

MOTHERS' UNION NZ

In the Anglican Province of AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND AND POLYNESIA

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Greetings from the Provincial President

Newsletter No. 65

February 2017

**This year's theme
FAITH IN ACTION**



Archbishop Brown Turei, Bishop of Aotearoa

**Farewelled by Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.
1924 - 2017**

From our Provincial President

E te whanau a te Karaiti, Tena koutou katoa. Oku ou talitali lelei kimo utolu pea, malo ho'omou lelei. Dear Friends

He poroporoaki ki te Atipihopa o Aotearoa a Paraone Turei, i kapoa nei e te ringa o aitua i te 10 o nga ra o Hanuere, 2017 He uri no nga kawai o Ngati Porou me Te Whanau-a-Apanui.

Okioki mai ra, I raro i nga parirau o Te Ariki.

Moe mai! Moe mai! Aata moe.

We acknowledge with great sadness, the passing of the Archbishop of Aotearoa, Paraone Turei to his eternal rest. Our condolence to Mihi Turei his wife and his whanau at this time.

Also today we give thanks for the life of The Queen Mother of Tonga Halaevalu Mata'aho, the widow of King Taufa'ahau Tupou who passed away in Auckland. Our records show that during the visit by WWP Trish Heywood and PP Margaret Wilson in 2002 to Tonga they met with The Queen. Trish invited Her Majesty to be the Patron of Mothers' Union in Polynesia. In the presence of family members The Queen gracefully accepted and was enrolled as a member of MU.

Similarly on our visit in 2014 with WWP Lynne Temby, we met with Princess Salote Mafile'o Pilolevu Tuita on three occasions and were invited to meet The Queen Mother inside the royal lounge at Fua'amotu Airport. I will always remember her generosity to meet with us, her soft spoken voice and her offer to take us outside so that we could capture a photo with her. Lynne was in conversation with Princess Salote when we witnessed the final segment of the process when Princess Salote was enrolled as a Member of Mothers' Union in the presence of her mother. May Your Majesty, the Queen Mother rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

The Mothers' Union Constitution Worldwide is undergoing changes. In recent months members will recall responding to the questionnaires from MSH. The information has now been collated and the voting for the Changes will take place at a Worldwide Conference from 12-18 March in Dublin. All our DP's including myself have received our voting packages and will follow the process set by MSH to ensure that our values and beliefs count. As I have organised travel to attend full conference, please pray for me while I am away.

My family celebrated Christmas in Auckland and travelled to Kaikohe for a few days catching up with whanau (*family*). Also visited the graves of our loved ones, explaining the lines of genealogy (*tatai*), which is of interest when children become more aware of 'relationships' in a family. When I was a child I loved staying awake to attend the New Year's Eve service at Aperahama: my Basilica. Now I go home to Celebrate at this service for the wider whanau.

In November I attended the Australian Mothers' Union Council Meeting at Pallotti College, Melbourne, "Celebrating Faith in Action." On this my 2nd Council Meeting, I appreciated all the family services and bible studies lead by Bishop Genève Blackwell. Her very simple messages were so inspiring. Bishop also commissioned Anne Kennedy to the Post of Provincial President, and the New Executive Members for this term. Their MU 125th Anniversary Conference is in Launceston, Tasmania from 15th to 17 September this year. For those who are able to travel, love to be immersed in MU ethos, and build lasting friendships: this is the place for you but book early.

Many members will remember my granddaughter Rachel Raihania who happily accompanied me to many of our gatherings: to Awanui, Wellington, Kapiti, Waikanae's Parenting Programme and more recently our Conference in July. Rachel and Rebekah, her older sister, were confirmed by The Bishop of Waiapu, The Right Revd Andrew Hedge at St Augustine, Napier in August. There were thirteen youth in total who were confirmed that day. A special day for families. Thank you for the letters and cards of Congratulations she received.

It was an opportune time to hold an Executive meeting with the Diocesan Presidents: Rosemary Bent, Heather Dawson and Joan Neild at St Paul's Church, Kapiti on 10th February. Rosalyn Clinton from Christchurch sent her apologies. We commenced our time together in prayer. Our purpose was to meet and raise issues pertaining to our Dioceses and the wider MU Community.

There was intense discussion on the composition of fees and the allocations to MSH. There were suggestions or guidelines for the incoming Provincial President to consider and discuss the job description, perhaps the next Conference to be held in 2019. In view of the MU Worldwide Constitution Changes being voted for on the 12-13 March 2017 in Dublin, we will need to revisit our NZ MU Constitution in relationship to the AAW document. As the second executive meeting to be held during my term in office, there are real benefits from these 'face to face' meetings especially as we live a great distance from one another. Thank you for your attendance today and to Anne Carpenter our host for the day.

In closing, let me remind you that my 2nd term as the PP will officially end on 9 August this year. It has been a time of great joy and privilege to be your servant and friend on this journey.

For those who have been enrolled to MU and are current financial members, your task now is to find a candidate from within our membership 'to serve and guide us' in the role of Provincial President 2017-2020, both here at home and on the Worldwide scene of Mothers' Union.

Nga Manaakitanga

Iritana Hankins

(See p.8 for photographs)

Christchurch Diocese

The year started with a very interesting meeting at which the recently retired Accountant of the City Mission spoke about her work with the Mission. Also, she talked a little about the work of the City Mission as a whole. It was amazing what we learnt. We all felt that we had a good grasp of what the City Mission does but by the end of the meeting we were aware of how little we really knew. What an amazing place it is.

In previous years it's been our custom to hold a formal meeting with a speaker every three months; in the in-between months we would meet for coffee. This year we have doubled the number of our formal meetings and feel that this reflects our growing confidence as a group. Coupled with this has been two new prospective members who have become regular attenders at our meetings.

To enable our members to feel more connected to groups in other Dioceses we have invited the Wellington and Auckland Diocesan Presidents to speak to us. Heather will be with us for our April meeting and Joan for our May meeting. We very much look forward to them sharing with us something of their vision for Mothers' Union in New Zealand. Being the only group in the South Island there are occasions when we are very much aware of our isolation.

Other activities planned for this year include holding a Quiet Day to coincide with Mary Sumner Day and hearing about some of the community outreach programme being offered by our city parishes.

Carole Graham

Wellington Diocese

Marjorie Nevin was thanked for her awesome years as Leader and secretary of Epiphany MU, Masterton. All the members thoroughly enjoyed a Mad Hatter's Tea Party to end the year. Wellington members are looking forward to a Lenten Thanksgiving Gifting Programme. They will be, for example, asked to pay a small coin for every pen and recipe book in their homes, and to think and pray about the fact they can read write and measure.

A lively evening of fun faith and fellowship was held at Heather and John Dawson's home when Trish Brown (formerly Heywood) a past World Wide President visited NZ with her husband Michael.

A Diocesan picnic is planned for February 25th at the Bason Reserve in Whanganui. Our Diocesan Lady Day service, themed 'Faith in Action' will be held on March 25th at St Mark's Raumati Beach at 11 am, with a shared lunch to follow.

Heather Dawson

Waikato/Taranaki Diocese

One of the questions posed in the Mothers' Union 2016 Annual Report form was 'what part does faith have in your activities'? The answer of course is everything we do as Mothers' Union members in Waikato and Taranaki is underpinned by faith – in our personal lives, group activities, in church and in our community outreach. So what is our year shaping up to be in 2017 with the worldwide theme of Faith in Action.

St Mary's group began February with a visit to the New Plymouth Police Station to look at the new premises and to learn a little more about the Big Brothers/Big Sisters scheme and the Te Puna Trust. We are planning to support the Trust as a replacement for the WAVES Youth health service which had to close down due to lack of community funding. We will be partnering with the Police and other support agencies to provide a 'wrap around' service for vulnerable families in the district.

The Teen Mums School and the Men's Emergency Shelter are ongoing projects, and knitting for the Teen Mums and Neonatal Unit at the Taranaki Base Hospital. and the making of occasion cards for fund raising keep busy hands occupied.

Last years' guest speakers focused on services for youth and children. The March meeting on Ash Wednesday has a Lenten Focus and following April's Lady Day Service they will be looking at local midwifery services, the Kailakuri Hospital in Bangladesh, as well as the usual social concerns and overseas and outreach programmes.

St Peter's members are looking to forging an overseas link in the Pacific and we await the developments with interest.

I will be asking lone members what their activities relating to our Aim and Objectives will be, and this will be a feature for the next MU Newsletter.

Rosemary Bent

TRISH & MICHAEL HEYWOOD BROWN

touring New Zealand on a private holiday in February were happy to renew long-standing friendships made during Trish's first visit to New Zealand and Tonga, as MU Worldwide President in 1992, and make some new friends along the way.

Enjoying the moment with our overall Chaplain of MU NZ, Archbishop Emeritus John Paterson.



Auckland Diocese

Well what a great year we had in 2016, and as well our World Patron Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday, and 140 year celebrations in Winchester. We are delighted that up to this date 14th February, St Valentine's Day four branches have had their first meetings of the year with four more to come.

Our Kohimarama MU spent the morning at the Parnell Rose gardens where they held a service and celebrated with lovely morning tea afterwards in the rain. What a lovely thing to do despite the weather. We have decided to put out a calendar for all to share so we know when other branches have their meeting day. In this way we will be able to attend other branches and share their experiences of MU. Members please contact branch leaders to tell them you would like to attend please.

Dates for our calendar include our AGM on March 26th, the day after Lady Day, Lent 4. The meeting will be chaired by The Right Rev Bishop Ross Bay. The meeting will begin at 2.30pm. The afternoon tea will be served following the meeting. All members are invited to attend the Evensong in Holy



Trinity Cathedral at 5 pm. During the service the appointments will

be confirmed by Bishop Ross. The Northern Archdeaconry Meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th May.

The Quiet Day (to be confirmed) will take place on Wednesday May 31st.

Your executive wish all Auckland members a great 141st Birthday year.

Joan Neild



WARREN PARKER

An extraordinary man who served the Lord, leaving a huge legacy in Tanzania where he was a teacher and headmaster of Canon Andrea Mwaka School for 26 years.

He passed away in Auckland early this year after a six-year battle with cancer.

Warren was a supporter of Mothers' Union and attended Kohi -Orakei Branch when able.

His reputation throughout New Zealand as a CMS missionary was legendary. Especially in his disregard for political correctness and his resolute dedication to the education of all those students and teachers whose lives he touched. By his example, guidance and ethos, he kept the gospel message before his students and friends. This was so evident by the tributes that flowed on his facebook page from all over the world. Celebration of his life was held at All Saints Church, Ponsonby, on 7th January.

WELL DONE YOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

Katherine McIntyre



THE MOTHERS' UNION ANNUAL REVIEW 2015/16 March 2016

Quotes from the introduction by The Most Revd and Right Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury -



“The Mothers’ Union in so many places is an organisation that listens to the voices of weeping, whether it is in conflict-torn countries across Africa, or in homes in England where, when the local football team loses, there is a 50% increase in domestic violence; it is the Mothers’ Union that exists to speak of those things that God has provided that bring hope, help and a future.”

“Mothers’ Union work is wonderful and joyful and effective and transforming and evangelistic, and makes such a difference around the world in the churches in which it works”.

THE MARY SUMMER ROSE

Established on the Port Hills in Christchurch, (and not affected by recent fires), is now proving to be very healthy and hardy in Auckland. For further supplies please contact - Joan at rjneild@xtra.co.nz or phone 09 426-3647.





(above) Meeting with HRH the Queen Mother Halaevalu Mata'aho (centre) and Princess Salote Pilolevu (left) both MU members, In Nuku'alofa., With WWP Lynne Tembey, Iritana, Joan and Margaret.



NZ PP Iritana recently meeting in Wellington with DPs Joan, Auckland; Rosemary, Waikato-Taranaki, and Heather, Wellington, To discuss the way forward.



(above) Trish with Katherine McIntyre, co-host of a dinner in Auckland to welcome Trish and Michael to New Zealand.



Iritana's granddaughter Rachel (in white) at her confirmation in Napier— A budding MU member.

THE PROVINCIAL TEAM

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