year we heard from Stephanie McIntyre, Director of the **Downtown Community Ministry**. "A power of good". This is a city-based initiative working with the most vulnerable people in our society.

Many are homeless; these are people who come in at the end of a long road. Stephanie ran through the costs of one person living alone. Not much was left to furnish the flat and buy food, clothes and transport costs. Some facts:

Men outnumber women 3 to 1. Women and children are housed first
Many are Maori (42%)

Specific services provided are:

- **Housing:** The big emphasis is on getting people into a house and then staying there. Problems such as alcohol are worked on afterwards. In one quarter, 27 people were housed. House providers are: The City Council, Housing Corporation and the private sector – about a one-third each.
- **Food bank:** This is part of a holistic system. Food is not just handed out, income and outgoings are verified first. 75% of people come first for food - this is a way into helping people.
- **Banking & Budgeting:** for 20 years the Downtown Ministry has acted as a 'street' bank.
- **Planning:** The Ministry helps people to set goals.
- **Advocacy.**
- **Health care:** This includes physical and mental support and drug and alcohol support.



Financially this organisation works with under a million dollars a year. Over half the money is raised through fund-raising and donations: eg. through organising a book fair.

Not a lot of financial support comes from the Government, but the Wellington City Council is a good supporter.

Busy Belmont Archdeaconry. In September, **St. Paul's Waiwhetu** invited Carole Devine to talk about felting, and the October meeting saw one of our members, Maggie Davies, introduce us to her "Travelling Christmas Crib" which she used with her Fellowship group at her church in the United Kingdom.



"Summer is a coming in," . . . and this was so, when the **AAW Kapiti Region** met on the evening of 24 November. Forty members gathered and greeted before worship was held in the church. We sang, prayed, read poems and lessons from the Bible, all based around each letter of the word **CHRISTMAS**.

After worship we moved to the hall where we entertained one another by presenting various items around a summer theme. Some danced, some paraded their summer hat creations, others took us to the beach by way of verse and, even to the desert, thanks to Noah and his ark.

Following such activities, we were all delighted to partake in a very enjoyable supper and we departed having become assured, once again, that the "Word became flesh and dwells among us."

St Hilda's Upper Hutt has enjoyed a DVD about the canals of Ireland, with Daniel O'Donnell singing and doing the commentary. This was followed by lunch at a local restaurant. The local pharmacist was invited to the October meeting and spoke of what we should, and should not be taking in the way of patent medicines (vitamins etc.). He also presented a power point of his recent trip overseas.

Water, water! Good news When I contacted the Community of the Sisters of the Church, in Honiara, Solomon Islands, I discovered that one of the things they desperately needed was new water tanks. Their old ones were leaking very badly. With some of the money they received from O and O they were able to buy and install three new water tanks.



It was a real bonus for them and a delight to us, knowing that the money donated was really being used.

*-Elizabeth Hopper
O & O, Wellington Diocese.*

* "Install" really meant a lot of push and shove from the sisters.



Holy Trinity Avalon had a combined dinner with the men's group in early October. **St. James, Lower Hutt** invited Hannah Jacobi to tell of memories and experiences during her 'gap' year in France and travels in Europe. Hannah said she found the Anglican Church to be an 'anchor' of real support during her time away. At the October meeting Graeme Ross spoke about the early days of broadcasting and reminded everyone of the many voices from the past. He played records and discs on vintage machines, and there was much reminiscing about old times in Lower Hutt.

SCARS . . .

Our hearts are broken. Our eyes weep.
A blanket of sadness has settled on our community.

We have moved into a deep state of grief ever since the second explosion in the Pike River mine on that fateful Wednesday shattered all hope of rescuing our "29". We are wounded and at the moment our wounds are gaping and bleeding.

Last August, I underwent surgery that required four incisions. Initially the wounds bled. Then scabs formed and soon the scarring began to emerge. At first the developing scars were sore and protruded outwards from my body. Now, some months later, the tenderness is gone and the scars are flush with the rest of my skin. But, the scars remain and will be with me for the rest of my life.

A wound that festers never develops a scar.

A scar is the mark of healing.

Our community is presently living with gaping wounds. It is important that we face our grief in such a way that fosters healing.

We must be cautious not to try and escape or cover-up the pain we are experiencing. Too much alcohol, drugs and other forms of escapism only mask the pain, but never allow it an opportunity to heal.

West Coasters boast of their resilience and courage. Have we the courage to do the things that hurt like facing the pain and sharing with others in things like the Remembrance Service on that Thursday not long ago?

I was struck the other day by the fact that Jesus' resurrected body is scarred. Wounded on Good Friday. Healed on Easter Sunday. Yet, when Jesus met with his followers after his resurrection, he showed them his scars, the marks of his healing.

The Coast sports many scars - Brunner mine, Strongman mine, Cave Creek. It is my prayer that we face our present pain in such a way that Pike River becomes another scar, with us forever, a mark of healing.

Marge Tefft, Greymouth & Kumara Anglican Parish



Pacific Island Favourites

Back in June 1980, the women of St Peter's Anglican Church in Lautoka, on the west coast of Fiji's larger island, Viti Levu, published a collection of favourite recipes. The proceeds from the sale of that cookery book went to the general development of the church in Lautoka. As a tribute to those women, who were inspired to share their cooking joys, listed here are a couple of selections to tingle your taste buds over this summer in the southern hemisphere.

Nuqa (or cod) in a Dalo (taro) leaf parcel

Cut the fish into small fillets. Wash carefully as many very young dalo leaves as required. Moisten each fillet well with lolo (coconut cream) or if preferred a very rich white sauce may be used.

Wrap each moistened fillet in a few dalo leaves. Place in a shallow dish with enough lolo to cover and stew gently until leaves are cooked through.

Serve with steamed rice, potatoes, kumara, tavioka or dalo.

Baked Duruka in Lolo Sauce

(Duruka is a seasonal vegetable in Fiji, usually available from May each year, and available in New Zealand from shops stocking Indian spices and vegetables. It is somewhat similar to asparagus.)

12 duruka heads
Lolo (coconut cream) from 2 coconuts
1 dspn butter
1 small onion, grated
Corn flour
Cheese, grated
1 red chilli, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste

Bake duruka heads' cases intact in a hot oven for 10 minutes then remove outside cases and place duruka in casserole dish. Heat lolo (do not boil) add butter, grated onion, chilli and salt and pepper. Thicken with a little corn flour. Pour sauce over duruka, top with grated cheese and place under grill or in oven until top is nicely browned.

Extract from the Cookery Book, St Peter's Ladies' Guild, Lautoka, Fiji. June 1980.



Vinaka vakalev, AAW New Zealand - for the gift of funds that enabled the women of Sigatoka to purchase these catering pots to help them with fund raising drives for the Church of the Good Shepherd and its two worship centres at Yalava and Nadrula.

The Polynesia 'Square'

- on the Provincial AAW Banner.

The coconut tree, a common tree in the Pacific Islands, symbolises the "Tree of Life". We use all parts of the tree for our livelihood:

- Roots - fish trap
- Trunk - furniture and house building
- Leaves - roof, baskets, clothing
- Young fruit - medicine, food
- Mature fruit - food, oils, utensils

The six coconut palm leaves represent the six units that make up our Diocese. These are the three archdeaconries of Suva, Tonga, Samoa and the three Episcopal Units of Vanua Levu, Viti Levu West and New Zealand.

The nine coconuts represent the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Humility, Self-control).

It also represents the many ethnic groups that make up our Diocese. These include Fijians, Indians, Rotumans, Chinese, Tongans, Samoans, Melanesians, Europeans and part Europeans.

Therefore, the AAW of the Diocese of Polynesia is made up of both young and old women, who happily worship together in harmony in a multi-racial environment.

