**THE ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN WOMEN REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD /**

**TE HINOTA WHANUI (GSTHW) 2018-2019**

This report of The Association of Anglican Women (AAW) is for the 2018-2019 years of ministry activity in New Zealand and Overseas.

**MEMBERSHIP** - Our membership is declining as members are aging and find they are no longer able to attend meetings. In Christchurch two groups closed at the end of 2018, one because of aging members and the other because of disaffiliation from the Anglican Diocese at the end of September, 2018.

Around the country there has been consultation on how to better plan for the future growth in membership. Parishes where most women are elderly cannot reasonably expect that younger AAW members will suddenly appear. We need a two-sided policy of both caring for those of our present, ageing membership, whether physically able to attend meetings or not, and of actually planning to welcome and interest new members, especially those newly leaving full-time paid employment- who seem to be one of our main sources of new life. We need to look for opportunities where we can establish new groups of AAW in our Parishes.

**DIOCESES** – Eight Dioceses, including Polynesia are represented on the NZ AAW Executive Committee which meets twice a year, depending on where the President resides. Waikato/Taranaki Diocese were in recession for a few years, but now have an arrangement that suits everyone, and has a representative on the NZ AAW Executive. In addition to the Diocesan Presidents we have Co-ordinators of Social Concerns (2) and Overseas and Outreach on the NZAAW Executive Committee.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** -

In October 2018, the AAW 21st Triennial Conference was held in Wellington. It was well supported with 65 members living in and many day attendees. The Theme of the Conference was “Dreams” – dreams of a growing organisation. Our speakers and panels were based on this theme. There was plenty of good discussion prompted by the speakers, particularly the panel of younger women looking to the future of AAW. The theme for the next 3 years, decided at our AGM held at the same time as Conference, was Growth through Gratitude, Grace and Guidance. Gratitude was the theme used during 2019 as we celebrated our Golden Jubilee and gave thanks for our past 50 years of service.

In 2019, AAW celebrated their Golden Jubilee - 50 years of service as an organization in the Anglican parishes and community. It was a busy year of fun and fellowship throughout New Zealand and Polynesia. Presidents were invited to join special lunches, cut Golden Jubilee cakes and share the fun and fellowship in their Dioceses. The NZ AAW had a range of different memorabilia made to mark the occasion; for example, coffee mugs, tea towels, pens, cards, and beautifully printed candles. Pat Vincent, Provincial President, based in Wellington, organised a Golden Jubilee Service and lunch in St Paul’s Cathedral, Wellington for past and present Presidents, Executive members and friends.

**SPECIAL JOYS –**

A Golden Jubilee Mission project was established to raise money for Ambae in Vanuatu. To date $9,000 has been sent to Ambae and more will be collected before the project ends at the end of May, 2020. This money is to help in the refurbishment of St Patrick’s School, and in particular the Girls’ Boarding Accommodation.

Four members of the NZ AAW Executive visited Fiji in September, 2019. The ladies of AAW in Polynesia organised a busy program for the Executive members to visit many AAW groups in Fiji. We give money to nine Kindergartens in Fiji every year, and we were able to visit many of the children attending the kindergartens that we support. This was a very worthwhile trip as the New Zealand Executive members were able to meet leaders of AAW in Suva and Nadi and share our experiences with AAW groups.

Every three years the position of New Zealand AAW President changes and may move from an AAW member in a North Island Diocese to a member in a South Island Diocese. On September 29, 2019, in St Paul’s Cathedral, Wellington I had the honour of being commissioned as the New Zealand President of the Association of Anglican Women, by The Very Reverend David Rowe, Dean of the Cathedral. The service followed the NZ AAW Annual General meeting and was attended by Diocesan Presidents, Patricia Owen (Christchurch Diocese and new NZ AAW Secretary), AAW members and several of my family members.

One of the tasks of the NZ AAW President is to ensure that the AAW “Circle” magazine is produced and distributed quarterly to AAW members around the country who subscribe to the magazine. It is a very worthwhile magazine which keeps members informed about activities in other parts of the country, and binds AAW members together as a special group of Christian women. In keeping with modern practices, NZ AAW has a website and a facebook page.

In recent years, it has become increasing difficult to find leaders who are willing to take up leadership positions in AAW. Sharing of roles of responsibility are often the only way to fill such positions.

Our New Zealand Dioceses have representations of two members at Diocesan Synods each year. Maybe one day NZ AAW will have representation at General Synod?

*Judith Mackenzie*

*The Association of Anglican Women*

*New Zealand President*

*06 February, 2020*