



**Greetings from the Provincial President**  
**Newsletter No. 57**  
**May, 2015**



**“God Has Never Failed Me. I Cannot Fail Him”**

Affirmed by Mrs Lynne Tembey, Worldwide President of the Mothers’ Union, as she presented the Mary Sumner Lecture at St Mary’s in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland at the beginning of her tour of New Zealand and Tonga, from the 15th to the 29th May 2015.

This image has appeared on the website of the New Zealand “Taonga” magazine and the Anglican Communion Network News, as well as being posted on twitter by an English Diocese. A written report of her address can be read on the Mothers’ Union facebook page, Mothers’ Union NZ, together with a gallery of photographs taken at the time .

*(This edition dedicated to Lynne and the inspiration she has given to us all)*

## From our Provincial President

*E te Whanau a te Karaiti, Tena koutou katoa, Oku ou talitali lelei kimoutolu pea malo ho'omou lelei! Dear Members, Families and Friends, Greetings,*

The World Wide President, Lynne Tembey's visit was an absolute success and a delight to every Mothers' Union member who was able to attend the lectures and gatherings that took place across our Three Tikanga. It was a privilege to accompany Lynne who was welcomed at the following venues: Holy Sepulchre Church in Grafton and on to Waimanoni Marae, Awanui. St Mary's in Holy Trinity Cathedral Parnell, St Peters Cathedral, Hamilton; St Mary's Cathedral Taranaki; St Pauls Cathedral Wellington, St Mary's the Virgin, Addington, Christchurch; and St Pauls Nuku'alofa in Polynesia. We also visited St Andrews College, which is the only Anglican school in Tonga, at a time when the examinations were about to commence. Over a period of fourteen days more than nine hundred people had the occasion to hear Lynne's stories, at times aided by technology, otherwise it was 'a call straight from the heart.'

If I had to choose one of Lynne's stories that most stands out for me, it is the story about meeting a man on a plane whose daughter had died at birth in hospital. He said that they really wanted this baby. MU had provided the clothes for her to wear. Through their chance meeting he was able to say, thank you.

There was no doubt of her enthusiasm and joy about Mothers' Union being a 'life changing organisation with God as the enabler.' There was also a strong reminder of the centrality of prayer which inspires our work in families and communities, locally, nationally and globally.

Through the sharing together in her visit we are again united in our faith and the experiences we have shared. Lynne many times over has said, 'I am here to serve. Not to be served.' Many commented to me on how easy it was to talk to Lynne and felt that she was listening to them. For Lynne to hear the stories and to hear what members have been able to share with her is really important, after all she is a member too and the strength of our membership grows by the strengthening of our relationships with each other. It was also wonderful to hear about the relationships that are important to Lynne, who herself is a family person happy to hear from David her husband who periodically gave updates of family movements back home in England.

Our WWP came a long long way to see us and also to visit our Brothers and Sisters in Tonga. We have been inspired by her presence, guided by her wisdom and encouraged by her faith. The passage forward for us is carved in our Aims and Objectives of the Mothers' Union and also in our Worldwide membership. We are 'Of Age' to 'Stand Firm, united in Faith.' This is the Challenge for us.



*Nga manaakitanga Iritana Hankins.*

*The Tour team preparing for the "Sermon on the Mount" day two. Iritana and Lynne, the stars. Margaret and Joan, support staff, at their own expense. .*

## Auckland Diocese

It was a pleasure to welcome to New Zealand our Mothers' Union Worldwide President, Mrs Tembey, who flew in to Auckland on Friday 15th May 2015. Thence began a very successful visit to the Province of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. Lynne was met by a welcome party consisting of New Zealand Provincial President Rev. Iritana Hankins, Mrs Joan Neild, Auckland Diocesan President, and Lynne's hostess Mrs Margaret Wilson, NZ News Editor also acting as PA to the PP for the purpose of this tour. First up, a cup of coffee at Margaret's home and a chat with Lynne to tell her all about the programme we had prepared for her visit. In the evening, our Auckland Bishop, the Right Reverend Ross Bay warmly welcomed Lynne to a formal dinner at Bishops Court, along with Iritana, Joan, Margaret, and members and husbands of the Auckland Executive Committee. This most enjoyable meal was a joint effort between Bishop Ross and his staff, with desserts and refreshments brought by the guests. There were speeches by the Bishop and the Worldwide President, and in-depth discussions enjoyed by all. It was a truly beautiful evening to open the tour, thanks to the Bishop for his enthusiasm and encouragement.

On Saturday, a group of Auckland members met on Mount Wellington, for a brief service composed by Iritana for the occasion, and a talk by Mrs Katherine McIntyre about the mountain, and its history, the "Sermon on the Mount". Some of the party walked up to the trig station on the summit to see the best possible view of Auckland (forget Mt Eden and One Tree Hill!) Next stop was the Howick Historical village for morning tea, meeting up with Barbara Gill, a long-standing and faithful Howick member who had arranged to be there to greet Lynne. Then about a dozen of us "went Dutch" for a delicious lunch at the Villa Maria Vineyard restaurant. Our final stop in the afternoon was at St Andrews Church in the Parish of Kohimarama overlooking Mission Bay. Margaret Baker told us about the history of the Melanesian Mission, its relationship to the Parish, and the bequest of the land by Mary Atkin, allowing the Martyrs of Melanesia Memorial Church to be built.

Sunday 17th saw Lynne and her support team and other Auckland members at the 10 a.m. service at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Khyber Pass Road. It was a typical Sunday morning service conducted by the Rev. Lloyd Popata who specially welcomed Lynne, and she spoke in reply. A lavish morning tea and some Maori entertainment was provided by the parish following the service.

In the afternoon, at the lovely Church of St Mary, HTC, the official welcome was tendered by The Right Rev. Ross Bay, before handing over to the Right Rev. John Paterson, our officiant for the service during which Lynne delivered the Mary Sumner Lecture. After the service a catered high tea was served in the Selwyn Library. At 5pm Lynne and a good number of members attended the choral Evensong in Holy Trinity Cathedral.



*Joan Neild*

*Part of the congregation, estimated at 250, who attended the Mary Sumner Lecture in St Mary's.*

## Northland

On Monday 18th May Mrs Lynne Tembey, Rev. Iritana Hankins, Joan Neild, and Margaret Wilson drove to Kaitaia to visit our Maori members at the Waimanoni Marae which has been completely refurbished, and our visit was the first hui to be held in the new surroundings. Their large collection of photographs on display included one of Lady Eames with some of the members who welcomed her to the Ahipara Marae when she visited as Worldwide President in 1999. We received a karakia, mihi, and dinner which was well attended by Mothers' Union members and some of their families. It was lovely to be able to introduce Lynne to members who live so far away.

The next day we enjoyed breakfast and went again to the Marae for a Service, after which we talked about the Mothers' Union around our Diocese. Lynne gave us all a talk about her work, and what she does and sees when she visits other countries. After the discussions, gifts were exchanged and a beautiful lunch was enjoyed by all present before we drove back to Auckland. We were made so welcome, and have promised more frequent visits in future.

We had been advised that the Maori Community Radio station at Manganoka, on our route home, had been destroyed by fire overnight. The ruins were still smoking when we arrived. Fortunately there were no casualties but the small community were experiencing grief at their loss, and were comforted by the prayers in Maori which Iritana said for them at the site. Otherwise it was a smooth run home, and we had another early start the

following morning.

*Lynne and Iritana were the stars of the show wherever we went, but Joan representing Auckland and Myra representing the Maori Pastorate with several different Branches, have formed a strong friendship promising better liaison and mutual support in the future.*

*It was goodbye Northland, and one short sleep later, our remarkable visit to Tonga began. (below) Some of the guests at lunch just after our arrival.*



Early on Wednesday 20th we flew to Tonga, and were met by Victoria, Kathy and Lola at the airport. We were driven to our accommodation at Amelia's Lose Lodge to unpack, and then whisked away to the home of Rev. Colleen Cowley to have lunch with some of the Ladies Guild and, to our surprise, the guest of honour HRH Princess Salote Mafile'o Pilolevu Tuita. It was a beautiful occasion, just amazing, as we sat with the princess at the dining table.



## Tonga

After the lovely meal we all went to St Paul's church in Nuku'alofa for the service presided over by the Archdeacon of Tonga Rev. Fr Joe Le'ota. Princess Salote Piloleva attended the service, deputising for her mother HM Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho who was unable to attend because of illness. The Queen Mother had accepted the invitation of Trish Heywood, then Worldwide President, to become patron of the Mothers' Union in Polynesia, when Trish visited Tonga with Margaret Wilson (former Provincial President). Archbishop Winston Halapua was unable to be with us in Tonga, but sent his blessing. The service began with a procession with banners. Although all of our activities were centred around St Pauls, it transpired that there are four Mothers' Union Branches on Tongatapu plus several in the outer islands. Vikatolia Tohi, the Archdeaconry Mothers' Union President, gave us a welcoming speech. A beautiful and moving service continued with Mothers' Union, Ladies Guild and AAW members all taking part. A large choir sang beautifully, and a feature of the service was the presentation of 50-year badges to some of the older ladies, and a special certificate to Amelia Tu'inukuafe for her longstanding service to the Mothers' Union. After the service we all moved outside for photos being taken with the Princess in the centre.

In the evening we went to the restaurant named Davina House. We were met there, and advised that HRH Princess Salote Piloleva would once again be joining us. We chatted until she arrived, and then all sat down to a beautiful meal. We felt very honoured that she had enjoyed the day's events with us so much. The band inspired some dancing before we left. The next day on Thursday the 21st May we met in the church hall for a Mothers' Union Retreat day. The opening prayers were said by Rev. Vika Vea, followed by a welcome by Katherine Vaka the Vice President of Mothers Union Archdeaconry. Then the address by Mrs Lynne Tembey our Worldwide President, whose theme was "United in our Diversity, United in Purpose". New Zealand Provincial President Rev. Iritana Hankins spoke about the "MU Work Vision in the Provinces, and the Purpose for the Visit". After morning tea, discussions were held. Talanga on the way forward for Mothers Union in Tonga. This was followed by a cluster of enrolments and a summary of the day. Lunch followed, then a rest period prior to the farewell dinner and ngatu nite. This was opened with prayer by the Rev. Hepisipa Tohi of St Pauls, and a welcome speech by Rev. Evelini Langi, Vicar of the Ha'apai Mission District. Gifts were exchanged and we enjoyed the entertainment in the traditional manner by a number of different groups.

On the last morning we were taken to see the sunrise (spectacular) and afterwards went to visit St. Andrews School. Lynne and Iritana both gave talks to the students who listened attentively. The brass band drew tears with their item "Hine e Hine" featuring instrumental and vocal solos. There was colourful dancing as well. It was a beautiful visit with fond memories to share. After we left the school we went to the large local marketplace, before returning to Amelia's, to pack our bags and and leave for the airport. It was a lovely action-packed visit, and we are looking forward to going to Tonga again to see how our Mothers' Union friends are doing. A bonus was meeting Gendy Thompson from Wellington who also joined in all our activities.

*Editor*

## Waikato-Taranaki Diocese

So long in anticipation – so brief a visit! We had looked forward to Lynne Tembey being with us for months and when she came we were not disappointed. Lynne shared so much of herself and the work of the Worldwide Mothers' Union that a longer period was not really necessary. Virginia Wells and I travelled up to Hamilton from New Plymouth to meet Lynne and Iritana on Saturday 23 May – the journey was delayed by heavy rainfall and road works so our guests were at the Cathedral before us. Because the weather was so bad we re-arranged the time table and had Lynne speak informally over a lengthy morning tea. This gave everyone ample opportunity to ask any questions before we went into the Cathedral for the Eucharist. Lunch followed when Iritana spoke about the visit to Tonga and Dean Peter Rickman told us of plans St Peter's MU group has for outreach in the parish and community. We were privileged to have Bishop Helen-Anne Hartley with us for the whole time.

On Sunday morning Lynne gave an excellent power point presentation at St Mary's during the 10.00 a.m. Eucharist which gave members of the congregation a comprehensive overview of the Mothers' Union. I am planning to follow up on this to encourage new membership. Archdeaconry AAW members joined us for a pot luck lunch after the Service and Lynne spoke again giving those unable to be at the Service an opportunity of hearing about the Mothers' Union.

As Archbishop Philip was in PNG his letter of welcome was read out at the Service, and Belinda, also a MU member, entertained us to dinner at Bishop's House. The visit ended on Monday morning with Lynne and Iritana being driven to Wanganui by one of our young members. All in all a most worthwhile weekend.



### *Rosemary Bent*

*Waikato/Taranaki, (left) At St Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton, with Dean Peter, Bishop Helen-Anne and Rosemary.*

*Some members of the recently-reopened Cathedral Branch.*

*(Below) with the Dean in St Mary's Cathedral, New Plymouth*



## Wellington Diocese

After a laughter filled lunch in Wanganui Lynne was driven to Levin for afternoon tea. The ladies showed Lynne their wonderful knitted baby clothes and we heard from Lynne about crafts for needy children and 'fiddle pinnies' for dementia patients. Lynne told us about emailing Mary Sumner House about the floods in Wellington Diocese and how Mary Sumner House replied that Wellington had been prayed for in the Middy prayers.



On Monday evening 8 of us dined with love and laughter at the home of the Rev. Barbara Bonifant.

*(The photo of the tour, with Wellington's Bishop Justin)*

On Tuesday we held an awesome service in our Cathedral of St Paul, with the Bishop celebrating Eucharist. The AAW President, Pat Vincent read the first lesson, the MU President, Heather Dawson read the second lesson, and the Rev. Iritana Hankins, Provincial President read the Gospel in Maori. Lynne brought greetings to the Wellington Diocese from all parts of the world. She had never been to New Zealand before, & would like to bring her husband to share her experiences here. God has called us all in baptism & through Mothers' Union many of us have been able to share with others throughout the world. We need to say "What is God saying to us now?" We put our lives into God's hands. We laugh & cry with each other. This is how God makes the difference, as we continue helping & praying together unconditionally, enveloping whole nations to witness; enabling all of us to make a difference as we walk together. It is a privilege to put faith into action. Jeremiah said "Build houses and live (plant) in them." United together we can make a difference. Lynne shared with us stories of our corporate heritage – Helping to make books - "With love from Daddy (in prison)". Knitting teddies & dolls for needy children. Arranging holidays for families who never get this opportunity (AFIA), and supporting & encouraging parents to grow in their faith (PEP). Lynne concluded with encouraging all of us, in humility, to move forward for God. Lynne presented 50 year badges to 2 ladies from Epiphany in Masterton and a certificate for 68 years of membership to Vi Craig who is a sprightly 95.

Pat Vincent gave Lynne and Iritana a gift of AAW cards.

Heather presented Lynne with a small paua shell cross and a beautiful NZ themed 'Prayers and Squares' quilt made by the Rev. Barbara Bonifant, *(shown left)* with a card explaining the pattern of birds and flowers.



*Heather Dawson*

## Christchurch Diocese



*(Where it all began in New Zealand - the original banner from the Holy Trinity Branch, Avonside, opened in 1886, fortunately rescued from the church before demolition due to the Christchurch earthquakes in 2010/11.)*

Members of the Christchurch Mothers' Union Branch were delighted to host the Mothers' Union Worldwide President during her brief but significant visit to Christchurch. Lynne Tembey was an inspirational guest and charmed us all with her lively and warm personality and her genuine and engaging manner. She was well prepared for her visit and showed a keen interest in seeing something of the devastation that had been caused by the recent earthquakes. Time was spent in showing her something of Christchurch as the earthquakes have made it. Her response was heartfelt and sympathetic but also hopeful. We took heart from what she said and from the assurance of her prayers which she continues to offer for our broken city. To mark her visit, a Eucharist was celebrated at which Bishop Victoria presided. Members of the Christchurch AAW were invited to attend and we were thrilled by the number who responded so positively. Following the Eucharist - during which Lynne both spoke and welcomed two new Mothers' Union members - a light lunch was served. The fellowship and warmth this generated far exceeded our hopes and it seems as though - at long last - old barriers between the two groups are being broken down. Certainly there was a sense that Mothers' Union is now regarded as a Diocesan group in its own right and not just a remnant from the past. For all of this we rejoice.

It was good to welcome Iritana who accompanied Lynne throughout her NZ visit and we were delighted that Joan Neild the Auckland Diocesan President and Margaret Wilson a former N.Z. Provincial President made a special visit to Christchurch to join with the Christchurch MU members. We appreciated their support and encouragement.

The final highlight of Lynne's visit was the Farewell Dinner which was so graciously hosted by Margaret Wilson at the Canterbury Club. There couldn't have been a more fitting way to have said goodbye and thank you to Lynne. It had been a wonderful few days and we in Christchurch feel both energised and inspired by having had Lynne with us.

*Carole Graham*

### THE PROVINCIAL TEAM

<b>Provincial Chaplain:</b>	The Right Rev. John Paterson, P.O. Box 87255, Meadowbank, Auckland 1742.
<b>Provincial President:</b>	The Rev. Iritana Hankins, 20 Mataroa Road, Otahuhu, Auckland 1062, i.hankins@xtra.co.nz, Phone +64 (0)9 276-3088
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>	Mrs Diane Chapman, 20 Mataroa Road, Otahuhu, Auckland 1062, chapmad_01@hotmail.com, Phone +64 (0)9 275-7061 or 027 430-9047
<b>News Editor:</b>	Mrs Margaret Wilson, 301 St Heliers Bay Road, Kohimarama, Auckland 1071 maggies.mill@xtra.co.nz Phone +64 (0)9 521-1229 or 027 4275913