

Circle



Connecting - Inspiring - Reaching out to Women in our Dioceses



Reaching out to the women of today...

- AAW offers Christian support, friendship, fun and social interaction.
- AAW is open to all women throughout New Zealand and Polynesia and has its own magazine 'Circle'.
- AAW takes an interest in Social Concerns and lobbies on its own behalf and through the National Council of Women New Zealand.
- AAW is active in Overseas and Outreach. Funds given by members support projects and mission partners in New Zealand and overseas. An emergency fund assists in natural disaster relief.

We have a three-year theme:

"Growth through Gratitude, Grace and Guidance"

Our Aims are....

1. To unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church.
2. To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.

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Cover: Flight to Egypt. They were homeless and fleeing to save the child's life.

Bishop Peter reflects on families today. Page 17.

Letters

‘We would like to let you know, if you have not already read the New Year Honours, that our Auckland AAW President, Barbara Dixon, was honoured with a QSM for her work in the community.’

**Kaye Hastings, Secretary,
AAW Auckland.**

The Circle Team thanks Kaye. We extend our congratulations to both Barbara and her husband, the Rev. Les Dixon, also awarded the QSM.

‘I have been a member since before we became the AAW, so I suppose that I qualify for being over 50 years membership. I remember inviting our Young Wives group to my home to hear about the possibility of being the AAW. I can recall the occasion so well. We had a very large group of

young wives in my sitting room, and they all agreed enthusiastically to the change. Our group is not only still very much involved with our own parish but also the Anglican Trust for Women and Children and the Auckland City Mission, so I do believe that we are carrying out the mission of our church. I personally have been a member of St. Aidan’s since the 1940s when I attended Sunday School.’

Robyn Bridgman

The Circle Team thanks Robyn for being such a faithful AAW member for over 50 years. Your enthusiasm for AAW Aims continues. Congratulations! You will be presented with a ‘50 Years in AAW’ badge.

Editorial notes

Lone Members – name change?

The Circle team would like to rename Lone Members to something more inclusive. 'Mailbox Members' - used in the Auckland and Christchurch Dioceses, is suggested. Please send your comments to judith@jmacwebdesign.nz

Subscriptions for individuals

The new price of \$20 is for individual orders (includes postage cost for four issues). Orders and payments already made for 2020 are not affected. Details on page 35.

Barbara Archer Golden Jubilee Badge



To celebrate our Golden Jubilee the Executive have used the legacy left to us by Barbara Archer, to enable us to award a 'gold' badge to our

members who have been in AAW for 50 years.

Please would AAW groups let their Diocesan Presidents know of eligible members before our Executive meeting on 14 March 2020. The badges will be given to Diocesan Presidents at the meeting.

Blessings, Judith

Judith Mackenzie, NZ AAW President/Circle Co-ordinator

Correction

In Volume 51, No.4, November 2019, there were two inaccuracies on page 39.

St James' Jubilee celebration was for the AAW 50th Jubilee (not 25th); and the Reflection at the Thanksgiving Eucharist was given by the Rev. Rosalind Sims (not the Rev. Rosie Dell). We sincerely apologise for these errors.

**Mary Houston,
Previous Circle Editor**

Intercessions for the Beginning of a New Year

Eternal God, conceiver and shaper, ruler and saviour
of our world,

We thank you that, awake and aware, we are free to
praise you today.

We come in prayer and thanks to worship you today.

We ask you to be with women in other parts of the
world where there are tensions, war and natural
disasters,

where you weep with them as they struggle to survive.

Challenge and liberate those of us who follow Christ
from narrowness of vision and limited discipleship.

Make us keen to serve you as your hands, feet and
voice wherever the welfare of humanity may be
threatened or improved.

God of our lives, you are always calling us to follow
you into the future.

Increase our faith and decrease our pride until we
know that, when we face the unexpected, we do not
stand alone.

God of Love Grant our Prayer. Amen

Anne Gover, Dunedin Diocese

(adapted)

The President reflects....

Happy New Year to all our members. I hope you enjoyed the holidays with family and friends.

In the troubled world in which we live, I wish to remember the words of our Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, last year after the Mosque shootings in Christchurch, “They are Us”, “We are One”.

These words appeared everywhere in the City especially in Cafés.

May we work together to uphold these words, in the coming year.

Blessings

Judith Mackenzie



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New Year Resolutions ... progress

Mary Houston

... it takes time and effort to follow good intentions

In the Circle issue of February 2019, I stated that I had made a New Year Resolution: no more moping over what has been – instead, the cultivation of an enthusiasm for what can be. I was determined that during 2019 a ‘new me’ would arise from the ‘ashes’ of 2018. I believe I now owe you a progress report, so, looking back over the year how much have I accomplished?

Well, my husband is still in a secure dementia unit, but I think we are both coping better with the situation. He’s very, very tired and sleeps all the time, yet he seems happy in his own little world. For that I am thankful. He still likes us to hold hands – sometimes. He can still smile his cheeky

little grin, and although his ability to speak is almost gone, we can communicate in a basic way if we both have the mind to do so. With some coaching he can still shower and dress himself, still feed himself. He is still mobile – it’s a shuffle but he can move at a good rate when he wants to! He doesn’t know family members or friends, not even me; however, he usually greets me with a pleased look which makes my visiting him worthwhile.

“Dementia is a cruel disease both for the sufferers and for the people who know them. You must forget the people they once were and accept them as they have become....”

“...In that way you learn to relate to them in new ways. Sometimes you can even laugh together. And you can give genuine praise for any little accomplishment they achieve.”

In many ways I have a new life. I'm residing, not in the family home, but in a very pleasant and pretty retirement village at the other end of the same street we used to live in. My cat and I enjoy our two-bedroom townhouse that is compact, sunny, warm and easy to keep tidy. All my husband's possessions are packed away and everything around me is either mine or holds happy memories for me. There's room for someone to come to stay. I have my own little patches of garden in which I can potter. I have outside places to sit in the sun and daydream, and paths to take that lead to where my friends are. Passers-by pause to chat; people driving by

wave and smile. A friend calls my home 'Mary's Haven'. It is.

There are a lot of village activities to engage in – if I feel like it. I don't HAVE to. This gives me a new freedom. I'm learning to organise my week so that I don't have too much happening on any one day and have found that preparing to go on holiday is now a breeze.

I feel so much more in control over myself and my life. I've bought some new clothes, I've lost a little bit of weight, and I'm keeping in better contact with my friends outside the village. This Christmas I even put up and decorated a tiny Christmas Tree, something I hadn't done for several years. I've achieved last year's bucket list, and I've even been to the races!

My family is pleased with my new circumstances and now have peace of mind. No longer do they feel they have to monitor how I'm coping with the demands of maintaining a family home,

alone. They know that if I do need assistance that it can be reached with the touch of a bell.

I'm still driving and am beginning to revisit the places my husband and I used to frequent: to have lunch, to walk, or just to sit in the car and watch the world go by.

And what about the closure of our Holy Trinity Church? How have I coped with that?

The whole congregation grieved at the closure, but we've mostly found another place in which to worship. I've returned to the church I attended in my teens, and again when our children were young. Surprisingly I'm feeling as though I'm returning home. A bonus is that we are in closer contact with neighbouring parishes both Anglican and Roman Catholic.

Two of Holy Trinity's parish groups have been active this year, and twice (in May and September) the AAW Women's Fellowship group has

organised parish dinners at a local restaurant, which means parish members ARE keeping in touch.

Yes, I feel that I'm rejuvenating, and I give thanks to God for my family and friends for their part in my recovery.

“Most importantly I've learnt that if I am to change then that change cannot be made by someone else; it must come from within me.”

Did you make a New Year Resolution for 2019? What was it? And how far have you succeeded in keeping it?

Don't be disheartened if you've made little progress. Remember it takes time and effort to follow good intentions, I can assure you of that. But oh, the satisfaction and joy that comes with the achievement of each step taken forward to find the new you!

Vanuatu

Fay Deam, Overseas & Outreach, Christchurch

An understanding of life in Vanuatu shared by the Rev. Dawn Daunauda who was in Santo at the time of the volcanic eruption.

Have you ever looked in your wardrobe and as you have seen a dress, it immediately brings back memories of a special occasion that you wore it to?

The Rev. Dawn Daunauda spoke about her time lecturing at Talua Presbyterian Bible College, telling us the story of her time there through the dresses she wore.

It was an interactive talk because some of the ladies present wore the dresses. These dresses, “Mama dresses” were big billowy cotton dresses perfect for the heat in Vanuatu.

“There was the story of the white dress, for

Sunday best.”

The blue dress was gifted to her for the re-enactment of the coming of the first missionaries to Vanuatu.”

The yellow dress an everyday working dress and the red dress that unwittingly caused cultural offence. Dawn hadn’t realised that to some Islanders red is offensive.

Dawn was in Santo on Espiritu Santo Island during the time when those living on the Island of Ambae were evacuated due to the volcanic ash fall.

Dawn spoke of the thin children: while waiting to be evacuated they had been rationing their food. The volcanic ash fall was invasive. Imagine, you no longer have a fresh water supply and your land is not suitable for growing crops. The ash is

OVERSEAS & OUTREACH

quite acidic, so it eats holes through the village and school roofs. Easy here where we

can just water blast it down but an impossibility over there.



AAW members modelling the dresses at the Christchurch Diocesan Overseas & Outreach meeting.

Ambae holds a special place in AAW hearts with the 50th anniversary project to raise money to support St. Patrick's Anglican College on the island. Our support of the school in Ambae is vital to get it back up and running. The conditions there are pretty basic, so to make this a nicer environment - especially for the girls - is a very worthwhile cause. Please consider donating.

Ambae Project:

- This project was set in 2019 as our Golden Jubilee Mission Project.
- In July 2018 the entire population of the island of Ambae in Vanuatu was evacuated for the second time in less than a year because of an erupting volcano.
- 2000 people evacuated to Santo on Espiritu Santo Island where the Rev. Dawn Daunauda was working.
- It is now safe to return to Ambae.
- St Patrick's Anglican College on the island of Ambae needs repairs and restoration.
- Money from NZ AAW is going to be used to upgrade the Girls' Boarding accommodation.
- We have sent NZD \$9,000 to help towards getting the school ready for the beginning of this year.
- The project is to run until 31 May 2020

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand

Christine Kirkland, Heathcote-Mt Pleasant AAW

The Social Concerns meeting was held in St Barnabas Church, Christchurch. This was very exciting for me as I hadn't been back inside the church since the earthquake repairs were finished. St Barnabas was my family church as we lived just along the road from it.

Pauline Stewart was the speaker. She is the Executive Officer and Founder of Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand. What a dynamic speaker, with many horrific statistics of drug and alcohol misuse cases, and with her vision of how best to cope with recovery for the victims and families involved.

She strongly believes families of people who misuse alcohol and other drugs understand their family members more than anyone else.

“If left to work through issues in isolation these families can become exhausted and give up. When supported they can become a vital force for positive change and hope.”

A website, www.fds.org.nz has been developed to support families with as much understanding as possible through videos, resources, stories, courses and many other educational tools to equip families to develop coping and resilience.

Pauline Stewart is an ordained minister, supervisor, mentor, and the founder of Family Drug Support.

Further details about Pauline's work are on the following page.

Family Support for Drugs

Judith Mackenzie

Pauline Stewart has been a Registered Psychologist for 23 years in the education sector and private practice. A year ago, Pauline decided to set up a new nationwide service for families supporting a whanau member with alcohol and other drug misuse.



Pauline Stewart saw a need and founded Family Drug Support Aotearoa. Here are some of the key features of her program:

- A national support service for families
- Vision for family Drug Support includes the 0800 Helpline with trained

volunteers, website, and courses for family members started in Christchurch.

- Important to support affected family members
- Important for families to understand the stages and changes people go through as part of drug recovery
- Families have to overcome stigma
- Family members need to look after themselves
- This program has been running for 12 months and is going very well, as it is fulfilling a need in the community.

The website contains a wealth of information that people can tap into any time they need, from anywhere in New Zealand, www.fds.org.nz

A Prayer for the Family



Lord Jesus, at Nazareth you shared in the life of your family. Help us to live together in our families with love and respect for each other. Make our homes a place of blessing, peace and joy for everyone, to the glory of God the Father.

NZPB p190 (adapted)

**Image: Flight to Egypt © From a 16th-Century French Book of Hours
By Kind Permission of the Warden and Fellows
of Keble College, Oxford / Bridgeman Images**

Reflections from Bishop Peter



Bishop Peter reflects on the AAW aim: ‘To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life’.

“There used to be a time when it was fairly straightforward to expound on the meaning of promoting, safeguarding and nurturing Christian “family life.”

Possibly as few as twelve words: Mum and Dad, stay together, love your children; children honour your parents. Now “family” is a contested area of society, with many, almost infinite definitions.

Dare we talk about parents (there might only be one, or three, or more)? Mum and Dad (there might be two Dads, two Mums, or some combination)? What are “children” in an age of blended families? And once upon a time “children” meant “under the age of 21” but now, apparently, there are children who stay at home, literally feeding off their parent or parents until well into their 30s.

Recently, working on some big picture themes for the Diocese of Christchurch I wanted to say something about supporting and nurturing families. But the word “family” itself came under scrutiny. I suggested using “whanau” (because, arguably, it is an encompassing term with a larger scope than “family”). No, was one kind of reply, that is cultural appropriation. What about

“households,” I responded, a good New Testament term (which included not only biological family living in a residence but also servants and slaves)? Also a negative to that term, was one response, because many children have no sense of a single, fixed household to which they belong.

“In this “woke” age, in which anything and everything, including such fundamental experiences as “family,” “parent,” and “child” can be “weaponized” in debates over the ways in which we live, it is, to be frank, tempting to avoid talking about promoting, safeguard and nurturing Christian family life.”

It seems like every word we might consider using needs explaining and justifying. Yet wouldn't it be a dereliction of duty to the well-being of people to give into that temptation? To speak in

support of “family” is to speak for God's plan that humans form community for purposes of caring for one another. It is also to speak against the idolatry of individualism. To speak for “Christian family life” is to speak for the quality of family life which flows from centring family life on Jesus Christ. Actually, raising a family, looking after family is very hard work: Christian family life is not only being centred on Jesus, it is also about asking Jesus for loads of help!

To aim, as AAW is doing, to promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life, is to acknowledge that family life cannot be taken for granted, is often threatened (by financial strife, by illness, by busyness, etc) and needs lots of encouragement and support. I am very happy to promote this aim!

Peter Carrell is Bishop of Christchurch, husband of Teresa, Dad to Leah, Bridget, Andrew and Alice and privileged to be part of a wonderful extended whanau.

AAW 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 wherever your
Spirit may lead us,

today and all our days. Amen

Auckland



St Aidan's Remuera

– all about O&O

On Tuesday 12 November AAW Auckland, St Aidan's Remuera, welcomed Shelley Vette NZ AAW O&O Representative to speak at the Overseas and Outreach gathering.

Shelley referred to the articles in the Circle magazine which highlight the Golden Jubilee project in Ambae, Vanuatu. *(Ambae fact-check box on page 13 – Ed.)*

“Her article came alive with the talk. Shelley also spoke about her recent trip to Fiji. This also brought to life what AAW does with our O&O contribution.”

Shelley ended her talk with a snapshot of her lifetime commitment to outreach in under privileged areas. Thank you, Shelley.

St Mary's by the Sea, Torbay, Auckland

– Dolls for Starship Hospital

The request to sew and stuff three dozen white rag dolls came from a member of AAW at St Mary by the Sea, Torbay, who has a connection with a Country Women's Group in outer Auckland.

The dolls are blank, no faces. The feedback is the children love them. They are allowed to keep them. It sounds 'gruesome' - but it is helpful for Medical staff.

“The Doctors at Starship Children's Hospital, Auckland draw on the dolls, with a felt pen, to show the children where their operation is going to be.”

We will sew more this year. (Our minister, the Rev. Dion Blundell joined the group that evening, and he is a good hand sewer!)

Barbara Dixon, Auckland
AAW President



Dolls, made by AAW St Mary's by the Sea, sitting on the front row at church shortly before being delivered to Starship Hospital.

Christchurch

Fendalton AAW In Betweens – Home & Family

At our April 2019 meeting, we heard about the history and work of the Home & Family Society from Eve Wingerath, Fundraising Manager. Home & Family have worked with the Community of the Sacred Name - which has been part of the Christchurch community for 125 years. Nurse Maude dispensed from there.

The role of Home & Family is to improve the lives of families by offering support, education and counselling. (Their Mission: Creating environments for positive change.) Eve was accompanied by Clare Quinn, Financial Administration. Eve gave a wonderful history on Home and Family with a lovely video of a young mother who was learning to be a good and

special mother on her own for her young baby.

“The Good Habit Cafe’s lease is a financial support to the work. They are on the same block of land as Home & Family and also part of the original historical nunnery. (A grade 1, category 1 heritage building.)”

Our Group has been very supportive of the work Home & Family do in the community. Address: Home & Family, ‘Our House’, 319 St Asaph St, Christchurch.

www.homeandfamily.net.nz

Jenny Glasson
Fendalton AAW ‘In Betweens’

Burnside-Harewood

– Cuba

Recently I was talking to an AAW member and asked her about holidays, she told me “Oh, I don’t go on holiday, but I love to hear the stories from those who do”. So, it was with this kind of anticipation that the group looked forward to hearing about Averil Moyle’s trip to South America and Cuba. (Cuba is an island just South of Florida). The thing that captured my attention

was Averil’s description of transport within the townships, it was shank’s pony, real pony or classic car. There are tens of thousands of 1930s -1950s classic cars in Cuba. But, after the revolution there was an embargo on American cars and car parts. Many of these cars are lovingly cared for and ingeniously repaired! A highlight for Averil and her husband was a ride in this Buick.

Fay Deam



Geraldine

– Erebus

At our annual August Pot-Luck Dinner we were very privileged to have Ray Goldring speaking of his experience at the time of Erebus. Ray was working at Scott Base, Antarctica and was chosen to attend the crash site (28 November 1979) to help with the recovery. Once at the crash site, the team were not sure

if any passengers had fallen into the crevasses.

“We set up an anchor system and I abseiled into the crevasses to see if anyone was down there.”

“After about 30 metres, it was so black I could not see down any further. We had no torches – why would we with 24 hours of daylight?”

Audrey Butts, Geraldine AAW



In Memoriam

The fragility of life is ever present.

The fragile souls at rest on the slopes of Mt Erebus have finally escaped the net of time - they are now riding the ageless winds of infinity and have been locked forever into the souls of those they left behind.

They gave us the memories - we give them their freedom.

Ray Goldring

Nelson

All Saints Group in Nelson have had 2 speakers who have been over to the Pacific Islands. Dean Mike Hawke spoke on his trip to the Solomon Islands. *(For a full insight into this trip see following pages - Ed.)* Mike was challenging and entertaining, showed video clips on his iPad and had a scrapbook that was passed around. The evening concluded with a singing session accompanied by Mike on his guitar. The following month Gordon Taylor chaired their meeting and spoke on his trip to Vanuatu with his wife Penny.

Waimea Women's Fellowship now have some of their meetings in the neighbouring parish of Wakefield which has no group. It is good that ladies from there can be included. They had a community coffee

morning inviting people from both parish areas and were entertained by some children from Brightwater School who sang songs and chatted to the elderly people there. They have also had Rita Bell to speak on her trip to Israel.

Cathedral Group had their August meeting at the new Nelson/Tasman Hospice in Stoke and were given a tour of this wonderful facility by their Pastoral Carer, the Rev. Canon David Moynan. The Richmond Holy Trinity groups are providing a table and embroidered cloth for the Quiet Room.

Richmond Holy Trinity Evening group were pleased to welcome parishioner Lyn Ashby to tell us of her time spent in a refugee camp in Kurdistan followed by time in Cyprus, both under the auspices of YWAM. She gave

interesting details of her work which, because of the sensitivity of the area, is not widely publicised.

St Thomas AAW Fellowship group in Motueka with an average age of 83, continues to meet for fellowship afternoons with speakers,

quizzes and sharing memories. They also play an active part in helping with the inter-church Spring Festival held in their auditorium. Although their leader is stepping down, we are hoping to continue with shared leadership.

Jan South, Nelson AAW

Polynesia: Fiji, Tonga, Samoa & the Cook Islands

Graham O'Brien, Nelson Diocese

Malaita Missions Trip, 2019

“In 2013 the Diocese of Nelson set up a partner relationship with the Diocese of Malaita led by Bishop Sam Sahu.”

This relationship has continued in part, through the Rev. Jonathan and Tess Hicks and their family, who now live at the Airahu training centre,

where Jonathan teaches theology at the Trinity School of Theology and Ministry (TSTM) in partnership with NZCMS.

The Diocesan Mission Council sent Graham and Dean Mike Hawke to prepare the way for a Diocesan team in 2020.

The main focus was to do some training at the Trinity School of Theology

and Ministry for clergy, students, Diocesan staff and the public.”

Malaita is not an easy place to get to, taking two days of travel via Brisbane and Honiara. The tar-sealed roads are pretty rough and require 4WD, so along with the heat, moving around can be slow.

Outside of the main town of Auki are local villages and crops being farmed in the bush/jungle. “On our first day, Mike and I spent the morning searching for two guitars which we finally found. Everyone loves to sing! In the afternoon we were shown around by Canon Reuben (ex-Premier of Malaita), and taken to the Village of Fiu where

Christ-Church Cathedral is located.”

“On the way we stopped at his family’s watermelon farm, for the sweetest and juiciest watermelon fresh off the ground.”

“For the next three days our focus was on giving a series of talks at the Trinity School of Theology and Ministry located at the Airahu Training Center, 45 min drive North from Auki. It was encouraging to have approximately 60 attending each day, with a mix of students and staff from TSTM, clergy, Diocesan staff, Melanesian brothers and Anglican Sisters, and some of the locals who also train there in agriculture, mechanics,





and sowing. There was really good engagement in the talks and lots of singing.

“The tropical rain even managed to drown out Mike for 20 minutes – it also doubled as natural air-conditioning.”

Five key areas were identified in which Nelson can partnership with Malaita and would be the main focus of ministry for a 2020 missions trip. The aim is for a team of 16 people to spend 10 days in Malaita in August 2020, helping the Diocese with:

- Theological Education.
- Youth and Children’s Ministry: especially through music, choir, and worship leading and helping to develop programmes.
- Hospital and Prison Ministry.
- Discipleship: Helping to develop cell group leadership, practical discipleship and cell group ministry skills, and lay ministry training and support.
- Counselling: The Mothers Union have established a new Counselling Centre and need support to

train people in practical psycho-social support and counselling skills.

“Mike and I spent our last three days in Honiara where

we visited a women’s refuge centre run by the Melanesian sisters. This facility also has sponsorship from the NZ government.”



Island of Malaita

- 3rd largest Island in Solomon Islands
- 4,307km²
- Population approximately 137,500
- 95% of population are subsistence farmers/ fishermen
- Highest rainfall of Solomon Islands
- Capital town, Auki

Waiapu

Bay of Plenty Regional 50th Birthday Luncheon

On 23 October, AAW members from the Bay of Plenty Groups held a luncheon at Fenella Playne's lovely home at Lake Okareka, Rotorua. (Fenella was an AAW member back in 1969, and her garden was part of the local garden show, a week after our event.)

The damp start finally abated, and we were able to get outside on the patio and enjoy her beautiful garden and view of the Lake.

53 members came from Tauranga, Otumoetai, Gate Pa, TePuke, Whakatane, Taupo and Rotorua, as well as two Lone Members.

The cake was cut by several long-time members who gave a short insight into the change over from Mothers Union to the NZ Association of Anglican Women some 50 years ago. It was a time of reflection and fellowship and much enjoyed by all.

Jenny Weaver
St Luke's AAW, Rotorua





Celebrating our Golden Jubilee

Waiapu AAW members had a wonderful celebration of our 50th Jubilee in St John's Waiapu Cathedral, Napier over the weekend of 16-17 November.

Our Diocesan President Cynthia Prince opened the programme with prayer and welcome, followed by the Rev. Dorothy Brooker introducing the purpose of the programme. This included fellowship, fun, and the key theme of change.

Highlights of the weekend included the keynote talk by Maria Neville-Foster, Principal, Sacred Heart College Napier - on 'Change and its Effects'. Pupils from Woodford

House, Havelock North and Sacred Heart debating teams discussed the subject 'Change is a Good Thing'. The debating girls commented on change being invigorating, refreshing and the rapid rate of change technologically. Also - on our secular society these days compared to the more formal defined society of expected/required manners, conventions, and obligations. We had several excellent and worthwhile group discussions about what has changed in our society/ churches during the last 50 years. We also discussed ideas about attracting new members including the use of social media etc..

Murals prepared by our Eastlands, Bay of Plenty and

Hawkes Bay regions were presented that illustrated our Aims: To unite in prayer, participate in the mission of the Church, and nurture, safeguard and protect Christian family life.

A highly enjoyable and delicious dinner was held on Saturday evening, followed by the Celebration Eucharist on Sunday and cutting of the Jubilee Cake.

Many thanks to the Rev. Dorothy Brooker for her superb management and organisation of the programme activities, and our Executive Members for their many and various contributions and efforts towards an inspiring and memorable weekend.

Maryanne Horsfield
Diocese of Waiapu

Waikato & Taranaki

Christmas in Taranaki

On Tuesday 3 December 2019, the AAW, St Chad's Church Upper Westown, New Plymouth held a Link gathering at 11.30am. This was attended by 35 members. Our gathering commenced by singing some Advent carols, followed by a shared lunch, during which a time of fellowship was enjoyed.

Norma Benton, our Diocesan Representative, then gave an interesting and informative account of her time in Fiji with the Golden Oldies Mission Group in September. This special time together concluded with a Taizé service conducted by Evelyn Froom LLM.

Mary Needs, AAW

Golden Oldies Mission 2019

In September last year, 25 Golden Oldies from New Zealand, mainly Christchurch, took part in another worthwhile mission trip to Fiji, to meet up again with those in villages, churches, schools, prison, hospitals and an orphanage.

We left the Auckland Airport loaded up with bulging bags ready for distribution on our visits. The next day, after attending Eucharist at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Suva, was spent sorting clothing, stationery, sports gear, toiletries, baby packs – you name it, it was there. An amazing amount – so encouraging.

Village people are so welcoming with their friendliness, their provision of a meal – or a sandwich and cuppa, even though they can't really afford what they give. Such is the appreciation of our visits and goodies. We normally visit the same villages, and that gives them confidence in trusting us to eventually let us know the

things they would appreciate.

We stay at St John's College in Suva, where students are trained for the ministry. Some sleep in dormitories, and this is where lots of chatter goes on and friendships are formed. Meals there are wonderful – in fact the whole atmosphere is full of love.

This was my fifth visit, and many have returned for repeat visits. Great to meet up with those who have. The oldest this year was 85. She had been on an earlier trip but wanted to go again. The oldest we have had previously was an 89-year-old lady!

Another will be held this year, probably in September, and information will be available around April. You are never too old (more mature!) to join in with these wonderful Golden Oldies!

Norma Benton

**Holy Trinity AAW,
Fitzroy, New Plymouth**

Wellington

Wellington Diocese Happenings

Most of our regions held Advent Services in December with a lovely variety of devotions for the season enjoyed by all.

The Belmont Region has four AAW Fellowship Groups and invited their Sisters from Catholic Women's League and also the Uniting Church Ladies Fellowship to join them for the service.

We also collected special food items for Christmas to go to the Lower Hutt Food Bank. All services were well attended with fellowship enjoyed over a cup of tea or at a shared lunch.

The Koha collected at some of the services was given towards our Project at Ambae.

Mary Driver
President Wellington Diocese
AAW

Submissions/Subscriptions

deadline for next issue: 14 March 2020

Submissions: send to Diocesan Circle Co-ordinator

- We're looking for high-interest articles that inspire.
- If a group is elderly and the function is mainly a social one, with mutual support - that's absolutely fine as that news is equally important.
- **We need high quality images**
 - Large jpeg files (usually 1MB in size)
 - Must be e-mailed as a separate attachment
 - Please don't insert photos in a Word doc/e-mail.
 - No photoshop please.
- If sending a number of images, please rank them in order of importance. (We may not be able to use them all.)
- **Text:** send as a Word doc or in an e-mail

E-mail: Diocesan Circle Co-ordinator

Judith Mackenzie, judith@jmacwebdesign.nz

Subscriptions: Individuals

Now \$20 to cover increased costs including p&p

Please send your request to:

Treasurer, Anne Gover, 4 Lennox Street Gore 9710

E-mail: annegover@xtra.co.nz

Including your name, postal address, e-mail address and a cheque for \$20 made out to *Circle*.

Internet banking/bank transfers welcome.

The Association of Anglican Women (AAW)

- Formed in 1969 for all Anglican Women to become members - married, divorced or single women.
- Prior to this New Zealand Anglican Women were part of Mothers' Union Branches.
- The Association of Anglican Women has more than 3,000 members - the largest organization within the Anglican Church giving a voice and representation to women.

Our Aims are....

1. To unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church.
2. To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.

Our focus

To grow and move forward as an organization. We are constantly moving forward, growing and doing all we can to get the message of God's love to others.

Spread the Word

There's no better way to make an impact than to become an active advocate yourself. Join now and enjoy the fellowship, fun and friendship.



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AAW website

nzaaw.org.nz