



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
TE RŌPŪ WĀHINE KATORIKA O AOTEAROA
76th Annual Wellington Archdiocesan Conference
Hutt Region, 16th March 2020
CWLANZ: 'Women Welcoming Change'

PRESENT

Council: Christine Paterson (President), Karen Saunders (Secretary), Diane Glynan (Treasurer/Min Secretary), Kath Cain (Social Concerns), Susan Lloyd (Mission Secretary), Christina Dwyer (WUCWO),
Regional Representatives: Sam Walker (Wellington), Kath Emmerson (Hutt Valley & Kapiti).

Associate Members: Ione Haines

Levin Branch: Carolyn Johns, Catherine Gandy

Paraparaumu: Kay Blackburn, Christine Fogden, Fay Doyle.

Heretaunga: Geraldine Sims, Leola Kelly, Trish Leahy, Chris Wasson, Marilyn Keating, Kathy Smith, Patricia Byrne, Norma Sawers, Chris Wasson, Therese Anstiss, Pauline Lockyer.

Upper Hutt: Anne McGrath, Val Hanning, Christine McCartney, Val Kelly, Irene Hennessey, Brenda Neville.

Lower Hutt: Doreen Hobbs, Perry Carlyle, Joy Peffers, Margaret Pearson, Hilda McDonnell

Onslow: Margaret Morris, Jennifer Munroe, Beverley Telfar, Margaret Dunne, Margie Crook, Ita Delahunty.

Otari Branch: Ethne Wyndham-Smith, Anne Lumb, Delia McCaffrey, Vonnie Nunns, Catherine Keating.

APOLOGIES

- Gemma Pereira, Maria Anderson (Otari)
- Wendy Tredor, Janice Brown, Andrea Adams (Onslow)
- Lorraine Sayer, Ellen McCairn, Sr Mary McKernan, Rosaleen Carson, (Upper Hutt)
- Sr Annette Green (Heretaunga)
- Annette O'Sullivan, Margaret McIver, Patsy Sziranyi, Kathi George (Lower Hutt)
- Marie Scott, Mary McKefferly (Levin) sent her prayers and good wishes

Scrutineers:

Val Kelly and Ethne Wyndham-Smith

Timekeeper: Sam Walker

Act of Commitment with the League Prayer

We, the members of Wellington, Hutt Valley and Kapiti Regions commit ourselves to uphold the principles and values of the Catholic Women's League and to work together in Faith and Service in our community.

Official Opening and Blessing; Cardinal John's address, followed by question time.

The conference was opened and blessed by Cardinal John Dew. He addressed us on the changes happening in the Archdiocese and in particular the Parish communities being extended to include neighbouring Parishes forming a Faith Unit. As these changes can be a challenge, the CWL is also challenged to support this change, to be permanently in a 'state of mission', to be bold and creative, rethinking goals and structures.

The strategy of Pope Francis bringing its challenges especially to the members of the Curia. Last year for the Cardinal's 4th ad limina visit, there was a remarkable change since the first visit eight years ago. Many years ago, it was like schoolboys going to the headmaster for a telling-off, this is no longer the case; visits to the different offices of the Curia were characterised by cross-examination and demands for explanations.

Even with the official meeting with the Pope, we can now just sit and chat with the Pope as opposed to formal speeches. He knew that the only way to change this was for people to have a personal change of heart. This is a Lenten imperative as well – the Church has to change if it is to be effective – unless it is a Church of Mercy, we are never going to be able to evangelise and bring about change in society.

+John said he does know that CWL can be a huge support to the Church in the Dioceses. The change of amalgamating parishes, having lay leaders working collaboratively with the clergy, change in the make-up of the clergy. We grew up with a large number of Irish priests, now we have numbers of Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese and Pacifica. We need to remember that we need to help them to adapt – this is the role of parishioners as well.

The Insurance Premium for the coming year was \$2.2m. Parishes cannot afford to maintain all parishes – let alone staff them, so there is a review currently in progress. One priest in the Wairarapa and only three in the Nelson. We are encouraging people to develop their own talents. This was one of the purposes of the very successful Mission Expo (held Saturday 14th in Wellington) – to help people to become aware of the range of activities, under the umbrella of the move from a flock under the shepherd priest to a community of missionary disciples i.e. move from consumerism attitude – going to Church to get what you need personally, but give nothing back.

The CWL can help the Church with this renewal – not to be afraid of changing customs, ways of doing things, schedules, language and structure. To live is to change, to be perfect is to change often. Ordinary pastoral activity on every level needs renewal – all renewal must have mission as its goal, to help others know the message of the gospel, not just tuned in on ourselves.

+John Dew's thoughts from *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), the 2013 apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis, that maybe one of the changes we can do personally, is to be in a state of mission. Abandon the complacent attitude of "we have always done it this way", "be bold and innovative" in rethinking goals, structures and style of evangelisation. But the important thing is not to walk alone but to work with our brothers and sisters.

What can you do as CWL to be bold and creative, but also how can we help others in our parishes?

The Cardinal's address was concluded with question time and short discussion about the points he raised.

Remit #1 (*Italic represents the amendments*)

"That the Catholic Women's League of Aotearoa New Zealand urge the New Zealand Government to urgently set up a national consultation to plan for the current crisis of climate change. A panel of *independent* scientists with appropriate expertise *and understanding of the present climate changes should be appointed* to facilitate this." This remit to be sent to the Minister for Climate Change.

- Amendment (proposed by Paraparaumu Branch) to the remit was voted on – 6 for the remit, 2 abstentions
- Amended remit was voted on – 7 for and one against.

Remit will be forwarded for discussion at the National Conference, Rotorua, July. Post conference note: this has now been cancelled and a new date will be set.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Roll Call of Branches

Associate 1; Heretaunga 11; Upper Hutt 7; Lower Hutt 7; Levin 2; Paraparaumu 3; Onslow 8; Otari 7.

Correspondence

- Message from Shona Cobham, former Palmerston North Diocesan President now living on the Gold Coast, Social Issues Convenor CWL State of Queensland.
- Message from Geraldine Sims, former Vincentian Home Trust Representative.

Confirmation of 2019 Wellington Conference Minutes

Upper Hutt/Levin

Matters Arising:

1. Money to Islamic Women's Council, \$400 donation in remembrance of Christchurch Massacre.
2. Rotorua's proposed change of the badge – discussed at the Board. Susan Dickson spoke to this – the Board decided that the change we are making is that we will no longer be using the present members badge and letting stocks run out. The National Board badge will be adopted as the members badge – this will now be used on everything. Rotorua's proposed change was considered but will not be proceeded with.

Archdiocesan President's Report

Christine spoke to her report, attached, and highlighted the following:

- Acknowledgement of Council members
- 75 years Archdiocesan conferences
- Day of Reflection with Joy Cowley – open to all branches.
- Heretaunga Branch hosting for the Archdiocese, Robyn Twemlow, Executive Director of Tourette's NZ, the At Home Appeal.
- St Margaret Clitherow Feast Day – hosted by Onslow Branch.
- CWLA Conference in Bunbury, WA
- Branches celebrating 2019 Advent and Christmas
- January Board meeting 2020 acknowledgement to Kath Emmerson for assisting Christine with attending.
- WUCWO-World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations Assembly in Sydney, Australia in May.
- Excellent Mission Expo held in Wellington Saturday March 14th.

Archdiocesan Treasurer's Report

Diane Glynan spoke to her report and highlighted that the Council hadn't passed on the increased levies to the Board. Diane predicted there would be an increase of \$8. Report attached. Diane/Lower Hutt

Election of Officers

- ✚ Kay Blackburn took the chair
- ✚ No nominations for President were received.
- ✚ Christine at the end of her 4-year term in May, has offered to stay till then.
- ✚ Karen Saunders – Secretary
- ✚ Diane Glynan – Treasurer/Minute Secretary
- ✚ Mission Convenor – Anne Lumb, nominated by Otari.
- ✚ Social Issues – Vacant, no nominations received.
- ✚ WUCWO – Christina Dwyer

Kath Cain proposed formal vote of thanks to Christine for her leadership over the last four years and a gift was presented, received with acclamation.

SPECIAL OFFICERS' REPORTS (All attached)

Mission Report / Susan Lloyd

Susan spoke to her report and highlighted the following:

- Wellington Archdiocese contributed \$26,788 by way of goods and money in mission giving, total giving from the whole country was \$155,768.
- Communication difficulties with Mission Communities
- Thanking and acknowledging Jenny Muschamp's 4-year service as National Mission Secretary
- Friday 3rd April Gumboot Friday – 'Having depression is like walking through mud every day'.
- Repeating the request for the National Board to allow the branches to use the grant of \$200 in New Zealand for education purposes if their Mission community in the Pacific didn't have an educational need.
- The successful Mission Expo held in Wellington on Saturday 14th March.

Social Issues/Kath Cain

Spoke to her report and highlighted below.

- Our year has been sandwiched between two events that we would never have imagined – the terror attack in Christchurch and the present global pandemic. Social issues are about being open and outward looking.
- Kath's Comment on all the emails – to read at least the first paragraph before you decided you don't want to read them. I realised that many of them were about climate change, and there are social issues within the Church that we need to be taking notice of, we need to be prepared to take part in these conversations.
- Pro-life issues are to the fore this year, with the proposed Assisted dying referendum and the proposed changes to the abortion legislation. These life issues are of vital importance to us.
- The inclusion of two remits this year, after a year or two without them, branches realising the importance that this is evidence that we are thinking about the issues of our wider society.

WUCWO/Christina Dwyer

Christina presented her report. There were five members going from Wellington to the WUCWO regional conference in Sydney in May – it is probable that this will now be cancelled.

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, an Interreligious and Ecumenical meeting on the document HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER signed by His Holiness Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmad Al-Tayyeb (Abu Dhabi, 4 February 2019) was held on the 3rd of March 2020.

The conference, "Women Makers of Human Fraternity", was organised by the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and sponsored by the embassies of Argentina, Austria, Netherlands and Philippines to the Holy See.

Christina's report also finished with a reflection: PRAYER FOR RESOLUTION #2: *Let Us Take Care of the Family in Difficult Situations.*

NCW/Ethne Wyndham-Smith

Ethne spoke to her report, emphasising the difficulties the organisation is experiencing.

February submissions were made on the following:

- Education & Training Bill;
- Urban Development Bill;
- Holidays [Bereavement Leave for Miscarriage] Amendment Bill No 2.

The monthly circular is now only available online.

Catholic Homes Trust/Catherine Keating

Catherine spoke to her report. The main point being the sale of the Vincentian Home in Berhampore, subject to certain conditions being met. The Home has been running at a loss for some time and the Trust has been subsidising it heavily to keep it operating.

Associates/Karen Saunders

Karen spoke to her report and welcomed Ione Haines, Associate delegate to the conference; remembering also Anne Conroy, Associate delegate at 2019 conference, whose anniversary occurs April 23rd. Very much, Viable, Visible and Vibrant.

Regional Representatives: Kath Emmerson and Sam Walker present branch highlights from Kapiti & Hutt Valley and Wellington Regions, respectively.

➤ **Upper Hutt**

70th birthday party was held in September attended by 45 members and guests.

We started with Mass in the Convent Chapel followed by a lovely catered lunch and our branch presented our President Susan Lloyd with life membership. A wonderful afternoon held by all. Our branch planted a community garden in the grounds of St. Joseph's School turned out to be very successful. We had two raised gardens in which we planted silver beet, carrots, cabbages, lettuce, zucchini, beans, peas and beetroot. When these plants were ready for picking, we distributed them out to the local community

➤ **Lower Hutt**

Our highlight has two dimensions:

The hard work and generosity shown by our members is superb; the Christmas raffle raised \$882.40; the continuing support of toiletry donations for the Assessment Ward at Hutt Hospital and grocery items for Kara Hands is widely appreciated.

At our congenial Christmas luncheon at the Pavilion in Days Bay, we were approached on three separate occasions by someone commenting on what a lovely group we had. It showed that the group is in very good heart when this can be said.

➤ **Levin**

Hosting Opportunity AGM and Christmas party. Representatives from six churches attended including Father Raymond. We will have our young new member with us at Conference. She is very keen.

➤ **Heretaunga**

We invited the parish to join us on a bus trip to Island Bay Home of Compassion, we had lunch and a tour around the home.

Our Wearable/Recyclable arts show was great fun, we joined together with Upper Hutt Branch to make garments out of anything deemed throwaway items. Upper Hutt took home the Trophy well deserved too. NB: These garments were also paraded to the great delight of conference attendees, during the lunchtime break at the conference.

➤ **Kapiti**

Our numbers are down to 14. We made a decision to have one meeting per month starting with meeting and finishing with a social get together.

At the beginning of the year we farewelled Sister Breda, a Presentation Sister, who had supported us for a number of years and helped us keep in contact with our Mission Station in Papua New Guinea. Unfortunately, there are no longer any novices at our Mission Station and the Australian Sisters are withdrawing their management and money, and we have lost our method of sending money to Papua New Guinea.

At the end of year, we farewelled Marguerite Osborne, a very long-time member of our branch and our Secretary up to last year.

Our main method of raising money is providing hospitality at funerals. We are looking forward to the opening of the new church with better kitchen facilities.

We have participated over the year in World Day of Prayer, WUCWO Day and have supported several local charities.

➤ **Otari**

A "Buy your Lunch" after the 10.00am Mass resulted in a far better return for the work involved so the annual car boot sale would be replaced with this in 2020.

The Christmas party December 2019 which Otari host for the Parish. The Parish Tongan community entertained with their singing, including the young members of that community. It was very lively and extremely enjoyable (and all three priests attended), about 40 people in attendance. The performance was also reflective as the leader of the community started with prayer and spoke about the carols the young people were singing. The singing was in both Tongan and English.

➤ **Onslow**

May joined in with Otari for WUCWO; *July* we joined with the CWL branch at Our Lady of Grace in Heretaunga, hosting for the regions, to hear Robyn Twemlow speak about the difficulties of life for and with people with Tourette's Syndrome, and what their support group is doing to try and make life better for both sufferers and their families; *August* we hosted the St Margaret Clitherow Mass, which actually turned into a lovely liturgy, owing to the unavailability of a Priest; *September*, we held

our annual Movie fundraiser and opened it up to the branches and parishes, which was a fab evening, watching an hilarious movie called The Farewell. A good amount raised-\$800.

Finally, Onslow have lost three stalwart members of the CWL: Ann Corcoran, Vivienne Soldera and Jo Grant. We will all miss their friendship, their goodness, their warm personalities and their sound judgement. Sam also paid tribute to Anne Conroy, Regional Representative for seven years and whose anniversary occurs April 23rd.

Jenny Muschamp National Mission Convenor

Jenny spoke to her report, attached and highlights below. Jenny will be stepping down from her role as National Mission Secretary this year.

- ✚ Mission Survey: 46 responses from 53 branches this was a great return.
- ✚ Drop in membership and branches: In the 2016-year nationally there were 82 branches and 2019-year 53 branches, a decrease of 29 branches. A new branch was formed in Christchurch in 2017, a small group growing slowly.
- ✚ Communication is still a big problem for branches contacting their Mission Communities. I'm pleased that I was able to help with a couple of Branches re-establish with their Mission Communities. There is still a big need for our help in the Pacific
- ✚ Mission Education Fund reminders and \$200 can be granted to a Branch and used for education, training etc for their Mission community.
- ✚ Acknowledgement to Susan Lloyd for her friendship and as a past Mission National Secretary she was there for me to ask her if I needed help. Plus, she was always first with her Annual Mission Returns.

Liturgy for the Deceased led by our Regional Representatives

Levin: Marie Burns, Maureen Kearn

Paraparaumu: Judith Salmon

Heretaunga: Brenda Ryan, Joan Kelly

Upper Hutt: Mary Grant, Pat Evans

Onslow: Anne Corcoran, Vivienne Soldera, Jo Grant

Otari: Margaret Mary Campbell, Pat Englert

Associate: Anne Conroy (Newlands Branch) and Wellington Regional Representative

Conference Donation

Every year we have a conference donation, relative to events and suggestions received at the time. Last year the Council made an extra donation of \$400 to the Islamic Women's Council, in remembrance of the Christchurch Massacre. This year's conference donation of \$300 has been sent to Stella Maris, the Apostleship of the Sea.

Women Welcoming Change Panel

An afternoon panel of three speakers brought us three very different aspects of the 2019 theme of Women Welcoming Change.

- ❖ *Leole Malama-Prasad* updated us on the address she gave five years ago at the 2015 Conference, where we heard about the way she as a young President, was able to inject a new lease of life into the Hutt Rotary Club. The Rotary branch has since continued to feel positive, grow its membership and has renewed vitality.
- ❖ *Raewyn Richardson* an Upper Hutt Pharmacist explained her health journey and adaption, as it related to her own well-being. Raewyn is the daughter of lifetime CWL member Jan Prosser and shared how her catholic education and upbringing prepared her for her role as a pharmacist and pharmacy owner. She discussed how the field of healthcare has changed over the years, and continues to change; what her plans are for her role in healthcare, and how this involves using non medicine healing treatments such as: Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, non-evasive relaxing and healing therapy for e.g. serious infections, bubbles of air in your blood vessels, and wounds that won't heal as a result of diabetes or radiation injury; and PEMF type treatments - Pulsed Electromagnetic Fields, which are widely used these days to improve circulation and cell metabolism.

- ❖ *Kitty McKinley* from Challenge 2000, the youth ministry she set up 20 years, had some very graphic ways to show us how difficult change is and how we are often loath to take the risks to change. Kitty also demonstrated that when we make small changes, we can make a big difference.

Presentations were made to each speaker.

Leole – Pamper Pack and Raewyn and Kitty received subscriptions to 'Life and Leisure' magazine.

2nd Remit (*Italic represents the amendments*)

That the Catholic Women's League of Aotearoa New Zealand urges the New Zealand Government to *legislate* a complete ban on the sale of *fireworks for private use. Public displays of fireworks, organised by local bodies and appropriate organisations, to be allowed with an approved permit.*

Levin seconded amendment proposed by Paraparaumu Branch. One abstention, remit carried and will go, along with the Climate Change Remit to the National Conference when it is next held. Both Remits with amendments and notes, proposed by Paraparaumu Branch are attached.

Afternoon Tea/Raffle Draw: Birthday Cake celebrating the 75 years of Archdiocesan Conferences was cut by Christine Paterson, Kay Blackburn and Susan Dickson.

Susan Dickson, National President - The Way Forward

CWLANZ National President, Susan Dickson, ended the conference and shared her vision for the future and the way forward for the League in NZ. Her report is attached. Highlights below.

- ✚ All levels of CWL, from the board to branches, are grappling with change which is being forced upon us. Change that is difficult to welcome. At times it seems that despite our best efforts the task is overwhelming and just too hard. We must remind ourselves not to become disheartened, that although the challenges are immediate, the solutions are not. The growth and survival of the League is a shared responsibility. The members need to want the League to grow and survive as a vibrant organisation for Catholic women. We must be committed to the long view.
- ✚ The Board will be launching Te Puawaitanga The Blossoming, containing strategies and advice to rejuvenate and grow CWLANZ.
- ✚ Founder Margaret Fletcher lead the way to bring Catholic women together to speak out and act.
- ✚ We can be proud of the way our members have spoken out and acted against the End of Life Bill and Abortion Legislation Bill.
- ✚ The changes in our society regarding prayer life and personal devotions and Susan is challenging the CWL to take the lead in their parishes.
- ✚ Susan highlighted the At Home Appeal 'New Zealand Days for Girls' providing reusable menstrual kits, education, awareness and dignity to women and girls in need. Leaflets were distributed per table/per branch. <https://www.daysforgirls.org/new-zealand>
- ✚ Susan concluded with a prayer from Lenten reflection booklet, Not by Bread Alone, Daily reflections for Lent 2020, Michelle Franci-Donnay

"Lord, be tender with us, enfolding us in your love. Help us to be tender with each other, reaching out to those who live in fear and carrying your blessings to the ends of the earth."

General Business:

- Presentations to Susan Lloyd, retiring Archdiocesan Mission Convenor and Kath Cain, Archdiocesan Social Issues Convenor, for their outstanding and passionate efforts in keeping the Wellington Region informed for the last four years.

- Chanel College assisting at the Mission Expo, made specific reference to the \$100 donation for sanitary products that the Council had made in 2019 to the five Wellington Archdiocese Catholic Colleges. This stemmed from the initial \$300 donation in 2018 that Paraparaumu Branch had made to Viard College.
- Host 2021 – Kapiti Region/Paraparaumu branch. Date to be advised.
- Dedication of Council - Did not take place.

Reflections to close meeting read by Christine Paterson and Susan Lloyd

Attached: 'A Language of the Heart' by Kathy Sherman, CSJ

The Blessing by Joy Cowley

Blessing

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

Abide deep within you.

May you know you are exactly

Who you are meant to be.

May you be content with yourself

Knowing you are God's unique creation

And can never be separate from God.

May you not forget the great potential

Born of faith, that is in you and others.

My you use the gifts you receive,

And pass on the love that is given you.

May your soul always find freedom

To dance in abundant gratitude.

And may God continue to bless you

And others through you. Amen.