

In the Province of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
And throughout the World

Greetings from the New Zealand President
Newsletter No. 52
February 2014



A little bit of Nostalgia

The welcoming open doors of beautiful Holy Trinity Church, Avonside,
Christchurch

Where the first MU Branch in NZ was opened in 1886
(now sadly completely demolished as a result of the earthquakes in 2010 and 2011)

The Branch lives on.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

E te whanau a te Karaiti, Nga mihi o te tau hou kia koutou katoa.

Dear Members and Friends

I do hope that during Advent you had the opportunity to gather in homes, parishes or other chosen places to celebrate the birth of Christ our Saviour. For myself I go home to Kaikohe to attend the New Years Eve service in my own tabernacle Aperahama, surrounded by beautiful memories to give thanks to God for his many blessings.

In November 2013 I attended the MU Australia Council meeting held in Melbourne, welcomed on arrival by the Rev. Libby Crossman the Provincial President of Australia. The opening Eucharist was lead by Bishop John Stead of Gladstone SA.

There was so much to learn over the five days. However three things stand out for me. This was a Mothers' Union sole gathering and a time for learning, concentration on the discipline practices requirements to keep membership informed and safe, and ways to nurture the growth of membership. The Mary Sumner story, past and present issues, all had a place, and there was great enthusiasm. In the group session, a member told of arriving in Australia from England with her family, and walking out on a Sunday morning to find a place to worship. Very soon she asked about MU and encouraged members to join the group. She attended the meeting as a DP, and will visit Auckland in July.

The 'chain of command' was clear. Perhaps an antiquated term but useful to describe the utmost respect that members held for their leaders and each other. Don't get me wrong. Discussion forums took place with lively, research-based information, which was very persuasive. This enabled good decisions and outcomes.

The MU Diocesan Presidents Handover Packs, which contained welcome messages from the President and every member of the Executive, the Programme for the year, a rough Guide to MU including the world wide organization, Faith in Action, Spiritual Nurture, Policy, Practical Action, Global Projects, Membership Fees and how the money is used. I have the complete pack and will discuss this in the near future with the Diocesan Presidents.

With our MU theme for the year 'Sowing the future together' let us work more closely together, appreciate the skills and wisdom of others and allow ourselves to be challenged. Consequently, I am inviting the Diocesan Presidents from Taranaki, Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland to meet with me over two days to grow and develop together.

Nga Manaakitanga,

Iritana.



TO ALL BRANCHES OF THE MOTHERS' UNION

It is now time for an election to take place for a further 3-year term, and once again all Branches are invited to take part in the nomination process. Bishop Ross Bay has appointed Mary-Jane du Toit, Operations Manager for the Diocese of Auckland, to be Returning Officer, and the required paper-work in detail will go out in the next few days. Each Diocesan President is responsible for seeing that the forms go to all Branches and Diocesan Members in their area. Completed nominations, together with the nominee's acceptance and a biographical description, are to be returned to the Returning Officer by 16th May. As Iritana has signified that she is willing to continue for another term, she will be nominated by the Auckland Diocese.

Diocesan Presidents also please note that we will be compiling a full voting roll of every currently financial member in 2014, so please gather these lists and the subs asap, and email the lists to Dianne MU NZ Secretary/Treasurer, Even if we do not need to vote, it is time for these details to be updated and sent to Mary Sumner House.

(Office of the Provincial President)

THE MARY SUMNER ROSE

Registration name is **McAstra**

Exhibition name is **Mary Sumner**

Bred by **Samuel Daragh McGredy IV**
in NZ 1976.

- Floribunda rose
- Flowers are orange
- Clusters of semi-double flowers
- Tall bush rose
- Mild fragrance



This rose is reputed to be a vigorous grower, and will climb if encouraged. No doubt it will respond differently to varying conditions throughout New Zealand.

Following mission fundraising sales by Wellington AAW, it is now available through the Auckland Diocesan MU. Last year's stock has been exhausted, and further orders for supply in the winter/spring of 2014 can be placed by contacting Joan Neild, email rjneild@xtra.co.nz or phone 09 426-3647.

It is aimed to deliver a bulk supply of orders at the celebration of Mary Sumner Day (9th August) which this year will be the Missions Day at St Andrew's Church, Kohimarama on Friday the 8th.

Let's paste Mary Sumner roses all over New Zealand. They are selling them in Australia too.

SERMON ON THE MOUNT*

An opportunity to join the Kohi-Orakei MU Branch for an adventure on Mount Wellington (Maungarei)

When: Tuesday, March 11th **At:** 10 a.m.

Where: Meet at St Andrew's, 116 Selwyn Ave, Kohimarama.

We will car pool and drive to the summit, planning to arrive there and park beside the picnic tables by 10.30 a.m. The more able-bodied may like to walk to the trig station. We can enjoy the panoramic view of Auckland, and the new suburb of Stonefields.

Katherine will give us information on the history and geology of the area. Morning tea/coffee provided.

Please bring a neighbour or friend. Wear walking shoes and a warm jacket.

If weather not suitable we will revert to our usual venue at St Andrew's.

Any enquires to Katherine, phone 578-1511.



(*An opportunity also for contemplation on the Beatitudes)

"Beatitude is a possession of all things held to be good, from which nothing is absent that a good desire may want.

Perhaps the meaning of beatitude may become clearer to us if it is compared with its opposite.

Now the opposite of beatitude is misery.

Misery means being afflicted unwillingly with painful sufferings."

THE MOTHERS' UNION WEBSITE

May well be up and running by the time you receive this newsletter.

Started as a project for the Auckland Diocesan MU, this has morphed into

"MOTHERS' UNION NZ" for the whole Province. www.mothersunionnz.co.nz

This will result in much more detailed news being sent to you, and we look forward to your reaction via facebook or twitter, as well as receiving news items to be included. We will continue to print the newsletter for mailing out, but this is now also being saved in PDF which can be accessed from the webpage or, if you would like the PDF version e-mailed to you, please let us know by sending your email to the news editor, maggies.mill@xtra.co.nz

FROM THE WAIKATO DIOCESE

“Together We Grow” is the theme for this year, and the MU committee met after the January corporate communion to arrange the programme. We get under way with a Commissioning Service at the Taranaki Cathedral on the Feast of the Presentation (2 February) followed by a barbeque at a member’s seaside bach. Anne Knox was re-elected leader of St Mary’s Mothers’ Union for a further term.

The committee is a combination of new and existing members.

The theme will enable us to look at our own membership and how we encourage each other, as well as the value we place on our overseas links and the particular projects we support. Through the year we will explore the question ‘What do we want to achieve as Mothers’ Union members?’

WAVES the youth health organisation we have been supporting for the past 7 years had to close last year due to funding issues. However we are delighted the NEW WAVES will be up and running during February with a revised format and governance structure, and we will continue our support.

The Talents Scheme introduced by Dean Jamie last year has been most successful and we plan to see where this will lead us in the coming months.

Pamela Ferry and I will be attending a meeting with MU in the Wellington Diocese to see what changes have been made to the Parenting Encouragement Programme particularly focusing on more local content. Also to see how the programme can be extended to other areas.

We were delighted to learn that the new Bishop of our Link Diocese of Meath & Kildare, the Right Reverend Patricia Storey, is a Mothers’ Union member. It is particularly interesting to us as the Episcopal Ordination of the next Bishop of Waikato, the Right Rev. Helen-Ann Hartley takes place on 22 February.

Archbishop Philip Richardson continues as the Bishop of Taranaki.

The large print newsletter for those unable to attend meetings has been well received and more regular contact with our Waikato members is being planned.

Congratulations to the Revd Sandra Johnston, a member in the Waiapu Diocese, formerly on the Executive of MU in New Plymouth, who was elected as Vice President of CIMA (Crisis Intervention and Management Australasia) at the November 2013 conference in Melbourne.

Rosemary

ACNS—Anglican News Service

There is a seriously good article entitled

“What should we do when Christians disagree?”

Posted by the Revd Dr Phil Groves on 17 January 2014, which considers a recently published article by David Atkinson about a letter which Paul wrote to the Philippians.

Philippians 4.2-3. <http://www.anglicannews.org/comment/2014/01>.

WELLINGTON DIOCESE

This year we in MU are "Sowing the Future Together"!

The Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 1 Corinthians 3:5-6. In "Families Worldwide" we read that "this Theme moves us forward from the 2013 Theme of "The seeds we sow flourish" and explores further our need to strengthen membership as we look to build the community of the MU. We do this together, not alone. Together we reach out as the 'hands across the world' and seek to draw in our nearest neighbours. There are themed resources for this. As we use the resources, let us ask God to shine his light on them, illuminating the way he wants us to respond. We can download the resources from the Mothers' Union website. www.mothersunion.org.

I have given and received Christmas greetings, letters from lots of members, and calendars from Ann Mayer in St Asaph Wales, Doreen Earls in Clogher, and Rosemary Hill in France. Rosemary is recovering from a hip replacement and has the joy of a new grandson, James, in Blenheim. I have just received an email from Doreen Earls. She had an accident and has had a hip replacement. Please pray for her as well as Rosemary Hill as these busy ladies work through being dependent during their recovery and rehabilitation

In November Pat Vincent, Janice Viles, Eileen Imlach and I attended a function at Government House celebrating 120 years of women's suffrage in NZ. We represented all Anglican women in NZ - what an honour! We were in wonderful company - notable women, sportswomen, women from local government and some from our local Kapiti Women's Centre. It was a joy to see the refurbished Government House.

This year's diary so far -

1st March Saturday AAW Day in Levin.

7th Friday, World Day of Prayer. Look out for your local contact.

8th Saturday, Diocesan Hui at the Cathedral.

25th Tuesday, Lady Day. Service and shared lunch at St Mark's Raumati Beach.

30th Mothering Sunday

A Mary Sumner rose will be planted at St Mark's on Lady Day.

We have received several orders for Mary Sumner roses. They are \$14 each. Please order from Christine Goodin, christinegoodin@xtra.co.nz

Love from **Heather Dawson**

Phone 049021866 or text 0211067463

Heatherfeather646@gmail.com



Heather Dawson on left, MU President Wellington

*Pat Vincent present AAW Diocesan President
Janice Viles immediate past AAW Diocesan President*

AUCKLAND DIOCESE



It was all smiles in Auckland on the day we visited the Anglican Trust for Women and Children (ATWC) to present the new altar cloth, handcrafted by a member, for the chapel.

(l. to r.) Philip Beilby CEO of the Trust, Iritana Hankins NZ PP, Margaret Wilson and Katherine McIntyre, Executive members, flanking Joan Neild (in green) Auckland DP.

2013 was a good year, and we are expecting 2014 to be even better, with a full programme of Diocesan events as well as Branch activities. The present Executive will be returning intact at our **AGM in the Holy Trinity Cathedral Visitors' Centre on Sunday, 23rd February**, which will include participation in the 5 p.m. evensong service.

Bishop Kito Te Pikaahu has agreed to repeat our **Quiet Day with the AAW** at St John's College on Thursday the **19th June** to celebrate Corpus Christi.

Our **Missions Day**, which alternates biennially with the Mary Sumner Lecture, is to be held at St Andrew's, Kohimarama, on Friday the **8th August**, celebrating Mary Sumner Day which us on the 9th. The Rev. Mike Hawke from Anglican Missions is the speaker.

Diocesan Meetings are scheduled to be held at Henderson, Selwyn Village, and Pukekohe in May, July and September, and the **Annual Council Meeting** will be on Wednesday **8th October** at ATWC.

Further information about our activities can be obtained from the Secretary, maggies.mill@xtra.co.nz or phone 5211229.

Our Provincial President the Rev. Iritana Hankins, is in the process of assembling her collection of clerical stoles, and is seen here blessing her red one, on delivery from embroiderer Jo Dixey. This was funded by a collaboration of Auckland MU members. There are three more to come, and the white one will feature the MU symbol. It is thought that other MU members may wish to donate towards the cost of these. If so please contact the Provincial Secretary/Treasurer, Dianne, address overleaf.



Joan

Help from God

A woman named Edna finds herself in dire trouble. Her business has gone bust and she's in serious financial trouble. She's so desperate that she decides to ask God for help. She begins to pray... 'God, please help me. I've lost my business and if I don't get some money, I'm going to lose my house as well. Please let me win the lotto.'

Lotto night comes and somebody else wins it.

Edna again prays.... 'God, please let me win the lotto! I've lost my business, my house and I'm going to lose my car as well.'

Lotto night comes and Edna still has no luck.

Once again, she prays, 'My God, why have you forsaken me?? I've lost my business, my house, and my car. My children are starving. I don't often ask you for help and I have always been a good servant to you. PLEASE, just let me win the lotto this one time so I can get my life back in order.

Suddenly there is a blinding flash of light as the heavens open and Edna is confronted by the voice of God Himself:

'Edna, meet Me halfway on this. Buy a ticket.'

The Mary Sumner Prayer

(Written in 1876 by
Mothers' Union founder,
Mary Sumner)

All this day,
O Lord,
let me touch as
many lives as possible
for thee;
and every life
I touch, do thou by
thy spirit quicken,
whether through the
word I speak,
the prayer
I breathe,
or the life I live.
Amen.



THE PROVINCIAL TEAM

Provincial Chaplain:	The Right Rev. John Paterson, P.O. Box 87255, Meadowbank, Auckland 1742.
Provincial President:	The Rev. Iritana Hankins, 20 Mataroa Road, Otahuhu, Auckland 1062, Email i.hankins@xtra.co.nz, Phone: 0064 (0)9 276-3088
Secretary/Treasurer:	Mrs Diane Chapman, 20 Mataroa Road, Otahuhu, Auckland 1062, Email: chapman-01@hotmail.com, Phone (09) 275-7061 or 027 430-9047
Guest Editor:	Mrs Margaret Wilson, 301 St Heliers Bay Road, Kohimarama, Auckland 1071 Phone 0064 (0)9 521-1229 Email: maggies.mill@xtra.co.nz