

MOTHERS' UNION NZ

In the Anglican Province of AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND AND POLYNESIA

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Newsletter No. 71
August 2018



The Muloa Edition

MULOA stands for 'Mothers' Union Listening, Observing, and Acting.'

Members from around the world and their communities are working to create a strategy beyond 2020. Our meeting of Pacific Region members in Auckland was just one of a series of regional meetings in zones across the world aimed to reach and hear from all of the 600+ dioceses within which the Mothers' Union works today.



We addressed recurring questions such as:

- who are we as Mothers' Union?
- whose lives could/should we be touching?
- what difference are we and could/should we be making?
- how can we effectively make that difference?



MULOA offers a shared approach and tool kit for putting faith into action. This will complement existing initiatives.

It also challenges members to think about the future and to be inspired and energised in their relationship with God and each other. Our aim is to be more effective and to make a difference in our churches and communities. This is what our MULOA Conference has been about.

Canon Libbie Crossman, Archbishop Philip, the Revd Iritana Hankins. Amelia & Lesila from Tonga.



From our Provincial President

Dear Mothers' Union Members and Friends,

Well it is time for the newsletter again. Diocesan representatives and the MU Provincial team have just been attending the MULOA training conference in Auckland.

The impact of meeting some of our members in our Zone C, comprising people from Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea, Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand is interesting, and great fun as we 'listen, observe and act', at Mothers' Union today, and while we all think about the future.

You will notice some lovely photos of a white Sunday Service at St. Jude's Church in Avondale. It was also a farewell to Rev. Ken Bennett and his wife, on their retirement from the Parish.

The Service was just super, with the children and Tongan members of the congregation in white. The service was conducted in Tongan and in English, and was followed by a lovely luncheon. During the luncheon speeches and gifts were given to the Revd Ken and his wife. We felt blessed to be at such a lovely occasion.

Mothers' Union around the country have been doing pyjama drives, with parishes buying nice warm pyjamas and warm clothing for children in need. Auckland branches have sent a good number away for children in need, including to the ATWC and to the Far North.

We are looking forward to the next few months of the year as we work through the programmes for MULOA in each Diocese. It is wonderful to think we shall all have an input into the future direction for Mothers' Union.

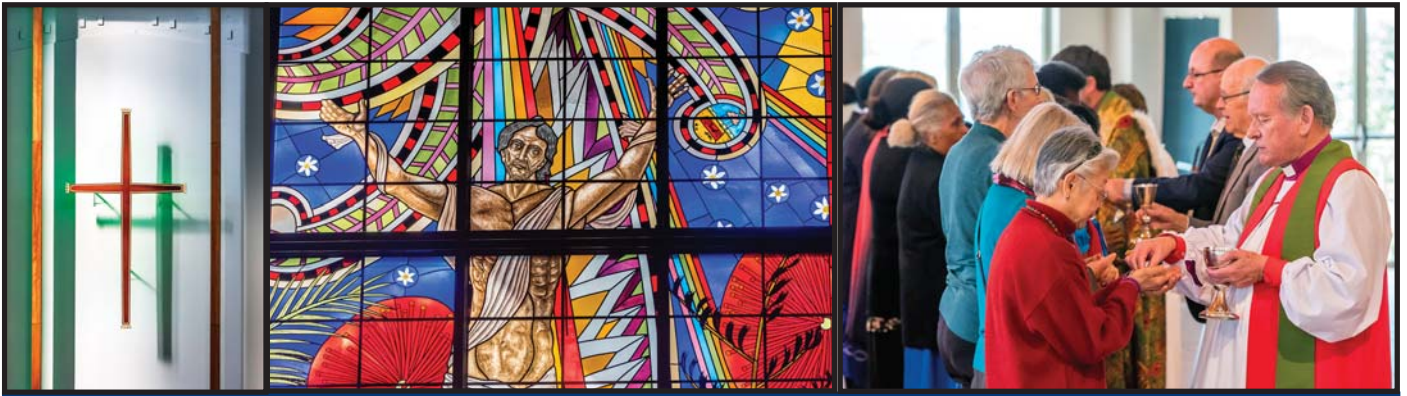
With love and prayers,

Joan Neild,

Provincial President, Mothers' Union Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia.



Joan Neild at Holy Trinity Cathedral with the Provincial Chaplain, the Most Revd John Paterson, Archdeacon Taimalelagi Fagamalama Tuatahaloa-Leota and Rachel Hunt-Solomona from Samoa.



At Muloa in Auckland

Muloa began as all Christian gatherings ought, with the worship of God. Gathered in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, we faced the empty Cross of the Risen Christ on the west wall, but were flanked by a figure of Christ surrounded by indigenous symbols of the new life that our Lord's sacrifice bought for humanity. We shared in the breaking of Bread and drinking of wine, before moving out to our fellowship and the work ahead of us this week, and in the time ahead.

Afterwards, we enjoyed meeting and making new friends over lunch, where we were guests of the Cathedral Parish before moving down to the conference venue at the Quality Inn Hotel.

Right: Jeanette Lawrence, Regional Development at Mary Sumner House. Canon Libbie Crossman, MU Worldwide Zone Trustee, Brisbane. Bronwyn Pagram (Brisbane) and Tagolyn Kabekabe (Solomon Islands).

Below: Visiting members with local banners with Rose Annie and Catherine Lamani of the Solomon Islands. Below Right: Rose Annie, Catherine Lamani and Selina Lonamei.



All attention at the Conference Centre





A traditional welcome, then to work . . .

The MULOA process experienced in Auckland, as is usual in Mothers' Union programmes, was rooted in prayer and scripture. After the opening service and ceremony and an initial 'getting to know each other' listening exercise, we shared in biblical reflection (Lectio Divina) on 1 Corinthians 12. This reminded us of the concept that we form the body of Christ, all different in our skills and cultures and experiences, but all abiding in him and he in us.

In God's eyes each of us brings gifts to assist others. In Mothers' Union work, in order to achieve more, we need to discern each other's gifts in carrying out our objectives. There is unity in diversity, as Valentine Ronolea of Waikato observed.

There was a presentation of the life of Mary Sumner and a plenary examination of the qualities she displayed in becoming bold enough to speak to women, to help fathers and families, and to form the Mothers' Union so that this good work could expand. There was a rich response from those attending to the question 'what touches you about Mary Sumner?'

A group bible study of Mark 10, 46-52, Blind Bartimaeus was followed by considering the significance at the time of what occurred in this passage, as well as of whom Bartimaeus might represent in our own time and locality, how we as Mothers' Union (the crowd) react to the vulnerable today and what changes in lives could Mothers' Union be helping to bring. We compiled a long list of implications from this bible story for our behaviour as Mothers' Union.



Told about how young women in Uganda were helped to be able to attend school, we then shared factual stories from our own experience of wonderful, improving change brought about by Mothers' Union work, by individuals and by programmes such as the Positive Parenting Programme and Literacy Programmes in the Solomon Islands. We examined what had helped and what had hindered such changes.

A mime of people being afraid to cross a river on stepping stones was presented for us to practise our powers of observation of how assistance we give can be helpful, or not so. We learned it is important to enable people to do things for themselves, not to take over and do everything for them. We made a list of biblical references which demonstrate how

God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit inspires us to help the needy whom we meet or hear about.

A study of Haggai 2:1-9 and Zechariah 4:6-10 reminded us that sometimes great risks have to be taken to carry out God's will, and of God's provision for our needs.

The conference drew to an end with the realisation that the process we had experienced needs to be conveyed to our Mothers' Union groups, and where appropriate to our church congregations and communities. Expect a visit from a MULOA attendee to your branch before the end of the year!

Some MULOA principles:

- ✓ Listen respectfully
- ✓ Create a safe space for people to share
- ✓ Talk slowly, ask for help,
translate where needed
- ✓ Show patience
- ✓ Share experience and ideas
- ✓ Encourage all to speak,
especially the less confident
- ✓ Pray for each other



Some special moments at MULOA

- ✓ Whenever the ladies from Melanesia sang together, always joyfully, praising God.
- ✓ When discussion led to the formation of some MULOA principles for the conference and for conveying MULOA to branches in future.
- ✓ When people told their own stories of what Mothers' Union meant to them.
- ✓ When an Australian observed that no indigenous Australians were present at this conference, and how it was hoped that there soon would be such participation.
- ✓ When people from different cultures joined in singing and dancing together.
- ✓ When it was expressed by attendees that we should not be afraid to say amidst creeping secularisation, that what inspires us to help families is Christ.
- ✓ When it was realised that listening alone is not enough.
- we need to form an understanding of what we listen to.
- ✓ When each person attending made a commitment to carry out what we had learned to do, and was blessed for that work by the Bishop of Auckland.



The MULOA Prayer

(which we prayed in Holy Trinity Cathedral on Sunday morning)

*May God enable us
to become the people he has called us to be
and, in everything we do,
may our lives honour the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
May he inspire us and move us to action
so that we fulfil his will in response to his amazing grace,
so freely given to the world.*



Where to from here? The second Muloa Conference will be in Brisbane next January, where we will report back the feedback from our members in branches on their responses to the questions we have been considering this week.

It is hoped that at that second conference, strategies for re-energising MU will emerge.

So, a lot of thinking and pondering and considering has been done amidst prayer and bible study - now we take that to others, and in January we take the process further.

There were no magic answers at this conference for those who hoped for them.

Provincial Secretary Janice Cheeseman asked people what they felt about their time at this event. She says, "Those I have talked to, including Rosemary Bent from Taranaki feel that so far in the conference, we have been analysing what happens in MU in our various countries at present, taking stock, you might say. We are of course learning from each other in doing this, especially from Melanesia.

Denise Lay from Ballarat said "It has been very inspiring to meet ladies from our Pacific countries and islands. We are from different cultures, with diverse backgrounds, yet all share the same love and concerns for the future of Mothers' Union in our changing world."

Bev Cottell from Melbourne said "I have been really pleased to have met the ladies from the South Pacific Nations. We all think alike, with all our differences. We all love God."

Rosemary Bent with Archbishop Philip Richardson (left). Denise Lay and Bev Cottell..





Mothers' Union News from Aotearoa New Zealand, Polynesia, and around God's World



Diocese of Auckland

On 23 May more than thirty Auckland Mothers' Union and AAW members enjoyed an inspiring Quiet Day together at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. The Auckland President of AAW, Barbara Dixon read a lesson at the opening

Eucharist service led by Dean Anne Mills, and Maggie Davidson, Mothers' Union Executive Assistant Secretary, wrote and led the intercessory prayers. Dr Caroline Oliver delivered the sermon, referring to her experience working in the field of medical science to develop a cure for certain cancer tumours. She has been People's Warden at the Cathedral for some 13 years.

In the Marsden Chapel, before lunch, Dean Anne Mills talked about her life's journey towards ordination; she displayed the full range of chasubles and stoles for the Church Year, designed and hand-sewn for her by her talented husband. As she went through all the symbolism on the vestments, she explained how each design represented a spiritual event in her life. It was a very interesting and engaging account.

After a quiet lunch in the Bishop Monteith Visitor Centre, Dean Anne spoke in the Cathedral nave about developing the confidence to be able to tell people we meet about our own Christian journey/faith. She led those present through two opportunities to practise doing just that. We came away feeling very uplifted and knowing the strength of women meeting and serving together. We had come together in love and peace with a commitment to serve our loving God. We ended the afternoon's session with the MU prayer and a warm expression of thanks to Dean Anne.



Dean Anne Mills



Pictured at St Andrew's: L-R: Margaret Lyons, Baranese Oliver, Margaret Overdevest, Maria Riddles, Miree Crawford, Pauline Taylor, Anita Little, Beverley Berwick, Win Dunn and Judy Deed.

Pukekohe. Our MU Branch gathered on Wednesday 4 July for their monthly meeting. Members were delighted to welcome and enrol a new member, Margaret Overdevest.

Leader Anita Little then read out Lynne Tembey's last letter as Worldwide MU President. Finally members heard about the forthcoming Missions Day and MULOA conference in Auckland, and the extent of the Mothers' Union nowadays around the world (illustrated clearly by the map in the Families Worldwide magazine), before enjoying a tasty luncheon.

Earlier in the year the branch had a talk from Virginia Warren, a member of BPW Franklin Inc. (Business and Professional Women), about the 125th anniversary this year of the attainment in NZ of Women's Suffrage. Since then members and friends had been busy knitting purple beanies and white camellias to be

placed on bollards to decorate the main street of Pukekohe at the time of a celebratory procession to take place on 15 September next.

Beverley Berwick, a Pukekohe MU member from Bombay Parish has also continued to knit warm slippers and has sent a parcel of them to a MU branch in the Far North for distribution to families there. In recent years Beverley has made and distributed thousands of pairs of these slippers to groups and missions around NZ and overseas.

St Jude's, Avondale Shortly after the last newsletter was published, Mothers' Union members and their families at St Jude's, Avondale participated in a Mothers' Day Service. Adults and children joined together to praise God and give thanks.



At St. Jude's, our Tongan members celebrate White Sunday on the first Sunday of June each year. We are all encouraged to wear white clothing and our church is decorated with special Tongan mats.

The hymns are sung in Tongan by a choir and the readings spoken in Tongan as well as English.

This is always a joyous occasion and followed by a special lunch in the church hall which is much enjoyed by all.

This time we also farewelled our priest-in-charge, the Rev. Ken Bennett, and his wife Lorrie. They had been with us for a wonderful seven years, and were very much a part of our church family, but it was time for Ken to retire. We were very sad to see them go. We made presentations to them and wished them well. We thank God for the years they shared with us.

With blessings, Bev. Corbett.



All Saints' Birkenhead. At a recent meeting the MU branch at All Saints', Birkenhead held their annual 'Bucket Day'. Members provide new buckets and fill them with all sorts of household cleaning items and basic toiletries to assist the graduates of the Anglican Trust for Women and Children's Granger Grove women's residences to set up their own households. These are then delivered to the ATWC for distribution.

The branch has been holding this day for a few years now and always has a generous response. The goods are well received, especially clothes pegs! Lorri, at Granger Grove, says women 'borrow' each others' pegs. There is always a shortage.



Whatuwhiwhi in the Karikari Peninsula.

MU Members in the Far North send greetings to all. Norma Stephens writes:

Recently I had the pleasure of attending a four-day hui in Kamo called the Hui Amorangi, held at Te Karaiti Te Aranga.

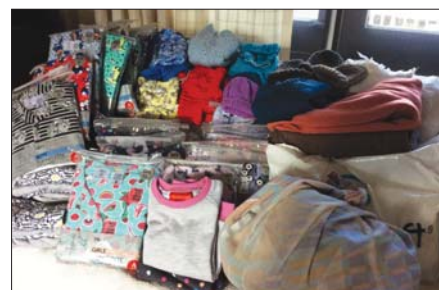
While there I decided to become more involved with Mothers' Union. From the May newsletter I contacted Joan Neild the Provincial President and discussed with her my desire to support and raise the profile of Mothers Union in our local area, and Wow!!

'It's all go. I have been in contact with a few mothers and there is keen interest in reviving our Mothers' Union group in Whatuwhiwhi. At our recent church service at All Saints on 1 July, we scheduled a meeting.

Thank you for all the correspondence which I have received with pleasure and we will try our best to contribute regularly to the newsletter. May our wonderful Lord bless us all. *Norma Stephens*



Gifts from the North Shore to the Far North: Some of the children's pyjamas and other warm items Norma will be sharing out with those in need.



More activities around the Auckland Diocese . . .



Gillian Gott presents a gift of quilts to Raewyn Skipper.



The Howick Friday Quilters Group display some of their quilts.

Recently, Auckland MU Diocesan President, Raewyn Skipper spoke with the Howick Friday Quilters Group about the Anglican Trust for Women & Children, and how the MU branch at St George's, Papatoetoe gives support to their work.

Raewyn outlined the history of Mothers' Union since Mary Sumner founded it in England 142 years ago and its growth to be a worldwide organisation today. After her talk she was delighted to receive a most generous donation of hand-made quilts for the mothers at the ATWC's Granger Grove.

The Auckland Diocese's annual appeal for warm winter children's pyjamas is on and this year we have had a huge response, as we had asked our Mothers' Union groups to encourage their Parishes to support this Pyjama Drive. We have been overwhelmed by the support received. A very big "grateful thanks" and blessings go out to the Clergy and members of these Parishes.

Raewyn has also delivered to ATWC, 95 pairs of pyjamas collected by All Saints Howick Mothers' Union member Jan Fowler and Howick AAW member Pauline Murdoch. These have been sent to MU Kaitia through kind arrangements made by Margaret Cunningham, Auckland Diocesan MU Secretary and member of the Papatoetoe branch.

- The Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki -



Helen Aston

Waikato. The Cathedral of St Peter, Hamilton. The Waikato MU's June quarterly meeting had the theme 'Walking in Mary Sumner's footsteps'. The warmth of welcome and the generosity of hospitality at this branch would be difficult to surpass! Leader Valentine Ronolea introduced Helen Aston, who was born and spent her earliest years growing up in the Solomon Islands, where her parents were missionaries. She spoke about the Mothers' Union Parenting Programme which is conducted nowadays in Melanesia, 'to encourage parents and increase stability in family life'.

The facilitator of this programme completed a significant amount of Mothers' Union training in the West Indies, before returning home to train further facilitators. The courses are ongoing, lasting about 12 weeks, and rely on voluntary workers and fundraising to continue, though there was initial funding from Mary Sumner House in London. Read more at this website:

<https://www.abmission.org/pages/bildim-ap-mothers-union-leadership-empowerment.html>

Those at the meeting then completed a 'Mary Sumner's footsteps outline' exercise. The task was to fill in the outline of a sole of a shoe with the ways in which we can walk in Mary Sumner's footsteps.

Selicia Ronolea, Valentine's daughter, outlined some ways in which Waikato branch is endeavouring to walk in Mary Sumner's footsteps through

- ❖ Offering daily prayer,
- ❖ Working in partnerships with other organisations in activities such as messy church, homework centres, parent classes, migrant classes,
- ❖ Gaining positive publicity for Mothers' Union through local radio broadcasts, or
- ❖ Calling on or phoning the elderly.



Selicia & Valentine Ronolea, Joan Neild, Evelyn Masoka Magumise.

All these outreach activities increase the awareness of Mothers' Union in the Waikato and help members to enjoy their membership and feel proud to wear their badge.

In the course of Selicia's talk, a discussion arose about the need to stem family violence by equipping men and women with skills to handle family concerns peacefully, especially among migrants. Evelyn Masoka Magumise summed up beautifully how this can be possible, with a wife and mother's patience and care: "Change has never been an easy go. It is a process that needs to be navigated with care as it can have some effects along the way.

"I think as a woman you are the best person who knows the husband very well. There is the Male Ego which needs attention. It is a hard one to navigate as it is in-born. Take the Gender issue easily, respecting the background of your husband, who he is and how he grew up and which generation.

"You do not have to bombard change because you may find yourself in jeopardy. Learn every day and what I know is it will come naturally because today my husband can now cook and clean and do any house chores that I ask him to do politely. I never imagined he would do this by virtue of how he grew up. Keep in prayer - it will happen slowly as it needs a balance that is negotiable. As women of Mothers' Union we need to always abide by our values that guide us in this journey of equality."

Finally, Valentine took the meeting through a PowerPoint presentation entitled: *'Walking in Mary Sumner's Footsteps: A Voice to Lead'*

- ❖ To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- ❖ To support those whose family life has met with adversity.

We can do that in: any location any setting.

- ❖ Know your own voice before you use it to 'lead' - knowing my place and holding my space
- ❖ My belief in a voice to lead is in:

Sharing, Growing, Planning, Delivering, Consolidating and Nurturing.

- ❖ Some families succeed because they are destined to, but other families succeed because they are determined to succeed.

The material learned and discussed at this Waikato meeting was inspiring and thought-provoking for those who attended. Well done, Waikato members!





Taranaki: St Mary's Cathedral New Plymouth

Members were delighted to learn that Mothers' Union is to join the Cathedral parish and others in the Community of the Cross of Nails. St Mary's Cathedral is the only active member in New Zealand to be part of this network for peace and reconciliation.

Our work as a member of the Community of the Cross of Nails is to build and live out the intention to work towards peace and reconciliation with Maori, particularly local iwi. The Cathedral was during the Land Wars, a garrison Church. So there is much to be done as we look forward.

We currently meet in the Peace Hall, for worship at our Cathedral is closed until remediation can occur to ensure it meets the expectations for safety in an earthquake. Pictured with the Cross of Nails is the Revd Ailsa Claridge, Chaplain to the Cathedral Mothers' Union branch.

In June a large box of knitted baby clothes and blankets was donated to the Te Puna Trust. The items were gratefully received, especially as all were made of wool. The young women supported by the Trust mostly live in cold homes so the woollen clothes, baby blankets and knee rugs for the mums are most acceptable. More blankets are ready to be handed over.

In May the daughter of a member spoke about her work in Christian leadership amongst youth. She covers an area of the lower half of the North Island visiting various churches. In June we had the theme 'sharing our lives' when we looked at the 3 months Mary and Elizabeth spent together. This was followed by some members sharing stories of their lives and some displaying hand-crafts. In July a member showed a PowerPoint presentation of the Golden Oldies Mission trip to Fiji.

Our Women's Day Patronal Festival took place on 15 August and on the 29th we are looking forward to celebrating the 100th birthday of member Jean Cameron. Jean's first involvement with MU was as a 13 year old. Her mother was Enrolling Member and asked Jean to look after the children while the women had their meetings. She became a member herself after the birth of her first child.

Holy Trinity Stratford: The branch is going well. They have held their AGM and have planned the programme for the year.

Diocesan Lone Member News

We extend our congratulations to the Revd Dr Jekheli Singh, vicar of St Luke's Parish, Te Kuiti on the awarding of her PhD.

The title of her thesis is "Exploring Hokmâ (Woman Wisdom) Metaphor in Proverbs 1-9 from a Sümi Naga Woman's Perspective."

Rosemary Bent, Diocesan President



Need an idea for your meeting?

You are welcome to contact Jocelyn Armstrong from the Religious Diversity Centre
Jocelyn Armstrong, Chair, Religious Diversity Centre Trust
Auckland phone: 09-521-4367; mobile: 027-521-4367. Email: religiousdiversitytrust@gmail.com

- Diocese of Christchurch -

Christchurch members met in "The Preservatory Café" on 2 July last. Their President needed to resign recently owing to work commitments.

Members at the meeting made the following decisions:

- 1 To continue as a group – more informal
- 2 To meet bi-monthly – formal/informal
- 3 To be committed to a ministry of prayer.
- 4 To make expression of outward focus – helping others.
- 5 Margaret Kenna to be Diocesan President until 2018 AGM.
- 6 Dawn Harris to be Treasurer, and
- 7 Judith Ayling to be Secretary.



Prayer and Reflection from Mary Sumner House

*Heavenly Father we praise you for
our global Mothers' Union family.*

*We give thanks for our members worldwide
whose lives of faithful action shine
as a beacon of hope
in the communities they serve.*

*We link hands in fellowship
with our family across the world.*

*May we be united in purpose;
inspired with faith for the present
and envisioned for the future.*

*Unite us in worship; build us in service,
as together we seek to share your love.*

*We reach out as your hands across the world.
In Jesus' name. Amen*



*God, grant me the serenity
to accept the people I cannot change,
which is pretty much everyone,
since I'm clearly not you, God.
At least not the last time I checked.
And while you're at it, God,
please give me the courage
to change what I need to change about myself,
which is frankly a lot, since, once again,
I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.
It's better for me to focus on changing myself
than to worry about changing other people,
who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying,
I can't change anyway.
Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up
whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter
than everyone else in the room,
that no one knows what they're talking about
except me,
or that I alone have all the answers.*

*Basically, God,
grant me the wisdom
to remember that I'm
not you.
Amen*

Artwork: Joan Miles, Taupo.
Left: Monday's Prayer
for August 2018 - 'MU Global Family'
(inspired by Ephesians 1: 19,22 NIRV.)
Right: 'A new Serenity Prayer'
by James Martin SJ.

From the St Isaac's Retreat House Newsletter, Opononi, Northland

The Reverend Anne Priestley completed her contribution as resident warden at the beginning of July 2018.

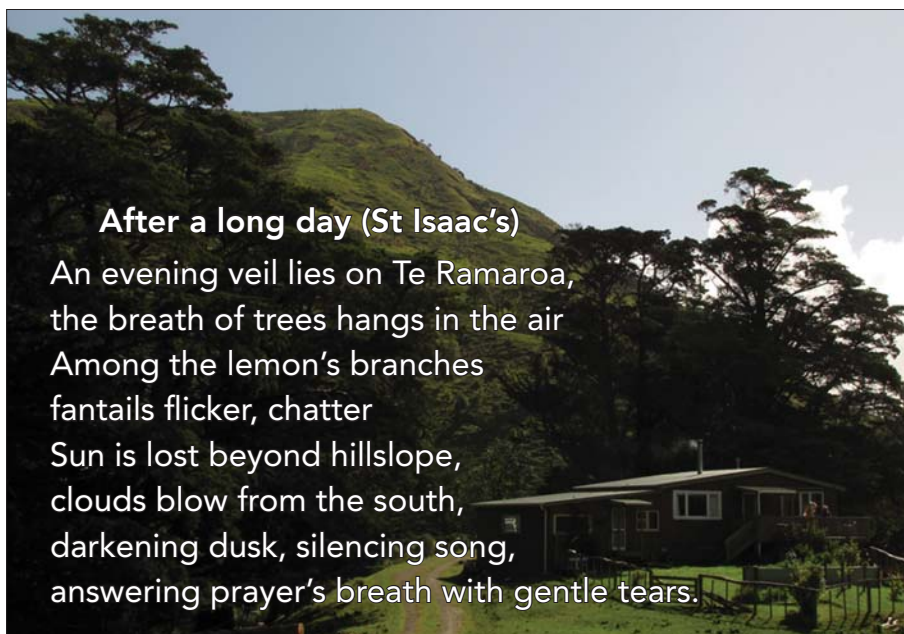
The Revd Oenone Woodhams will continue as warden until January 2020. Anne concluded the newsletter with this poem:-

Christchurch News from the Community of the Sacred Name, Christchurch, Fiji and Tonga

A celebration in August is marking 125 years of CSN in Christchurch. The original Convent has been renovated this year and now belongs to Home and Family. Some of the rooms are named in honour of the foundress for CSN and also the Revd Mothers of CSN.

There will be a Memorial Board in the chapel naming all the departed members of the Community. A Maori blessing of the site and the building was held on 11 June and Sr. Keleni said the prayer.

The sisters look forward to the work of that house and pray for its work as it keeps alive the memory of the early days of CSN in Christchurch.



After a long day (St Isaac's)

An evening veil lies on Te Ramaroa,
the breath of trees hangs in the air
Among the lemon's branches
fantails flicker, chatter
Sun is lost beyond hillslope,
clouds blow from the south,
darkening dusk, silencing song,
answering prayer's breath with gentle tears.

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Newsletter, Facebook and Website

Fresh items of news, letters and contributions from dioceses and branches are invited for the next newsletter in November 2018. Please send these no later than 15 October to the Provincial Secretary: Janice Cheeseman, 14 Cecil Rd, Epsom, Auckland 1023. caseus@xtra.co.nz Ph 64 (09) 630 4127 or 027 271 5950.

Follow us: Facebook: Mothers' Union NZ
Website: www.mothersunionnz.org.nz

Provincial Chaplain reflects

'Waltzing Matilda' was my great-uncle Banjo Paterson's contribution to your culture, Bishop John reminded certain MULOAs representatives.

T'was Tasmanian-born composer John J. Woods who wrote the music for our Kiwi Anthem, which is actually a prayer. Quits?



New printed Mothers' Union fabric

Mothers' Union have partnered with UK based printed fabric company, Woven Monkey, to offer our own official tartan items and fabric.

By purchasing through Woven Monkey, a percentage of your sale goes directly to Mothers' Union. Therefore every penny raised can help towards bringing lasting change.

You can order from Woven Monkey direct using this link <http://www.wovenmonkey.com/designers/mothers-union-official/>

Mothers' Union tartan – scarf and material, may be ordered from this link:

<https://www.scotweb.co.uk/tartan/Mothers-Union/597235>

